THE PRE-HISTORY OF THE SCOTTISH AREA——FIFTY YEARS' WORK OF THE SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES OF SCOTLAND.

By Sir ARTHUR MITCHELL, K.C.B., M.D., LL.D., F.S.A. Scot.

I have been asked by the Council to give an Address to the Society at the opening of this Session—fifty years having now passed since the occurrence of two important events in the history of the Society, namely, (1) the annual issue of *The Proceedings of the Society* to the Fellows; and (2) the entering into an Agreement between the Treasury and the Society, under which all the Collections of the Society were eventually transferred to the Nation. Both of these events occurred in 1851.

I was left free to do what was asked of me in any way I thought best, and I have availed myself fully of this freedom. I have chosen as the subject of my Address *The Pre-History of the Scottish Area—a Review of the work of the Society on that subject during the fifty years from* 1851 *to* 1901.

Balls of Stone or Bronze.

I begin abruptly, without preamble, by directing attention to a collection of objects which are globular in form, and which are either ornamented on their surfaces or simply polished. Only one specimen is of bronze (fig. 22); all the others are of stone. They differ, but not greatly, in size. The average size is somewhat less than that of a cricket ball. I speak of them as balls, and as regards some, which have plain polished surfaces, this is correct, but as regards the majority, which are more or less elaborately decorated, perhaps the word ball is scarcely the right designation.

I am able to give illustrations of many of these objects, though I only figure about one-sixth of the whole number in the Museum. Those I give (figs. 1 to 21) are sufficiently numerous to show (1) their general similarity, and (2) the elaborate manner in which many of them are ornamented. More or less numerous circular projecting discs are a steady feature of the decorative treatment. Sometimes these discs

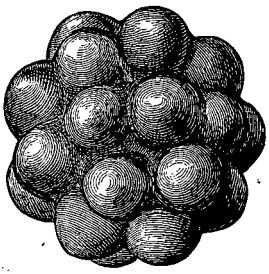


Fig. 1. Skye.

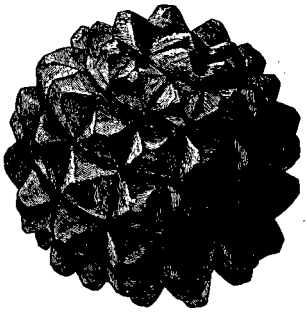


Fig. 2. Orkney.

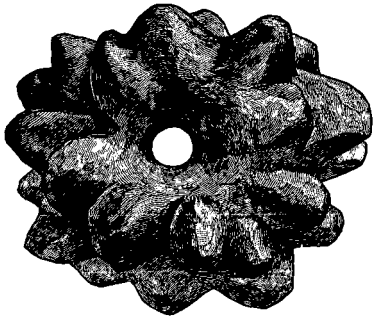


Fig. 3. Orkney.

Fig. 4. Forfarshire.

Fig. 5. Kincardineshire.

Fig. 6. Aberdeenshire.

Figs. 1–6. Stone Balls.

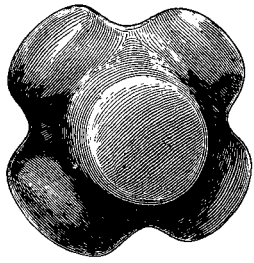


Fig. 7. Caithness.

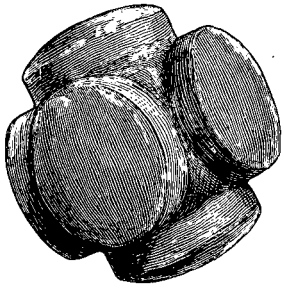


Fig. 8. Banffshire.

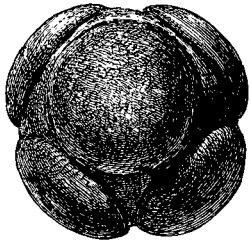


Fig. 9. Aberdeenshire.

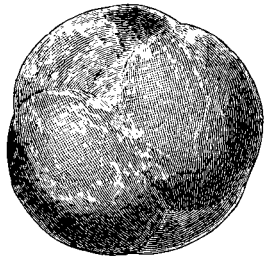


Fig. 10. Aberdeenshire.

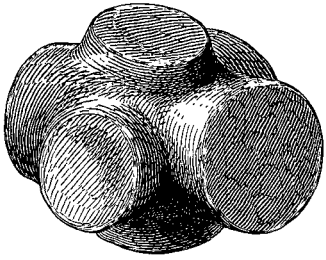


Fig. 11. Nairn.

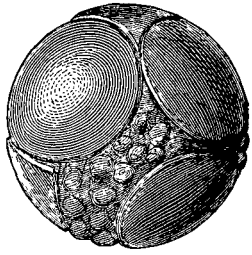


Fig. 12. Aberdeenshire.

Fig. 13. Argyleshire.

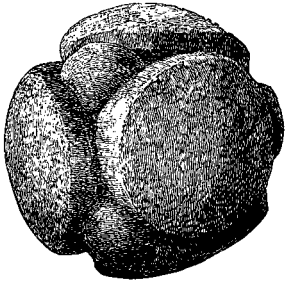


Fig. 14. Aberdeenshire.

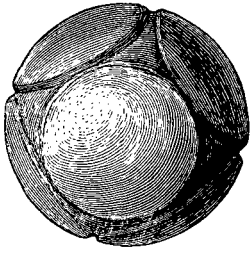


Fig. 15. Dumfriesshire.

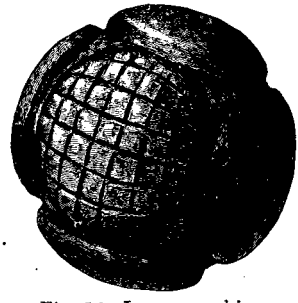


Fig. 16. Inverness-shire.

Fig. 17. Orkney.

Figs. 7–17. Stone Balls.

Fig. 18. Wigtownshire.

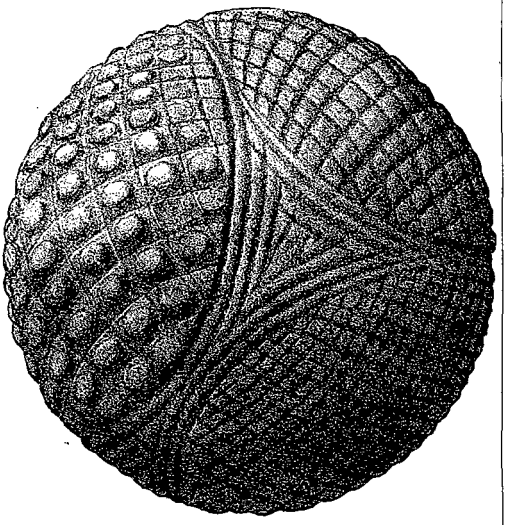


Fig. 19. Perthshire.

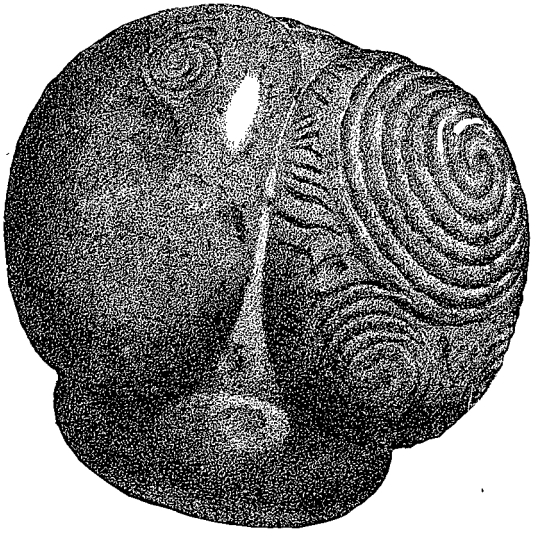


Fig. 20. Morayshire.

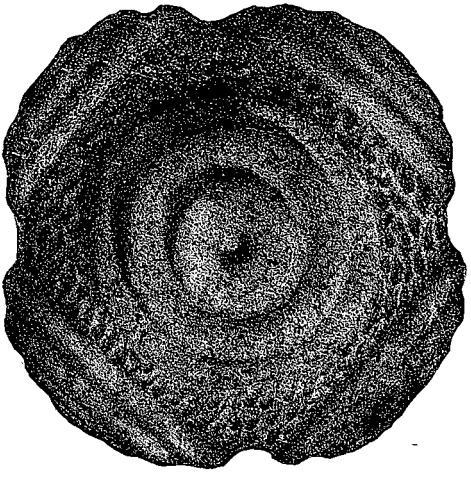


Fig. 21. Fifeshire.

Figs. 18–21. Stone Balls.

become what may be called knobs, as in figs. 1, 2, and 3. Sometimes they appear like the rounded ends of thick rods passing through the ball in directions that cross at right angles, as in figs. 7–11.

The use of the objects is unknown, but a possible use as *mace heads*—weapons of offence—has been suggested. It matters nothing, however, for my purpose what their use was. I am not describing and discussing them. I am merely saying enough about them to make it realised that they constitute a class or type of relic of which the specimens are numerous.

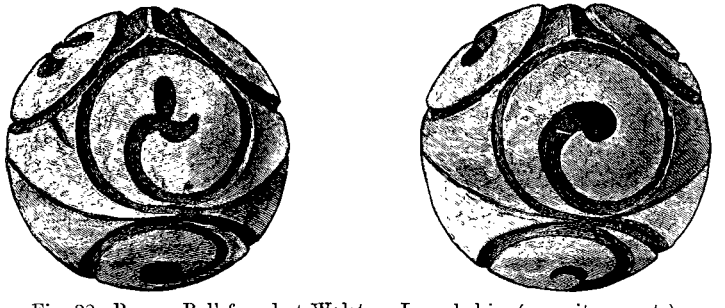


Fig. 22. Bronze Ball found at Walston, Lanarkshire (opposite aspects). (Actual size.)

There are two things, however, about this remarkable class of object which I specially desire to state. The first is that all the specimens, which are as yet known to exist, have been found in Scotland, with the exception of one, now in Ireland, and said to have been found there, though it may possibly have been transported. These objects have not, up to this time, been found in any other country of Europe, or indeed of the world. If any of them had been found out of Scotland, they are so peculiar that we should almost certainly have heard of them. Within Scotland they have been found widely—in eighteen or twenty counties—from the far north to the far south, and from the extreme east to the extreme west, but they have been found most abundantly on the east side of Scotland.

The second thing which I desire to say about them is this :—Before

1851 there was only one specimen in the Museum. There are now 135 specimens, of which 36 are casts. They are all made of stone, with one exception found in Lanarkshire. The exception (fig. 22) is made of bronze. It was acquired in 1882. How long it will stand alone I cannot tell.

It thus appears that since 1851 we have added 134 specimens to a single specimen, in the case of an object which may be said to belong exclusively to the Scottish area.

Brochs.

The next relic of antiquity—the Broch—to which I direct attention is much too large an object to find a place in a museum. But I shall be able by figures to make its great size, its construction, and its general appearance correctly understood. Figs. 23 and 24 are from photographs of two of the best preserved of these structures—one on the Island of Mousa, Shetland, and the other on the mainland at Glenelg, Inverness-shire. The plan and construction of the buildings, which, though differing in details, may be said correctly enough to be substantially the same, are shown in figs. 25, 26, and 27.

I shall take my brief description of this object from Dr Joseph Anderson's latest writing on the subject in vol. xxxv. of the Society's *Proceedings*:—

"The typical Broch was a huge, dry-built circular tower, rising on a base about 60 feet in diameter to a height of about 50 feet. In its elevation the tower was a hollow cylinder, having a thickness of wall of from 12 to 15 feet, surrounding an interior court of about 30 feet in diameter, open to the sky. As all the windows looked into the interior court, there was no opening to the outside of the tower, except the tunnel-like doorway, about 5 yards in length, which traversed the thickness of the wall of the cylinder, and thus gave access to the court. Some distance within the external aperture of this doorway was the door itself, a slab of stone set up against the door-checks, and securely fixed in place against them by a drawbar, resting in holes

Fig. 23. The Broch of Mousa, on the Island of Mousa, Shetland. (From a photograph by Mr G. W. Wilson, Aberdeen.)

