

VI.

NOTICE OF A SILVER CHAIN OR GIRDLE, THE PROPERTY OF THOMAS SIMSON, OF BLAINSLIE, ESQ., BERWICKSHIRE; ANOTHER, IN THE POSSESSION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN; AND OF OTHER ANCIENT SCOTTISH SILVER CHAINS. BY JOHN ALEXANDER SMITH, M.D., V.P.S.A. SCOT. (PLATES XXXVII., XXXVIII.)

[On account of unavoidable delay in preparing the illustrative plates for this Communication, it has been transferred to the next volume of the Proceedings.]

MONDAY, *June 10th*, 1872.

REV. W. LINDSAY ALEXANDER, D.D., in the Chair.

On the recommendation of the Council, GEORGE STEPHENS, Esq., F.S.A., Professor of English Language and Literature, University of Copenhagen, author of the "Runic Monuments of Scandinavia and England," &c., was duly elected an Honorary Member of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland.

A ballot having been taken, the following Gentlemen were elected :—

As a Fellow of the Society—

EDWARD ALEXANDER PRENTICE, Esq., Montreal.

As a Corresponding Member—

Rev. J. G. MICHIE, A.M., Migvie, Aberdeenshire.

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

(1.) By Rev. NORMAN MACLEOD, D.D., of the Barony Parish, Glasgow.

Tortoise-shaped Brooch of bronze, $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches broad, and $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches in height. It consists of two oval shell-like or bowl-shaped castings of bronze, one of which fits over the other. The under part, which is the largest, has a flat rim, nearly a quarter of an inch wide, with band of intertwined lacertine ornamentation in panels, very

rudely executed; above this the surface is plain, and has probably been gilt to be seen through the open work of the upper shell, which fits closely round the margin of the ornamental band on the lower half of the brooch. In the centre of the upper case is a raised boss, pierced with four openings. Two similar bosses are placed at the extremities of the longer and shorter diameters of the oval. Half-way between each pair of these are spaces for four beads or studs, probably of amber or glass, but now lost, having holes for fastening the studs by means of rivets passing through the centre of each. One of these rivets remains *in situ*, and is about $\frac{3}{8}$ ths of an inch in length. From the centre boss to the studs last mentioned, and from the studs to the two bosses at the extremities of the long diameter of the oval, there are small channelled depressions in the metal, in which are laid side by side three rows of silver chain-work, formed by



Bronze Pin from Tiree.

twisting a very fine wire of two strands. The chain passes along the channel, enters a small hole at the one side of a stud, passes underneath and comes out on the other side; then along another channel, underneath the boss, and so back to the centre by the opposite stud in the same way. These chains thus form a kind of double diamond figure on the surface of the brooch. The whole upper shell, in the interspaces between the bosses and studs, is pierced with open work, apparently for the purpose of showing the richly gilt surface of the lower shell through the openings. It is also elaborately ornamented with chased work, corresponding to that of the lower border. This brooch was found in the Island of Tiree. Similar brooches are in the Museum from Orkney, Caithness, Islay, and also from England, and from Denmark and Norway. They are distinctly Scandinavian, and the British examples belong to the period of the Scandinavian incursions into this country from the 8th century.

Bronze pin, $6\frac{3}{4}$ inches long, with open lozenge-shaped head, found with the brooch in the island of Tiree (see the accompanying woodcut).

(2.) By Mr ROBERT JARDINE, 3 Sciennes Hill Place, Edinburgh.

Flat Powder-Horn, 12 inches long, 4 inches wide at the widest part, and 1 inch in thickness. It has a mounting of lead round the mouth,



Carved Powder-Horn.

and the bottom, which is of wood, and has two projecting loops for suspension, is rivetted in with brass pins. The convex back of the horn

is plain, the concave edge bearing three lines of an inscription as follows:—

SECK·ME·NOT·I·PRAY·THE·MY·MESTER·VIL·DENY·THE·FAT·LES.

APRYL 4 · YEAR · OF GOD 1694.

