

NOTICE OF A MASSIVE BRONZE "LATE CELTIC" ARMLET AND TWO SMALL OBJECTS OF BRONZE (HORSE-TRAPPINGS), FOUND WITH A ROMAN BRONZE PATELLA, AT STANHOPE, PEEBLESSHIRE, IN 1876; WITH AN ACCOUNT OF OTHER BRONZE OR BRASS ARMLETS FOUND IN SCOTLAND. BY JOHN ALEXANDER SMITH, M.D., Sec. S.A. Scot., &c.¹

PEEBLESSHIRE.

Stobo—Stanhope.—Through the courtesy of Sir Graham G. Montgomery, Bart., of Stobo Castle, Peeblesshire, on whose property they were discovered in 1876, I have now the pleasure of exhibiting a native bronze armlet, two small buckle-like articles of bronze, and a Roman patella of bronze. Mr Lindsay, the tenant of the farm of Stanhope, found these various articles under a large stone on a rocky hillside immediately above the farmhouse of Stanhope, and not far from the top of the hill; which rises to a height of some 1300 feet above the level of the sea. He made a careful search in the immediate neighbourhood of the place where they were found, but nothing more was discovered except a molar tooth from the lower jaw of an ox.

Mr William Ainslie, Stobomill, Sir Graham G. Montgomery's factor, has politely sent the following detailed account of the locality where these bronze relics were found:—

"I have now been with Mr Lindsay, the tenant of the farm who found them, and inspected the spot, which is on the brow or spur of what has apparently been an abrupt precipice of 400 or 500 feet high. It has now, however, lost its precipitous character by great masses of rocks and stones having become detached from the face, thus changing it into a steep rugged slope, which can be ascended up the front by climbing.

"At a spot about 150 or 200 yards north-east, where stands a shep-

¹ This communication was brought before the Society at its meeting, 13th January 1879, and its publication has been since delayed on account of some of the woodcuts.

herd's house, there are traces of a road or path having been formed in an oblique direction across the face of the hill to the spot where the things were found. There are also traces of a small encampment on the flat where the road commences at the shepherd's house, and, while the foundations for the shepherd's house were being built, twelve or fifteen years ago, a pair of gold (bronze ?) spurs are stated to have been found.

"At the spot where Mr Lindsay discovered the articles, there is an indentation in the face of the hill about 60 or 80 feet from the top, as if it had at some time been scooped out. It has through a long course of years been falling in, and is now filled up to a depth of probably from 6 to 12 feet from the original bottom or floor, the accumulation being, of course, deepest next the hill and diminishing gradually to the outer edge.

"There are two large flat stones lying near the outer edge, underneath which the articles were found. Mr Lindsay having shot a rabbit, it crawled in a badly-wounded state to a hole underneath the stones, and while picking the small stones from underneath the large ones to get at the rabbit he made the discovery of the 'bronzes.'

"The small flat of the excavation, probably not more than 20 yards or less in diameter, would be an admirable place for secreting anything in troublous times, for it cannot be seen from the bottom at Stanhope farmstead, nor can it be seen from the top unless by coming close to the brow of the hill overlooking it.

"There is no appearance of building on the spot, but there is the remains of an old keep or fort in a clump of plantation 300 or 400 yards to the south, and on the opposite side of the burn, and a quarter of a mile farther south there is an eminence on which is said to be the remains of an old fort, which still retains the name of 'Norman's Fort.'"

As these bronze articles are all of much interest, I shall refer to them in detail :—

(1.) The *Large massive Bronze Armlet* belongs to a class of similar large armlets which have been found in Scotland, and to which I shall afterwards refer more particularly. It is formed of a broad plate of

bronze, somewhat oval in outline, which is bent or curved into an oval or penannular form. Towards each of its rounded extremities there is a circular opening, which had probably at one time been filled up with ornamented plates of bronze, which exist in other examples, enamelled in colours, and each fastened into its place with a couple of pins. The surface of this armlet is ornamented by two embossed or rounded belts; one encircling the openings at each extremity, thus forming a border round the whole armlet; the other is a shorter band, which passes along the middle of the armlet from the one circular opening to the other—thus making three bands projecting along the side of the armlet. Each belt or band, is ornamented by tapering or leaf-like ornaments in relief, which cross

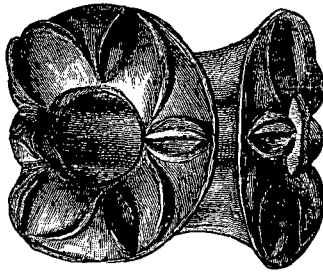


Fig. 1. Front of Massive Bronze Armlet found at Stanhope, Peeblesshire.

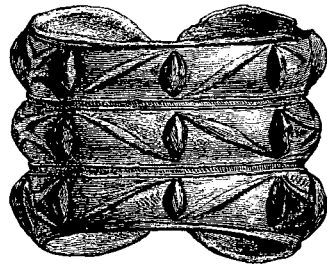


Fig. 2. Back of Armlet found at Stanhope, Peeblesshire.

the band obliquely, these ornaments becoming more curved and double on the central band, towards its extremities; there is also a series of abrupt oval-shaped knobs, crossing the bands transversely, which alternate with the others, and project thus at regular distances along the different belts. A small ornamental chain or cord-like pattern is also cut in the bottom of the groove which divides each of the separate bands of the armlet.

The armlet measures $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches across, in greatest diameter internally; it is nearly 3 inches in breadth across the middle, and $4\frac{1}{3}$ inches across each of the rather expanded extremities. The circular openings towards

each extremity of the armband, measure $1\frac{3}{8}$ inch in diameter. It weighs $30\frac{3}{4}$ ounces avoirdupois. (See figs. 1 and 2.)

The following careful analysis of this armband has been kindly made for me by Dr Stevenson Macadam, Lecturer on Chemistry, showing it to be a true ancient bronze, or alloy of copper and tin alone :—

“ANALYTICAL LABORATORY,
SURGEONS’ HALL, EDINBURGH.

“The armband is true ancient bronze. The analysis gives—

Copper	90.69
Tin	9.29
Loss02
		100.00

“STEVENSON MACADAM.”

(2.) *Small Bronzes (Horse-trappings ?)*.—Of the other articles found, the two ornamented buckle-like bronzes belong to a class, of which several varieties, more or less ornamented, and in some cases enamelled in different colours, have been found in various parts of Britain; these have been considered, by antiquaries generally, to belong to native or Celtic horse furniture or trappings. The bronzes now exhibited are oval in shape, with a square projection on one side, and are richly ornamented with curved trumpet-like scrolls and projecting bosses. They vary slightly in size, measuring respectively, $2\frac{1}{2}$ and $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches in greatest diameter. (See the annexed drawing of one of them, fig. 3). A loop of metal projects from the back of each, opposite to the square projecting part, as if for the attachment of a leather strap.

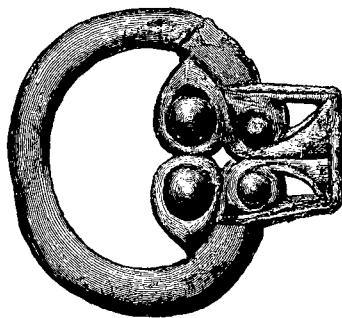


Fig. 3. Article of Bronze found at Stanhope, Peeblesshire.

