

V.

NOTE OF A COPPER PLATE AND BRONZE ORNAMENTS FROM CLUNY.
By JOHN STUART, Esq., Sec. S. A. Scot. (PLATE V.)

Sir Robert Strange, the celebrated engraver, joined the Jacobite army in 1745, and continued to act along with it as one of the corps styled the Life-Guards, till the defeat at Culloden compelled him to fly for shelter to the hills, where he endured many hardships in the course of his wanderings.

Shortly before the battle of Culloden, the first battalion of Life-Guards, commanded by Lord Elcho, was billeted upon Culloden House. One evening, after Strange had retired to rest, as we learn from an interesting fragment written by himself,¹ an express arrived from Inverness about midnight, with an order for him to wait on the Prince as soon as possible. He rode directly to Inverness, and was shown into the

¹ Dennistoun's *Life of Strange*, vol. i. pp. 50-55.

Prince's bed-chamber. Soon after, the Prince, accompanied by Sir Thomas Sheridan and Mr Murray the secretary, came into the room, and Strange was informed that His Royal Highness wished to have his opinion, "relating to a circulation of one species of money or another, which it had been thought expedient to issue for the service of the army in general, but more particularly amongst the soldiery."

The result was, that Strange prepared a device for the notes which were to be issued. "It consisted," he says, "of nothing but the slightest compartment, from behind which a rose issued on one side and a thistle on the other, as merely ornamental; the interior part I meant should be filled up by clerks with the specific sums which were intended, &c.; and I proposed etching or engraving, in the slightest manner for expedition, a considerable repetition of this ornament on two plates, for the facility of printing; that each should be done on the strongest paper [so] that when cut separate, they should resist in some measure the wear they must sustain in the common use of circulation. The Prince had at this time taken the compartment out of my hand, and was showing [it] to Mr Murray, and seemed much pleased with the idea of the rose and the thistle. In short, everything was approved of, and the utmost expedition recommended me."

This seems to refer to plates for small sums, as Strange proceeds,— "We now talked of a circulation of larger sums, which would likewise be required. I gave it as my opinion, that I thought they could not do better than issue notes in imitation of the Bank of England, or the Royal Bank of Scotland, in the execution of which there was very little labour; that it would be necessary, if possible, to see such notes, in order to concert a form how they were to be drawn up, by whom paid, or at what period; if at a given time, that of the Restoration, I imagined, would be the properest. This produced a general smile."

Strange then describes the difficulties in getting his materials prepared in Inverness on the next day, which was Sunday, but succeeded in getting his copper plate on Monday about noon. "I had passed that morning," he proceeds, "in making a composition of etching varnish; but had not perfectly proportioned the materials, for I well recollect the aquafortis playing the devil with it; but which was repaired with some little trouble. In short, it mattered not much, provided the purpose was

answered ; and indifferent as things might be, I would at this moment purchase a series of them, even at a considerable expense, to decorate, as it were, this volume with the more juvenal works of its author. Such would be a curiosity of the kind. The reader may naturally conclude, that on this occasion I lost not a single hour. Solicitous in the service in which I was employed, my activity was of course redoubled. I laboured till late at night, and waited the approach of day with impatience. Not a fortnight had elapsed when I was ready to begin printing, and had even forwarded the notes for a larger circulation."

At this juncture came tidings that the Duke of Cumberland with his army had passed the Spey on the 13th of April. Strange then went to the secretary's office, and delivered over the whole of his charge, together with the English notes which he had got as patterns for his large notes.

The plate which, by the kind consent of its owner, Cluny Macpherson, is now exhibited, is without doubt one of those prepared by him, although the device is somewhat different from that referred to by Strange, in the fragment of autobiography just quoted. Its history cannot be traced from the time when it, along with the other materials for printing notes, was placed in the hands of the Secretary, Murray. It was found on the west end of Loch Laggan about thirty years ago, and it is supposed that it had been dropped there in some of the hasty movements which followed the rout at Culloden. It was presented to Cluny by General Hugh Ross. The plate contains eight notes, of which only the first four are filled up with the sums of "one penny," "two pence," "three pence," "six pence." All the notes are of the same design, the letters P. C. in the centre, surmounted by a crown and three feathers, and with a trophy of warlike weapons on each side. The engraving is slight, but is marked by the delicacy and skill of the great artist.