Fig. 24. The Broch called Dun Telve, Glenelg, from the north. (From a photograph by Mr Erskine Beveridge, F.S.A. Scot.)

made for it in the thickness of the wall. The doorway was further protected by a guard-chamber behind the door, and sometimes also by a chamber over the lintels of the passage, spaces being left between the lintels through which weapons could be used against assailants forcing an entrance. But supposing the main entrance forced, it only gave access to the interior court, and in it the enemy found themselves, as it

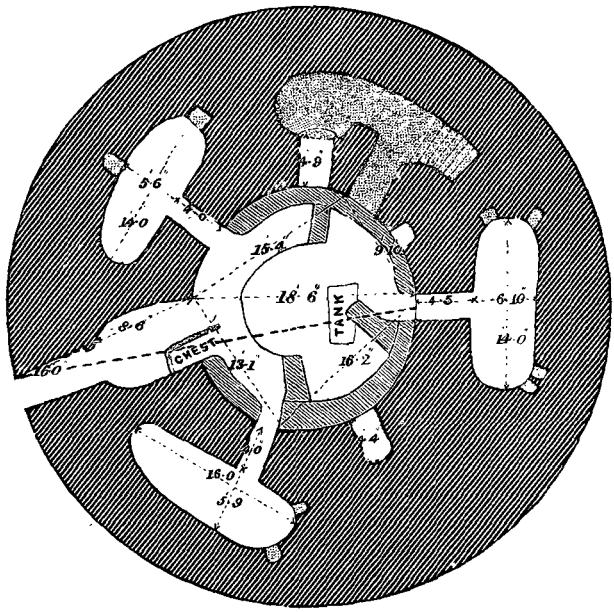


Fig. 25. Ground Plan of the Broch of Mousa, Shetland.
(From a plan by Sir Henry Dryden.)

were, at the bottom of a well about 30 feet in diameter, with walls about 50 feet high, and pierced on all sides by ranges of windows commanding every part of the space below. From this court the chambers on the floor level were reached by separate doors, and the upper galleries by the stair-way, which had a separate door of access, usually protected by a guard-chamber at the foot of the stair. The whole height of the tower

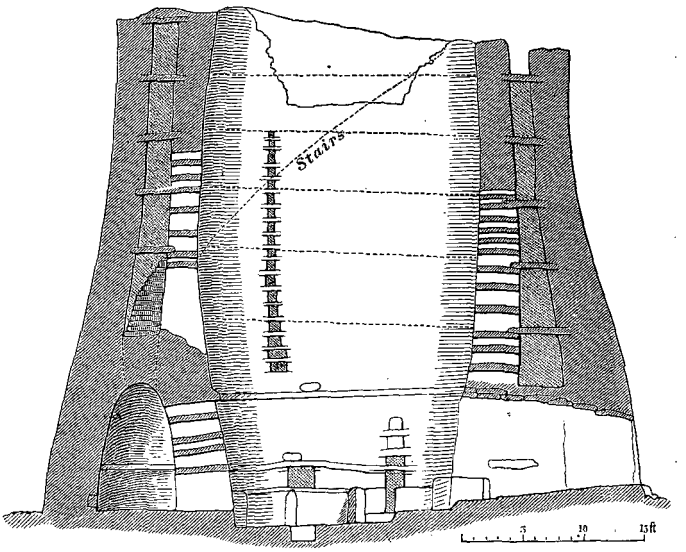


Fig. 26. Sectional Elevation of the Broch of Mousa, Shetland.

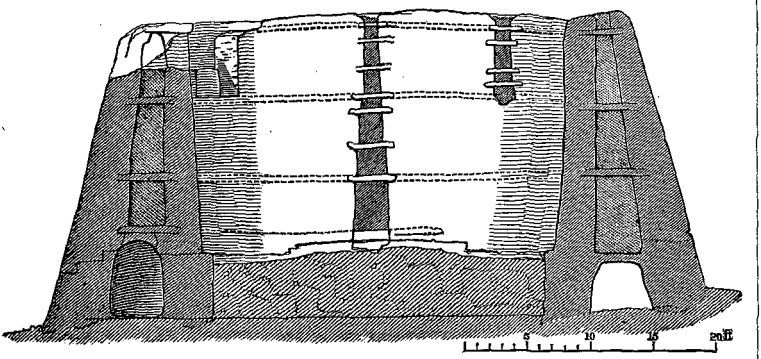


Fig. 27. Sectional Elevation of the Broch of Dun Troddan, Glenelg.

above the lower story was occupied by a series of galleries running completely round in the thickness of the wall, constructed immediately over each other, so that the slabs forming the roof of the one below form also the floor of the one next above it, and lighted by vertical ranges of windows opening into the court."

"From the general identity in the main features of their design and construction, it is evident that this class of ancient stronghold is a typical structure of great importance and significance in the archæology of Scotland, forming a more outstanding feature in the aspect of the country, and of the civilisation of the time, than even the mediæval castles, which came long after them, and which, in the northern districts at least, they far outnumbered, while each on an average was quite as large as a mediæval keep, and many were much larger."

"The special object and intention of the formation of these peculiar structures seems to have been to provide a sufficient number of secure refuges for the people, their cattle, and other possessions from temporary danger threatened by incursions of predatory bands; and no type of structure more admirably suited for passive defence was ever devised."

"But though thus admirably suited for the special purpose of their immediate intention, their dry-built construction was peculiarly unfavourable to their preservation, when the changed conditions of society rendered their special function no longer necessary to the existing phase of civilisation, and consequently they were soon reduced to the condition of dilapidated ruin in which we find them. But their number and their geographical distribution still testify to their former importance." "They are surprisingly numerous in the northern counties, upwards of eighty having been enumerated in Caithness, sixty in Sutherland, seventy in Orkney, and seventy-five in Shetland. Though not so numerous in the southern counties, they range from Shetland to Berwickshire, and thus form a salient feature in the prehistoric aspect of the country as a whole, all the more remarkable that the type is peculiar to Scotland, not a single example having been ever found elsewhere—never in England

or Ireland—never in Norway, Sweden, or Denmark—never in any country of Europe—never in any part of the world except Scotland."

I have spoken of brochs at present mainly for the purpose of saying what I have just said as to their belonging exclusively to Scotland.

But I have also to point out that before 1851, when the period under review began, it may be correctly said that we knew little or nothing about the broch structure, or about the objects which are found in brochs when they are excavated and examined. There is, indeed, only one reference to brochs in the four volumes of the *Archæologia Scotica*, which constitute the record of the work of the first seventy years of the Society's life. They had been noticed as interesting by Sir Walter Scott, Hibbert, Daniel Wilson, George Low, and Pennant; but not one of them had been explored. They were commonly called Picts' Houses. It was the custom in those days to speak of things, without hesitation or doubt, as Pictish, Druidical, Danish, or Roman—a custom which began to languish after 1851 under the stricter methods of research thereafter practised. Though we had practically no knowledge of broch structures before 1851, it may now be safely said that there is no Scottish object of antiquity which has been more completely examined. Foremost among those who have worked at the subject is Dr Joseph Anderson, but he does not stand alone. It is of much interest to say that Mr A. Henry Rhind of Sibster, the founder of the Rhind Lectureship on Archæology, has a paper dealing with the exploration of a broch in the first volume of the *Proceedings* of the Society. In the succeeding volumes, down to the present day, we have a succession of papers on broch explorations from George Petrie, Dr Joass, Sir Henry Dryden, Dr Traill, Captain Thomas, James Farrer, Dr John Stuart, Samuel Laing, Gilbert Goudie, Andrew Jervise, and James Fergusson. This list of papers on brochs ends fittingly with the account by Dr Joseph Anderson of the valuable and extensive investigations of Sir Francis Barry, which appears in the last volume of the *Proceedings*, and from which I have quoted. A vast amount of work has thus been done, but not more than a thing so specially Scottish deserved. All

this work is admirably recorded either in the fifth volume of the *Archæologia*, or in the thirty-five volumes of the *Proceedings*, and illustrations have been ungrudgingly supplied.

Massive Bronze Armlets.

I bring next under notice a group of relics possessing strongly marked characters (figs. 28–35). They are massive, highly decorated objects of cast bronze. Their weight runs from 3 to 4 lbs.; their greatest diameter is $5\frac{3}{4}$ inches, and their greatest depth $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches. It can scarcely be doubted from their form and decoration that they were designed for some ornamental purpose. They are commonly spoken of as armlets. They could scarcely be worn with comfort as personal ornaments, but we know that the wearers of such things have in all ages willingly submitted to discomfort. Their form is typically Celtic—penannular, with rounded and expanded ends. Circular spaces at the ends are sometimes filled with plaques of bronze, ornamented with patterns of red and white enamel, and fastened in their places by iron pins. The decoration is highly effective, and its patterns have not been met with on any other class of objects. When carefully studied, its zoomorphism can be satisfactorily made out. The objects probably belong to Pagan Scotland in its Iron Age.

There are ten specimens of these massive bronze armlets in our Museum, all but two having been acquired within the last half century. Six of the ten are originals, and four are casts. All of these were found in Scotland. We have knowledge, however, of other seven specimens. Of these, two are in the British Museum and are known to have been found in Scotland. One is in the Perth Museum and two at Castle Newe. The sixth was recently found in Sutherland, and the seventh is in Ireland, and is said to have been found there. Of the seventeen known specimens, therefore, sixteen were found in Scotland, the counties of Aberdeen, Banff, and Perth yielding nearly one-half. I have thus been writing of a remarkable relic of antiquity, which belongs in a special manner, perhaps exclusively, to the Scottish area, and I have at the same time shown that our knowledge of that object has very greatly increased during the last half century.

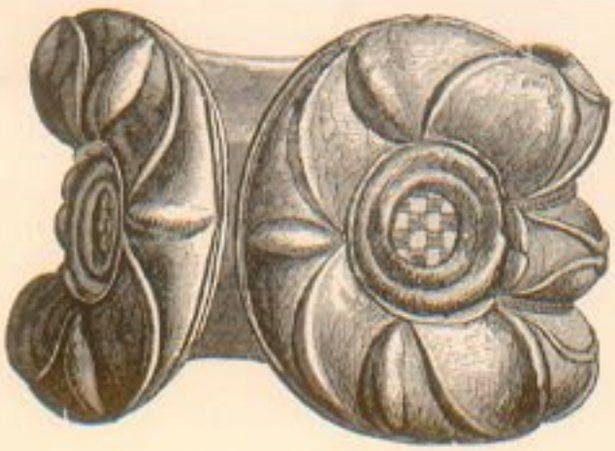


Fig. 28. Castle-Newe, Aberdeen.

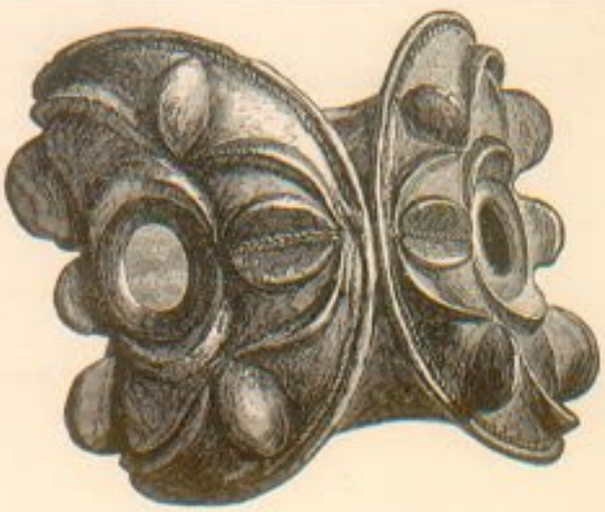
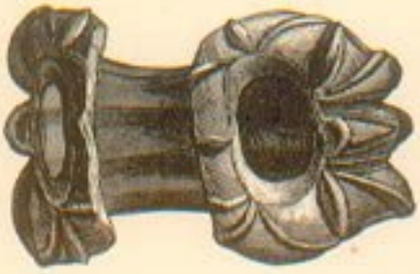


Fig. 29. Auchenbadie, Banffshire.



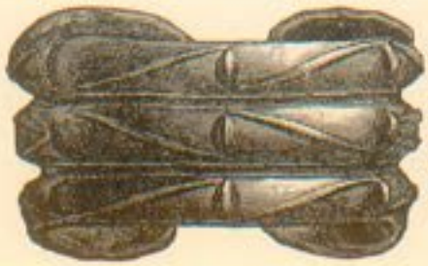
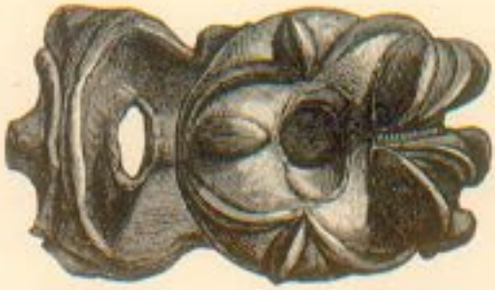


Fig. 30. Perthshire.



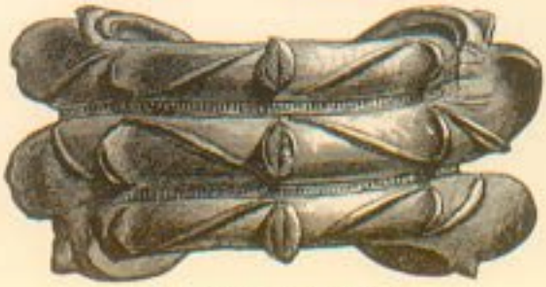


Fig. 31. Perthshire.

Fig. 32. Aboyne.

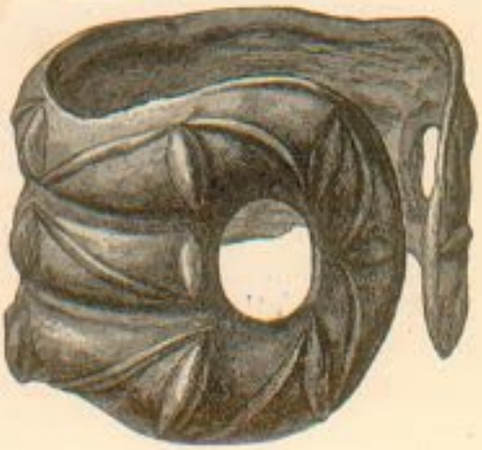


Fig. 33. Aboyne.