I may mention that in our Museum we have a very fine ornamented

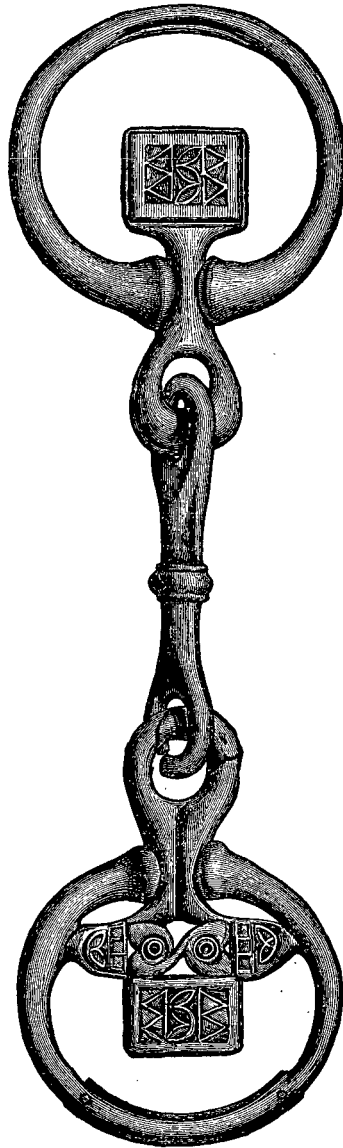


Fig. 4. Bridle-Bit found in a Moss at Birrenswork, Dumfriesshire.

bridle-bit corresponding in the character of part of its ornament and in its workmanship to these bronzes. It was found in a moss at Birrenswork, Annandale, and was presented to the Museum by Mr Robert Clapperton in 1785. It was figured and described by Dr Daniel Wilson, Hon. M.S.A. Scot., in his well-known "Archæology and Prehistoric Annals of Scotland." The mouthpiece of this bit is solid, or in one piece, and measures only $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches in length, while the cheek rings are $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches in greatest length by $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches across the rings. The solid centre piece of the bit is rather unusual,¹ and, as it is so short, it shows that, though a very powerful bit, it must have been for a small-sized horse. The outer part of the rings have each a narrow portion of metal neatly riveted on the inside to strengthen this the worn part of the rings, and the other loops or rings have also been strengthened by thin plates of metal being wrapped round them.

¹ A bridle-bit, very similar in general plan but less ornamental in character, and made partly of iron and bronze, has since been found in the crannog at Lochlea, Ayrshire; it is described and figured by Robert Munro, M.D., F.S.A. Scot. ("Proc. Soc. Ant. Scot.," New Series, vol. i. p. 234, 1879).

Traces of the red enamel, which had filled the sunk patterns, still remain. (The annexed figure (fig. 4.) shows well the character of the bit and the ornamental part of the cheek rings.)

Dr Wilson figures various relics belonging to a similar class of horse furniture which were stated to have been found in a moss at Middleby, Annandale, in 1737, and are now preserved at Penicuik House, Mid-Lothian.

In the Museum there is another fine, though less ornamented, and much larger specimen of a bronze bridle-bit, the mouthpiece having the usual joint in the middle, and there is also a large moveable stud between its two portions. It measures $6\frac{3}{4}$ inches in length. The cheek rings measure $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches across; one of the large cheek rings is broken. It, however, was found near Tracton Abbey, in the county of Cork, Ireland.

There are in our Museum ("Proceedings," vol. v. p. 341) two bronze

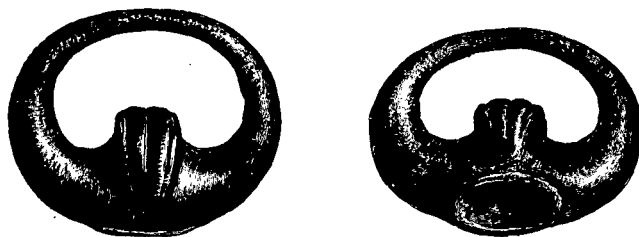


Fig. 5. Bronze Ornaments found in a Cairn at Towie, Aberdeenshire.

ornaments or rings, probably also connected with horse-trappings, each measuring $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches across their greatest diameter. They are hollow and open below, and show the remains of an iron pin run in with lead at each end of the hollow opening. They were found many years ago in a large cairn on the farm of Hilloch-head, Towie, Aberdeenshire. The cairn contained a short cist, with bones and also other bronze relics, among which was a large bronze ring.

Comparatively few of these bronze horse-trappings have, however, been found in Scotland, and their chemical analysis is yet unknown.

These bronzes all belong to a distinct class of articles of a corre-

spounding style of art, most of them showing more or less of the same embossed curved or trumpet-like ornaments and abrupt projections, and many of them are more or less ornamented with coloured enamels. This style of art has been designated by Mr A. W. Franks, of the British Museum, as "Late Celtic art." In his notes to the "*Horæ Ferales*" (London, 1863, 4to), Mr Franks describes and figures various articles of horse furniture, including some of those I have referred to, and others which were found at Polden Hill, Somersetshire, at Alfriston, in Suffolk, and also at Stanwick, in Yorkshire; all of which are now preserved in the British Museum. I have already referred to this subject in a paper, entitled "Notice of a Remarkable Bronze Ornament with Horns, found in Galloway, now at Abbotsford," &c. &c. Also a Bronze Ornament like a "Swine's Head," found in Banffshire in December, 1867 (see "Proceedings," vol. iv. p. 334). These bronzes apparently all belonged to this same class of "Late Celtic Art," and I took an opportunity at that time of including in my notice various bronze relics in the Museum, most of which appeared to belong to the same class of native antiquities.

(3.) *Roman Patella*.—This small bronze Roman pan or patella was found along with other British relics already described; it measures 6

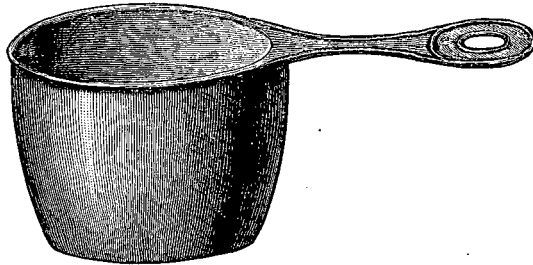


Fig. 6. Roman Patella found with Bronze Armlet, &c., at Stanhope, Peeblesshire.

inches in breadth across the top, $3\frac{7}{8}$ inches in depth, and $3\frac{3}{4}$ inches across the bottom of the vessel, which displays a series of four projecting concentric rings. (See fig. 7.) The handle measures $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length.

It corresponds in character to the few patellæ which have been found in other parts of Scotland. I had the pleasure of describing and presenting to our Museum a Roman patella of bronze, which was found on the farm of Palace, in the parish of Crailing, Roxburghshire ("Proceedings," vol. iv. p. 596). It was analysed by Dr Stevenson Macadam, and I repeat the details of it here, for comparison with that of the bronze armlet now described:—

"Copper	79·77
Tin	10·56
Lead	9·43
Loss in analysis	0·24
	100·00

"Specific gravity, 6·62 (water = 1·00)."

"It will be observed, therefore, that this bronze contains a medium percentage of tin and a comparatively large percentage of lead. The metal



Fig. 7. Roman Bronze Patella found at Palace, Roxburghshire.

lining or tinning of the true bronze of the patella is composed of tin and lead in nearly equal proportions."

Another and larger Roman patella has been more recently added to the Museum, which was discovered near a crannog in Dowalton Loch, Wigtonshire, and was presented, with various early British remains, by

Sir William Maxwell, Bart., of Monreith. (See "Proceedings," vol. vi. p. 109, 1865.) A smaller and more rounded bronze patella, found at Longfaugh, parish of Crichton, Midlothian, is also in the Museum; to which it was presented by the Right Hon. the Earl of Stair in 1863.

AN ACCOUNT OF OTHER BRONZE OR BRASS ARMLETS FOUND
IN SCOTLAND.

For comparison with the armlet found at Stanhope, I shall describe some of the other bronze armlets found in Scotland. These I shall refer to four principal classes.

I. *Plain Rings and Pennanular Rings or Armlets of Bronze.*—The plain armlets are formed of a rounded bar of bronze of varying thickness.

The pennanular rings or armlets have their terminal extremities generally more or less expanded or enlarged. They resemble, therefore, in shape some of the armlets made of gold.

These armlets from their size would appear to have been worn on the forearm or wrist. Several are described and figured in the "Proceedings" (as in "Proceedings," vol. ii. p. 277, plain rings; I have also described pennanular rings in vol. ix. p. 437, &c.); they are believed to be of great antiquity, and are early or British Celtic in character.

II. *Large Massive Bronze Armlets* formed of a single large rounded or somewhat oval plate of metal, cast or curved into a penannular form, with circular or oval openings for the insertion apparently of enamelled plates, towards each extremity. Their surface is ornamented with embossed or projecting ribs or bars, having raised transverse and oblique ornaments projecting alternately from these bars. They vary slightly in the details of their ornamental patterns, and all display a circular or oval opening towards each extremity, which in some is filled up by the insertion of separate plates of metal, ornamented with various patterns in coloured enamels. These armlets have apparently been cast in moulds.