In Plate V. an impression is given of the Notes from the Original Plate, transferred to stone.

The bronze ornaments now exhibited, belonging to Cluny Macpherson, were found in a box on the Hill of Benibhreach, in Lochaber, under 6 feet of moss, by a shepherd of Colonel David Ross of Tirindrish.—See pages 46, 47.

WEDNESDAY, 15th February, 1865.

JOSEPH ROBERTSON, Esq., LL.D., one of the Vice-Presidents,
in the Chair.

The following gentleman was balloted for and elected a Fellow of the Society :—

ARCHIBALD ANDERSON, M.D., Inspector-General of Hospitals, Netley.

The Donations to the Museum were as follows, and thanks were voted to the Donors.

(1.) TREASURE TROVE. By the HON. THE LORDS OF H.M. TREASURY, through JOHN HENDERSON, Esq., Queen's and Lord Treasurer's Remembrancer.

Six Rings of rich yellow gold, each formed of several wires. Two of the rings are formed of three wires simply plaited together, the other larger rings, apparently of eight wires, are interlaced, so that two of them form a twisted ridge projecting round the circumference of the rings, one of these rings is imperfect; their respective weights are, 143, 210, 130, 234, 198, and 214 grains. Small, plain penannular Ring $1\frac{1}{4}$ th inch in diameter, tapering towards its opening extremities, weighing 104 grains. Two portions of apparently larger rings or armlets, weighing respectively 173 and 184 grains.

Piece of Native Gold, showing marks of cutting at one extremity, and weighing 209 grains, found among ruins in the Western Islands of Scotland.

Stone Hammer Head, measuring 11 inches in length, with perforation towards the thickest and rounded extremity, gradually tapering to a thin edge or face in front. Found at Silvermine, parish of Torphichen, Linlithgowshire.

Irregularly-shaped piece of Sandstone, about 8 inches in diameter, with a shallow cup-shaped indentation on its upper surface. Flat piece of triangular Mica Schist, pierced with a hole at the top, probably a net-sinker, its greatest length is 8 inches. Small piece of Micaceous sandstone, measuring about 4 inches in greatest diameter, with a circular perforation in the centre. Found together at Fetterangus, Aberdeenshire.

Bronze three-legged Pot with Ears for the handle, and encircled at its greatest circumference by a belt of two projecting lines, it measures 12 inches in height, and 9 inches across the mouth, and was found while digging in a garden at Bathgate, Linlithgowshire.

Ebony Casket, 5 inches long, by $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches broad, and $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches deep.

The lid of the Casket is ornamented with seven pebbles set in silver; each side is covered with a plate of copper, showing a row of lozenge-shaped openings, in which pebbles are also set, a Scots Thistle is engraved between each of the openings; the rest of the plate is covered with an ornamental pattern of lines crossing each other diagonally; each end, and the bottom of the casket, is rudely cut into rounded projecting bars or ribs, and in the centre of the bottom part is a lozenge-shaped plate of copper, rudely ornamented with a pattern of crossing lines. On the lid inside, there is a long-shaped plate of lead, on the centre of which is planted a small lozenge-shaped plate of copper; the lead plate has the following inscription roughly etched upon it, apparently with an acid, and on the small copperplate, in its centre, is engraved the date, and below it is a continuation of the inscription:—

A N A D
O M A



T.S. W.S.
M A D E
B Y G E O
R G E H E
A R I O T

which may be read ANNO DOMINI 1588. T.S. W.S. MADE BY GEORGE HEARIOT; the initials T.S. W.S. are no doubt those of a husband and wife, the owners of the casket. The inside of the box is lined with thin plates of copper, with a plate of the same metal dividing the interior into two portions. It contained a large rough pearl, various specimens of crystal, amethyst, and quartz, many of which are polished on the natural facets; and also a number of small pebbles or agates of different colours.

