

MONDAY, 11th May 1891.

JAMES MACDONALD, LL.D., in the Chair.

A Ballot having been taken, the following Gentlemen were duly elected Fellows :—

JOHN RIBTON GARSTIN, D.L., M.A., Vice-President of the Royal Irish Academy.

FREDERICK A. SAUNDERS, M.D., Craik.

JAMES S. TRAINER, Clerk and Treasurer of the Royal Infirmary.

The following articles acquired by the Purchase Committee for the Museum and Library during the Session 30th November to May 11th were exhibited :—

Penannular gold armet of circular section, with slightly expanding ends, being one of a pair found in a cairn at Penninghame, Wigtownshire.

Five circular silver Brooches, viz. (1)  $2\frac{1}{4}$  inches diameter, of plain round silver wire, with four beads or knobs at regular intervals; (2)  $1\frac{3}{4}$  inch diameter, convex on one side, flat on the other, and engraved IHESVS NAZARENVS REX IVDEORVM; (3)  $1\frac{5}{8}$  inch diameter, flat on both sides, and engraved IHESVS NAZAVRIX, and the same inscription on the other side but still more blundered; (4) broken brooch of plain round wire,  $1\frac{1}{4}$  inch in diameter; (5) octagonal brooch, 2 inches in diameter, the sides of the octagon alternately flat and bevelled; on the flat parts the same inscription greatly blundered—all found in a garden at Brechin, with a quantity of coins of the Edwards.

Three stone Balls, viz. (1) of sandstone,  $2\frac{3}{4}$  inches diameter, with four circular projecting discs ornamented with concentric circles; (2) also of sandstone,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches in diameter, with four circular projecting discs, plain; (3) also of sandstone, with four circular projecting discs and eight smaller knobs—from Aberdeenshire.

Stone Cup of grey sandstone,  $2\frac{3}{4}$  inches in height and 3 inches diameter at the mouth, with a row of herring-bone ornamentation round the

outside bevel of the lip, and a projecting flat handle which has been pierced by a small hole—from Aberdeenshire.

Three stone Axes, viz. (1) of bluish sandstone,  $7\frac{1}{2}$  inches in length by 3 inches in breadth, and  $1\frac{1}{4}$  inch in greatest thickness; the section in the middle of its length a long oval, tapering towards the butt, the whole surface roughly picked, and the cutting edges only ground smooth; (2) of brownish sandstone, 5 inches in length by  $2\frac{1}{4}$  inches in width, oval in section, having the surface well smoothed except on one side, which is picked; (3) broken axe of yellowish sandstone, 6 inches in length by  $2\frac{3}{4}$  inches in greatest breadth, wanting the butt and the cutting edge, the surface mostly picked over but smoothed towards the cutting edge—from Aberdeenshire.

Casts of four flint Implements of large size and unusual forms from Honduras.

Sampler with Adam and Eve in the garden, and another.

Touting-Horn from North Berwick, and Knitting-Sheath of inlaid wood.

Collection of articles used in hand-loom weaving.

Model of the Moat of Urr, on a scale of 32 feet to 1 inch.

Six collections of stone Implements from the Culbin Sands.

The Hunterston Brooch, found in 1830 on the estate of Robert Hunter of Hunterston, West Kilbride, Ayrshire. This magnificent Celtic brooch is of silver, beautifully ornamented with filigree work of gold wire upon thin plates of gold let into the panels of the silver work, and with patterns chased in the solid silver and gilt, and with settings of amber. It is of the usual form of the Celtic brooch—penannular, with expanded ends, but the space between the expanded ends is here closed up instead of being left open. The front of the brooch (fig. 1) is divided into oblong panels, some of which contain settings of amber, while others are filled by thin plates of gold on which are implanted designs in filigree work mostly of contorted and intertwined lacertine or serpentine forms. These designs are in great part formed of a border of beaded or milled wire enclosing a body of granulated work. Sometimes, as in the border of the square panel in the centre of the lower part of the brooch, the wire work is plaited, and in the border round the central panel on the

head of the pin the filigree work is in figures of eight. Altogether, there are thirty-one panels on the front of the brooch, filled with filigree work, and eighteen with settings of amber. The character



Fig. 1. Hunterston Brooch (obverse).

of the designs in the filigree work is in the main similar to the usual character of the decorative patterns on Celtic metal work of the ninth or tenth centuries, but the animal forms have more of a serpentine and less

of the lacertine character than is usual. The eye in the animal's head, with the top-knot or crest, on either side of the brooch where the ring joins the expanding part, is the Celtic and not the Scandinavian eye.



Fig. 2. Hunterston Brooch (reverse).

The form of the brooch itself is the Celtic form—the Scandinavian form of brooch being totally different. But the back of the brooch (see fig. 2) shows two inscriptions by different hands in Scandinavian runes

which give the names of two of its possessors. These inscriptions have been read by Professor Stephens<sup>1</sup> as follows:—

MALBRITHA OWNS THIS BROOCH.  
THIS BROOCH BELONGS TO ALFRITI.

After the first line there are a few more runes the significance of which is more doubtful, but there is general agreement as to the two statements of ownership. Of the two names Maelbritha or Maelbride is a Celtic man's name, common enough at the time, and of which we have instances in the runic inscriptions of the Manx monumental stones. Alfriti is a female name, and Scandinavian. But at that time, and among the Gall-gael, or mixed population of the kingdom of Man and the Isles, as well as in the Outer Hebrides and along the west coast of Scotland generally, owing to the intermixture of blood, personal names belonging to the different races were often found in the same family. On the back of the brooch are four panels of ornament, each of which is distinctively Celtic in character and treatment. This is especially the case with the two panels of spiral ornament, which closely resemble the patterns found in the illuminated Celtic manuscripts of the gospels of the seventh and eighth centuries.

Cook's *Voyages*, 3 vols. 4to, and 1 vol. folio, plates.

Schlieman's *Ilios*, *Tiryns*, and *Troja*; and Dennis's *Etruria*, 2 vols. 8vo.

Alban Butler's *Lives of the Saints*, edited by Husenbeth.

Album of *Savage Weapons*, &c., from the South Pacific, by Heape.

Kraus's *Christian Inscriptions in Germany*, Part I.

*Proceedings of Associated Architectural Societies*, 3 parts.

Skeat's *Principles of English Etymology*; *Antiquities of Southern Russia*; Wodrow's *Biographical Collections*, Part II.

Robertson's *Scottish Abbeys*; Catalogue of Lane Fox's Collection at Bethnal Green; Nadaillac's *Prehistoric America*.

The following communications were read:—

<sup>1</sup> See the paper on the Hunterston Brooch, with coloured and full-size illustrations, in the *Proceedings*, vol. viii. p. 462 (First Series).