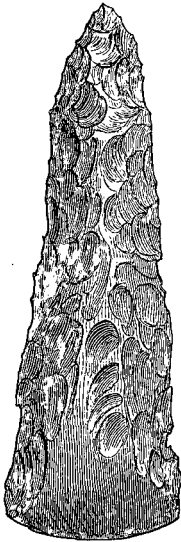


II.

NOTICE OF A SMALL COLLECTION OF FLINT IMPLEMENTS AND ARROW-HEADS; WITH PORTION OF A SMALL ORNAMENTED STONE BALL FOUND IN KINCARDINESHIRE. BY JOHN ALEXANDER SMITH, M.D., F.S.A. SCOT.

I. FLINT IMPLEMENTS AND ARROW-HEADS.

On the 8th of April 1872, the Rev. James Brodie, A.M., Monimail, Fife, a Corresponding Member of the Society, presented to the Museum of the Society a number of flint implements, along with a Notice of the Collection;¹ they were found in the neighbourhood of Fordoun, Kincardineshire. The collection included a very fine celt, 8 inches long, formed of black-coloured flint, chipped along the sides so as to give it a somewhat quadrilateral or lozenge-shaped section, the broad and sharpened extremity, which is partially polished running backwards about half its length along the middle of each side; the celt has its other extremity pointed or rather rounded in outline. Flint celts of this kind are apparently very rare in Scotland, and a figure of it is given here.



Celt of Black Flint (8 inches long) found near Fordoun, Kincardineshire.

The other worked flints were arrow-heads, varying in length from half an inch to two and a half inches; seventeen had barbs and stems, and varied in their outlines, some being nearly straight and others more curved; three arrow-heads had simply stems or tangs, but no projecting barbs; there were also five leaf-shaped arrow-heads, broad below and slightly pointed above, and two of a lozenge-shape, one being short and the other more extended in its outline. I supplement the Rev. Mr Brodie's paper by adding these details.

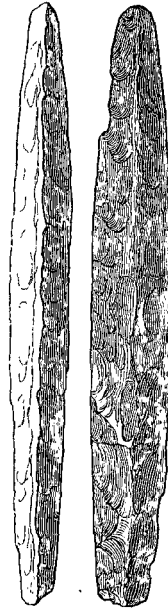
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¹ Proc. Soc. Antiq. Scot. vol. ix. p. 499.

For the specimens now exhibited the Society is also indebted to the Rev. Mr Brodie, through whose kind interest they were procured by Mr George Ross for the Museum of the Society. Mr Brodie writes me:—“The object I have in view is the preservation of the memorials of former ages, which are fast disappearing in the present age of rapid change.” The Society, I am sure, is much indebted to the liberality, zeal, and perseverance of our respected Corresponding Member, the Rev. Mr Brodie. I only wish we had over all the land as zealous corresponding members, and I am sure we would then be kept fully informed of all the discoveries of ancient remains, so often accidentally made, and would thus be enabled to preserve from destruction many objects of great archæological interest, which are now either lost or destroyed, or get into private hands, where the same result often follows;—their novelty in a short time passing away, and the circumstances and place of their discovery not being recorded in any permanent form, such as in our “Proceedings,” their history soon becomes forgotten, and the local interest being lost, the antiquity itself is in course of time neglected, and at last lost altogether.

The collection now exhibited was made in the same districts of Kincardineshire with the one just described, and principally in the neighbourhood of Fordoun. It consists of—

I. Flint picks, borers, or flaking implements.—The first implements I have to describe are a couple of long and slender-shaped tools belonging, apparently, to the class which has been described by John Evans, Esq., Hon. Mem. Soc. Antiq. Scot., &c. &c., in his valuable and important work on the “Ancient Stone Implements of Great Britain,” as picks, or perhaps borers, if not flaking implements. They are by no means common. The first is formed of a reddish-yellow flint. It measures 4 inches in length by $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch in greatest breadth. It is



Flint implement found near Fordoun, Kincardineshire (4 inches long).

long and narrow in shape, and tapers slightly towards each extremity, one being rather more pointed than the other, which is slightly rounded. It is quadrilateral or lozenge-shaped in a section across the middle, and the flint has been somewhat rubbed or polished over its whole surface—the sharp edges of the chippings or conchoidal fractures, having apparently been smoothed down all over its surface. This specimen is sent by the Rev. Mr Brodie for exhibition.

The second is of a similar character, but unfortunately it has been broken across the middle. It now measures $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length by $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch in breadth. It is also slender in character, and apparently tapered towards each extremity; the one remaining being also rather rounded at the point. It does not appear, however, to have been rubbed so smooth over its surface as the first described specimen. Like the other specimen, it was found in Kincardineshire.