With the single exception, I believe, of one discovered in Ireland, this variety of bronze armlet has been found only in Scotland.¹

These massive bronze or brass ornaments are believed to have been armlets, and from their great size, some of them may have been worn on the upper part of the large arm of a man ; the extremities of the armlets, displaying coloured enamelled ornaments, being placed probably towards the front or outside of the arm. It is not easy to understand, however, how these large bronze armlets could have been comfortably worn in any way, and some have accordingly supposed that they may have been simply votive ornaments ; this, however, does not appear, to me at least, to be very probable, and I need scarcely remind you how even in our own day, we still obey the freaks of fashion.²

III. *Spiral Snake-like Armlets of Bronze*, these armlets are smaller in size than those just described, and have each end of the ornamented spiral bar or band of bronze, of which they are composed, terminating in a zoomorphic form ; a snake or rudely formed conventional animal's head. Some of them also show transverse and oblique ornaments projecting on different parts of their surface, but in much lower relief than the second class of armlets. Some of this third class of armlets, as well as the last

¹ See "Note of Massive Bronze Armlet found in Ireland," at the end of this paper, page 357.

² Dr Schweinfurth in his Travels in "The Heart of Africa," 1873, figures Africans, of various tribes, wearing armlets on the upper arm. Writing of the African tribe of the Dinkas, he says:—"The favourite ornaments of the men are massive ivory rings, which they wear round the upper part of the arm ; the rich adorn themselves from elbows to wrists with a whole series of rings close together so as to touch." "The favourite ornaments of the men (of the Dyooors) resemble those of the Dinkas, consisting of a collection of iron rings below the elbow, and a huge ivory ring above the elbow." The Bongos "on the wrist and upper part of the arm wear iron rings of every pattern ; some rings are cut out of elephant and buffalo hide, and look almost as though they were made of horn." The armlets of the Mittoos "very often have a projecting rim, which is provided with a number of spikes or teeth, which apparently have no other object than to make a single combat as effective as possible." This spiked armlet he figures as placed on the arm above the elbow.—Vol. i.

to be described, from their small size may have been intended to be worn on the forearm or wrist, and probably also by females.

IV. *Jointed Armlets of Bronze*, cylindrical in shape, formed of two thin curved plates, with movable joint, and with rounded or embossed belts projecting from their surface; additional ornamental plates are also riveted on them, and these display the usual trumpet-like or curved and embossed or *repoussé* ornaments of the "Late Celtic" style of art.

I. PLAIN RINGS AND PENNANULAR RINGS OR ARMLETS.

I shall not notice here in detail the first class of ring armlets of bronze.

II. LARGE MASSIVE BRONZE OR BRASS ARMLETS.

They may be divided into two distinct varieties or patterns.

(1.) The general plan of this pattern is that of a rounded or embossed band, forming the whole of the oval outline of the armlet, and passing thus outside of the oval or circular openings near their extremities. There is also another and shorter embossed band, which passes in a straight line from the inside of the one opening to that of the other, and so fills up the central space of the armlet. For convenience I designate this as the "*Oval pattern*." (See plans of armlets, figs. 9 and 14).

(2.) The second variety or pattern of armlet is formed by the central projecting band of the armlet being prolonged, as it were, so as to pass towards each extremity, and form the alternate outlines of the terminal oval or circular openings, it is then folded backwards upon itself at each extremity, thus completing the openings, and it then passes along towards the other extremity of the armlet, where it terminates abruptly, as if cut off. It may therefore be described as more snake-like in form, and may be designated the "*Folded or spiral pattern*" of armlet. (See plan, fig. 18).

The ornamentation on both of these varieties of armlets is similar, consisting generally of abrupt, somewhat oval, projections placed transversely at intervals across the embossed bands of the armlet, and between

these, there are a series of single or double tapering leaf-like or trumpet-like projections, which are placed more or less diagonally across the different bands; the double series frequently occur towards the extremities of the armlet.

Several specimens are preserved in our Museum. They are all very similar in general character, but differ principally in the number, the size, and relief of their ornamental details. I shall give an account of all the different specimens known to me, and shall describe the armlets of the first variety, to which the specimen found at Stanhope, already referred to, belongs.

1. *THE OVAL PATTERN OR VARIETY OF MASSIVE BRONZE ARMLETS.*

BANFFSHIRE.

(1.) *Alvah-Auchenbadie*.—This armlet is the largest in our collection, and the most striking in the boldness of its ornamentation, it was presented to the Museum in 1864, by Mrs Morison of Bognie, Banffshire, on whose estate it was found. (See "Proceedings," vol. vi. p. 11.)

It measures $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches in its longest diameter, and $5\frac{3}{8}$ inches in greatest breadth across its side, and weighs 3 lbs. 9 oz. avoirdupois. It is also ornamented like the one first described, with three parallel rounded or embossed mouldings or belts, which are thickly studded with alternately transverse and oblique projecting ornaments. Like most of the others it has an ornamental twisted cord-like pattern, but double in this armlet, cut in the grooves separating each of the boldly projecting bands of the armlet. A single cord pattern only is, however, cut in the groove round the outer margin of the armlet, and a small double cord is also cut, passing through the transverse projecting ornament between the oval opening and the front edge of the armlet; this transverse ornament being often made wider or double, as in this particular instance. The armlet has an oval aperture towards each extremity, measuring 1 inch across by $1\frac{1}{4}$ in height, which still shows the pins by which enamelled plates had been probably

fastened in their places. These pins on one side of the armlet are of bronze, and on the other they have a reddish or rusty appearance, and are apparently of iron.

Dr John Stuart tells us in a notice¹ read to the Society in February

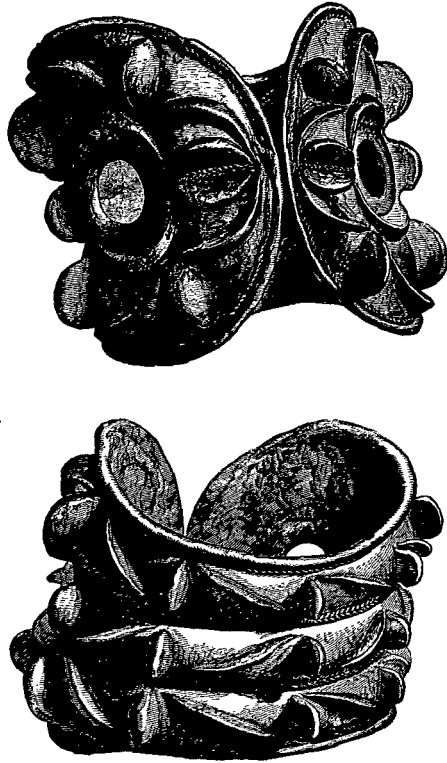


Fig. 8. Bronze Armlet found at Auchenbadie, Alvah, Banffshire.

1857, "this armlet was found some years ago, in the field adjoining the mound of the 'Ha' Hill,' on the farm of Mains of Auchenbadie, on the estate of Montblair, parish of Alvah, Banffshire. The farmer was trench-

¹ Notices of Ecclesiastical Settlement on the Deveron, and of Excavations at the Ha' Hill of Montblair on that river. ("Proc. Soc. Ant. Scot.," vol. ii., 1859.)

ploughing the field which had been long in cultivation, and the plough brought up the armlet from a depth of 12 or 14 inches."

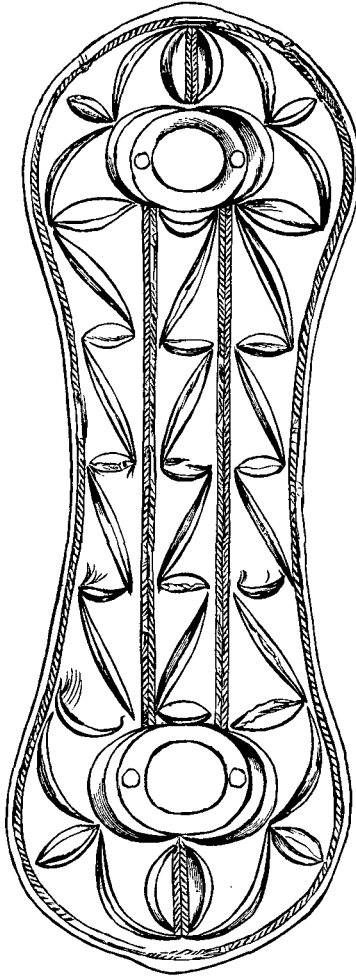


Fig. 9. Plan of Bronze Armlet found at Auchenbadie, Alvah, Banffshire.

ABERDEENSHIRE.