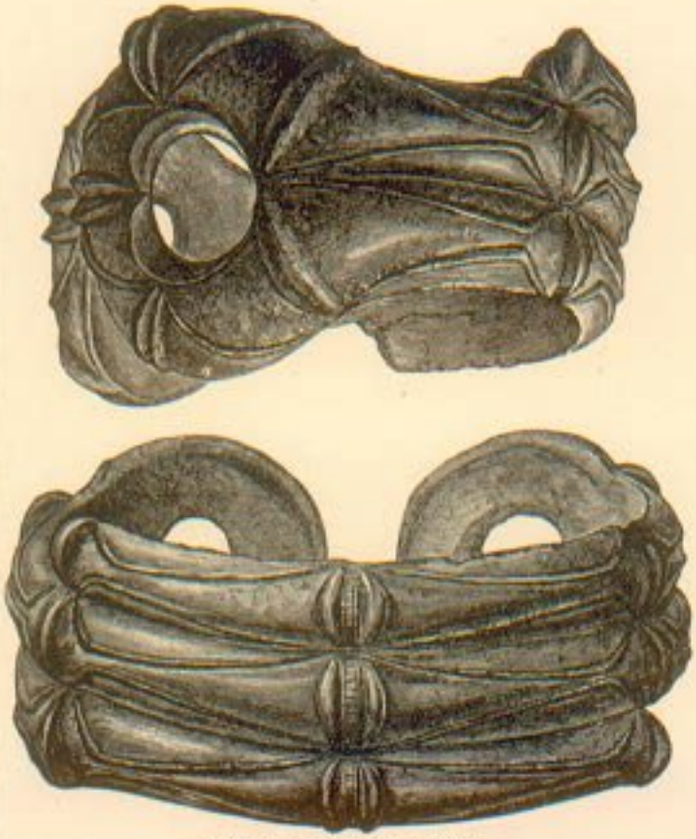


Fig. 34. Seafield, Fife.

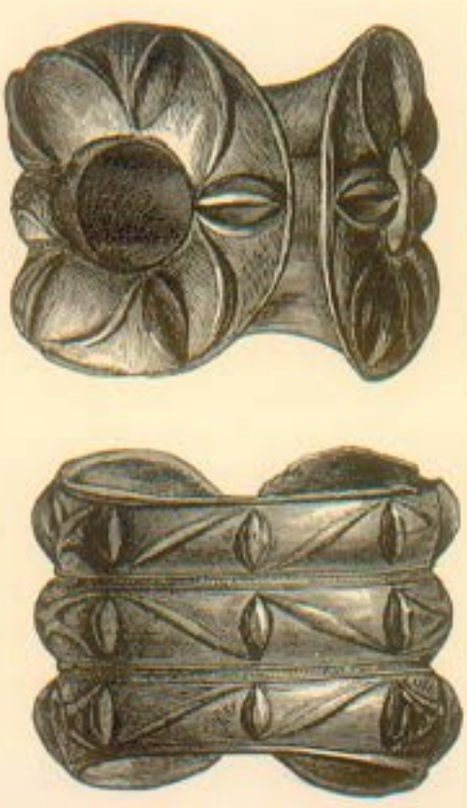


Fig. 35. Stanhope, Peeblesshire.

Figures Regarded as Symbols.

I call attention now to the curious set of figures shown in figs. 36–43.

These figures present themselves most numerously on erected stones, showing no trace of having been dressed into any artificial shape (figs. 44–47). When they appear on stones of this character, so far as our present knowledge goes, they are always incised—not sculptured in relief—and they have only once been found on both faces of the stones. Such stones with one, two, three, or more of these figures cut on them are known at this time to be 124 in number, and they occur in 86 localities.

The figures, however, occur frequently, though not so frequently, on slabs which have been dressed into a rectangular form, and these have a *Cross* sculptured in relief on one or both faces, and are clearly intended to stand upright (figs. 48, 49). Usually the cross is on one side of the slab with the figures on the other. Such slabs are otherwise decorated—Celtic forms of ornament predominating. The stones of this second kind, which are known to us, are 68 in number, and they occur in 44 localities.

The figures have also been found on metal objects, but not often. They occur on two leaf-shaped silver plates (fig. 50) and on a silver pin found in Fife; on a bronze plate found in Forfar; on a silver penannular ring terminating a heavy silver chain found in Aberdeenshire (fig. 56); and on a similar ring belonging to a silver chain of the same character found in Lanarkshire (fig. 57).

The figures have also been once found on a bone object—in Orkney (fig. 51).

They have also been once found cut on the bare rock in the Stewartry of Kirkcudbright.

Lastly, they have been found rudely cut on the walls of natural caves in Fife and Moray (figs. 52, 53).

It thus appears that they have been found to occur 9 times in addition to the 192 occurrences on stone slabs. Altogether they are known to occur 201 times, either singly, or in twos, threes, or fours together.

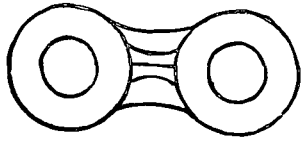


Fig. 36. Logie.

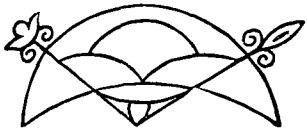


Fig. 37. Orkney.

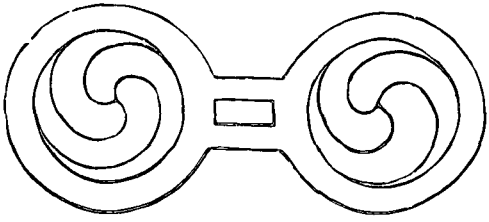


Fig. 38. Ulbster.

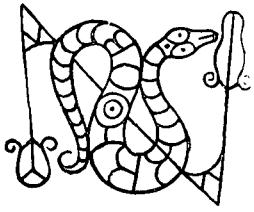


Fig. 39. Newton.

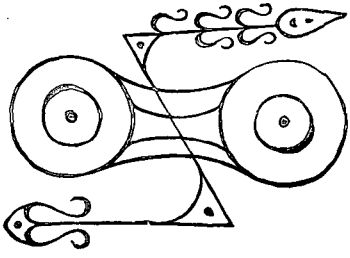


Fig. 40. Insch.

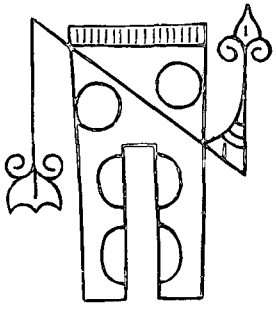


Fig 41. Arndilly.

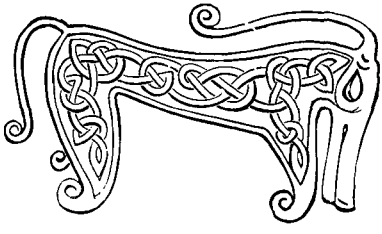


Fig. 42. Brodie.

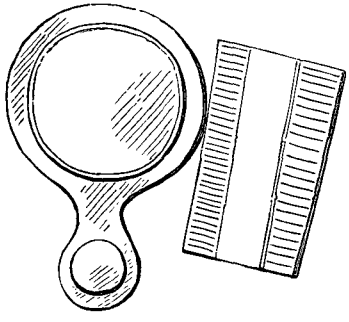


Fig. 43. Maiden Stone.

Figs. 36-43. Figures regarded a symbols

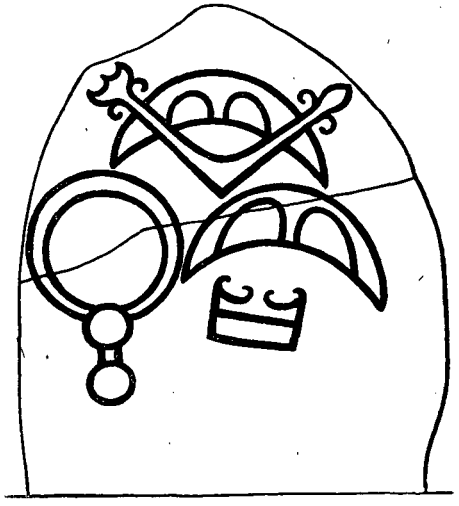


Fig. 44. Daviot, Aberdeenshire.

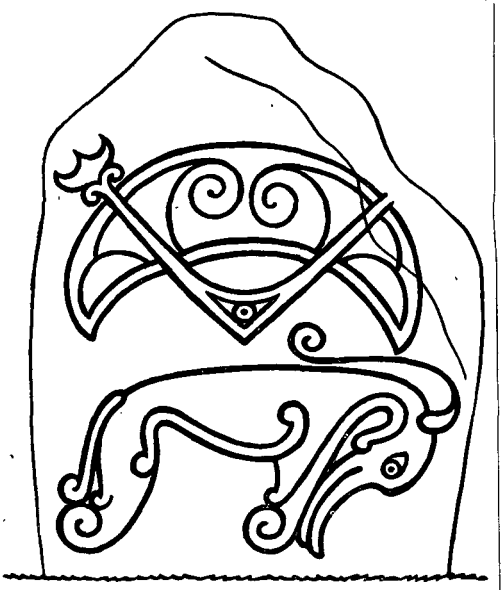


Fig. 45. Strathmartine, Forfarshire.

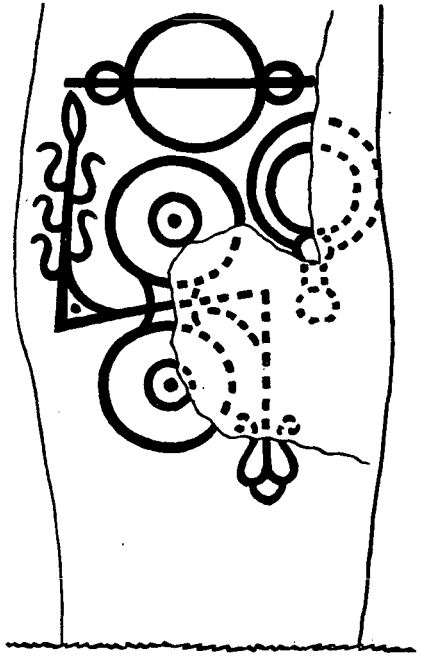


Fig. 46. Clatt, Aberdeenshire.

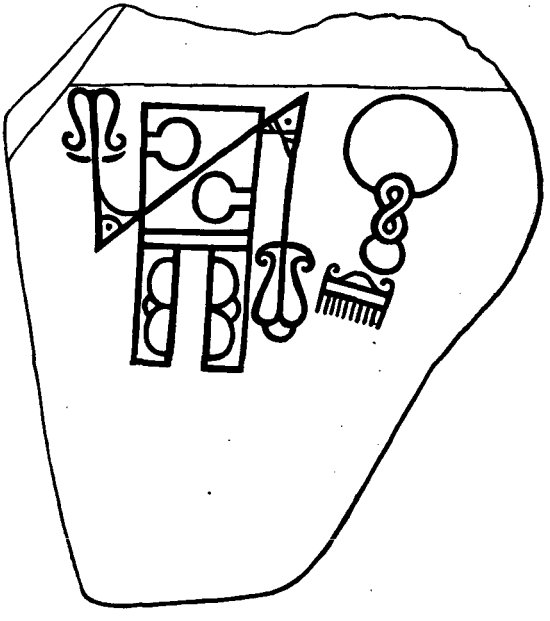


Fig. 47. Clynemilton, Sutherland.

Figs. 44–47. Undressed Slabs sculptured with incised symbols.

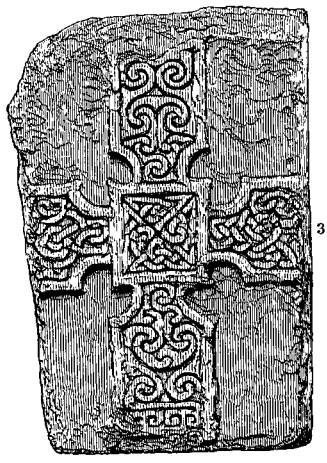


Fig. 48. Front.

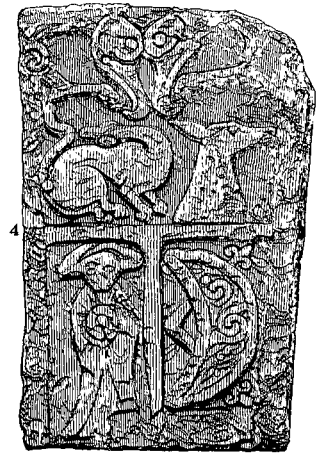


Fig. 48. Back.

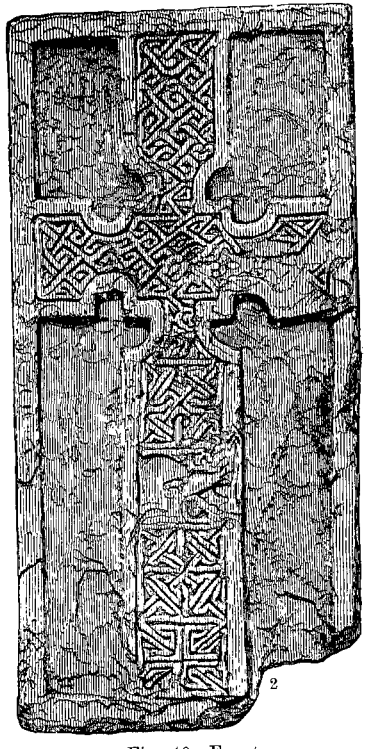


Fig. 49. Front.

