

VI.

NOTICE OF THE RUNIC RING RECENTLY FOUND IN CRAMOND CHURCH-
YARD. BY PROFESSOR GEORGE STEPHENS, F.S.A., COPENHAGEN.



My attention was first drawn to this piece by Robert Ferguson, Esq., of Carlisle, and I instantly took steps to get further help from the learned keeper of the Museum to which it had been given. Mr Anderson did all in his power to oblige me. He forwarded me an impression of the runes, a sun-picture of the ring itself, corrected my engraving for me, and has thus enabled me to lay this old-lafe before my readers as

chemityped by my artist, J. Magnus Petersen. Not content with this, he was also good enough to add the following information, in a note dated June 29, 1871 :—

“The ring is a plain hoop of bronze, quite flat inside, but having the edges worn and rounded on the outside. A small part is broken on one side, and a slight corrosion is beside the broken part. The metal is not thicker than an English sixpence. The breadth of the band is $\frac{3}{8}$ ths of an inch, and the diameter of the ring $\frac{3}{4}$ ths of an inch. The ring was found in the churchyard of Cramond, near Edinburgh, about eighteen months ago. It was found 3 feet below the surface, near the oldest part of the church, when the grave-digger was digging a grave there. He happened recently to mention to the minister of the parish, the Rev. Dr Colvin, that he had found a ring, and Dr Colvin immediately secured it and presented it to the Museum of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland.”

I leave it to the ingenious reader to decipher this piece. As Mr Anderson remarks in a previous letter, “the runes are very faintly cut, and the beginning of the inscription is not indicated. It may begin anywhere.” On this account, and as here and there it has suffered so much that several of the staves are doubtful, we are at a loss what to make of it. The writing is plainly in old English runes, but I, for my part, cannot say whether they are intended to spell some name, or are words contracted, or are a resting cabalistic, or amuletic. In connection with this uncertainty, my loose attribution of the age of this object to *about the tenth century*, is more than usually a mere approximative guess.

MONDAY, 8th April 1872.

THOMAS B. JOHNSTON, Esq., Vice-President, in the Chair.

A ballot having been taken, the following Gentleman was elected a Fellow of the Society:—

GEORGE WILSON, Esq., S.S.C., Minto Street.

The following Donations to the Museum and Library were laid on the table, and thanks voted to the donors:—

(1.) By Mr PETER HARRIS, farmer, through Rev. GEORGE WILSON, Glenluce, Corr. Mem. S.A. Scot.

A Polished Celt of indurated claystone, with flattened edges, measuring

8 inches in length, 2 inches across the

wide end, and 1 inch across the narrow

end. At the distance of 2 inches from the

small end, a band of darker colour, $1\frac{1}{2}$

inch in width, crosses the celt obliquely

on both sides. This is due to the action

of the decaying wooden handle, which

seems to have encircled the celt, and has

either discoloured the portion of the stone

immediately underneath it, or has perhaps

preserved it from the bleaching action of

the moss water by which the colour has

been abstracted from the unprotected sur-

face of the celt. A similar discoloration

underneath the handle, running also ob-

liquely across the celt, is discernible on

the specimen found in the Solway Moss,

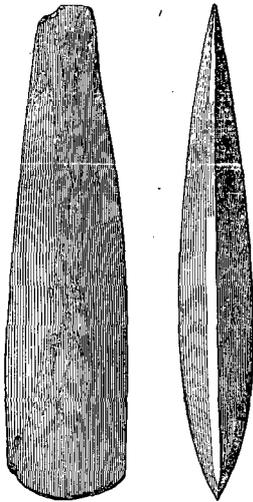
and now in the British Museum. This is

the only Scottish specimen on record with

which the remains of the handle were actually

found, but there is in the Society's Museum

another specimen of a celt of similar form to the Ervie one, which also



Celt found at Ervie, showing
mark of Handle. 8 inches
long.

another specimen of a celt of similar form to the Ervie one, which also

bears the mark of the handle. It was found in Glenshee, Forfarshire, and has been figured in the present volume of the *Proceedings*, p. 174. The discoloration is so slight that it is not perceptible in the figure, but that on the Ervie specimen is very marked. It is well shown in the accompanying woodcut.