(2.) *Strathdon—Castle-Newe.*—When the last-described armlet was presented to the Society in December 1864, a pair of similar armlets were also exhibited. They were in beautiful preservation, covered with a fine green patina, and still retained in their circular sockets the separate enamelled

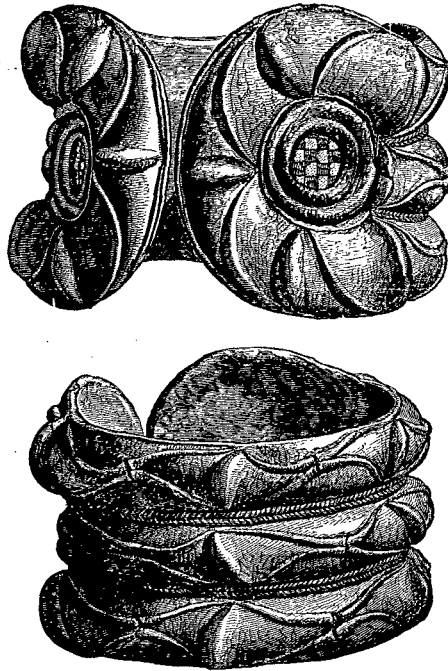


Fig. 10. Bronze Armlets, found at Castle-Newe, Aberdeenshire.

plates which displayed a chequered pattern of red and yellow colour. These circular plates had been fixed in their places by iron pins. There is also a double series of twisted cords cut in the grooves between the different projecting bands of the armlet. (See fig. 10.) The style of these armlets was not quite so strongly marked as that just described,

and perhaps the details were finer, the transverse projections not being so strongly marked, while the oblique or trumpet-like ones were double, or rather in two pairs, joined at their widest extremities, between the transverse projections. They were also smaller in size. Each armlet measured $5\frac{3}{4}$ inches in its greatest diameter and $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches in breadth across the side, and weighed $3\frac{3}{4}$ lbs. avoirdupois. (See the annexed careful drawing of the armlet, fig. 10). ("Proceedings," vol. vi. p. 13.)

The armlets were found together, embedded in the earth at the entrance to a rudely-constructed long and narrow underground building or "Eirde House," containing within its walls of unhewn stones, ashes, parts of stone querns, beads, &c.; which was then discovered in the garden of Castle-Newe, Strathdon, Aberdeenshire. These bracelets were exhibited by Mr Alexander Walker, the gardener, and are now, I believe, in the possession of Sir Charles Forbes, Bart. of Castle-Newe.

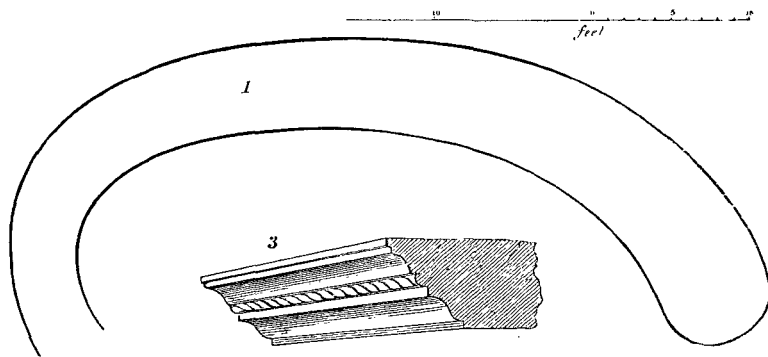


Fig. 11.—(1) Ground Plan of Underground Building, Newstead, Melrose.
(2) Moulded Stone found in Interior of Building.

On the 13th June 1852 I brought before the notice of the Society an account of one of these curious underground stone structures formed however of hewn dry stone walls, with a series of stones also projecting inwards one above another on the walls, so as apparently to form a roof. These roofing stones were bevelled at their inner extremities, and

cut square across at their inner termination; they had also a notch cut along the middle of their bevelled extremities, the effect being, when completed, to give a flat ribbed ornamental character to the whole roof. This building was discovered at Newstead, near Melrose, Roxburghshire, close to the remains of the old Roman town, and was supposed by me to

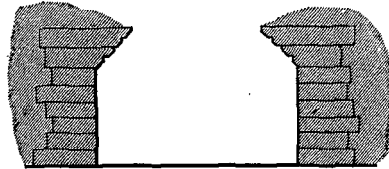


Fig. 12. Section of Underground Building found at Newstead.

be also Roman in character. (I have added the plan to show its general outline and also the section to show its structure, figs. 11 and 12.) ("Proceedings," vol. i. p. 213). A building of similar character, but built of unhewn stones also without lime, was then stated to have been also discovered in the neighbourhood several years before.

At the same time I called attention to the close resemblance of these buildings in their external form, to other underground buildings built of



Fig. 13. Plan of Underground Building found near Middleton.

unhewn stones, and described by Pennant as having been discovered near Middleton House, Midlothian, and another in Fife. I subsequently gave a more particular notice of these to the Society, and repeated Pennant's figure (fig. 13). ("Proceedings," vol. viii. p. 27).

Since that paper was read, various notices of underground buildings, of closely resembling general character and shape, have been described to our Society and figured in our "Proceedings." They have occurred mostly in the East and North of Scotland, like this one found at Castle-Newe. They are obviously a distinct class of native or Celtic buildings, and have apparently been used for the purpose of hiding or storing the valuables of the people, or for concealing themselves in times of danger. It is interesting to find these bronze armlets in the entrance to one of these buildings, as it associates them with the Celtic inhabitants, the natives of the country; as the makers of both. Their contents are generally composed of articles of native Celtic manufacture, although in some instances traces have also been found of articles of Roman manufacture, which seem thus to connect the use of some of them, at least, with the times of the Roman occupation of part of our country of Scotland.

(3.) *Belhelvie, Drumside.*—The next armlet I shall notice is a very fine one, with the same style of ornaments rather in less relief than the last, which was presented to the Museum at a meeting on February 14, 1853, by our late lamented Secretary, John Stuart, LL.D. It is described in the "Proceedings," vol. i. p. 138, as a "Bronze Armlet, snake pattern." It is similar in character to those already described, but

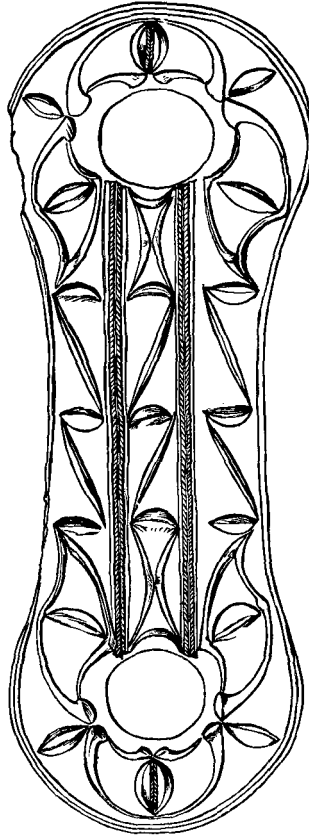


Fig. 14. Plan of Bronze Armlet found at Drumside, Belhelvie, Aberdeenshire.

rather smaller in size. It measures $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches in internal diameter, $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches in depth or breadth across the side, and it weighs 28 ounces



Fig. 15. Bronze Armlet found at Drumside, Belhelvie, Aberdeenshire.

avoirdupois; the oval openings for the enamel plates, which are absent, measuring $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch by $1\frac{2}{3}$ inch in breadth. Portions of the bronze pins

which held these enamelled plates in position, still remain in this armlet. The oblique ornaments, which become double towards each extremity of the armlet, are succeeded by others with dilated extremities, and more distinctively trumpet-like in character. It formed one of a pair, and was found about six feet under the surface, and nearly three yards apart from the other armlet; on the Links of Drumside, parish of Belhelvie, Aberdeenshire. (See fig. 14 plan, and fig. 15).

(4.) *Aboyne*.—Mr R. H. Soden-Smith, M.A., F.S.A., at a meeting of the Archaeological Institute, London, held on December 2, 1864, exhibited “Three massive armlets of bronze, the property of the Marchioness of Huntly, found in ploughing, about three miles north-west of Aboyne, in ground which apparently had never been broken up. Several examples have occurred in North Britain; two are preserved in the British Museum, which are ornamented with discs of enamelled work, and there are several in the Museum of the Antiquaries of Scotland.”¹ Mr Soden-Smith also says:—“It is supposed that these armlets were votive offerings or honorary gifts, and they are assigned to the Late Celtic period.” He also refers to the massive armlets in the British Museum, found at Pitkelloney, already described, and also to Dr Wilson’s “Prehistoric Annals,” p. 448, where a similar one is figured, with which they agree in general characters; they are, therefore, to be referred to this same class of massive bronze armlets. Mr Soden-Smith afterwards alludes to the class of spiral armlets, in form of a coil like a serpent, from which he thinks the general type of both seems to have been derived.