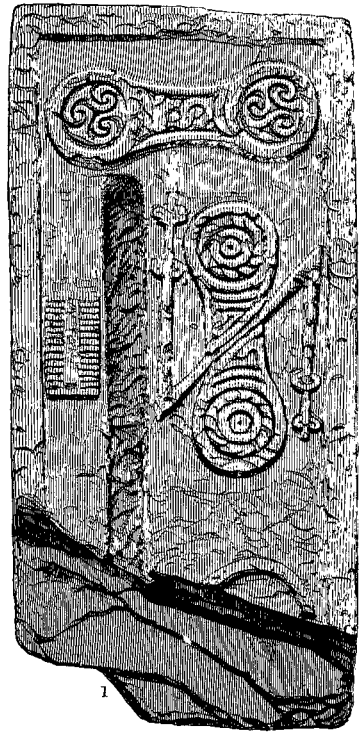


Fig. 49. Back.

Figs. 48 and 49. Dressed Upright Slabs, with the Cross and Symbols sculptured in relief, from Monifieth, Forfarshire.

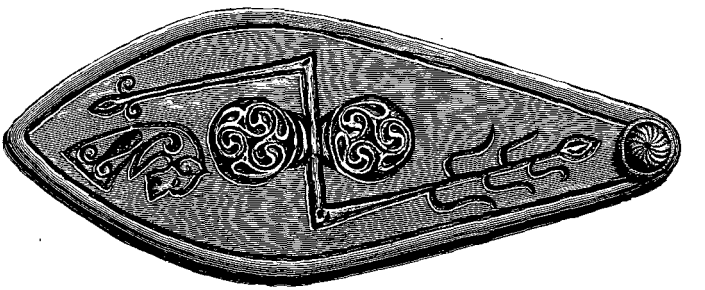


Fig. 50. Leaf-shaped Silver Plate, with symbols, found at Largo, Fife.

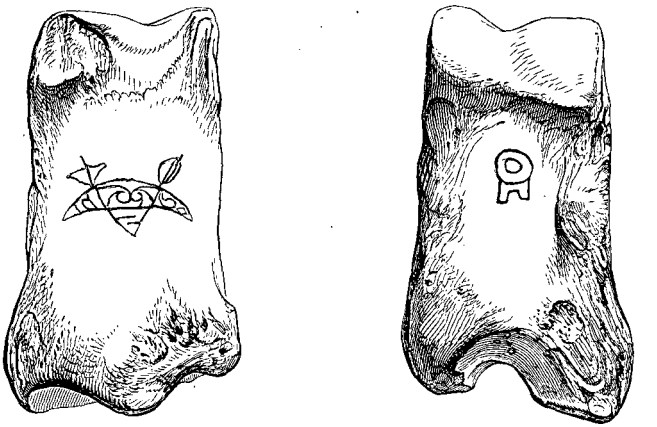
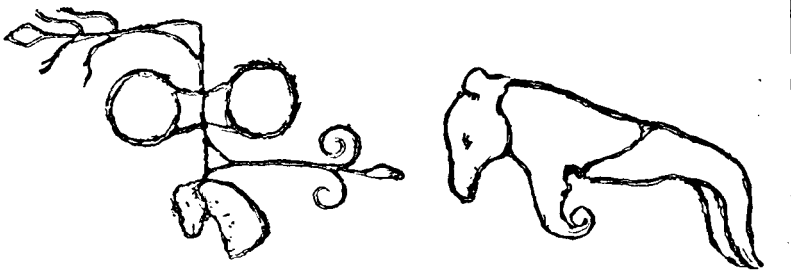


Fig. 51. Front and back of a bone of a small ox from the Broch of Burrian, North Ronaldsay, Orkney.



Figs. 52 and 53. Rudely incised symbols on the walls of the Doo Cave, Fife.

The peculiar figures of which I have been speaking are usually regarded as symbols. Many of them bear no resemblance, so far as yet detected, to actual objects: but it is nevertheless quite possible that they may be conventional representations of real objects. Some forms of the symbol of the Cross are so changed as to have no resemblance to any real Cross, being conventional figures, which are accepted as Crosses. On the other hand, some of the figures now under consideration appear to be disguised representations of natural forms, while others are quite undisguised representations of such familiar objects as the comb and the metal mirror. The two sets—those seeming, and those not seeming to represent actual objects—are conjoined in their symbolic use, if such is their use, and both sets are associated with other sculptures which are obviously symbolic. No equivalent of the Divine Bestiary, which reveals the symbolism of many grotesque sculpturings on churches, has survived, if it ever existed, to furnish a key to the so-called symbols of which I am now writing, and all of which, if they were less obscurely expressed, that is, less conventionalised, might be found to represent well-known objects. But I am not writing a paper on these symbols. I am only indicating why the figures are so called. The whole subject has been most exhaustively treated by Mr Romilly Allen and Dr Joseph Anderson in a book soon to be published.

There is no obscurity about the purpose which these so-called symbols are to serve in this address. What I want to be understood regarding them is that they occur only in the Scottish area. So far as yet known they do not occur anywhere in Ireland, or in Wales, or in Cornwall; there is nothing like them in England, France, Scandinavia, or Italy, or anywhere else in the wide world. They occur only in Scotland, and they occur there frequently.

This is the chief point I desire to make in this address, but there is another, and it is this:—With a few exceptions they are restricted to one part of Scotland, whether they appear on stone, on metal, on bone, or in caves. They may be said to be confined almost entirely to the

counties on the east side of Scotland from Fife to Shetland—that is, to the east coast north of the Forth. Aberdeenshire yields the largest number, but they abound also in Sutherland, Ross, and Inverness.

The exceptions to this are only five in number—one on a slab found in Edinburgh at the foot of the Castle Rock, one on a bare rock at Anwoth in Galloway, two on slabs in the Hebrides, and one on a metal ring in Lanarkshire. In other words, 201 instances only yield 5 exceptions as regards their distribution within Scotland, and no exception at all as regards their belonging exclusively to the Scottish area.

Massive Silver Chains.

I have next to refer to a group of massive short chains (figs. 54, 55). The links are made of silver, hammered into round rods of equal thickness and equal length, and these rods are then bent into circles, the flat extremities at the ends being brought into close apposition without solder, and so forming a ring. The chain is one of double, interlinked rings of this character. At the end of a chain which is complete, there is a penannular ring. This is not made of a rounded rod like the other rings. Its outer surface is flat with a rounded bead on each of its edges. The opening of the penannular ring is of such a size as to allow the rounded rings to pass through it, and so fasten both ends of the chain together as if by a clasp. The different specimens hitherto found nearly correspond in length, from 18 to 20 inches, though the size and number of the rings may differ. In two instances (figs. 56, 57) the penannular ring is ornamented with cut figures—the symbols of which I have already spoken, and in one case the depressions bear evidences of having been filled with red enamel. The weight of the chains varies greatly. In one instance, though the chain was not complete, the weight was as great as 92 ounces. In two complete specimens the weights were about 40 ounces and about 63 ounces.

There are five specimens of this object in the Museum—one from Lanarkshire, one from Aberdeenshire, one from Inverness-shire, one

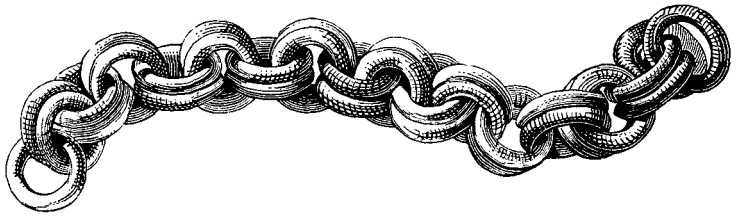


Fig. 54. Silver Chain found in making the Caledonian Canal, near Loch Ness, in 1809.

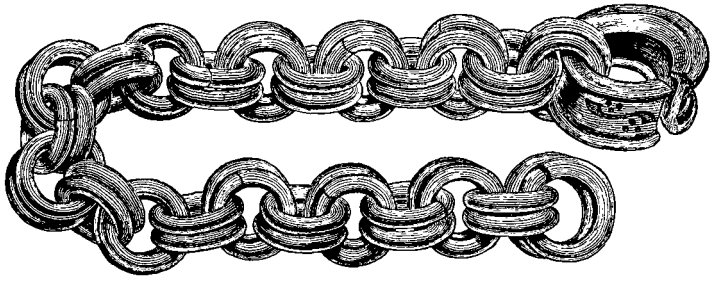


Fig. 55. Silver Chain found at Parkhill, Aberdeenshire.

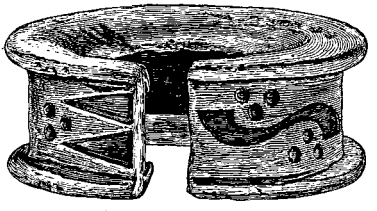


Fig. 56. Terminal Penannular Ring of Silver Chain found at Parkhill (actual size), showing Symbols.

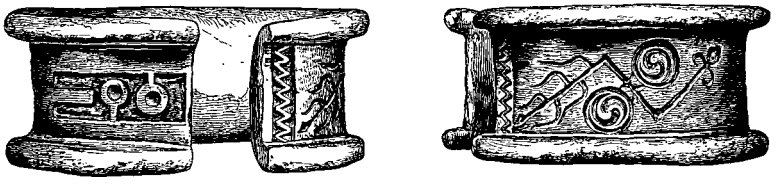


Fig. 57. Terminal Penannular Ring of Silver Chain found in Lanarkshire (actual size), showing Symbols.

from Haddingtonshire and one from Berwickshire. They are all therefore from the Scottish area, and they have never yet been found outside of that area. Four of the five specimens in the Museum have been placed in it since 1851. We have knowledge of a sixth specimen found in Berwickshire, but without this the specimens are sufficiently numerous to show that they constitute a class, which as yet belongs exclusively to Scotland. All the specimens but one have been acquired during the period now under review.

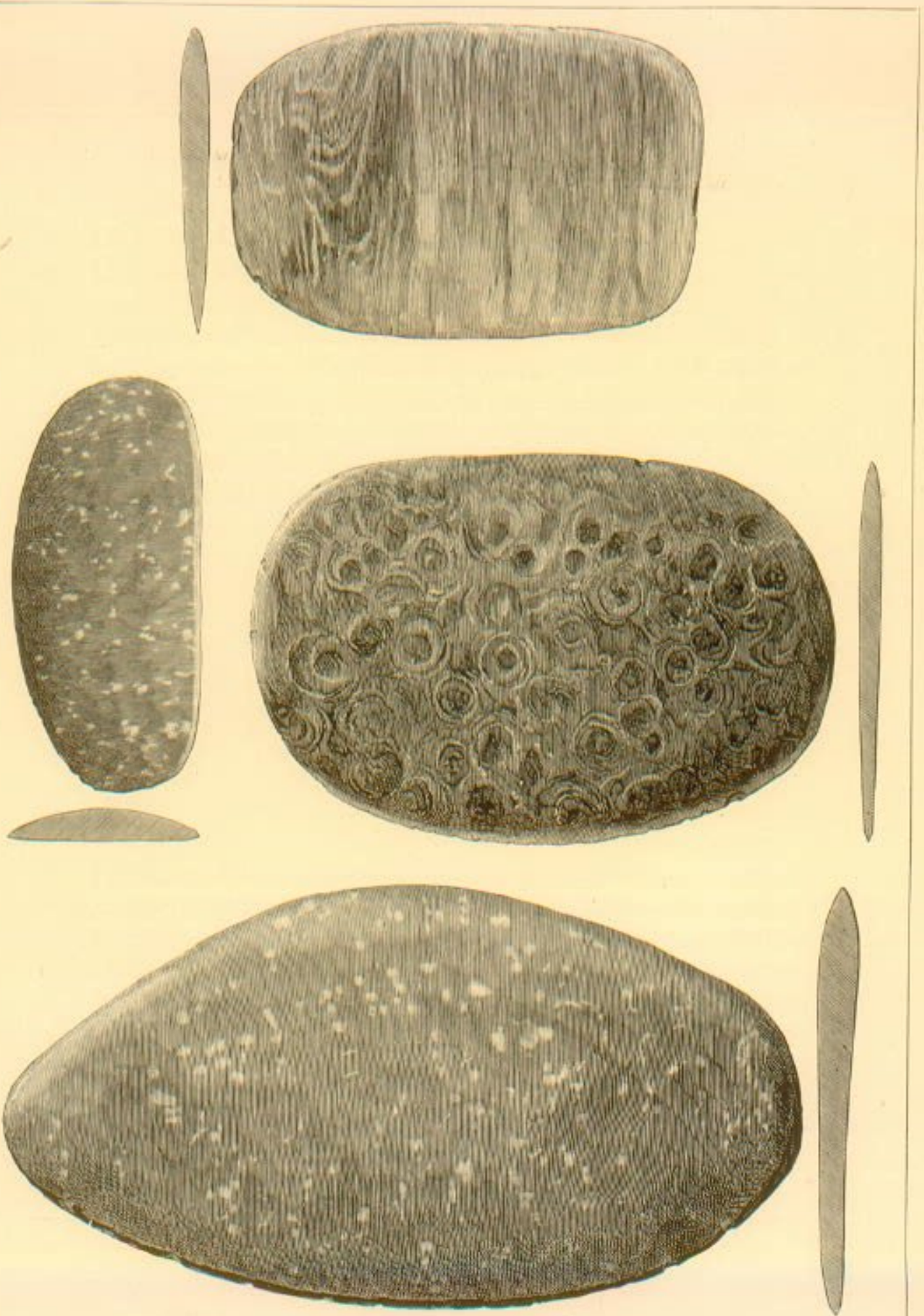
Knife-like Implements of Stone.