II. Flint Arrow-heads.—The other worked flints consist of arrow-heads of different kinds.

(1.) *Leaf-shaped arrow-heads.* There are six specimens of these leaf-shaped arrow-heads, most of them very thin, and all regularly formed with a broad rounded base, they generally taper more or less rapidly to a sharp point; some of them, however, are much more slender and pointed in character than others. They vary in size from an inch, an inch and an eighth, to an inch and a half in length. Their greatest breadth is from a half to $\frac{5}{8}$ or $\frac{7}{8}$ of an inch. They are mostly very finely finished, and some are delicately serrated along their edges. One is rather of a different form, being more angular in character and almost lozenge-like in shape. The upper angles of the lozenge are, however, more produced or sharper than those next the base of the arrow-head. It measures nearly an inch in greatest breadth, and an inch and a quarter in length.

(2.) *Flint Arrow-heads with barbs and stem or tang.*—The other arrow-heads have all barbs and stem. They vary in size from a very small one, $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch in length, to the largest $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches, and in breadth from about $\frac{5}{8}$ of an inch to $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch. Some of these arrow-heads are beautifully finished, and serrated along their edges. The stem is large in some of these specimens, and the points of the barbs small; others have

the stem small and the barbs larger—one arrow-head measuring about an inch in length is $\frac{5}{8}$ of an inch in breadth across at the barbs, the stem being no less than $\frac{3}{8}$ of an inch across. Some have the barbs equal in length, and pointed, while others have them cut more square across, and in others again the barbs are unequal in length. These varieties are, doubtless, partly due to the flint itself answering in different ways to the force applied to chip it into shape in the course of their manufacture. Most of these arrow-heads show great skill and beauty in their slightly varied shapes and styles of manufacture. In some the external outlines are nearly straight, while in others they are more or less gracefully curved, so much so in some instances as to give them an ogeeal shape, and to turn the points of the barbs rather inwards. These arrow-heads are fourteen in number, and when added to the collection previously presented by the Rev. Mr Brodie, give a good representation of the kind and variety of flint arrow-heads found in the county of Kincardine.

As it may increase the interest in these flint weapons, I add notes of the different places in the county in the neighbourhood of which they were found:—

Old Cake, a leaf-shaped arrow-head, and another with barbs and stem, both of yellowish flint, were found.

Tipperty, parish of Fordoun, a beautiful small leaf-shaped flint arrow-head, and three with barbs and stem, of different sizes, one of which is beautifully serrated, were found. All are formed of yellow flint.

Water Lair, a small arrow-head, with barbs and stem, of yellow flint.

Whitefield, a leaf-shaped arrow head, much rounded in character, and a small arrow-head with barbs and stem.

Carmounth, Kineff, a large arrow-head, with barbs and stem, of yellowish flint.

Blairs, Fordoun, a leaf-shaped, and another with barbs and stem, of dark-coloured flint.

West Kininmonth, a leaf-shaped and a small arrow-head, with barbs and stem, of yellowish flint.

Gyrits Mire, an angular or somewhat lozenge-shaped arrow-head of yellowish flint.

Auchendrieach, a leaf-shaped arrow-head, and two with barbs and stem,

one of which is of pale-coloured flint, the others of yellowish-coloured flint.

Kirkton of Garvock, a large arrow-head, $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches long by $1\frac{3}{8}$ broad, of reddish yellow flint.

Dava, a small arrow-head with thick stem and small barbs, of yellowish flint.

Lastly, a broken arrow-head, with barbs and stem, of dark-coloured flint—also from the county of Kincardine, but the locality not specially noticed.

II. SMALL STONE BALL, WITH CIRCLES CUT ON ITS SURFACE, FOUND AT GLENFARQUHAR, PARISH OF FORDOUN, KINCARDINESHIRE.

The next worked stone implement is one of much interest. It is a portion—nearly a half—of a small ornamented stone ball, and shows traces of five circles slightly indented or cut in outline over its surface. The ball is about $2\frac{5}{8}$ inches in diameter. It is formed of a heavy dark-coloured, fine-grained stone, apparently hornblende gneiss, and was found by some young lads in Glenfarquhar, also in the parish of Fordoun, Kincardineshire. Unfortunately, the finders thoughtlessly broke off a large portion of the ball to discover of what stone it was formed; the remaining portion, however, was preserved by Mr John Mill, cabinet-maker, Auchinblae, and at the Rev. Mr Brodie's request he now presents it to the Museum of the Society.

It belongs to a class of ancient relics, the use of which has not yet been satisfactorily determined, and I am inclined to think is of a very much later period than the flint weapons just described.

Several specimens of this peculiar class of ornamented stone balls are preserved in the Museum of the Society, and I now take the opportunity of bringing them together before the notice of the Society; grouping them somewhat according to the variety of their ornamentation, and shall, at the same time refer to other specimens of a similar kind found in different parts of the country.