I have since been informed, through the courtesy of the Dowager Marchioness of Huntly, that these armlets were discovered between Aboyne and Tarland, close to the march which separates the properties of the Marquis of Huntly and Lord Aberdeen. They were dug or ploughed up out of the ground. Of these Lady Huntly has three, which were found together, and possibly there may have been a fourth,

¹ “Archæological Journal,” 1865, vol. xxii. p. 74.

which was overlooked. Two of the armlets correspond in design and general plan to the armlet found at Auchenbadie (see plan, fig. 9, page 329). The third armlet is also similar in the general plan, but the ornamentation is much less strongly marked. All of them, therefore, belong to my first subdivision, the *Oval Pattern* or variety, of this class of armlet. (See Additional Note at the end of this paper.)

PERTHSHIRE.

(5.) *Bunrannoch* (?)—Another armlet of a similar character and pattern, but still smaller than the armlet found at Drumside, with the ornaments in less relief, is also preserved in the Museum (see fig. 16). It measures $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches in greatest diameter, 2 inches across the middle, and $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches across each extremity, the oval opening at each extremity measuring

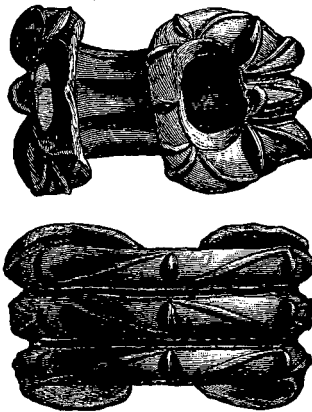


Fig. 16. Bronze Armlet in the Museum of the Society.

$1\frac{1}{4}$ inch in its longest or transverse diameter. It weighs $21\frac{1}{4}$ ounces avoirdupois. The rounded extremities of this armlet appear to have been cut or pared across. Unfortunately its history is not definitely known; I shall, however, in describing the next armlet, attempt to give what I consider may have been the probable history of both of these armlets.

II. THE FOLDED OR SPIRAL PATTERN OR VARIETY, OF LARGE MASSIVE BRONZE ARMLETS.

PERTSHIRE.

(6.) *Bunramoch* (?)—Still another armlet is in the Museum, and of its history, also, nothing is positively known. The general pattern of this armlet is, however, different from those already described, and belongs to what I have called the second pattern or folded variety, of these bronze armlets. (See fig. 17, and plan, fig. 18.) The projecting band being formed in a more serpent-like shape. The single band, which may be

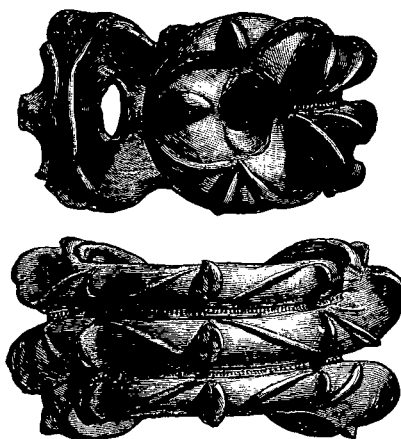


Fig. 17. Bronze Armlet in the Museum of the Society.

described as forming the central part of the armlet, being turned back on itself at each extremity; leaving thus a small circular aperture towards each end of the armlet, which is also less in size than in the others. It thus also forms three bands across the body of the armlet, but gives it more of a serpent-like character, suggesting, perhaps, the still more serpent-like class of true spiral armlets which I shall afterwards describe. A series of short transverse lines are cut between these different bands, but the effect is not so cord-like in pattern as in some of the other armlets.

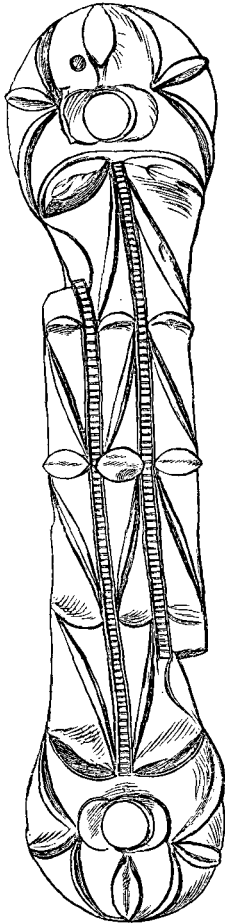


Fig. 18. Plan of Bronze Armlet (of fig. 17).

These two last armlets have both been long in the possession of the Society. This one measures $4\frac{1}{4}$ inches in greatest internal diameter, $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches in breadth across the middle, and 3 inches across each extremity, the circular opening at each extremity measuring $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch across, and it weighs $31\frac{3}{4}$ ounces avoirdupois. Its style of ornamentation is much bolder than most of the others, the central and terminal knobs being also more rounded, and with the transverse ornaments next the circular openings, much more projecting in character. It is also heavier in character than the one last described.

With the single exception of a small bronze armlet belonging to Class III. or true "Spiral Snake-like Armlets," to be afterwards described, these two last described massive bronze armlets, are the only armlets or bracelets in the Museum the history of which is not known.

At a meeting of the Society, however, held on the 22d of April 1833, two large massive bronze armlets were exhibited. Unfortunately at that time the Society did not publish any "Proceedings," and accordingly no notice of them was printed. Turning, therefore, to the MS. minute-book, I find the following written record in the minutes of that date:—

"There were also exhibited two bronze bracelets or armlets in the shape of serpents. The one weighing 1 lb. 2 oz., the other 1 lb. $14\frac{1}{2}$ oz. avoirdupois, similar to that figured in the 'Archæologia Scotica,' vol. iii. p. 99, and in the 'Archæologia Lond.,' vol. xxii. p. 285. These armlets were found in the district of Bunnanoch, Perthshire, on the northern declivity of the mountain

Schihallion, and were exhibited to the Society, and temporarily deposited in the Museum, by Mr Alexander Stewart, Edinburgh."

Now, the recorded great weight of these two armlets, the one being 1 lb. 2 oz. and the other 1 lb. 14½ oz., make us at once set aside the small spiral armlet just referred to, of which the history was not known, as being by any possibility one of those recorded in this minute; its weight being only 9¾ oz. avoirdupois. The weight of these armlets, however, is by no means very different from that of the two massive bronze armlets I have just described, the smallest weighing 1 lb. 5¼ ozs. avoirdupois, and the other 1 lb. 15¾ ozs. Indeed, I find on examining the weights of different articles, that from various causes they are not unfrequently found to vary in the recorded from the real weights, at least to some small extent, the articles being probably sent to some trader who weighed them rather carelessly, in many cases giving only a general and not a very detailed account of the weight, so that apparently even an ounce or two of difference may be considered as really not a very important matter, in judging of the identity of an article not sold by its weight. The reference in the minute to another armlet, is to the large bronze armlet described and figured in the "Archæologia Scotica," and "Londonensis," which I shall also afterwards describe as found at the Culbin Sands, and which these two armlets are said to resemble. We must, however, remember that it was the only other bronze armlet then known; and although it is formed of a single spiral band of bronze, and therefore is really more truly serpent-like in character, still the massiveness and general weight of the armlet is very similar, and the two or three solid embossed bands of the others are also very suggestive of a snake, so that, speaking generally, it may be said, these armlets closely resemble the other. Indeed, the character of the ornamentation of both is a good deal alike, so much so that I am inclined to consider that it is merely a variety of the ornament suggested by that on these more massive class of armlets, and connects, as I think, the one class of armlets with the other. I may also mention that some well-known writers on the archæology of Scotland, as Professor Daniel Wilson, for example, speaks of these armlets, as bronze objects "whereon

the triple snake-like form and scales are represented, but without the head or any more distinct characteristic of the reptile,"¹ the transverse and oblique conventional ornaments being suggested, he thinks, by the scales of the snake. So that the general comparison of this class of armlet to a snake is not by any means to be wondered at.