I next bring under notice a collection of knife-like stone implements (figs. 58–61). They have quite a definite character. They are all made of a hard rock—hornblendic, I think—and they are all polished on both sides. They are more or less oval in shape, but they show a considerable difference in size and some difference in form. They are thin, never at any part more than half an inch thick, and along more than half of their circumference they are polished down to a thinness which gives them what may be regarded as a cutting edge.

I have four things to say about these objects: (1) They have not as yet been found anywhere out of Scotland; (2) within Scotland they have only been found in one locality, viz., Shetland; (3) seven of them were found there in apparent association with polished stone axes; and (4) not a single specimen of these remarkable objects existed in the Museum before 1859, since which time 32 specimens have been acquired, more than enough to show that they constitute a distinct class of relics.

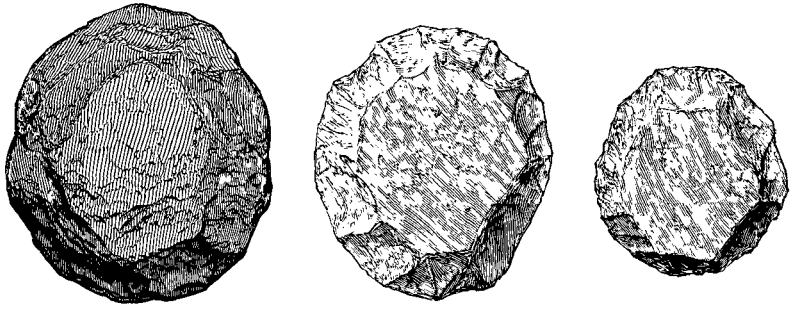
Discs of Stone.

For many years the Society has been receiving relics from the Culbin Sands. Further on I shall have something to say about the more recent work there. But at present I desire to direct attention to one object found on the Sands. I do so because as yet Scotland is the only country, and Morayshire the only part of Scotland, in which it has been found. A Fellow of the Society, on the occasion of his being in the north, was asked by Dr Joseph Anderson to take a walk over the Sands with the



Figs. 58–61. Oval polished Knives of Stone from Shetland. (½.)

old man who was almost constantly at work there in the interest of the Society. During the walk the old man was asked whether he did not sometimes find largish objects fashioned by the hand of man. His answer was that he often found them, but that they were too heavy to carry to Forres, and that he had left them in little heaps here and there over the Sands. These heaps were then visited, and among the objects composing them were some stone discs (figs. 62, 63, 64), which were recognised as a new class of relic. The old man was instructed to hire a donkey and cart, and to collect all the heaps and transmit them to Edinburgh, which he did—only substituting his wife and a barrow for



Figs. 62–64. Discs of Stone from Culbin Sands. ($\frac{1}{2}$.)

the donkey and the cart. Thereafter he continued to collect these discs and other heavy objects and to send them south. There are now 72 specimens in the Museum, and they constitute archæological material as fully and truly as polished stone axes or delicately flaked flint arrowheads. No one can say what word or sentence in the unwritten story of Scotland they may some day supply. They can only be described as rudely-dressed circular discs of stone, of sizes varying from about $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 5 inches in diameter, and from about $\frac{1}{2}$ an inch to about $1\frac{3}{4}$ inch in thickness.

Rude Stone Implements from Shetland.

I have now to refer to another collection of rude implements of sandstone (figs. 65–71). They were first found in Shetland by Dr Hunt, in

Fig. 65.

Fig. 66.

Fig. 67.

Fig. 68.

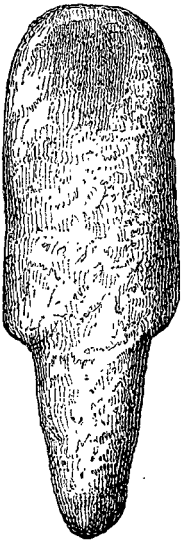


Fig. 69.

Fig. 70.

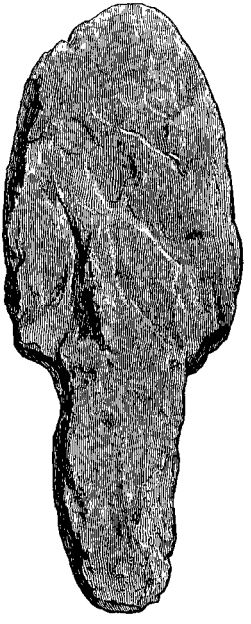


Fig. 71.

Figs. 65–71. Rude Implements of Sandstone from Shetland.

the year 1865. I happened to be in Shetland at the time, and I saw the *find* in Lerwick the day after it was made. It consisted of a considerable number of specimens found lying close together. These objects were at once seen to be of an altogether new character; they were very rudely fashioned; there was no room even for a guess as to their purpose; they were easily broken, and in point of fact the majority were broken; they resembled each other in material and in the way in which they had been dressed, but there were differences, and two or three types could be made out.

Before I saw them there were already suspicions as to their genuineness. Clever hoaxes on antiquaries had been perpetrated in Shetland, and perhaps this fact helped to give rise to suspicions, in which I shared. Nevertheless, I counselled the careful preservation of the objects.

In the next *find* of these implements I was myself concerned, and it came soon. The day after seeing Dr Hunt's *find* I started to make several rides on the west of the mainland. At the end of the first day I put up at the shop of the district. Like many Shetlanders whom I met in those times, my landlord was an intelligent, observing man. I told him of Dr Hunt's *find*, and described the objects. He at once said that he thought he had two of them in his garden. And so he had—one quite of the style of those found by Dr Hunt, and the other, differing considerably, but still clearly enough of the same class. He told me that they had been found, with many others, in breaking up a piece of land to be brought under cultivation, and he said that I should have to ride over that piece of land on the following day. Therefore, when crossing it, I kept my eyes open, and picked up several specimens which were lying on the surface. When I reached the cottage of the croft, I found that the objects had attracted attention, and had been gathered and stored in creels or *casies*. The *casies* were brought out from below the indoor pile of peats, where they had been lying for twelve months or more, and I obtained possession of the whole. Later *finds* were made amounting to some hundreds in number.

Since that time they have been found in various parts of Shetland and Orkney, and also in St Kilda.

There are among them not a few which are handled in a distinct manner, and dressed with a pointed tool instead of being flaked. One of these was found in excavating a large so-called Fairy Mound in Bressay. Nothing in connection with the others indicated great age, though they are so rude that many visitors to the Museum look on them as Palæolithic, taking their rudely flaked character to be sufficient evidence, which, of course, is an error. There is no longer any thought of their not being genuine.

What for my present purpose I wish to be realised is that they belong exclusively, so far as is yet known, to the Scottish area, that less than fifty years ago their existence was entirely unknown, and that their rudeness does not lessen their scientific value.

Horned Cairns.

The last class of relics to which I direct attention is shown in figs. 72–76. They are commonly spoken of as the Horned Cairns. They are great piles of stones—those figured being respectively 240, 195, 190, 80, and 66 feet in length. But they are not structureless. On the contrary, they have a definite external form, which is structural. They terminate at both ends in curvilinear projections, and the whole external outline is defined by a double wall of dry-stone masonry. This is one of the typical characteristics, and another is that they have an internal chamber, usually placed at the higher end of the cairn with access by a passage of some length—the opening of the passage being usually about the middle of the curvature at the higher end of the cairn between the projecting horns. Sometimes, however, the chamber is entered from the side of the cairn. The construction and plan of the chambers are much the same in all instances.

These structural relics constitute a specific group with a strongly marked individuality. There is possibly an alliance between them and the long Barrows of Wiltshire and Gloucestershire, which are horned,

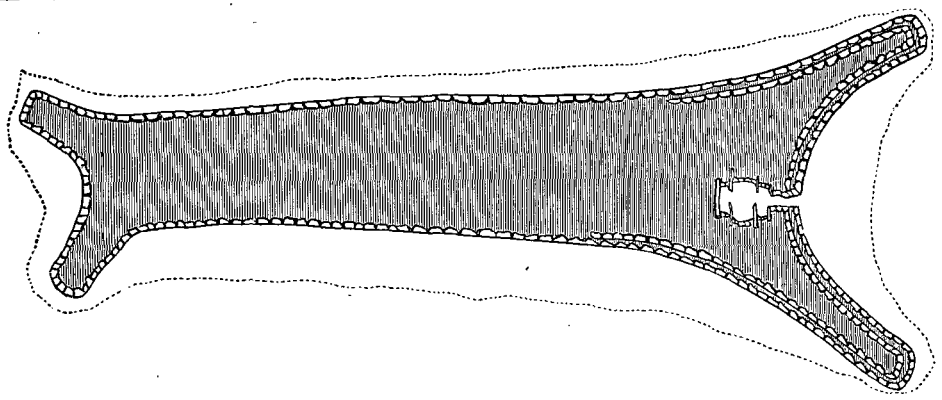


Fig. 72. Ground Plan of Horned Cairn at Yarhouse, Caithness (240 feet in length).

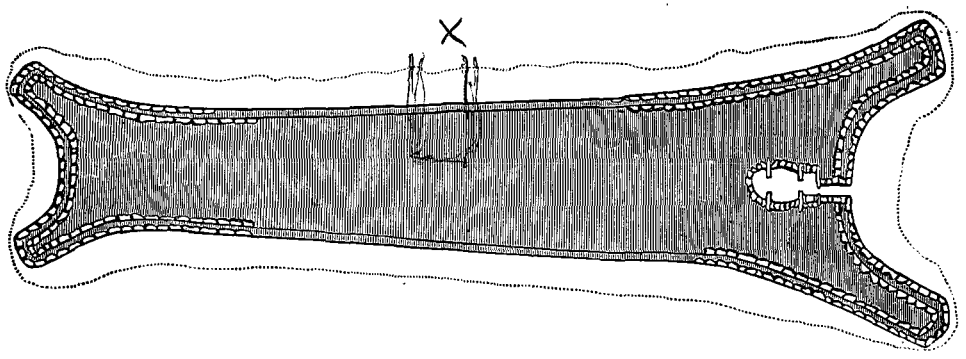


Fig. 73. Ground Plan of Horned Cairn at Yarhouse, Caithness (190 feet in length).

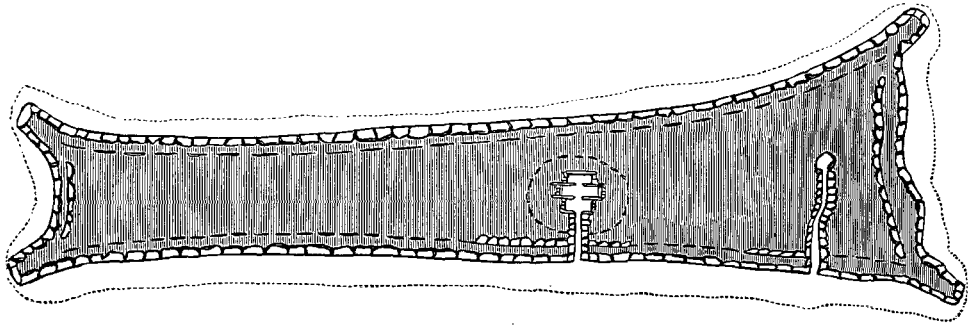


Fig. 74. Ground Plan of Horned Cairn at Camster, Caithness (195 feet in length).

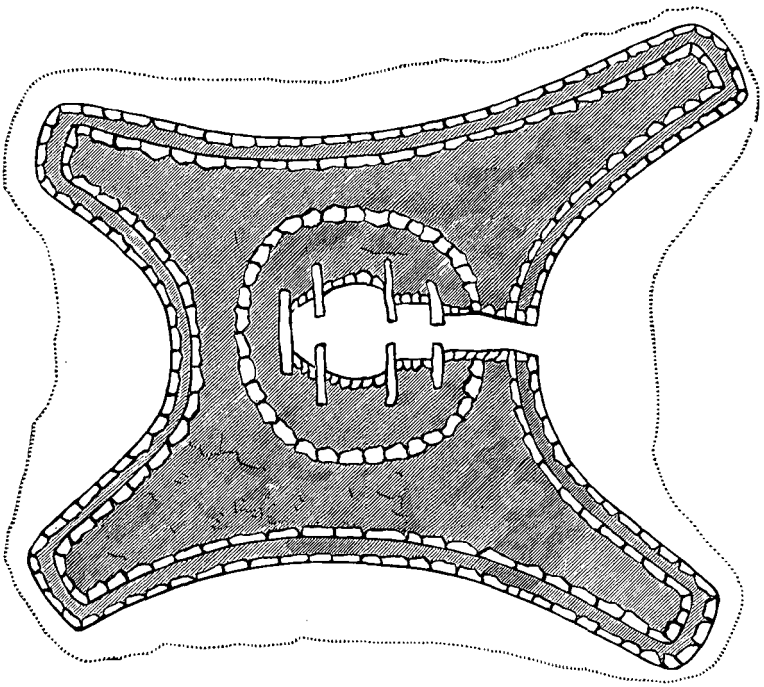


Fig. 75. Ground Plan of Horned Cairn at Ormiegill, Caithness (66 feet in length).