The box is a very curious and interesting relic, and the more so as it seems to bear the name of our ancient Edinburgh Goldsmith and

Jeweller, the well-known George Heriot, or perhaps that of his father. A sketch of the casket is given in the accompanying Plate IX. figs. 1 and 2.

Heart-shaped Nodule of Clay Ironstone, with copper handle.

The stone measures $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, and $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches broad, and shows numerous natural markings; a band of copper, $\frac{5}{8}$ ths of an inch in breadth, folded into two small and one large central loops, forms a handle, which is fastened by a piece of metal pierced through the top of the stone. On the centre loop is engraved what appears to be the following letters: BALWIREY; and on each of the side loops are square-shaped ornamental patterns, divided in the centre by crossing lines, in each of the sub-divisions of which is a letter or symbol. At the one extremity of the handle, where it is fixed to the stone, hangs a heart-shaped pendant of copper, on which some letters are engraved, apparently, *W H J*, on the outside of this pendant is fixed a small oblong-shaped plate of silver. At the other extremity of the handle is appended an hexagonal plate, on which is inscribed

A. D.
1200
M. S.

over this, again, is suspended a somewhat cross-shaped piece of copper, pierced with a circular hole at the lower and cross-shaped extremity.

The whole appearance of this curious relic is suggestive of its having been used as a charm; and its rude cabalistic looking natural marking, and inscribed characters, or letters, at least reminds us of our celebrated wizard, Michael Scott of Balwearie. (See Plate IX. fig. 3.)

The casket and heart-shaped stone were found together, in a box, during the process of trenching the ground at Crockbet, in the parish of Carmichael, Lanarkshire.

Five Silver Table Spoons (one of which wants the handle) with oval mouths, and having straight handles, terminating in ornamented circular extremities, on which are engraved the letters *I. B.*; on the back of the mouth of the spoons are engraved the letters *A. Y. C.* The spoons were found, in taking down an old house in the Townhead at Irvine, Ayrshire.

Portion of the upper part of a Sepulchral Urn of yellowish-coloured clay, with black fracture, and rudely ornamented with crossing lines; also a Necklace, formed of seven oblong triangular pieces of jet, and thirty-

seven oval shaped beads, found at Bogheadly, in the parish of Fetteresso, Kincardineshire.

Portions of a small Sepulchral Urn, five inches in height, of reddish clay, with specks of mica interspersed, and showing a black fracture, it is unornamented on the surface, and of a tall cup-shape form, and was found in a cist in ploughing a piece of uncultivated ground at Restinghill, parish of Dunnottar, Kincardineshire.

(2.) By the Hon. ARTHUR H. GORDON, Governor of New Brunswick, through John Stuart, Esq., Secretary.

Two Stone Cups, with short handles. One of the cups is of a roundish shape, of micaceous sandstone, $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter, and $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches in height; it is ornamented round the upper part with a band of rudely cut projecting knobs, the handle is $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch in length, and has a round depression cut on its upper surface. The other cup is larger, somewhat oval in shape, and straight in the sides, which are covered with incised lines in zigzag herring-bone patterns; the handle, which is imperfect, has been short and rounded, and has had a perforation through the centre. It measures 4 inches in diameter at the top, and is three inches in height. The cups were dug out of a large cairn on the south slope of Knockargity, Aberdeenshire, while trenching, some years ago. They are referred to in a communication "On the Earlier Antiquities of the District of Cromar, in Aberdeenshire," by Mr John Stuart, printed in the Proceedings of the Society, vol. i. page 261.

Small trangular-shaped Stone Celt, $3\frac{3}{4}$ inches in length, and $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches across the face.

Greyish Flint Arrow-head, 3 inches in length, and $2\frac{1}{2}$ in greatest breadth, showing remains of a stem and barbs. The arrow-head and celt were found near the village of Tarland, Aberdeenshire, in the neighbourhood of a circle of upright stones, which are now removed. These are also noticed in Mr Stuart's communication, referred to above.