These large, massive, solid armlets have occasionally been found in pairs, the one closely corresponding to the other; but in the case of the two armlets referred to above, it seems manifest from the great difference in weight between them that they were not a pair. They show, indeed, the only two varieties of shape or pattern yet known, and although they might both be found on the northern slopes of Schihallion, in the district of Bunrannoch, it does not appear that they were actually found together. The present appearance of the metallic surfaces of the two armlets would rather imply, either that the composition of the alloy of each might be slightly different, or that they had been found under different circumstances in the peat or soil in which they may have been buried.

After considering all these things, I am very much inclined to come to the conclusion, that the history of the bronze armlets recorded in the minutes in 1833, and the only two bronze armlets of a corresponding character, which have been for so many long years preserved and exhibited in the Museum, but their history forgotten; must now be brought together, and that these two armlets be designated as having been really found, now nearly fifty years ago, on the northern slopes of the mountain Schihallion, in the district of Bunrannoch, Perthshire.

(7.) *Pitkelloney—Muthill*—A pair of very fine armlets of similar character or pattern to that last described, the projecting ornaments, however, not being so prominent. The plate of metal of which each is formed is also bent as it were, upon itself, and towards each extremity are rounded apertures which are filled up with circular plates ornamented with enamel; still remaining *in situ*. They were exhibited to the Society of Antiquaries of London by William Jerdan, Esq., in 1858, and were

¹ "Prehistoric Annals of Scotland," vol. ii. p. 139.

described in the "Archæologia," vol. xxviii. p. 435. He states that "the spot where these Armlets were discovered is on the farm of Pitkelloney, a few hundred yards above the town of Muthill, and about two miles from Drummond Castle, in 1837, the seat of Lord and Lady Willoughby de Eresby, to whom Pitkelloney belongs. They were within a few feet of each other; the first being ploughed up in making the deeper ridge furrow which requires the plough to go over the ground a second time; and the last dug up close beside it, on further turning up the mould to ascertain the possible existence of any other relics. These armillæ are of brass, the one 16 inches in circumference, weighing 3 lbs. 3 ounces; the other 15 inches round, and 3 lbs. 10 ounces in weight. Their forms are similar and pattern the same, except in the fine mosaics (enamels) which adorn the four centres of the clasps. These mosaics are curiously fastened in with iron pins, riveted on the inside, and surrounded and connected by the main treble wreath of the armlet by strong, rather elastic wires, entwined by smaller wire in a very graceful manner. The colours of the enamelled plates are red and yellow; on one the figure is a plain and perfect cross, and on the other a cross-ornament with a flower-like addition." (See "Archæologia," vol. xxviii., p. 435.)

Mr A. W. Franks thus describes them in the "Horæ Ferales," p. 183:—"23, 24. A pair of massive bronze armlets, found on the farm of Pitkelloney, near Muthill, Perthshire, and about two miles from Drummond Castle. (See 'Archæologia,' vol. xxviii. p. 435.) These remarkable armlets weigh each of them about 3½ lbs., and are of a broad coiled pattern; in the ends are set two oval medallions with varied designs of red and yellow enamel; the enamelled plates seem to be fixed into their places by iron pins. They are now in the British Museum."

Mr Franks, in a note with which he has lately favoured me, says:—"They are slightly different in size, but of the same construction. The design is a spiral, starting from one side and passing round the opposite medallion, then recurved back and passing round the other medallion and then back again, and terminating as at the other end. The medallions are champleve enamels in flat plates of bronze, and have probably a projection on one

side with a loop, through which passes a rod at right angles to the armlet. The great coil or spiral has had a narrow bar lying between the portions of the coil, and which seems to me to be of iron covered with thin bronze. The back of the enamels seem to be of iron now much decayed, and these may have to do with the bar," "which in ours is very imperfect, owing, no doubt, to its iron core." "It is, however, a very difficult matter to

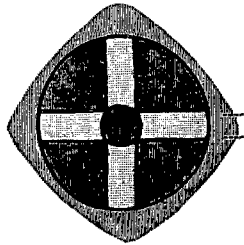


Fig. 19.

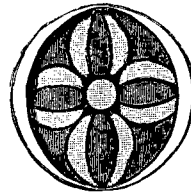


Fig. 20.

Enamelled Plates of each of the pair of Bronze Armlets found at Pitkelloney, Perthshire.

describe." "The diameter of one armlet is $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches and its extreme height $3\frac{1}{4}$; of the other, also, diameter $5\frac{1}{2}$ and extreme height $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches." Mr Franks has been good enough to send me coloured drawings of the circular enamelled plates of each of these armlets, one being slightly encroached on by the bronze moulding of the armlet (fig. 20). The plates of one armlet show four bars of yellow enamel, placed in a cross-like form proceeding from a circular centre of red enamel, the field or ground of the plate being also red (fig. 19). The plates of the other armlet display a circular yellow spot in the centre of the enamelled plate, from which four long oval-like leaves extend to the margin of the plate; each leaf-like ornament has a red stripe along its centre and a yellow stripe on each side of it; the space between each leaf, the ground or field of the plate, being covered with red enamel (fig. 20).

FIFESHIRE.

(8.) *Kinghorn, Seafield*.—I have had an opportunity quite recently of examining another bronze armlet belonging also to this second variety

or pattern, which has been brought to the Museum for exhibition. Its ornamentation is not in such high relief nor exactly of the same character as in the other armlets, like them, it displays the transverse, but the oblique ornaments project from the sides of the bands of the armlet and are double, and longer, and seem folded, as it were, round a good part of the bars of the armlet. More of the transverse ornaments are



Fig. 21. Bronze Armlet found near Seafield Tower, Fife.

also somewhat double in character. The central ones of the back have a cord-like ornament dividing them, but there is no cord in the grooves dividing the bars of the armlet itself. There are only four ornamental divisions along the bars between the oval openings of the armlets. It is also less strongly marked in the character of its general ornamentation; and in this respect, and in general style of ornament, it may be considered to approximate, or be almost transitional in character, to the ornamen-

tation of the first armlet to be described, which belongs to the next class or true "Spiral armlets." The armlet measures $5\frac{1}{4}$ inches in its longest diameter, $2\frac{1}{8}$ inches across the middle, and $2\frac{7}{8}$ inches across each extremity, the oval opening at each extremity being $1\frac{2}{3}$ inches; it now shows no appearance of the former presence of enamelled plates, and weighs 2 lb. $9\frac{1}{2}$ ounces avoirdupois. It belongs to Mr Alexander Soutar, Kirkcaldy, and was found about forty years ago by a man while digging in a field near Seafield Tower, between Kinghorn and Kirkcaldy, Fife (fig. 21).

These Celtic armlets are all of a very closely corresponding style and character of workmanship, and, therefore, probably period of time or age, and from this discovery recently made at Stanhope, it is of much interest that we are now able to connect some of them, in all probability with the time of the Roman occupation of the country.

III. THE SPIRAL SNAKE-LIKE ARMLETS OF BRONZE.

This class of armlets is generally of a lighter description than those just described. They are cast in the form of a simple circular or spiral coil of a rounded and ornamented band of bronze, each extremity of which terminates in a zoomorphic form or animal's head, more or less rude or conventional in character, and in some cases there is, at this part also, a socket to hold either an enamel or an ornamental stone of some description.

The character of the workmanship and the style of the ornaments on the spiral band of some of these armlets, though lighter in character, remind us strongly of, and may be said to be closely allied to, the oblique trumpet-like patterns, and also the bolder transverse projections, which form so striking a feature of the large massive armlets just described. This class or type of spiral armlets have been found only in Scotland.

ELGINSHIRE.