AND · BOOY. FEAR GOD IN HEAT.

On the upper part of one of the flat sides are the initials B B, and below them I G. Both the flat sides are covered with a beautifully executed ornamentation of engraved interlaced work and geometrical patterns, as represented in the accompanying figures.

(3.) By Mrs SCOTT, Mansion House Road, through GEORGE SIM, Esq., F.S.A. Scot., Curator of Coins.

Ring Brooch of silver, $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches diameter, formed of a circular flat band, $\frac{1}{4}$ th of an inch wide, and about $\frac{1}{8}$ th of an inch thick. The pin,



Inscribed Silver Brooch, $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches diameter.

which is also of silver, and of nail-like form, is looped round an indentation in the Brooch. In similar brooches of bronze in the Museum, the pin is attached at the junction of the two ends of the band bent round

to form the Brooch, and the loop of the pin conceals the junction ; but in this case the two ends are either strongly soldered, or the ring has been made from a solid piece of metal. The front of the Brooch bears the following inscription in characters apparently of about the 12th century :—

IHESUS NAZARENUS REX: NAZAR.

A small cross marks the beginning and end of the inscription. The back of the Brooch is ornamented by being divided into a series of triangular spaces, which are alternately plain and filled in with parallel lines, as seen on the acus of the Brooch (see fig.), on which the same ornamentation is continued.



Inscribed Bronze Brooch, $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches diameter.

A Bronze Brooch, bearing an inscription which seems to be an abbreviation of the same formula, is here figured for the sake of comparison. It was found, with human bones, on the upper part of the mound covering the ruins of the Broch of Yarhouse, Caithness (see p. 244, and *Archæol. Scotica*, vol. v. p. 141).

There are in the Museum other three silver Brooches of this form, bear-

ing similar legends, and somewhat similar in this style of lettering. One found at Canonbie, Dumfriesshire, has the inscription—IHESUS · NAZARENUS · REX ; another, found in the ruins of the old church of Middleby, Annandale, has IHESUS · NAZARENUS · REX · IUDE. A third, the locality of which is unknown, has on the one side IHESUS : NAZARENUS : REX : JUDÆORUM ; and on the reverse AVE . MARIA . GRACIA . PLENA . ORA.

(4.) By Colonel GREENHILL GARDYNE, of Glenforsa, through Capt. T. P. WHITE, R.E., F.S.A. Scot., of H.M. Ordnance Survey.

Urn of the drinking-cup type, $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches high, and 6 inches wide at the mouth (much broken), ornamented with narrow parallel bands of chevrons and short intersecting lines. The broad bands between these are filled in with a series of acutely-pointed triangular spaces, alternately plain, and filled with a chevrons pattern. The lines forming the long equal sides of these triangles appear to have been stamped with the teeth of a comb.

Fragment of another urn of similar character, but different in its ornamentation, which consists of angular scorings all over the surface, and towards the top a band of triangular spaces alternately plain and filled with parallel lines.

Two Fragments, apparently of a bronze dagger, found with the urns.



Polished Stone Object found in Mull,
3 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches long.

Polished stone object of greenstone, $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches in length, $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches in breadth, and decreasing in thickness from about $\frac{1}{8}$ th of an inch in the middle towards the two ends, which are not more than $\frac{1}{16}$ th of an inch in thickness (see figure). It is pierced by two holes, one placed near each end, and on opposite sides of what would be the medial line lengthwise of the upper surface of the stone. The holes, which are scarcely $\frac{1}{8}$ th of an inch wide, are countersunk on both sides, but greatly more so on one

side than on the other. These were all found on the farm of Callachally, in Glen Fersa.

There are several stone objects of similar character in the Museum, some being almost of the same form. Various conjectures have been made as to their purpose. Some of them have been thought to be wrist-guards to protect the wrist from the string of the bow.

(5.) By the Rev. Z. M. HAMILTON, D.D., Bressay, Shetland.

Ladle-like vessel of steatite, 8 inches diameter across the bowl, and 3 inches in depth, having a handle 6 inches in length.