Two Stone Celts; one 5 inches in length, by $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches in greatest breadth, of greenish-coloured stone, with a groove deeply cut round the greatest part of its narrowest extremity; probably for attaching it to the handle.

The other is more cylindrical in shape, $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, 2 inches in

breadth, with a groove similar to the other for attachment to the handle. These celts are similar to some specimens in the Museum received from America and they probably are also from the North American Continent.

Ring or Whorl for the distaff, of soft stone or coarse earthenware, measuring $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches in diameter.

(3.) By the KIRK-SESSION of the Parish of Dull, Perthshire.

Sculptured Slab of Yellowish Sandstone, measuring 2 feet 8 inches in length, by 16 inches in breadth, and 2 inches in thickness. On it is rudely sculptured in low relief, towards one extremity, a group of 6 men, apparently wearing bonnets, their dresses formed of numerous vertical folds, and each man carries a circular shield, which is ornamented with an incised circle in the centre, and a pair of smaller circles on each side of it; a horseman and dog follow the men, and he is again followed by another dog and another horseman, only partially sculptured, the stone being imperfect.

(4.) By the Rev. J. O. HALDANE, Kingoldrum, Forfarshire.

Large Stone Ball of a greenish stone, measuring 6 inches in diameter, it was found by a labourer at about a depth of 2 feet below the surface of the ground, in the parish of Airlie, Forfarshire.

(5.) By WILLIAM WILSON, Esq., Berwick-on-Tweed.

Iron Pile Shoe, formed of a solid square-shaped and pointed extremity, from which proceed four long iron straps; it formed the point of one of the piles of the old wooden bridge of Berwick-on-Tweed.

(6.) By JAMES SIMPSON, Esq., Melrose, through JOHN ALEXANDER SMITH, M.D., Secretary.

Portion of a Glazed Floor Tile, $4\frac{1}{4}$ inches in breadth, and 2 inches in depth; it is formed of red clay, with a layer of yellowish-coloured clay on its surface, about $\frac{1}{2}$ of an inch in thickness, on which is figured a coloured pattern of curved lines and fleur-de-lis. It was found 3 feet below the surface of the ground, and at a distance of about 300 yards to the east of Melrose Abbey.

(7.) By the late ROBERT SCLATER, Esq.