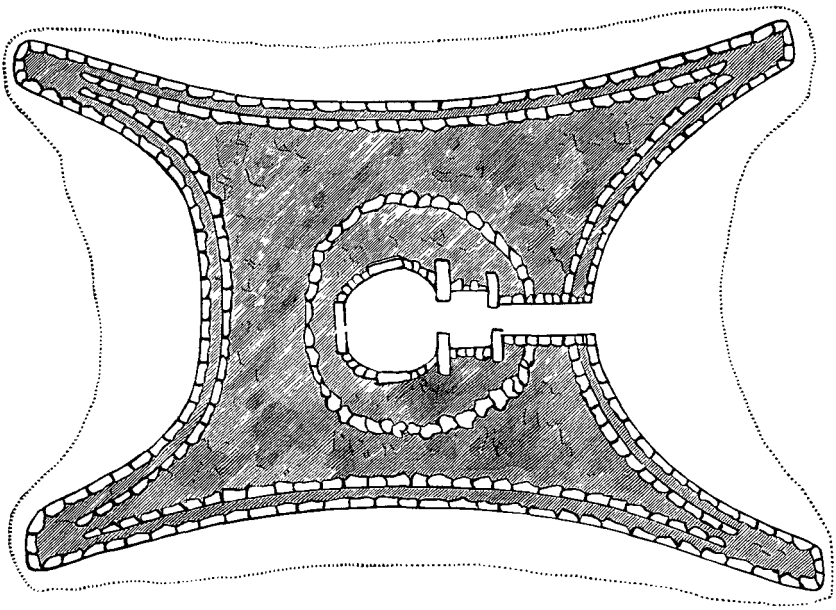


Fig. 76. Ground Plan of Horned Cairn at Garrywhin, Caithness (80 feet in length).

though in a less-marked manner, and which have similar internal chambers, with contents of much the same character.

These horned cairns are held to belong to the Stone Age. The objects found in them leave little doubt as to this. They are probably as old or nearly as old as any Scottish relics of antiquity that exist, and they belong to Scotland, and to Scotland only, that is, they have not been found anywhere else in the world. There may be, as I have said, an alliance between them and some of the long Barrows of England; but they have distinctive characters. As yet they are confined to the county of Caithness, but hereafter, of course, they may be found to exist in other parts of the country, or even out of it. The chambers were tombs—places of burial—and the cairns are monuments erected over these tombs—probably the tombs of persons of distinction who died in Scotland when it was in its Stone Age. The erection of these huge, almost everlasting, monuments involved both planning and labour. They show no littleness of mind in their conception. They show also how the dead were then regarded.

The sepulchral cairns of later ages were structureless heaps of earth and stones—with single and separate interments, not as in the horned cairns, great erections with a definite structure, showing successive interments probably of the same family or tribe.

I have one other thing to say about the horned cairns, and it is this: Fifty years ago their existence was unknown. They were discovered by Dr Joseph Anderson, before he became the Keeper of the National Museum. He has made many additions to knowledge in the field of archæology, but nothing, I think, more remarkable than that of the horned cairns.

Palæolithic Relics.

As yet, I believe, there has been no discovery of palæolithic remains in Scotland. I recognise the efforts of the Rev. Frederick Smith to show that this is an error,[1] but I do not think that he has succeeded up to this time in establishing his contention, and such I take to be the general opinion.

[1] See *Scottish Antiquary*, vols. viii. p. 147; ix. pp. 131, 167; and x. p. 82.

I allude here to the absence of palæolithic relics in Scotland chiefly for the purpose of saying that part of the distinctiveness of the pre-history of any area may consist in the absence, as well as in the presence, of certain classes of relics.

General Remarks.

I could have brought forward other classes of relics teaching the same lessons as to the pre-history of Scotland, as those to which I have directed attention. I hope my assurance that I could have done this will be accepted. What I have shown seems to me to be enough for my present purpose, and I proceed to show what I think is the teaching of the relics which I have brought under notice. But do I really need to show this? Is the teaching not plain? Do they not disclose that Scotland has a pre-history, as well as a history, of its own? Still more, do they not show that the pre-history of some parts of the Scottish area differs from that of other parts? In other words, that as it is with its history, so is it with its pre-history, both as regards the whole area and as regards the parts.

Then, further, do I need to point out that the classes of relics to which I have directed attention disclose much archæological work done by the Society during the last half century? Is it not clear that we are indebted to its work during that period for the ability to speak as I have done about the proved existence of a special pre-history of the Scottish area?

Perhaps it is desirable to point out that I have chosen for my purpose not one class but various classes of antiquities—great strongholds, the monuments and tombs of the dead, implements of extreme rudeness, and relics of stone, bronze, and silver, in the making of which much skill and good taste are displayed.

I may be wrong, but I think I have taken a useful way of performing the task assigned to me. I have made prominent what I regard as the true field of the Society's work—the pre-history of our own country—and what is so regarded by the Society itself, for its great aim during the

last fifty years, as I see things, has been to discover as much as possible of the pre-history of the Scottish area.

I scarcely think that I should put it too strongly if I said that with other areas this Society has but little concern; but should this be regarded as too strong, I shall certainly stand on safe ground if I say that the pre-history of other areas is of secondary importance, drawing its chief value in the studies and researches of this Society through comparison. The end-all and be-all of our special work is the study of the archæology and antiquities of the land which is ours.

We have no history of the world as a whole—we cannot have it; nor can we have a pre-history of the world as a whole. Our histories are histories of different areas, and the pre-histories of these areas must in like manner be worked out separately. We have already reached the knowledge that we possess a distinct pre-history. Fifty years ago this could not have been said with the same certainty. The Society has, therefore, worked with success. This I think has been largely due to a concentration of its work on a particular line. But success has also resulted from the way in which that work has been done—from the efforts that have been made to conduct its researches with as much strictness in the methods, and as much doubting, as are demanded in other departments of science.

Dates in Antiquities and in Archæology.

The work of the Society consists (1) of Antiquarianism and (2) of Archæology proper. Both of these differ from history, which is and must be pervaded with dates. They are, indeed, of its essence. But dates appear only obscurely in Antiquarianism, and they do not appear at all in Archæology. We may get an approach to exactitude of dates in antiquarian studies, but archæology proper "gives no periods that can be expressed in chronological terms." Such dates belong to history. In point of fact it is impossible to obtain dates or periods, except from Record, and when we deal with Record, we have history. Our concern is with the ages which are either completely or to a large extent without

Records, and we are engaged in trying to construct a Record, or something like one, out of the enduring relics which we find.

A Record, of course, may be of any age or in any character—it may be in Hieroglyphs; it may be on stone, on clay, on metal, on vellum, or on any other material; it may be found after laborious digging;—the thing that is essential is that it must be more or less nearly the equivalent of writing—it must consist of signs which together yield words, or which singly yield groups of words or ideas.

Then it must be remembered that the history of one area may go much further back than the time of the pre-history of another area, and also that the history and pre-history of the same area may greatly overlap, that is, some things relating to an area may be known through Records, while other co-existing things in the same area may only be disclosed by the interpretation of the relics which are found in it.

Before 1851.

Before 1851, the first year of the period under review, a selection of the papers communicated to the Society was printed in the *Archæologia Scotica*—the only publication then issued by the Society. The *Archæologia* did not cease to appear in 1851, power having been given to the Council to continue to print certain papers in that form; but for a considerable time it has practically ceased. It was issued in fasciculi, which the Fellows were long obliged to take, paying for each from 10s. to 25s. From 1780 to 1851 four volumes of the *Archæologia* were issued. These contain 231 papers with 190 illustrations. The number of papers, however, which were communicated was 855.

These figures represent a somewhat poor Record of work during the seventy years before 1851. Much of it, no doubt, was of excellent quality, but it too often related to matters in no sense Scottish,[1] and still

[1] Such, for instance, were papers with these titles:—(1) On the Purple Dye of the Tyrians; (2) An account of the Province of Biscay, in Spain; (3) An account of a subterraneous Structure connected with the Secret Tribunal in Swabia; (4) An account of an Excavation at Pompeii; (5) On Ruins in the Island of Milo; (6) A Translation of a Cingalese Sanhas.

more frequently it consisted of matter, interesting in itself, but more suitable for a Scottish History Society than for a Scottish Society of Antiquaries.

It appears that at this time the officials found it difficult to get papers. Mr James Skene, Sir Walter Scott's friend and the Father of the late Historiographer-Royal, in an address to the Society at the beginning of the session 1826–7, speaking of the state of apathy into which the Society had fallen, says:—"We know how long the name of the Society was permitted to retain its place in the enumeration of the literary establishments of Edinburgh; while the Minute Book informed us that a meeting of its members could rarely be obtained, except for the discussion of its anniversary dinner." And, speaking of the work of the Society, he says:—"If such inquiries have been stigmatised as frivolous and useless, it is certainly not to the subject so much as to the manner of conducting them that the reproach can be applied."

At four of the five meetings between December 1810 and December 1811, practically the only business done was to read the minute of the preceding meeting and move the adjournment. At one of these meetings the Secretary was the only person who appeared.

Mr Skene in his address speaks of dinners. It was then—and before and after—the time of dinners. The retirement of officials and many other such things led to dining. But the dinners to which Mr Skene specially refers were the Anniversary Dinners, which were then thought to be productive of benefit to the Society by putting life into it, and bringing applicants for Fellowship. But they do not seem to have added to the Fellowship. Perhaps persons moved to join the Society by the prospect of an annual dinner would scarcely be very desirable Fellows. As a matter of fact, new Fellows were not numerous in those times. For instance, in the six years 1834 to 1839 there were only eight additions to the Roll.

The anniversary dinners were in various hotels or taverns, and the usual hour was 5. The price of the ticket was 10s. 6d. This included in 1831 "wine during dinner, dessert, etc." In 1835 it included "malt

liquors, drams, waiters, lights, and one third of a bottle of wine." The price at which Fellows could get extra supplies of wine was often notified in the billets—*Port and Sherry* at 6/6 per bottle, *Best Claret* at 10/6, and *Second-growth Claret* at 9/.

This was the time of other functions, as well as dinners—as, for instance, the ceremonies at the mounting of Mons Meg and at the re-interment of the bones of a person regarded as Queen Mary of Gueldres. The invitation cards to the Fellows for the last ceremony were in deep mourning. It was also the time of mistakes, as, for instance, in the blackballing of a gentleman who was admitted later on, and became a tower of great strength to the Society. It was the time too of the *Temple of Caledonian Fame.* In the accommodation then possessed by the Society, two rooms, or galleries as they were called, constituted this Temple. One of them contained the portraits of "illustrious and learned Scotsmen." The other was "allotted to super-eminent virtue in domestic life and intercourse." In our day the Temple of Caledonian Fame has a quieter title. It is called *The Scottish National Portrait Gallery,* and has no connection with Archæology.

After the dinners ceased, conversaziones were introduced, and they lasted till the Society entered on the period with which I am dealing. There were four conversaziones, I think, in the session 1851–2.

The Museum, when in 24 George Street, was open on Tuesdays and Fridays; but the visitor had to obtain a ticket from a Fellow in order to gain admission.

Work of the Society since 1851.

I come now to speak of the amount and character of the work done by the Society since 1851, and I shall first refer to the growth of the Museum and Library.

The Growth of the Museum and Library.

It seems to me that on the threshold I should remind you that the Society, in working for the enlargement of the Museum, is working for

the Nation. It is not gathering material for its own exclusive use. It is gathering material for the use of any one, whether he is or is not a Fellow of the Society—whether he is or is not a Scotsman. The Fellows of the Society use the material in our National collection just as outsiders do. It seems to me of the utmost importance that this National character of the Museum should never be lost sight of. It is not the Museum of the Society of Antiquaries. Its designation indeed is—*The National Museum of Antiquities of Scotland.* The Society, however, has an intimate connection with it in being entrusted by the State with its care. Since 1891 it has been housed in a splendid building given to the Country by an old Secretary and Vice-President—the late Mr John Ritchie Findlay.