(2.) By Rev. JAMES MORRISON, F.C. Minister, Urquhart, Elginshire, Corr. Mem. S.A. Scot.

Oblong flattened oval implement of Flint, 4 inches in length by 2 inches in greatest breadth. It tapers to a point at one end, the other is broken square off. One edge is straighter than the other, and the edges are worked on one side of the flake only, like those of a scraper.

Scraper of greyish flint, $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, $\frac{3}{4}$ ths of an inch across the flat side at the rounded point, and $\frac{1}{2}$ an inch at the other end. It has been worked with great care, and is unusually long.

Five specimens of Flint Flakes, worked on the edges.

Tube of Bronze, $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches long and $\frac{1}{2}$ an inch in diameter, with an expanded end, like the mouthpiece of a trumpet, and having on one side a loop like that of a socketed celt, within half an inch of the other end.

(3.) By the Rev. JAMES BRODIE, Monimail, Corr. Mem. S.A. Scot.

A collection of Flint Implements, enclosed in glass case, comprising a Celt of black flint, 8 inches long; seventeen Arrow heads, with barbs and stem; three Arrow heads, with tang and without barbs; five leaf-shaped Arrow heads, and two lozenge-shaped. (See subsequent communication by Rev. Mr Brodie.)

(4.) By Messrs JOHN DICKSON & SONS, Gunmakers, Princes Street, through Dr JOHN ALEXANDER SMITH, V.P.S.A. Scot.

Fourteen specimens of Gun Flints, older and more recent forms. The older forms are simply wedge-shaped, and dressed only along the sides; the more recent are dressed along the back, and formed from flakes with two parallel faces.

(5.) By JAMES COWAN, Esq., F.S.A. Scot.

Portion of an Egyptian Bas-relief on a slab of grey sandstone, 22 inches by 15. It consists of the upper half of a human figure, holding a staff, and surmounted by portions apparently of hieroglyphical carvings.

(6.) By Mr JAMES MACKENZIE, Chemist, 49 George IV. Bridge.

Two Pieces of the Staté Bed of Amisfield Castle, and portion of an Oak Cornice, said to have been taken from Dumfries Castle.

(7.) By Mr FAIRGRIEVE, Proprietor of the Menagerie.

Pair of Spurs with Rowels, $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches diameter, from Abyssinia.

(8.) By H. MEREWETHER, Esq. F.S.A. Scot.

A Chinese Razor.

Diary of a Dean ; being an Account of the Excavation of Silbury Hill, &c. By the late John Merewether, D.D., Dean of Hereford. 8vo.

(9.) By the IMPERIAL COMMISSION OF ARCHÆOLOGY OF RUSSIA.

Compte-Rendu de la Commission Impériale Archæologique pour l'Année 1869. 4to. Avec un Atlas, folio. St Petersburg. 1870.

(10.) By the AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY.

Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society. Vol. XII. Pt. 2.
Transactions of the American Philosophical Society. Vol. XIV. p. 3.

(11.) By the Rev. CHARLES ROGERS, LL.D., F.S.A. Scot., the Author.

The Scottish Branch of the Norman House of Roger, with a Genealogical Sketch of the Family of Playfair. London: Printed for Private Circulation. 8vo. 1872.

There were also exhibited :—

(1.) By the Most Hon. the Marquis of LOTHIAN, through Sir WALTER ELLIOT of Wolfelee, K.S.I., F.S.A. Scot.

A Stone Mould found at Timpendean, near Jedburgh. (See Plate XXX., figs. 1 and 2.)

Sir Walter Elliot stated that this curious mould was found on the 7th March last, by Constable Elliot Jackson, in a lea field on the farm of Timpendean. The constable was crossing the corner of a field which lies in the angle formed by the junction of the road leading to St Boswell's, &c., by Ancrum Bridge with the Kelso and Hawick turnpike, and in doing so his foot struck the mould, which was lying on the surface, and its roundish form attracting his attention, he picked it up, and finding it a curious relic he brought it to the station for preservation. It was afterwards sent to the Marquis of Lothian, on whose lands it was found.