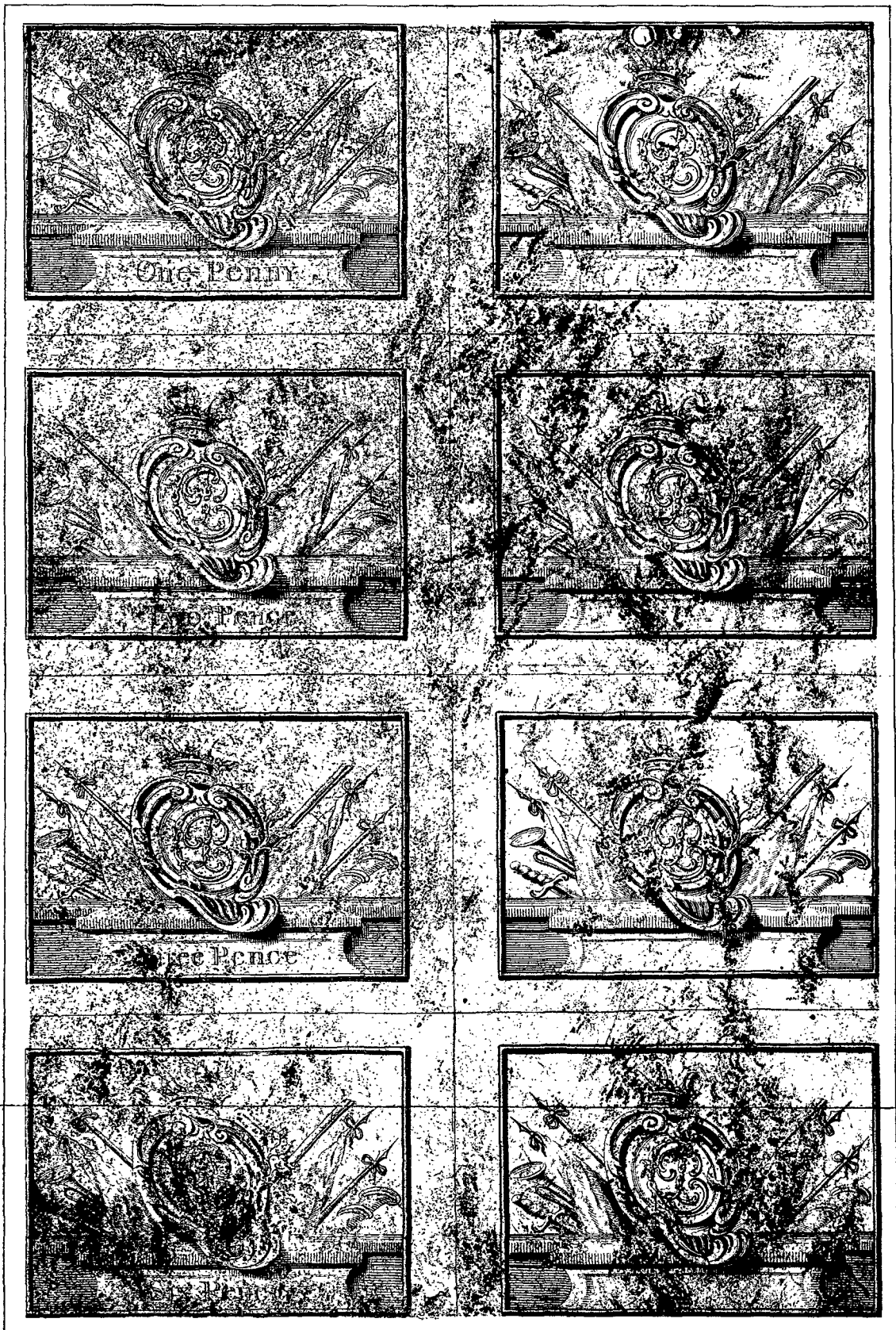
Two square-shaped Steel Dies, being the obverse and reverse of a silver twopenny piece of Queen Anne, of the date 1711. E., mint mark for Edinburgh, under the bust.

(8.) By the ROYAL IRISH ACADEMY.

Transactions of the Royal Irish Academy, vol. xxiv. part 2. 4to. Dublin, 1864.

Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy, vol. viii. 8vo. Dublin, 1861-64.

The following communications were read :—



IMPRESSION FROM AN ENGRAVED PLATE FOR PRINTING PAPER MONEY,
found near the West end of Loch Laggan, Inverness-shire.

Fig. 1.—5 in. in length.

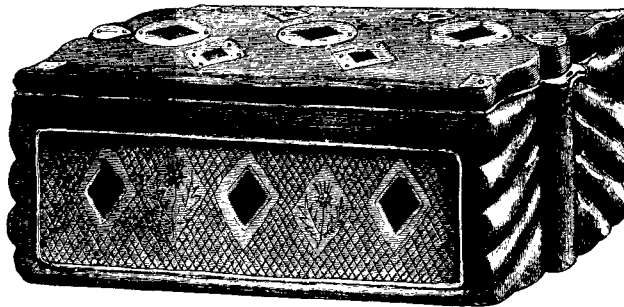


Fig. 2.—Inside of Lid of Casket.

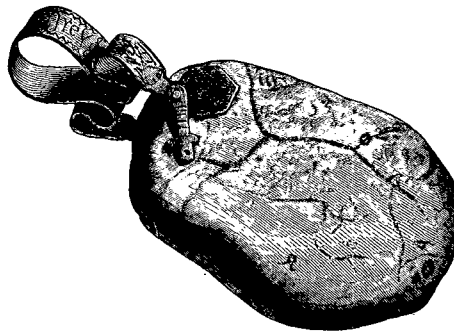


Fig. 3.—Length of Stone, 3½ in.

Figs. 1-2. Ebony Casket; and Fig. 3. A heart-shaped Stone, with copper handle, found together in treaching at Crockbet, parish of Carmichael, Lanarkshire.