

Whatever the costume, though, there is no mistaking the sharp, long-nosed profile of this character. The least skillful Indian carver gets the beak-like nose, even if he fails even to attempt European costumes. The most skillful attain a clever portrait.

Nowadays, the doctor may be portrayed riding an airplane for speed. One of these toy-like carvings has two long-nosed figures flying in acrobat style on the wings of the plane. After all, if one Dr. Patterson is good in magic, two Dr. Pattersons ought to be unbeatable.

Up Alaska way, scientific records show the most curious wooden white man of them all, on an Indian totem pole.

The story is told by Herbert Krieger, ethnologist of the U. S. National Museum, who has an old picture of this pole. He says that a Secretary of the Interior visited Alaska just after the Civil War. One Indian who played host to the great man was so impressed by the honor that later on, when it was time to set up his totem pole, it seemed right and proper to put high on it a portrait of this official from Washington.

The Indian artist carved the frock coat, checked trousers, and stove-pipe hat. But when it came to the face, he didn't know what the visiting white man had looked like. But he did find a newspaper picture of Abraham Lincoln. So the features of Lincoln were combined with the portrait, and everybody was satisfied.

Another totem pole with a wooden white man standing stiffly on top was ordered for the social prestige of an Indian woman. She was first of her tribe to sight a white man.

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Science News Letter, November 13, 1937

"Monkey's dinner bell" is the nickname of a South American plant with seed pods that pop loudly when ripe.

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STONE AGE HOME

Housekeepers of 4,000 years ago were not nearly so primitive as many suppose, this restoration of a Neolithic house shows. The illustration on the front cover of this week's SCIENCE NEWS LETTER shows the exterior of timber-frame construction filled in with clay-plastered panel.

ARCHAEOLOGY

Rebuild European Homes Of Forty Centuries Ago

See Front Cover

HOUSES in which our ancestors lived at the time of Christ, and 2,000 years before then, are shown restored in full size and original condition at a new open-air museum in the North German city of Luebeck.

They may be considered ancestral homes of Englishmen as well as of Continental Germanic-speaking peoples, for the tribes that colonized Britain and gave rise to what we call the Anglo-Saxon culture started from this part of the European mainland.

The two houses stand a little distance from each other in the park, each an exact restoration in architecture, building materials and interior furnishings, according to the best information scientists have been able to obtain.

The restoration of the older of the two houses, showing a New Stone Age farmstead of about 2000 B. C., is a rectangular building with a steeply pitched roof of thatch. The ridgepole of the roof

is supported on two stout upright posts and projects at either end.

The framework of the house is of stout, rough, unsquared timbers, and the spaces between are filled in with panels of "wattle-and-daub," that is, coarse wicker work plastered with clay. The windows are square, and quite small.

Within, there is a central hearth of stones, with a hole in the roof to let the smoke escape. There is no chimney. Shelves against the wall and strings from the beams support the cooking and table utensils—well-shaped and neatly decorated pottery vessels of assorted shapes and sizes. The man's weapons—bow with stone-tipped arrows, spear, and stone war ax—lean against one of the wooden supporting posts.

In a second room to the rear are stored supplies and a stone handmill for grinding the grain. Women worked hard in those early days.

The second house, dated about the beginning of the Christian era, shows

a considerable advance over the earlier type, yet reveals also its evolutionary connection with it. It is still rectangular with a straw-thatched, steep-pitched roof, but it is larger and is built entirely of logs. Indeed, it resembles rather strongly the log cabins of pioneer America. It is surrounded by a fence with posts set firmly in the ground and woven together with a lattice of stout branches.

Within, the arrangements and furnishings show vividly the advantages gained by the introduction of iron tools. The inner sides of the logs are squared off, and the supporting posts are also squared. There are benches and a table of good smooth boards, not only well fitted but artistically carved.

The central open fireplace still lacks a chimney, although there is a kind of flue supported on the rafters, that helps to lead the smoke toward the smoke-hole in the roof. Over the fire a big bronze kettle is suspended on iron chains.

The same building was occupied by both the family and their farm animals, as many of the older farmhouses in Europe are today. In those earlier times, this was necessary for the protection of livestock from wild beasts and human foes. The central hearth provides the separating zone; at one end the stalls, at the other the living quarters for the family. In the more recent farmhouses, as in Lower Saxony, walls separate living quarters

from stable, but in this ancient dwelling the busy housewife tending her fire could keep an eye on how things were going throughout the establishment.

In the living quarters the shelves and other furniture are more numerous than in the Neolithic house, but most of the table and kitchen ware (with the exception of the big bronze kettle) are still of pottery and much the same in pattern as those of 2000 years earlier—as indeed a great deal of pottery is today. A notable feature is a stone quern or handmill for grinding the family's grain.

The man's equipment for war is quite different from that of his Neolithic grandsire; a stout shield and a heavy iron sword, hung from pegs in the wall. Iron also gives strength and edge to the tools of peace, the axes, knives, and farm implements.

The development of this type of house in northern Germany has considerable historical and cultural significance. Older than the "square house" over practically the whole of Europe, was the "round house." The latter type of construction was still used in the Celtic countries in early historic times. But the people who lived in square houses gradually extended their borders as far south as Greece and even eastward toward India.

From square-built log houses of the Iron Age, such as the one reconstructed in Luebeck, went forth the sword-armed warriors under Arminius who gave such rough welcome to visitors from Italy among the dark spruce trees of the Teutoberg Forest, just after the opening of the Christian era. From such houses also, a few hundred years later, went that first great tide of emigrants who crossed the North Sea and gave the name of one of their tribes to the land that had before been known only as Britain—Angle-land, or England.

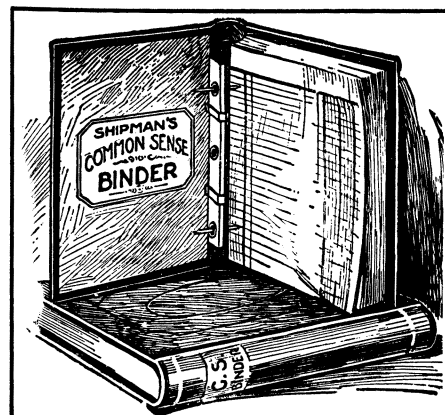
Science News Letter, November 13, 1937

Ruins of about 500 Roman villas are known in England.



HOME, 1 A. D.

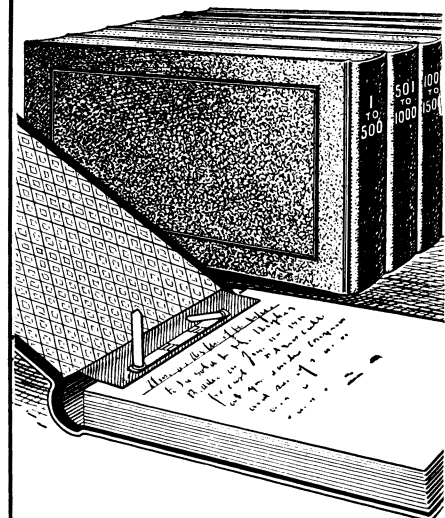
This house of the beginning of the Christian era had central hearth with big cooking kettle of bronze, pottery vessels on shelves, and in the background well-carved table and long seat.



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November 13, 3:30 p. m., E.S.T.
ROMANCE OF TUNG OIL—C. C. Cannon, Chief of the Chemical Division of the U. S. Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

No Program on Thursday, November 25, Thanksgiving Day.

In the Science Service series of radio discussions led by Watson Davis, Director, over the Columbia Broadcasting System.