siderable scale have disclosed no fewer than nineteen occupation-levels, belonging to a culture which, though differing, resembles that of the Hittites of the Anatolian plateau closely enough to be considered akin to it. These levels overlie a civilization which would seem to be linked culturally with predynastic Egypt and Sumer. This indicates the incoming of Hittite culture in the fourth millennium B.C., thus antedating considerably the period usually assigned to the foundation of the Hittite capital on the Anatolian plateau. Further soundings in deeper levels have disclosed an even more considerable antiquity, in which this region was evidently a centre of no little cultural activity. Although the succession of painted pottery wares and stylized patterns reflect relationship with the oldest Mesopotamian styles, there is also evidence of local development lasting over a long period. In the lowest level a rich neolithic stratum has been found, similar to that of Sakje Geuzi, in which the most characteristic features are the use of obsidian, for weapons and tools, instead of flint, and a black pottery which is thin and highly finished.

Viking Relic in the British Museum (Bloomsbury)

THE acquisition of a remarkable example of Viking art—it is, in fact, considered to be the most remarkable Viking relic now in existence outside Scandinavia—was reported at the February meeting of the Trustees of the British Museum (Bloomsbury). It is a carving in oak of the head and neck of some beaked creature which formed either the figurehead or the stern-post of a Viking ship. Its precise purpose is at present uncertain. The animal motif, usually highly conventionalized, is one of the most familiar in the decorative art of the north European peoples in the first millennium of the Christian era; but of the zoomorphs, or animal-headed figures, which are known to have adorned the Viking ships, this is believed to be the only surviving example. It is almost four feet nine inches long, and is in the form of a rounded head on a long slender neck. The head curves smoothly into a parrot-like beak, which is open and shows teeth along the edge of the mandibles. The head is well poised on the slender neck, which is covered with a deeply carved lattice pattern, presumably representing feathers or scales. The history of its rediscovery is almost as remarkable as its character. It was found some two years ago during dredging operations in the River Scheldt. Other ship's timbers were brought up at the same time, but unfortunately were not preserved. The importance of the relic was so little appreciated that it was used for some time as a garden ornament. As it is known that the Island of Walcheren at the mouth of the Scheldt was long held by Danish Vikings at the beginning of the ninth century, this zoomorph is attributed to a Danish origin.

Yorkshire 'Bygones'

A COLLECTION illustrating the past cultural history of Yorkshire in the life of both country and town has been presented to the Corporation of York and housed in the old Female Prison, which has been converted into a museum for this purpose. The donor of the collection is Dr. Kirk of Pickering. The collection includes horse brasses, horseshoes, over one hundred insurance plates, and police truncheons, some of which were used in the Chartist and Bread riots. To these have been added fireplaces of various periods, weights and measures of all kinds and periods, and a collection illustrating the history of house lighting; all these exhibits are derived from the past custom of Yorkshire. One of the most instructive is the reconstruction of a Tudor street, some one hundred feet in length, in which are doorways, mounting blocks, shops and other features collected from various parts of the county. Parts of the Female Prison, which was built at the end of the eighteenth century, have been preserved in the original state. The Museum is not yet open to the public, but a private view for subscribers was held on February 5. Among the subscribers are the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust and the Joseph Rowntree Social Trust, Ltd., from each of which the sum of £500 has been received. The historical and geographical position of York makes it a peculiarly appropriate centre for a collection of this kind. The past cultural history of a county embodies much of interest to the student of archæology and ethnology, while custom illustrating its social history survived in a primitive form down to quite recent times, of which it is still possible to find traces in the remoter districts. In these matters, it is true, Yorkshire does not stand quite alone; and although the scheme for a national folk-museum for England seems for the time being to make little progress, it is none the less gratifying to note that local collections are being made before the material has entirely disappeared, as has been shown by recent correspondence in *The Times*.

Hooke's Experiments on Combustion

IN the issue of *Ambix* of December 1937, Dr. D. J. Lysaght publishes an interesting account of Robert Hooke's theory of combustion, which he outlined in "Micrographia" (1665) and amplified in his "Lampas" (1677) and "Cutlerian Lectures" (1679). Hooke's failure to impress his views upon the members of the Royal Society is attributed to his lowly social position, the simplicity of his conceptions, and the innate conservatism of the seventeenth-century mind. Hooke wrote only a scanty account of the experiments upon which he based his ideas, and Dr. Lysaght has done a useful service to historical chemistry by giving a critical discussion of these experiments, as transcribed in Birch's "History of the Royal Society" (1756–57) from the Royal Society's "Journal Book" (1661–87). Hooke's "many luciferous experiments" sufficed to demonstrate all the important facts bearing upon the problem of combustion. "The consumption of a selected portion of the air, the necessity for a continuous supply of this fluid, the formation of heat and light by the 'composition', the existence of solids with the essential constituent of the air 'fixed' in them and available for combustion,