

MONDAY, 11th April 1904.

ROBERT MUNRO, M.D., LL.D.,  
Vice-President, in the Chair.

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

FRANCIS CAIRD INGLIS, Rock House, Calton Hill.

LIONEL GRAHAM HORTON-SMITH, Barrister-at-Law, 53 Queen's Gardens,  
Lancaster Gate, London.

Major-General T. R. STEVENSON, C.B., of Sunnyside, Lanark.

H. STEWARD WATLING, Architect, 86 Whiting Street, Bury St  
Edmunds.

The following Donations to the Museum and Library were laid on the table, and thanks voted to the Donors:—

(1) By the daughters of the late General Sir JOHN MACDONALD,  
K.C.B.

Late Celtic Armlet of Bronze,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches internal diameter, in the shape of a coiled snake, of  $3\frac{1}{2}$  twists, both ends terminating in conventionalised heads. It was found in Rannoch before 1833, along with another armlet now in the Museum, and some other articles now lost. [See the subsequent communication by Dr Joseph Anderson.]

(2) By Mrs D. O. HILL.

Two necklaces, one of bronze beads, chains and pendants, the other of bronze and glass beads mingled, found in ancient tombs at Perugia, Italy.

(3) By Mr JOHN MILNE, Maud, Aberdeenshire.

Axe of Grey Granite,  $10\frac{1}{2}$  inches in length, by 3 inches across the cutting face, and 2 inches in thickness, found near the Giant's Cairn, on the farm of Cairnhill of Bruxie, parish of Old Deer.

(4) By Sir T. D. GIBSON-CARMICHAEL, Bart., F.S.A. Scot.

Baton of a Constable of the Scots Parliament,  $27\frac{3}{4}$  inches in length, and bearing on both ends the seal of the Earl of Errol, High Constable.

(5) By A. W. LYONS.

Baton of the Dalkeith Constabulary, 1845, painted.

(6) By SPENCER GEORGE PERCEVAL.

Small Brooch of Silver, gilt, in form of the figures 45 (in allusion to No. 45 of the *North Briton*), and inscribed WILKES AND LIBERTY.

(7) By W. J. GRANT, Beldornie Castle.

Cast of a Whinstone Boulder,  $25\frac{1}{2}$  by 20 inches, with Cups and Rings, found at Hilton, Glass, Aberdeenshire, now preserved at Beldornie Castle, Huntly.

(8) By Mrs ERSKINE, of Kinnedar.

Table-Salt of White Lambeth Delft, standing on four feet, used in an Orkney family for over a century.

(9) By Miss DRYSDALE, of Westerwood, through Rev. W. FINDLAY.

Stone Ball,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches diameter, one of four found near the Roman Fort at Westerwood, on the Antonine Vallum.

(10) By Mr J. P. WATSON, W.S.

Triangular Dagger-blade, of iron, with tang, the three faces of the blade concave, found in the bed of the burn at Invergowrie.

(11) By Mr *JOSEPH PRATT*, farmer, *Crookahill*.

Portion of human hair, 10 inches in length, and very black in colour, from a small burial cairn at *Crookahill*, *New Aberdour*, *Aberdeenshire*, under 5 feet of peat. The hair has been examined, microscopically and otherwise, by *Dr T. H. Bryce*, who pronounces it to be unquestionably human hair.

(12) By *GILBERT GOUDIE*, F.S.A. Scot., the Author.

*The Celtic and Scandinavian Antiquities of Shetland.* Svo, 1904.

There was also Exhibited :—

By *Rev. D. G. BARRON*, *Dunnottar Manse*.

A small Gold Reliquary found in *Dunnottar Castle*. This little Reliquary (fig. 1), beautifully designed, and most elaborately ornamented

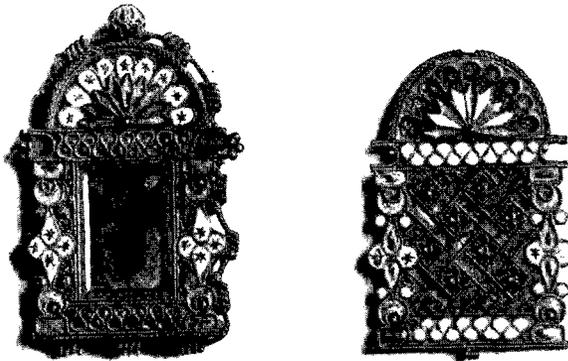


Fig. 1. Front and Back of Gold Reliquary found at *Dunnottar Castle*.  
(Slightly enlarged.)

with filigree work and enamels, measures  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches in length by  $\frac{7}{8}$  inch in breadth. It is in the form of a locket, the back opening on a hinge at

the bottom and fastening at the top by a catch. The pin of the hinge is gone, and the back being now loose, is shown separately in the illustration (fig. 1). When closed it forms a box about  $\frac{1}{8}$  of an inch in depth. In the middle of the front is a panel filled with an enamel portrait apparently of a saint, with a nimbus (?) round the head. The enamel is much faded and in parts scaled off, but enough remains to show a green background with diagonal reticulations. The background behind the head is a square with a rounded top, apparently of gold leaf. The coloured enamels in the spaces made by the filigree ornamentation to right and left of the picture panel, and in the semicircle over it, are decayed and their colours altered, but the white enamels, each with a gold star of six points in the centre, have not suffered. In the semi-circular upper part of the lid, the groundwork of the design is the same as on the front, but the enamels are reversed, the whites filling the spaces of the semi-rosette of nine petals and the coloured enamels filling the spaces round it. In consequence of this reversal the coloured enamels had each a gold star of six points in the centre, and the coloured enamels having decayed, the stars are alone left in the spaces. In the large panel in the centre of the lid the oblong rectangular spaces disposed in a kind of key pattern enclosing squares with quatrefoils of filigree work have been filled with coloured enamel, which is entirely decayed, and the quatrefoils have each had a globular setting in the centre, of which only three now remain. On this side also nearly all the white enamels are perfectly preserved. It is a most exquisite piece of workmanship, and its story has an element of romantic interest illustrating the perilous nature of the chances to which such objects may be subjected when they are not placed for preservation in some permanent public collection.

In a letter to Dr Anderson, the Rev. D. G. Barron thus tells the story of the Reliquary:—

“It belonged to a former keeper of Dunnottar Castle, who possessed a large collection of curios of all kinds. His family had been long resident in the neighbourhood, his ancestors having apparently been

servitors of the Earls Marischal. On his death his possessions fell into the hands of his sister, from whom I first heard of the Reliquary. She described it as Queen Mary's Locket; said it had been found in the Castle, when or by whom I know not, and *must* have been the Queen's, 'because it had her picture on the outside of it.' I often expressed a desire to see it, and she promised over and over again to show it me, but always had some excuse for putting me off. After her death, some three years ago, I spoke to her executors and asked them to look out for the 'locket.' They made diligent search among her effects, but could find no trace of it, and had come to imagine, I fancy, that it had never had any existence except in my imagination. Two years elapsed, when one day they resolved to break up an old worm-eaten trunk which had remained in the house after everything else had been removed. A party got the trunk to demolish, and in doing so found that it had a false bottom, which concealed a hidden chamber, in which was a little box containing five early Victorian sovereigns in almost Mint condition—and the Locket."

The following Communications were read :—