Broken portion of the bowl of a similar vessel of steatite, also 8 inches in diameter.

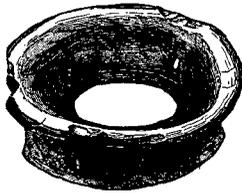
Broken portion of the bowl of a ladle-like vessel of steatite, 6 inches diameter, and $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches in depth.

Portion of the handle of a similar vessel of steatite, $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length.

These were all found in a moss in the island of Unst, along with the ladle-like vessel of a similar character presented by Thomas Edmonston of Buness, Esq., and referred to in his communication, at p. 286.

(6.) By Mr ANDREW PURDIE, West Mains, West Calder.

Ring of shale of peculiar form, being shaped somewhat like the horn frame of a watchmaker's eye-glass, $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter. It was found in ploughing on the farm of West Mains, West Calder. A ring almost exactly similar in form, but slightly larger (see figure), was found near some long stone cists at Yarrow Kirk, Selkirkshire (Proc., vol. ii. p. 484, and vol. vi. p. 62).



Ring of Shale found near Yarrow Kirk, $1\frac{1}{8}$ inches in diameter.

(7.) By PETER REID, Esq. Glasgow.

Cast in brass of an old Highland Brooch, 6 inches diameter, ornamented with circles of holes drilled in the metal, and with interlaced and other patterns, slightly engraved.

(8.) By JOHN BERRY of Tayfield, Esq., near Dundee.

"Trot-cosy" or hood of blue cloth, with large flaps to cover the neck

and shoulders. Fitting closely to the head, it was worn under the hat when riding, and buttoned over the mouth. This hood belonged to the late John Berry of Tayfield in the early part of the 18th century.

(9.) By WILLIAM TAAP, Esq., Teviot Row.

Hardhead of Francis and Mary, 1551, found in a garden at St Andrews. This is the coin referred to by the late Mr Lindsay in the second supplement to his work on the "The Coinage of Scotland," p. 18, where he says:—"Mr Taap has added to my catalogue of Billon coins a very singular hardhead of Francis and Mary; its obverse differs from that of No. 76 of first supplement only in having one R. after D. G.; but the reverse exhibits the extraordinary date of 1551; for this my friend Mr Sainthill has accounted by supposing that an old reverse die of Mary, with 1551, had been used with a new obverse one of Francis and Mary, as we find a similar instance of in Dublin and London pennies of Edward I., and with this opinion I perfectly coincide."

(10.) By GEORGE SIM, Esq., F.S.A. Scot., Curator of Coins.

An oval Medallion of bronze, $2\frac{5}{8}$ inches in length, showing in high relief the busts of Hercules and Omphale.

(11.) By the REPRESENTATIVES of the late Mr R. INNES SHEARER,
Corr. Mem. S.A. Scot.

Forty Sketch Plans and Sections of Mounds, Cairns, Brochs, &c., in Caithness.

(12.) By Mr DAVID TAYLOR, through DAVID LAING, Esq., For. Sec.

The Funerals of Patrick Forbes, Bishop of Aberdeen—the original edition. "Aberdene: Printed by Edward Raban, 1635. 4to."

(13.) By the Author, JOHN ANDERSON, M.D., Medical Officer and Naturalist to the Expedition, Calcutta.

Report on the Expedition to Western Yunan *via* Bhamo. Calcutta, 1871. 8vo.

(14.) By the SOCIÉTÉ DES ANTIQUAIRES DE FRANCE.

Memoires de la Société. Tome trente-deuxième. 8vo. Paris, 1871.

(15.) By the BERWICKSHIRE NATURALISTS' CLUB.

Proceedings of the Berwickshire Naturalists' Club, 1871-2.

(16.) By the Editor, Rev. CHARLES ROGERS, LL.D., F.S.A. Scot.

The Staggering State of Scottish Statesmen, from 1550 to 1658. By
John Scot of Scotstarvet. Edinburgh, 1872. 8vo.

The following Communications were read :—