As caretakers of the Museum, the Society ought to be interested in its growth, and I now ask if that interest has been well shown. I feel sure that you will think me justified in saying that it has been well shown, when I tell you that during the fifty years now under review, the collection has grown from 1560 catalogued objects to 70,654. This shows the change which has taken place in the whole number of objects. But it does not show the growth of those objects which specially illustrate the unwritten history of Scotland. I regret that I am not able to state exactly how great the increase of what I may call Scottish relics of antiquity has been. But I may sufficiently indicate the change which has taken place in this direction, by giving the figures relating to a few classes of such objects. Take sepulchral pottery—there were 18 urns of all types in the Museum in 1851; while at this date, the splendid display of urns in the collection is made up of 358 specimens—so that there has been a rise from 18 to 358. Again, in 1851 there were 49 stone axes and hammers, and in 1901 there are 629. There were 61 flint arrow-heads and spear-heads in the collection in 1851, and the number now is 3460. In bronze weapons—axes, spear-heads, daggers, and swords—the increase has been from 88 to 294. Roman and Romano-British objects have risen from 421 to 1256. It would have been easy to have cited many objects which have risen from 0 to a very consider-

able figure. The growth of the coin collection has also been large. The number of coins in the Museum is now 2240, and they consist almost entirely of Scottish coins. Few Nations can show such a complete collection of their own coins.

The Library is a National Library in the same sense as that in which the Museum is a National Museum. I happen to be able to say that in 1832 the number of books in the Library relating to the *History, Antiquities, and Early Literature of Scotland* was 226. This is taken from Part I. of a printed Catalogue. If Part II., containing the Books on other subjects, was ever printed, I have not discovered a copy. I cannot tell what the whole number of Books was in 1851, but I am able to say that the Library at present contains 10,875 volumes.

The Museum National in More Senses than One.

I have pressed the importance of regarding the Museum as National. It is so in the sense of being the property of the Nation. This makes its preservation secure. But it is National in another sense. It is very largely a collection of objects illustrating our Nation's pre-history. Indeed, if taken with local collections, it supplies nearly all the material for this study which we possess—of course adding those objects which cannot be removed to a museum and also those relics which are described and figured in the *Proceedings* though not in the Museum. "These Antiquities of Scotland belong to us as they belong to no other people. No other Nation can divide with us the peculiar interest in them." "They are not the same as those of Scandinavia, or France, or England, or any other region that can be named." Yet the Nation makes little effort to increase their number. Perhaps, however, "the time will come when the public purse will be more readily opened for researches at home, than for researches in Cyprus or Mesopotamia." Can we be "more interested in the ancient story of other nations than we are in the ancient story of our own people"? "Are the sculptured stones of Nineveh of more importance to us than the sculptured stones of Scotland?" "Have not

Scotland and its antiquities claims to our attention which come before all other lands and all other antiquities?"[1] There are persons perhaps to whom Scotland is nothing but "that garret of the world—that knuckle end of England," but to us Scotland is the special field of our studies, as well as the land we love; and it seems to me that the very reason of our existence as a Society is to make additions to the knowledge of its unwritten history.

I am moved to write thus, but my doing so must not be held to imply any disapproval of the spending of money and labour by the people of Great Britain on Archæological work in other countries. That expenditure might be much increased with great advantage. Such explorations are in the highest degree interesting and important, but they are nevertheless of lower value to us, as constituting *The Society of Antiquaries of Scotland*, than are explorations within the Scottish area. I sincerely hope that researches in distant lands will continue to be earnestly prosecuted, but I still more strongly hope that Scotland's contribution to Archæological science will be an exceptionally full disclosure of the pre-history of its own area.

Local and Private Collections.

No one at this time of day, who is a student of the pre-history of Scotland, can escape frequent feelings of regret that an intelligent collection of illustrative relics did not seriously begin three or four centuries ago, instead of beginning, as it practically did, within the century just ended. Great and irreparable losses have been the result, and the material on which the student has now to work can never be so large and diversified as it might have been. The National Museum does not even contain all the existing known Scottish relics, though it would clearly be to the advantage of students if all known Scottish relics were brought together in one place. Even as a whole they are not sufficiently numerous to lead safely to wide generalisations, and it adds to the effect of

[1] See Dr Joseph Anderson's *Scotland in Early Christian Times*, 8vo, Edin., 1881, pp. 11–13.

their fewness, that they cannot be studied satisfactorily when they are dispersed. The desire of towns and districts, however, to possess separate collections of relics, especially of those from their own particular areas, will probably continue, and a certain sympathy with that desire cannot be withheld. Nor can it be altogether withheld from the mere private collector, whose interests may, or may not, centre in some special area. But it should never be forgotten that both these half public and these altogether private collections have no assured existence. Not a few of them, in my own day, have reached the auction room, generally with their scientific value greatly lessened by the absence of precise information as to the locality and circumstances in which each object was found. Perhaps there are some indications of a tendency to make over private collections to the National Museum, as, for instance, was done some years ago by our President, Sir Herbert Maxwell, and more recently by Mr J. G. Gilchrist Clark of Speddoch, and there is little evidence, I think, that Local Museums are being increased in number. There are considerable collections of Scottish relics in the British Museum and in the Provincial Museums, which we cannot expect to come into our possession; but we have had them visited and reported on by Dr Anderson and Mr George Black, and the reports of these gentlemen appear in our *Proceedings*. These reports are the best effort the Society could make, in the circumstances, to increase the material at the command of students. They were obtained at the suggestion of His Excellency the late Dr Gunning, and out of funds supplied by him.

Publications of the Society.

With the starting of the period now under review began the free distribution among the Fellows of the Society's *Proceedings*—that is, each Fellow after 1851 received a copy without payment. In this a very important step was taken.

For the first seventeen years after 1851 the *Proceedings* were issued in fasciculi in paper covers, and the Fellows had to bind the volumes at their own cost. This led to complaints—fasciculi were lost, and Fellows

often joined when only half of a volume became due to them. Volume I., with only 312 pages, contains three fasciculi recording the proceedings of three sessions. One of these three fasciculi contains only 80 pages. As the years went on, the parts or fasciculi grew larger, and after 1862 the volumes were made up of two fasciculi. The twelfth and last volume of this series, 1877–8, is large enough to have formed two volumes.

With the session 1878–9 began the issue of an annual volume, bound in cloth and ready to take its place on the Library shelf.

There are now 35 volumes for the 50 years, with a large additional volume of the *Archæologia* — that is, the whole record of the Proceedings of the Society since 1851 is contained in these 36 volumes.

Occasionally the Society prints, and sells at a fixed price, separate books which cannot be regarded as records of its proceedings. Of such books there are six, namely, (1) The Records of the Monastery of Kinloss; (2) The Records of the Priory of the Isle of May; (3) The Sculptured Monuments of Iona and the Western Highlands; (4) The Catalogue of the Coins of Scotland which are in the Museum; (5) A general Index and Index of Illustrations of the first twenty-four volumes of the *Proceedings*; and (6) A copiously illustrated Catalogue of the Objects in the National Museum of Antiquities.

All these books—42 in number—represent the work of the last 50 years, and the 4 volumes of the *Archæologia* represent the work of the first 70 years of the life of the Society. As I have already stated, the number of papers recorded in the first period of 70 years is 231, and the record has 190 illustrations. The number of papers recorded in the second period of 50 years is 1568, and the record has 7243 illustrations.

During the first period, though only 231 papers were recorded, 855 papers were read—642 being left unpublished, either because the Society could not afford to publish them or because they were not thought worth publishing. During the second period every one of the 1568 papers read

was printed—probably acting on the view that if a paper is not worth printing, it is not worth reading.

Some contributors, of course, have supplied more than one paper, and it may be interesting to know that the number of persons who contributed the 1568 papers read during the last 50 years was 477.

The Council of the Society.

There are some points in connection with the Council of the Society which seem to deserve notice. We only possess printed annual lists of the Office-bearers and Council since 1878, that is, for the twenty-three years which form the end of the period under review. The Council is, as it probably ought to be, somewhat large, consisting of twenty-two Fellows. They occupy various positions, and there is a certain movement from one position to another among the members, occasionally ending in the Vice-Presidency. But some of the Offices are occupied by the same Fellows for periods of some length. Such Offices require special qualifications, and it would be injurious to the good management of the affairs of the Society to have frequent changes among those holding them. I refer specially to the four secretaries, the two curators of the collection of antiquities, the curator of coins, the librarian, and the treasurer. We have an excellent manuscript catalogue of our books, and our shilling Museum catalogue, richly illustrated, is beyond praise.

During the twenty-three years for which printed records exist, I find that 64 individuals have had seats on the Council. This seems to me to represent a fairly large movement, in view of the fact that so many of the Fellows do not reside either in or near Edinburgh —very many, indeed, residing at a great distance from it.

Growth of the Fellowship.

At the starting of the Society in 1780, the number of Fellows was restricted to 100, exclusive of Office-bearers, but the Society soon departed from this restriction. For the early years we have no records to show the number of the Fellows from year to year. From 1826 to 1836,

however, I have found yearly lists, and also for the two years 1846 and 1850. In 1826 the number was 156. It rose to 195 in 1829, and it remained nearly at that figure till 1832. It then began to fall, and had gone down to 172 in 1836, and to 146 in 1846, or 10 below its number twenty years before. In 1850, the year before the commencement of the period with which I am dealing, it was 222.

For the first 27 years after 1851, we only possess 11 yearly printed lists. But after 1878, we have a printed list for each year. I am able, however, with a close approach to accuracy, to give the figures for every tenth year for the whole fifty-year period, and this seems to me sufficient to disclose the rate at which the Fellowship has grown.

We start in 1851 with		230	Fellows
In 1861 the number was		249	,,
In 1871	,, ,,	351	,,
In 1881	,, ,,	556	,,
In 1891	,, ,,	728	,,
In 1901	,, ,,	712	,,

The growth was largest in the decennium 1871-81, due perhaps in part to the foundation of the Rhind Lectureship. In the last decennial period the number of Fellows may be regarded as nearly stationary, possibly because the limit of what Scotland can supply had been almost reached. The broad fact shown by the figures is that the Fellowship has grown during the fifty years from 230 to 712.

This is the desirable evidence of popularity—of a popularity of the right sort—which can be attributed to nothing but a growing recognition of the good work done by the Society, and of the successful management of its affairs—no other inducement to join having been offered.

Character of the Society's Work.

An outstanding feature of the work of the Society during the last half century has been the effort to introduce those methods into

its inquiries and researches which are required in other branches of scientific work. Such an effort was, and perhaps always will be, needed, because in Archæological studies the temptations to sensationalism, baseless assumptions, credulity, "ungrounded, thin, and superficial" speculations, and half-done work, are so strong and so numerous.

In no field of research should the habit of doubting more prevail. I refer, of course, to legitimate scientific doubting. This does not in the least debar well-considered speculation. It does not even shut imagination out. Fancy may often move "the sleeping images of things towards the light, there to be distinguished, and then either chosen or rejected by the pausing judgment." But there must be no indebtedness to the imagination for the colouring of observations. A man full of a true scientific spirit, when engaged in archæological research, is constantly on the lookout for a peg to hang a doubt on. The doubting I refer to is not of the kind which will make him miss something of possible value, and perhaps within sight, by causing an unwillingness to go on, to attempt more, and to investigate further. The doubting I speak of does the reverse of this, and the greatest doubter is often the most earnest worker. We are almost safe to find his pickaxe blunted with work. He is always pausing for facts to furnish the answer to his doubting, but we find him digging for the facts during the pauses.

In all branches of scientific work there occurs a danger from the confusing of conclusions or opinions with facts, but in no scientific work does this occur so frequently and with such damaging results as in Archæology. Conclusions are not facts, they are opinions, and a rigid separation is necessary.

It is almost a necessary result of well done work in finding out, recording, and preserving everything that can in any way disclose the unwritten history and the pre-history of the Scottish area, that the value attached to curios, queer things, pretty things, nick-nacks, etc., is lowered. It comes to be felt that rude, commonplace, or coarsely finished objects have often as great a value as any object which can be

regarded as a curiosity, or as in itself pretty, queer, or interesting—as great a value, I mean, as material for the scientific study of the pre-history or unwritten history of a country.

Of course there follows also a growing disregard of such objects as draw their sole or main interest from being said to have belonged to some famous or infamous person in history. There are so-called *collections of antiquities* which consist largely of these things, but they shed no glory on our studies.

There also arises, I think, a greater caution in regarding things found in seeming association as necessarily synchronous, so frequently have reasons appeared for doubting the character or the interpretation of the association.

Perhaps in no direction does a growing caution more show itself than in a hesitation to conclude, because some object has not been found, or some thing is not known to have occurred, that the object does not exist or that the thing will never occur. It is very clear that we ought always to exercise caution in concluding that, because an object has not been found in certain places or circumstances, it will never be found in such places or circumstances.

I think there has also arisen a greater hesitation in seeing evolution from low to high, when nothing of the nature of such an evolution has really presented itself. It is not easy to explain why there seems to be a pleasure in feeling that something illustrating this kind of evolution has been discovered. The signs of a progressive degeneration or debasement do not appear to be captivating to the same extent. And yet from a scientific point of view, the one may be as interesting and important as the other.

However the archæologist may regard the theory of evolution as respects the products of nature, he has still to ask, and to answer if he can, the question whether, in respect to the products of man's handiwork, everything must be evolved, automatically so to speak, from something

that preceded it—the steps of this process of evolution being traceable or not traceable? Out of that question another arises. He has also to ask, whether the individual human mind does not possess independent powers of discovery and origination which are creative in their character, or which at least control and may even supersede evolution?