(1.) *Cullbin Sands*.—The first of these spiral armlets I shall notice is a richly ornamented armlet, which was exhibited to this Society in 1827 by Sir Thomas Dick Lauder, Bart. It is described and figured by him

in a paper published in vol. iii. of our "Archæologia Scotica," p. 99, and was found some three or four years before by a man who was shooting among the desolate sand-hills of Culbin, on the western side of the estuary of the river Findhorn. Some of these hills of sand, Sir Thomas tells us, are a hundred feet in perpendicular height, and "Though flints are not included in the mineralogical list of this country, there is one small spot among the sand-hills where flinty fragments are often picked up, and as clif-bolts, or flint arrow-heads, have been not unfrequently found on this spot,

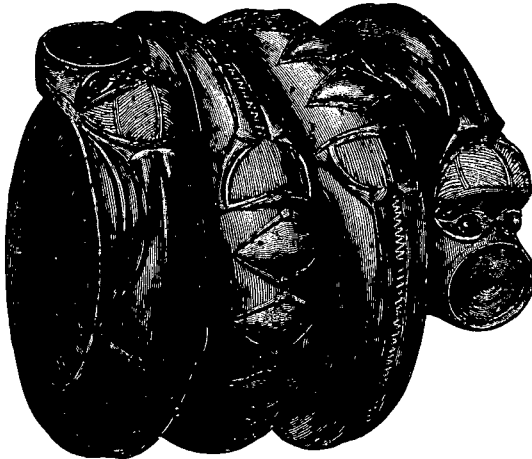


Fig. 22. Front view of Bronze Armlet found in the sands of Culbin, Elginshire.

it is with some show of probability supposed that a manufactory of these rude aboriginal weapons may have once existed there. The man above alluded to having accidentally lost his gun-flint, went to the spot in question to look for a flint to replace it, and in searching about he discovered this antique" armlet. It is very interesting to learn that it was found in this locality associated with these flint arrow-heads, some of the oldest relics of antiquity which have been found among the sand-hills. It is in the possession of Lady Gordon Cumming of Altyre. Each extremity of the spiral armlet terminates in a zoomorphic head, or rather a kind of con-



Fig. 24. Plan.

ventional animal's double head, one beyond the other, and the terminal one, which is more detailed in character, displays a large circular socket for the insertion of an ornamental enamel or stone of some kind; projecting rounded settings of blue enamel, however, still remain in the sockets of the small sized eyes on each of these heads. It measures $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter, its inside diameter being $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches; it is $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches in depth or

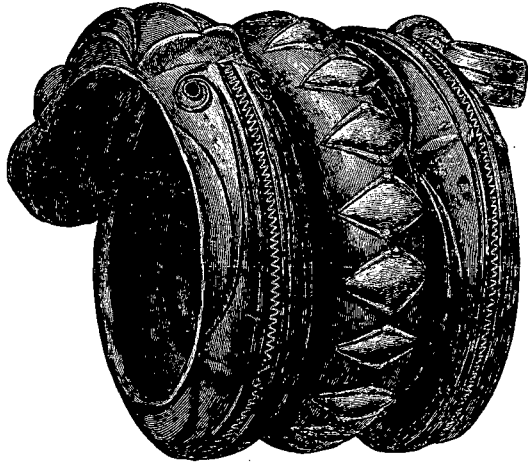


Fig. 23. Back view of Bronze Armlet found in the sands of Culbin, Elginshire.

breadth across the side, and weighs 2 lbs. $9\frac{1}{2}$ ounces avoirdupois. It is therefore not very different in weight from some of the smaller armlets of the more massive class just described.

Sir Thomas Dick Lauder, in his account of this Culbin armlet, published in the "Archæologia Scotica," states the weight of the armlet to be 2 lbs. $9\frac{1}{2}$ ozs. avoirdupois. I have had it carefully re-weighed, and the exact weight is nearly the same—2 lbs. $9\frac{1}{2}$ ozs. and 60 grains avoirdupois. I may mention that there had apparently been a slight crack in the armlet, probably

a flaw in the casting, at no great distance from one of its extremities or terminal heads, and there has accordingly been a little of the molten bronze poured into the hollow side of the embossed armlet at this place, which repairs the slight defect, and makes it as strong as the rest of the spiral of the armlet.

Through the kind services of William Forbes, Esq., For. Sec. S.A. Scot., and the courtesy of the Dowager Lady Gordon Cumming, I have been able to exhibit this beautiful armlet again to the Society, and also have had the annexed careful drawings of it made for comparison with the others in our National Museum of Antiquities. (Figs. 22, 23, and Plan, fig. 24).

The spiral bar of cast bronze which forms the armlet is about $\frac{7}{8}$ of an inch in breadth. The middle part of the pattern forms a complete circle of the bar of the armlet, and on this central part of the armlet are ornaments with lozenge-shaped projections placed transversely across, each being surrounded by a curved band or border broadest in the middle and tapering to each extremity. From each extremity of this pattern a series of projecting and long-shaped trumpet-like ornaments are placed longitudinally along the back and sides of the bronze bar of which the armlet is composed, a small zigzag pattern being sunk deeply between them in the middle line of the bar; this arrangement terminates at each extremity in a small spiral ornament on each side of the middle line, which finishes in a small rounded deep blue circular setting of enamel like an eye. Beyond these ornaments a little more projection is given to a smaller series of trumpet ornaments, in front of which there is a transverse projecting ornament, and in front of it again, are small trumpet ornaments placed transversely and enclosing on each side another pair of rounded settings of blue enamel, like eyes, each $\frac{1}{4}$ of an inch in diameter. The armlet terminates in front of this, in a flat circular socket for a setting of some kind, perhaps another coloured enamel, which is now absent; this setting socket measures $\frac{5}{8}$ th of an inch across. The whole bar of which the bracelet is formed, is hollowed or grooved on the inside of the armlet, and it is formed of a bright yellow bronze, which has now become dark

brown, showing in some places the commencement of a fine green patina. (See figs. 22, 23, and detailed Plan of half the armlet fig. 24.)

Its style and the character of its ornamentation suggest, as I have already said, a general resemblance to some of the larger and heavier class of massive armlets, and especially to the one found in Fife. It may therefore be considered to belong to a somewhat contemporary or perhaps not much later date.

From its size this armlet may have been worn on the forearm or wrist, probably of a woman.

FORFARSHIRE.

(2.) *Pitalpin—Forfarshire.*—The largest armlet of this class in our Museum is one which was found at Pitalpin, near Dundee, in 1732, and was presented to the Museum by the Dowager Countess of Morton

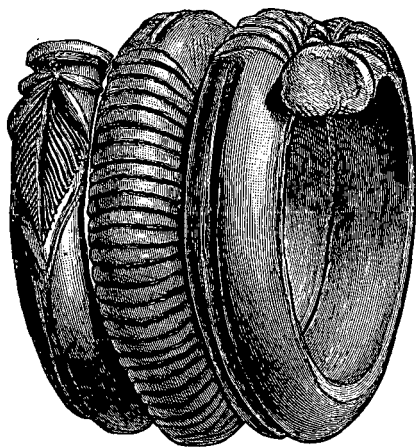


Fig. 25. Bronze Spiral Armlet found at Pitalpin, near Dundee.

in 1827. It measures 3 inches in greatest breadth, its internal measurement being $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches, and it weighs $31\frac{1}{4}$ ounces avoirdupois. It may be called zoomorphic in character, with a rude approximation to a head

at each extremity, the body being also ornamented with transverse lines in the centre, and a deep longitudinal double groove runs along from their termination towards the head at each extremity, which is specially ornamented by a series of oblique lines and strongly marked oblique and transverse ornamental projections reminding us also of the style of ornamentation on the Culbin armlet. (See fig. 25.) Through the kindness of Mr W. Ivison Macadam, the son of Dr Stevenson Macadam, F.S.A. Scot., the well-known lecturer on chemistry and analyst, and himself a skilful analyst, I am able also to add an analysis of this armlet. Mr Ivison Macadam writes to me as follows:—

“I find the composition of the serpent-like armlet to be—

Copper,	93.62
Tin,	6.38
	100.00

It is therefore a true bronze.”

LOCALITY NOT KNOWN.

(3.) The next armlet I shall notice is one in the Museum. It is covered by a beautiful green patina, and is much simpler in its style of

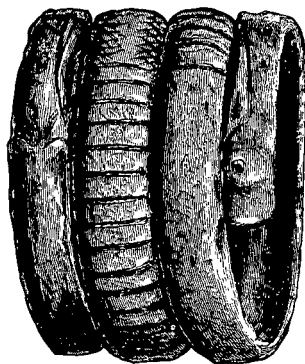


Fig. 26. Bronze Spiral Armlet.

ornament, and not so distinctive in character as the last; the ornamenta-

tion also showing less projection from the surface of the armlet. Each extremity of this spiral armlet terminates also in a zoomorphic head, the centre of the body is ornamented by strongly marked transverse lines, and it gradually becomes smooth towards each extremity. It measures $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches in internal diameter and $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches in greatest breadth across the armlet, and weighs $9\frac{3}{4}$ ounces avoirdupois (see fig. 26.)