The mould has evidently been intended for producing imitations of some piece of money. The style and character of the piece somewhat resembles that of some of the coins of William and Mary. The figures on the mould are not unlike rude imitations of the portraits of that king and queen, but the legend is not like that on any coins of this or indeed of any other reign.

Another curious Stone Mould, which was picked up on the farm of Swinnie, a few miles to the south of Jedburgh, in 1862 (Proc. vol. v. p. 53), and is now in the Society's Museum, is here reproduced for the sake of comparison. (See Plate XXX., figs. 3 and 4.)

(2.) By HENRY STEUART, Esq., Rothesay.

Clay Urn, $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches high and 6 inches across the mouth, unornamented, found in a cist on the farm of Windyhall, near Rothesay.

Mr Steuart sent the following account of the discovery of the cists and urn in a letter to him by Mr Thomas Hutson:—

“The first cist opened was on the top of the hill, about 400 yards north of the farm-house. There would be about 10 inches or 12 inches of soil above the cover. The length inside about 2 feet 6 inches; breadth, 13 inches; depth, 13 inches; lying north and south. The interior was about half-filled with fine mould and a considerable quantity of small bones. It was of superior construction to the others found, being formed of six flags, those of the end, sides, and bottom of mica slate, but the top cover of freestone. This tomb had evidently been previously opened.

“The second cist opened was about 10 feet westward, lower down, and



Fig. 1.



Fig. 2.

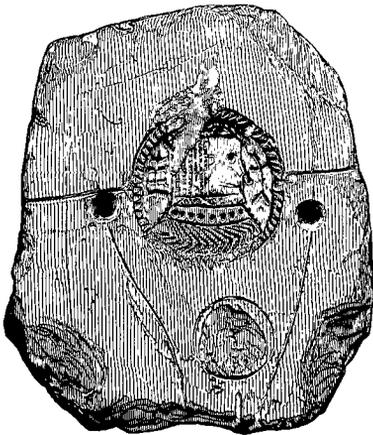


Fig. 3.



Fig. 4.

STONE MOULDS FOUND NEAR JEDBURGH.

Fig. 1. Mould found at Timpanean (actual size).

Fig. 3. Mould found at Swinnie (half size).

Fig. 2. Impression of do. (actual size).

Fig. 4. Impression of do. (do).

the dimensions of the interior would be about 3 feet 6 inches in length, 2 feet wide, and 15 inches deep, covered with a large irregular flag of mica slate. The sides and ends were of the same material, but there was no flag in the bottom. It also lay north and south. The interior was filled with fine mould, at the bottom of which was found an urn and a few bones. The urn was broken when taken out. Adjoining this tomb to the north, with only the end flag between them, was a small one of very rude construction. It was partly oval shaped, and the sides were built with water-worn boulders. The cover was of whinstone, the length about 2 feet by 18 inches in breadth, and 15 inches deep. It was also filled with fine mould, and there were in it a few fragments of very small bone. To all appearance there are or have been many more of these cists in the locality, as the field shows a great many detached pieces of stones similar to those of which they are constructed, and which stone does not belong originally to the locality. The cists are all on the top of a large whinstone dyke that runs east and west throughout the island, the top of which is in a high state of decomposition."

(3.) By W. F. SKENE, LL.D., F.S.A. Scot.

Relic Casket, enamelled, having on one side a cameo representing a female figure with nimbus on the back of a dragon, on the other a miniature painting of a female stabbing herself with a dagger: It was long in the possession of the family of Carruthers of Holmains.

(4.) By THOMAS C. ARCHER, Esq., Director of the Edinburgh Museum of Science and Art.

Two Roman Milestones, of red sandstone, one 2 feet high and 15 inches diameter, with the remains of a defaced inscription; the other 18 inches high and 18 inches diameter. These are deposited for exhibition in the Society's collection.

The following Communications were read:—