

II.

NOTE ON SOME BRONZE WEAPONS, IMPLEMENTS, AND ORNAMENTS.

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Before proceeding to describe the articles now exhibited I may be permitted to say a word on the necessity for placing on permanent record as many as possible of the various relics of antiquity found on Scottish soil. No better way of doing this can be suggested than by exhibiting such antiquities at the meetings of the National Society, where their character can be properly determined by competent authorities, and the objects themselves made available for scientific observation by being illustrated and described in the Proceedings.

I conceive that the duty of a National Society of archæologists is not only to collect and preserve such antiquities as they may acquire in a central museum, important and necessary as that duty may be, but as far as possible to examine and record every find which is known to have taken place.

Local societies can be of scientific use only so far as they feed the National Society with actual specimens and reliable information. In most cases they have not the means themselves to publish the data they may collect, but they could always forward for exhibition here such articles as they have, many of which would prove of interest. In most country houses also there are small collections of local antiquities, the knowledge of which would be of great value to students of Scottish archæology. In such cases it only requires some one to ask the loan of the articles for exhibition here, a request which would hardly ever be refused.

Undoubtedly the best thing is to get the articles here permanently; but as this cannot be done with every specimen, the next best thing is to obtain accurate drawings and descriptions of such as cannot be procured, and in this way in process of time a large body of data would be accumulated, from which in future times deductions of real value might be drawn; for I need hardly say that archæology in Scotland has suffered from nothing so much as learned dissertations founded on imperfect data. If we are to advance at all in this country we must be content for a time to collect facts.

I would suggest, therefore, that members of the Society living in different parts of the country would confer a great benefit on students of archæology if they would look about, and bring here for exhibition every native object which is known to exist in their districts, whether in local museums, private collections, or elsewhere. To carry out practically the idea just indicated, I shall lay before the Society the following objects, which are either in my own collection or specially lent by friends for exhibition on this occasion:—

1. *Bronze Sword*.—Length, 26 inches from end of handle. Handle, 3 inches to the broadest part of the blade. Blade, at broadest part, $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches. This specimen (fig. 1), one of the largest recorded, was found in the Island of Skye, and is, unfortunately, broken.

2. *Bronze Rapier Sword or Dagger*.—Length, 15 inches; $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches across the handle plate. This was discovered many years ago in a peat moss in the parish of Kirkoswald, Ayrshire, and is now the property of Colonel M'Lachlan of Blair, who kindly permits it to be shown (fig. 2).

3. *Bronze Dagger*.—Length, 7 inches; 2 inches across the handle plate (fig. 3). Found near Gretna, Dumfriesshire.

4. *Spear-head*.—Simple leaf-shaped. Length, 7 inches. Found in a moss near Stirling.

5. *Bronze Celt*.—Length, $4\frac{1}{4}$ inches by $1\frac{1}{8}$ inch; $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches across the broadest part. Found in Orkney.

6. *Flanged Celt*.—Length, $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches. Found on the estate of Ladyland, Kilbirnie, Ayrshire.

7. *Socketed Celt*.—Length, $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches. Socket nearly square, and

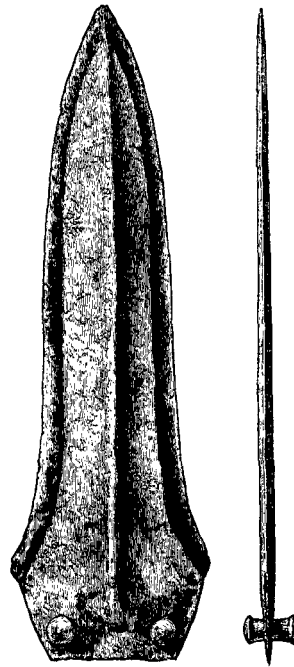


Fig. 1. Bronze Sword
found in Skye.

Fig. 2. Bronze Rapier
Sword, Kirkoswald.

Fig. 3. Bronze Dagger,
Gretna.

ornamented with raised linear ornament consisting of three parallel lines

on the side. This example was found near the town of Maybole, in Ayrshire.

8. *Bronze Pin* or Brooch, with ornamented pattern on the head. From Ireland. Length of pin, 6 inches. Head oval; penannular; 3 inches by 2 inches; rudely ornamented with three incised lines.

9. Another *Brooch*, somewhat different in type, showing a different pattern. Length of pin, $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches. Head semi-circular, 2 inches across; rudely ornamented with trefoil pattern. From Ireland.

10. *Bronze Chain*. From Ireland. Links circular, $\frac{1}{2}$ inch in diameter, serpent-like in shape; the tail coming in to the mouth.

Besides the Bronze articles, I have added a few other antiquities from my own collections, some of which may interest the Members either from their well-preserved condition, or from their rarity of type or occurrence.