This is the spiral armlet to which I have already referred, the history of which is not now known.

FORFARSHIRE.

(4.) *Arbroath—Grange Conan.*—Another spiral armlet in the Museum was presented in 1874 as treasure-trove. It is of the same general form and style of ornament as the others, a snake-like creature, terminating in

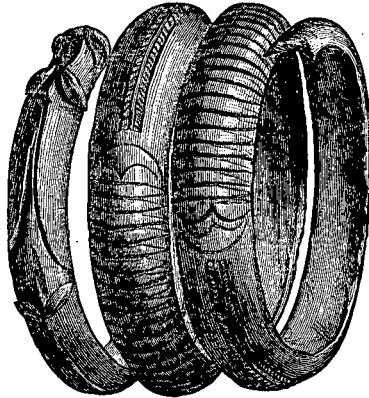


Fig. 27. Bronze Spiral Armlet found at Grange Conan, near Arbroath, Forfarshire.

a zoomorphic or conventional style of head at each of its extremities, with well-marked transverse lines crossing the body, the rest being ornamented by a double cord pattern running along the centre of the spiral band, in a groove, towards the heads; where there are also longitudinal and stronger oblique and transverse projections or terminal ornaments. Each extremity also probably terminated with a head, as

one of the extremities has been unfortunately broken off and lost. It measures $2\frac{5}{8}$ inches in its internal diameter and $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches in greatest breadth across, and weighs $7\frac{1}{4}$ ounces avoirdupois (see fig. 27.)

It was found, along with a bronze ring $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches diameter, a needle of bronze 2 inches long, and broken stone and earthen vessels, bones of animals, &c. &c., while excavating, in 1860, a circular or beehive house with an adjoining long underground Celtic or Eirde house, at the West Grange of Conan, near Arbroath, Forfarshire. The underground house was similar in general character to those already referred to. The discovery is of much interest as connecting this class of spiral armlets also, both in probable age, and character, with the massive bronze armlets already described. (See "Proceedings," vol. iv. p. 492, 1863.)

IV. JOINTED ARMLET OF BRONZE FORMED OF THIN PLATES.

KIRKCUDBRIGHTSHIRE.

(1.) *Plunton Castle*.—Of this class there is only one armlet in the Museum, and I am not aware of any similar one having been found

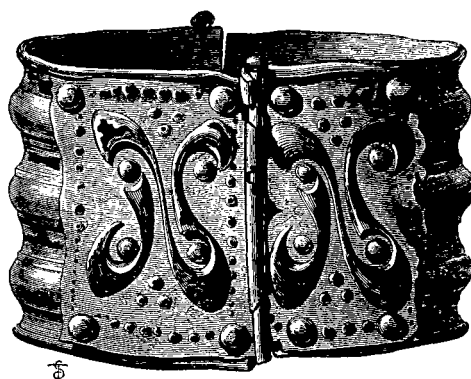


Fig. 28. Bronze Armlet found in the Parish of Borgue, Kirkcudbright.

elsewhere. It was discovered near the ruins of Plunton Castle, Kirkcudbrightshire, in 1826, and was presented to the Museum by Dr W.

M'Ewen, Chester. The armlet is formed of two similar thin curved plates of bronze, forming a cylindrical armlet when closed, ornamented, however, somewhat like the style of the massive armlets first described, with rounded or embossed projecting transverse bands; the two plates were probably held together by a bronze pin, forming thus a hinge or movable joint, to allow it to be opened and fixed on the forearm or wrist. It is, however, also ornamented with separate plates of bronze attached to the armlet by rivets, and these plates display the raised or embossed and beautifully curved trumpet-like ornaments characteristic of the Late Celtic period of art. (See fig. 28.)

It measures $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch in breadth across its side, and $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches in longest internal diameter, and weighs slightly over $1\frac{1}{4}$ oz. avoirdupois.

These varieties of armlets, and the other articles of bronze before described, seem all to correspond or agree in their general style of art and workmanship, and have accordingly been considered, as already stated, with other bronzes of similar character; as forming a peculiar class of articles showing a distinctive style of native art, which Mr A. W. Franks, F.S.A., of the British Museum, Hon. Mem. S. A. Scot., &c., has denominated the "Late Celtic style of Art;" it belongs, he believes, to the Late Celtic period in Britain. They are all beautiful specimens of highly ornamented and finished metal work, both in design and execution, and are therefore of the very greatest interest, as illustrating a peculiar age and style of art in our own country.

Let me remind you that these bronze armlets described have been found principally in Scotland, to the north of the Firth of Forth, the more Celtic part of the country; this Peeblesshire one being as yet the only exception, except one found in Celtic Ireland. They have been also associated, as I have shown, with early remains of buildings or dwellings, in different parts of the country, of an undoubtedly native or Celtic character.

We have now, then, in addition, this association of the native bronze armlet exhibited, and the smaller bronze ornaments of similar early

Celtic character ; with a patella of undoubted Roman manufacture, the first time, as far as I am aware, that this combination of one of these massive Celtic bronze armlets and a relic of Roman manufacture of any kind have been discovered associated together ; though other bronze articles of a similar style of art have been before discovered along with traces of Roman remains. These discoveries are all especially interesting, as giving approximate dates to these different articles, and showing us that the makers of each were probably occupying at the same time different parts of our country, and were accordingly brought into contact with one another, in peace or in war.

Mr Franks, in concluding his observations on this whole class of antiquities, gives his opinion as to their probable age, which I shall take the liberty of again quoting. He says :—"I do not, however, wish to claim any very remote antiquity for such remains, at any rate as far as Britain is concerned. They are probably not more ancient than the introduction of coinage into Britain, from 200 to 100 years before Christ, and not much later than the close of the first century after Christ, when the Roman dominion in this country was firmly established. This date would account for the occasional discovery of such remains with, or in close proximity to, Roman antiquities, and also for the influence that their designs seems to have had over certain phases of colonial art, in which, however, their wild and studied irregularity of design are brought into subjection, though at the same time the patterns lose much of their charm and originality."—"Horæ Ferales" (p. 189), London, 1863.

I would, however, be inclined to make the close of this period of late Celtic art in Scotland, somewhat later than, perhaps, Mr Franks seems to do. Let me say again how important all such discoveries as those now recorded really are, and how very great is the interest that is attached to the discovery of Roman and native metal-work found, as at Stanhope, together ; giving us thus a key to the age of both. As well as the valuable information they also give of the high state of art in metal work, in Scotland, at a somewhat definite period in the history of our country.

Cosmo Innes tells us of the great skill of our Celtic workers in metal in early times, that—"among our forefathers, as among the ancient Greeks, the Smith's was a craft of mystery, if not of magic. Remember, he forged the armour that guarded the heads of warriors, and welded the sword of such temper that it scorned enchantment, cut through iron and brass, and yet severed a hair upon water. In the ancient laws of England, the Smith's person was protected by a double penalty. In Wales he was one of the great Officers who sat in the hall with the King and Queen. In our own Highland glens I have heard more legends of supernatural Smith-work than ever I could gather of Ossian. We must not wonder, then, that the family of *Smith* is large, nor that it assumes many forms of spelling in our low country talk, as well as the shape of *Gow*, and probably *Cowan*, among those whose mother tongue is Gaelic."¹

What an increase of interest and value are also given to relics of antiquity like those now exhibited, when the student can see them placed together side by side in the cases of a public museum, instead of having to hunt up their scattered remains among the general curiosities and articles of vertu in the cabinets of our landed gentry; which it is of course utterly beyond the power of the many students of our archæology to do. Not to speak of its being also in very many cases utterly destructive of their true history, and their permanent preservation. Whereas, once deposited in the National Museum, associated with the name of the donor and the place where they were found, they become a permanent monument of the donor's own enlightened knowledge of their value, and remain there, the property of the nation, under the care of the Society, for comparison with other antiquities; a recorded addition to the science of Archæology, and thus, so far, take their proper place in the illustration of the true Archæological History of the common Ancestors of our country.

¹ "Concerning Scotch Surnames." Edinburgh: 1860.

Would that this spirit of true Scottish Nationality did prompt the many private possessors of the various valuable relics of antiquity discovered in, and now scattered over, all the different parts of Scotland ; to deposit them, at once for the instruction and delight of our people, and for their permanent record and preservation, in this Museum, now the property of the Nation, and so, truly THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE ANTIQUITIES OF SCOTLAND !