

*Analysis of Artifacts*

**Item # 36**

*At 80 ' found old oak stump (Heddon Log)*

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| <b>WHO FOUND</b>                      | Hedden                                     |
| <b>WHEN FOUND</b>                     | 1938                                       |
| <b>WHERE FOUND</b>                    | At 80' in Hedden Shaft                     |
| <b>FIRSTHAND/<br/>SECONDHAND</b>      |  |
| <b>REFERENCES</b>                     | Furieux's, "The Money Pit Mystery", pg. 80 |
| <b>LOCATION TODAY</b>                 |  |
| <b>ODDITY FACTOR</b>                  |  |
| <b>ASSESSMENT OF<br/>AUTHENTICITY</b> |  |
| <b>COMMENTS</b>                       |  |

the presumed site of the Money Pit. This became known as the 'Hedden' shaft. The outlines of an old shaft, six ft. by ten ft., cribbed and in a good state of preservation, were found ten ft. down. This shaft included part of a previously excavated shaft which was believed to be the Money Pit itself. Uncertainty about its exact site remained. Old drill casings were found at fifty ft., and at sixty-five ft. an old miner's whale-oil lamp, at eighty ft. an ancient oak stump, and at ninety-three ft. an old collapsed tunnel and a band of clay 'resembling putty'. At 104 ft. the workmen came across a tunnel three ft. ten in. wide and six ft. four in. high, lined by six in. hemlock and oaken timber. Blair believed that this tunnel was part of one made about 1866, at the time when operators were certainly working within the original shaft.

Excavation of shaft No. 22 was stopped at 124½ ft. and fifteen holes were bored to a depth of forty-two ft. The drills bored through hard sand for twenty-three ft., and in five bores, between 148 and 157 ft. encountered oak varying from one in. to two ft. six in. in thickness. This appeared to be a new find.

Hedden's operations at the site ended with these inconclusive results. Though disappointed, Hedden nonetheless expressed his firm conviction that a number of treasure chests lay at the depth of 160 to 170 ft. They were encrusted in hard clay, and lay in soil that had been disturbed by a century and a half of haphazard digging. These chests, he thought, had doubtless rotted away, due to the vast amount of water present in the Money Pit. Much of the treasure might have become scattered and embedded in the belt of blue clay. He was convinced that the treasure must have been of enormous value to warrant the precautions taken to safeguard it.

Hedden totally rejected the popular conception of the existence of an iron and cement chamber in the depths of the Money Pit. The idea was too fantastic; men who possessed the engineering skill to harness the tides would not have placed their hoard below the level of the flood gates, which Hedden and others were convinced existed somewhere on the island. Equally fantastic, in his opinion, was the theory that chests had been placed at 98 ft. to distract attention from the real treasure which lay farther down. He also dismissed the belief in artificial cement; it was nothing more exciting than hardened clay with which the chests had become thoroughly encrusted.

Hedden camped on the island with Blair, giving him the opportunity to examine it thoroughly - something no previous operator had troubled to do. He noticed the enormous erosion its shores had