

II.

NOTICE OF A PENANNULAR BROOCH OF SILVER, WITH ENDS LIKE THISTLE-HEADS, FOUND AT CASTERTON, KIRKBY LONSDALE, WESTMORELAND. BY R. S. FERGUSON, M.A., F.S.A. SCOT., CARLISLE.

The brooch which I now exhibit was brought to me on Friday, December the 17th, 1886, by my friend the Rev. Canon Ware, vicar of Kirkby Lonsdale, in Westmoreland. He stated that it had been found in a cupboard at Casterton Hall, near Kirkby Lonsdale, and that nothing was known about it. I at once recognised the brooch as being of the type assigned by Dr Anderson to the Iron Age, and to the Scandinavian colonies planted on Celtic soil. On making search, I found that the brooch was a re-discovery; that it had been exhibited to the Royal Archæological Institute on January 5, 1849; and that it was engraved in the 6th volume of the *Archæological Journal*, opposite p. 69. That this brooch has been so forgotten is another proof of the necessity of placing such objects in one or other of the national museums.

The brooch was originally discovered in 1846; it was ploughed up in a field near Casterton, which is a mile from Kirkby Lonsdale. About the same time the plough turned up a stone in the same field, and disclosed a large cavity. Nothing was found in it, according to the account of the labourers. No particulars are preserved of other relics said to have been found in the same field at various times.

The brooch consists of a plain penannular ring, formed of a solid cylindrical rod about $\frac{3}{8}$ inch thick, bent into an incomplete circle, whose diameter in 1849, when the ends of the rod nearly met, was nearly $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches; since that the ends have been pulled rather apart. One of the ends is furnished with a bulbous knob, cast hollow, having a thistle-head-shaped collar at one side, and a smaller collar at the other; through the hollow the end of the cylindrical rod passes. The bulbous knob is plain, except on the lower side, which is flattened and ornamented with a pattern of dots or very small circles, as is the thistle-head. A second bulbous knob must have terminated the other end of the cylindrical rod, but was lost before the brooch was exhibited in 1849, if indeed it was not lost before the brooch was discovered in 1846. A third bulbous knob of similar character runs loosely on the cylindrical rod: the thistle-head is on its upper part, and its lower is prolonged into the *acus*, of which a very small fragment remains. In addition to the dots or small circles on the lower side of each bulbous knob, are some segments of circles set out by compass.

A similar brooch was found in 1785 near Flusken Pike, in the parish of Dacre, Cumberland, and is figured in Clarke's *Survey of the Lakes*. The diameters of the oval ring are there given as $7\frac{5}{8}$ inches and $6\frac{7}{8}$; the length of the *acus* as 22 inches. A drawing of a similar brooch was exhibited to the Society of Antiquaries in June 1785, and is preserved in their minute books. The brooch is stated to have been found in 1785 in the Newbiggin enclosures, near Penrith. The Ordnance Map shows the Newbiggin enclosures to be on Flusken Pike; and a careful comparison of the drawing in the minute book of the S. A. and of the engraving in Clarke's *Survey* shows that they represent one and the same brooch. The bulbous knobs have a prickly ornamentation on one side, and intersecting segments of circles set out with compasses on the other. I do not know where this brooch now is.

A third and similar brooch was found near Penrith in 1830, and was exhibited in the museum formed when the Archæological Institute visited Carlisle in 1859: the *acus* was about 20 inches long, and the bulbous knobs were ornamented with the *triquetra*. I am endeavouring to trace this brooch.