Exhaustive Pieces of Work.

Well done work in the spirit indicated seems to lead readily to the making of exhaustive examinations of all that is known about certain portions of the field of Archæology. It will show what I mean if I refer briefly to a few of those Fellows of the Society who have done this kind of work.

The late Dr John Alexander Smith was a leader in it. He kept for many years steadily presenting to the Society all the information obtainable regarding the animals which have become extinct in the Scottish area; and I do not know any other country which has been so exhaustively treated in this matter.

Dr Joseph Anderson has left nothing more to be said about Horned Cairns, until there are fresh explorations; and he has made us understand the Broch Structures in a way that is final.

Dr Christison has examined and described the early native Forts with a remarkable completeness. Nothing like it has been done, so far as I know, for any other country; certainly nothing at all like it has been done for England or Ireland.

The same can be said of Dr Munro's work on Scottish Crannogs. He added greatly to the value of this work by visiting the Crannogs of many other parts of Britain, and those also of many of the countries of the Continent.

The accounts by Mr Brook of the Scottish Regalia and the Scottish Maces furnish another excellent example of work exhaustively done.

Mr Richardson's catalogue of the Scottish Coins in the Museum is another piece of finished work.

Perhaps the real leader in such work was Dr John Stuart—his field

being the Sculptured Stones of Scotland. The Society went with him in all he did, many of the Fellows actively assisting; but the results of his work were brought out by the Old Spalding Club, and not by the Society.

Closely akin to this sort of work are such things as:—(1) The steady pursuit of a fuller knowledge of the Roman occupation of Scotland by diggings on different sites. These have been supervised by the late Dr Macdonald, Dr Christison, the Hon. Mr Abercromby, Mr Ross, Mr Cunningham, and Mr Barbour. They have been carried on year after year, for a considerable period, at the charge of the Society, aided by donations from Sir Herbert Maxwell and the Hon. Mr Abercromby; and (2) the examination and planning to scale of the Stone Circles in a systematic and thorough manner by Mr Coles, which has already occupied several years, and which has been paid for out of the interest derived from the Gunning Donation of £1000.

Full Exploration of a Small Area.

There is another illustration of an attempt by the Society to do a certain piece of work thoroughly and exhaustively, namely, the continuous, careful exploration of a small area.

The Sands of Luce Bay have, over a good many years, yielded many things of value to the Museum. It so happened that the Society had a very intelligent Corresponding Member resident in the neighbourhood, namely, the Rev. George Wilson, of Glenluce. He taught many persons in the district to recognise objects which had been fashioned by the hand of man. These persons brought what they found to him, and he sent them on to the Museum. By-and-by there arose a hindrance in regard to the free examination of the Luce Sands, and an old man who had successfully *hunted* there, and who hailed from Forres, remembered the reputation of the Culbin Sands as a relic-yielding locality, and migrated from Luce to Forres, in order to explore the Culbin area, trusting to find in the Society a prompt and fair buyer. He was lame, and unable to do the

ordinary work of a labourer, and he devoted his whole time, from about 1881 to about 1893, to a search for relics on the Culbin Sands.

It will be useful, I think, as well as interesting, if I tell what kinds of objects were found by him, and also by some other searchers before and after him, and if I indicate their number. I shall not treat the matter exhaustively, nor shall I make an effort to give quite exact figures. For my present purpose this is not needed.

The flint relics are counted by thousands. Of arrow-heads and spear-heads more than fourteen hundred were found—the barbed and stemmed shape greatly outnumbering the leaf shaped—other forms being not only comparatively but actually few. The implement known as the scraper turned up in thousands. Of well-made flint saws 43 were found, and flint knives were numerous. The yield of polished stone axes was only 12.

Of objects in bronze many hundreds were collected—chiefly finger-rings, ring brooches, buckles, pins, and needles. Among the bronze objects, however, some call for special mention, such as a highly decorated massive bronze armlet found many years ago, a spiral finger-ring, an enamelled pin of Celtic type, tweezers, and clip rivets or fasteners (numbering 107) for mending dishes or caldrons—a thin sheet of metal so mended being found on the spot. Four flat bronze axes were found, and a stone mould for making this weapon. No socketed bronze axe was found.

Several clay urns were found—one of them being the tallest yet found in Scotland.

A cup made of steatite was found. Beads of vitreous paste were numerous—some of them probably not old, but others, inlaid with yellow enamel spirals, certainly old, and also interesting, as they do not seem to have been often found out of Scotland.

Objects or fragments of objects in jet number 235, and they include the decorated terminal plate of a necklace. Whorls of various kinds number 54. Lead appears often—either in small lumps, or run portions, or slag. Grain rubbers of various sizes and in various conditions are 36 in number. No quern was found. Objects in iron—a perishable material—

were not numerous, only 63, but they include a socketed axe. No relics in gold or silver were found.

Of the new object of antiquity, to which I have referred, namely the dressed circular discs of stone, 72 specimens were found.

This extraordinary yield of relics of antiquity resulting from a long-continued careful search over a small area is manifestly full of instruction and suggestion as regards our pre-history.

I return for a moment to the Luce Sands, in order to say that the finds there have also been very numerous, and that they are substantially of the same character as the Culbin finds.

It will be observed that I speak of both of these localities as Sands. Another similar locality—the Sands of Little Ferry, near Golspie—has yielded to a diligent private searcher a very extensive and closely comparable collection of relics, which the Society acquired for the National Museum. Sands not far from Edinburgh have also been recently found to yield relics somewhat richly.

This looks as if such Sands were often places abounding in relics, and I could say much that would strengthen this impression.

But I shall rather tell of an occurrence which, perhaps, points to the value of diligence in searching and of a trained eye, as much as to the sandiness or position of the field of search. A man who had been long among the explorers of the Golspie Sands migrated to the inland regions of Forfarshire, where he still kept his trained eyes open, and a place which was never known to have yielded anything has already yielded relics by the hundred to him.

The Popularity of the Society should rest on the Good Work it does.

It came naturally, as it seems to me, that work of the high character and with the definite aims, which for the last half century the Society has encouraged, should entail the disappearance of dinners, excursions, conversaziones, and other festivities, with the poor squibs and verses often born of them. Indeed I am not able to see how dinners of the

Society, as a whole, could take place with its present large membership, even if it were an Edinburgh Society, which it is not, being *The Society of Antiquaries of Scotland*, with its Fellows well distributed all over the country. But an Edinburgh Antiquaries Club, composed of Fellows of the Society, and having social objects, would I believe be a good thing, and might perhaps lead to clubs of a like composition and character in Glasgow, Dundee, and Aberdeen.

The interest in the Society, however, ought to depend on the amount and quality of the work it does, and not on appeals of any kind to what is called popularity. There is, of course, a popularity which is proper, and which the Society ought to court. The higher the quality of its work, the more solid and definite its aims, the deeper and the wider will be the interest in it, and the more popular in the right sense will it become. Indeed, a science like Archæology, with its bad reputation for frivolity and dilettanteism, for being loose in its methods, for being a study in which men amuse themselves, has special reasons for avoiding everything which can have even the appearance of popularity-hunting in the ordinary sense; and unceasing efforts should be made to put it on the same platform as the most dignified of the other sciences. Nothing so certainly gives strength and popularity to such a Society as ours, as a well-founded reputation for earnest, hard, good, successful work.

I may seem to return often to this subject, and what brings me back to it may not perhaps be quite apparent. This last return comes of the desire to keep myself right when I speak of the *work of the Society*—as if I meant that the work was done by the whole body of the Society. There are some things which the Society as a whole, or considerable groups of its Fellows, may do advantageously.

The Real Work done by Separate Fellows.

But it must always be remembered that the true work of the Society, that on which its reputation rests, is done by individual Fellows. The Society provides the means of publishing the work thus done, and to some extent of carrying out explorations. It is helpful in other ways.

But the real *work* is done by separate Fellows. Usually they work quite separately, though sometimes two or more may co-operate. The Society, as a Society, neither writes papers, nor makes researches, nor does it give deliverances. It contents itself mainly with recording.

It is not possible for it to give binding or effectual deliverances on scientific matters. It cannot force a change of opinion on any Fellow. Each Fellow is free to hold his own opinions. The Society, as a Society, cannot be said to have scientific opinions. Its opinions are made up of the differing opinions of its Fellows. They do the work more or less separately, and out of their work truth emerges, but not by any deliverances of the Society.

Cost.

In 1851, the first year of the period under review, a change of the highest importance took place in the relations of the Society to the Museum and Library. In that year an agreement between the Treasury and the Society was entered into, which prepared for a transfer to the Nation of the whole collections of antiquities, coins, medals, portraits, printed books, and manuscripts belonging to the Society, with all such additions as might thereafter be made to them, and of the cabinets, glass-cases, etc., in which the collections were contained. The agreement prepared for the making over and conveying all these things to the Board of Manufactures on behalf of the public. In other words, it provided that the Museum, etc., were to cease to be the property of the Society and to become the property of the Nation.

The agreement of 1851, to which I have referred, prepared for this transfer, but the transfer did not actually take place till 1859, when the completion of the National Picture Gallery left space in the Royal Institution, to which the collections were then removed from the rooms of the Society in 24 George Street.

In return for what was described as the valuable and generous gift of the Society to the Public, the State undertook (1) to provide fit and proper accommodation at all times in a public building for the preserva-

tion and exhibition of the collections, and also for the meetings of the Society; (2) to entrust the charge and custody of the Museum to the Society; and (3), subject to the approval of Parliament, to pay the salaries of the necessary officers and servants.

Before 1859, when the transfer was completed, the entire cost of housing, managing, and extending the Museum fell on the income of the Society. At that date the Society was relieved of this burden, and it was at the same time provided with rooms for its meetings free of rent. It remained, however, in charge and custody of the collections, discharging all the consequent duties without remuneration.

From this time, 1859, the whole proper revenue of the Society was set free to promote its special aims; and with the assistance of Mr Notman, our Treasurer, I have ascertained the total amount of money spent by the Society since 1859 in the furtherance of its own proper work. The gross amount is £31,666, 15s. 9d., derived from payments by Fellows and from interest on investments, nearly all of the last being ear-marked. This does not include unexpended revenue, but it includes expenditure on the Rhind Lectureship amounting to £5189, 2s. 1d.

I have also, with the assistance of Mr Inglis, the Secretary of the Board of Manufactures, ascertained the whole amount of money spent by the State since the same year, 1859, on the maintenance and extension of the Museum. Till the Museum and Library were removed to the building in which they now are, this money was largely derived from the funds of the Board of Manufactures. All of it now comes directly from the State through that Board. Its gross amount since 1859 is £34,786, 8s. 2d., but this does not include any charge for rent. If there had been a charge for rent, the sum would, of course, have been much larger. In addition to this expenditure by the State, there has been expended by the Society during the same period out of its proper funds on the extension of the Museum and Library the sum of £4435, 15s. 3d., largely derived from payments at the door for admission to the Museum since 1859. The entire cost of main-

taining and extending the Museum and Library has thus been £39,222, 3s. 5d.

The value of Donations of relics, books, etc., does not appear in this sum. If it did appear, a great increase of the figure would be the result, for Donations have been numerous and valuable.

Rhind Lectureship.

In reviewing the Society's life and work during the last fifty years, I cannot properly avoid a reference to the foundation of the Rhind Lectureship, which has in various ways influenced the progress and prosperity of the Society, and which is destined, I hope, to continue this good influence (in the words of the Founder) "for all time coming."

Mr Alexander Henry Rhind of Sibster, a Fellow of the Society and a contributor to its *Proceedings*, among other benefactions under his will, executed in 1862, bequeathed to the Council of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland a reversionary interest in the estate of Sibster, subject to the liferent of a relative. The sum from the reversion was to be held in trust by the Council, and the annual interest to be paid to a Lecturer, Reader, or Professor of Archæology, according to whichever title the Council might select. The appointment of the Lecturer, either for life or for a term of years, was vested in the Council, and he was to be bound to deliver annually a course of not less than six lectures on some branch of Archæology, Ethnography, Ethnology, or some allied topic, in a suitable place—admission of both sexes of the public to be free or by a moderate payment, as the Council might determine.

Mr Rhind's relative died in 1873, and in 1874 the trustees on Mr Rhind's estate paid over to the Council a sum of £5500. At the end of that year the first Lecturer was appointed, and the first course of lectures was delivered in 1876. Since that time twenty-five courses have been delivered by nineteen Lecturers. These have eventuated in the publication of fourteen separate volumes at the charge of their authors,

and in addition to this, two of the courses appeared in a *Quarterly Review.*

The establishment of this Lectureship gave dignity to the Society, which of itself was a practical advantage. But its usefulness lay mainly in deepening and widening the interest of Scotland in the work of the Society. Very different subjects have been discussed in the separate courses. They were always seriously handled, as is evidenced by their frequent appearance afterwards in book form. The audiences may be described as having always been large, and there has been no difficulty in finding Lecturers—men known to have given attention to some suitable subject, and consequently able to speak about it with authority.

So ends my Address. I have endeavoured to show what the position of the Society now is, and how it has reached that position. I have not said anything of its future, but I venture to think that what has been disclosed regarding its work during the last half century is prophetic only of good.