

MONDAY, 9th May 1904.

Mr GILBERT GOUDIE in the Chair.

A Ballot having been taken, Mr ALEXANDER MACKIE, Clerk of Works, Abernethy, recommended by the Council, was elected a Corresponding Member of the Society.

The following were duly elected Fellows :—

Sir MATTHEW ARTHUR, Bart., of Carlung, Fullarton, Troon.  
 EDWARD J. BROOK, of Hoddam Castle, Ecclefechan.  
 Rev. JAMES STEEL, D.D., Vicar of Howorth, Newcastle-on-Tyne.

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

(1) By LUDOVIC M'LELLAN MANN, F.S.A. Scot.

Two *Tribula*, or Threshing-Sledges of wood, having their under surfaces studded with rows of chipped flints, for threshing corn on a threshing-floor, from Cavalla, in European Turkey. (See the subsequent Communication by Mr Mann.)

Three Oval Trimmed Flakes of Quartz, which the donor saw made at Broussa as "teeth" to be mounted in a *tribulum* or threshing-sledge; and one similar Flake of Flint from Xanthi.

(2) By J. M. MACKINLAY, F.S.A. Scot.

Influence of the Pre-Reformation Church on Scottish Place Names. 8vo. 1904.

(3) By ROBERT MUNRO, M.D., LL.D., *Vice-President*, the Author.

Man as Artist and Sportsman in the Palæolithic Period. Reprint from the *Proceedings* of the Royal Society of Edinburgh.

(4) By the FRANCO-SCOTTISH SOCIETY.

*Transactions* of the Franco-Scottish Society. Vol. iii., Part 2.

- (5) By J. T. WALKER, Senator for Sydney, N. S. Wales, through JOHN HUME, London.

Photographic copies of the Charters of East and West Reston to George Achincralb, of which type-written copies were previously given by Mr John Hume, as noticed in the present volume at p. 254.

The following articles acquired by the Purchase Committee for the Museum and Library during the session, 30th November to 9th May, were also exhibited :—

A Flint Knife and Scraper, ten Whorls, and three pierced Stones, from Hawick.

A Collection of Flint Implements, from Low Mye, Stoneykirk.

Urn, of food-vessel type, from a cist at Rosemarkie. The urn (fig. 1) is 6 inches in height and  $6\frac{1}{2}$  inches in diameter across the mouth,

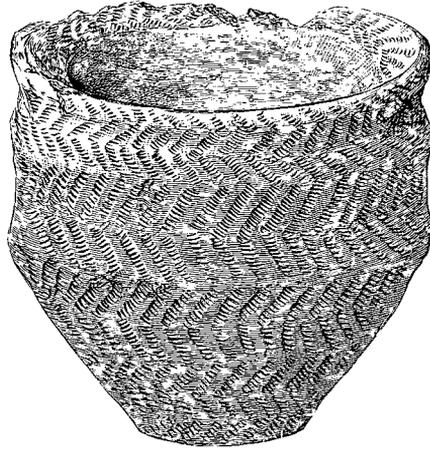


Fig. 1. Urn of food-vessel type found in a cist at Rosemarkie. ( $\frac{1}{3}$ .)

widening slightly to the shoulder moulding about 3 inches underneath the rim. The rim is slightly everted and bevelled towards the interior, and there is a slight moulding nearly half-way between it and the

shoulder. From the shoulder the under part slopes regularly to the base, which is 3 inches in diameter. The whole exterior surface is covered with a chevrony ornamentation, as with the teeth of a comb-like instrument, the markings being about an inch in length, fully  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch in breadth, and having about 17 tooth-marks in that space. The interior bevel of the lip is also ornamented in the same manner. It was found in a cist which was discovered in digging a drain in the grounds of the Manse at Rosemarkie last autumn. The cist was about 3 feet long by 26 inches wide at one end and 23 inches at the other, and about 30 inches deep. The cover was a large boulder stone, 4 feet 6 inches in length, from 3 to 4 feet in width, and about a foot thick. The sides and ends of the cist, which lay nearly north and south, were rough flat-sided boulders of whinstone. The interment was unburnt, and the urn was in the south end of the cist. The site of the grave was on the top of a rising ground facing the Moray Firth. The circumstances of the find were kindly communicated by Rev. J. Macdowal, Minister of Rosemarkie, and the urn was recovered by the King's and Lord Treasurer's Remembrancer.

Stone Ball,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches in diameter, with four slightly projecting discs, found on the top of Ben Tharsom, Ardross, Ross-shire.

Two Crampits of Leather, with long spikes in the soles, worn by shepherds in winter, from Killin.

Silver Badge Prize, of the Académie Française de Le Brun, Edimbourg, 1780.

A Sewed Sampler, in frame, dated 1853.

A Collection of Stone Implements, chiefly from Aberdeenshire and Banffshire, comprising—11 Stone Axes; 1 perforated Hammer; 3 Stone Balls, with projecting discs; 54 Flint Arrow-heads, with stems and barbs; 100 Arrow-heads, of leaf and lozenge shape; and 2 hollow-based Arrow-heads; also 16 large oval Flint Implements from Montana, United States.

Ancient Scottish Harp, long in possession of the family of the Robertsons of Lude, and afterwards of the Steuarts of Dalguise. This

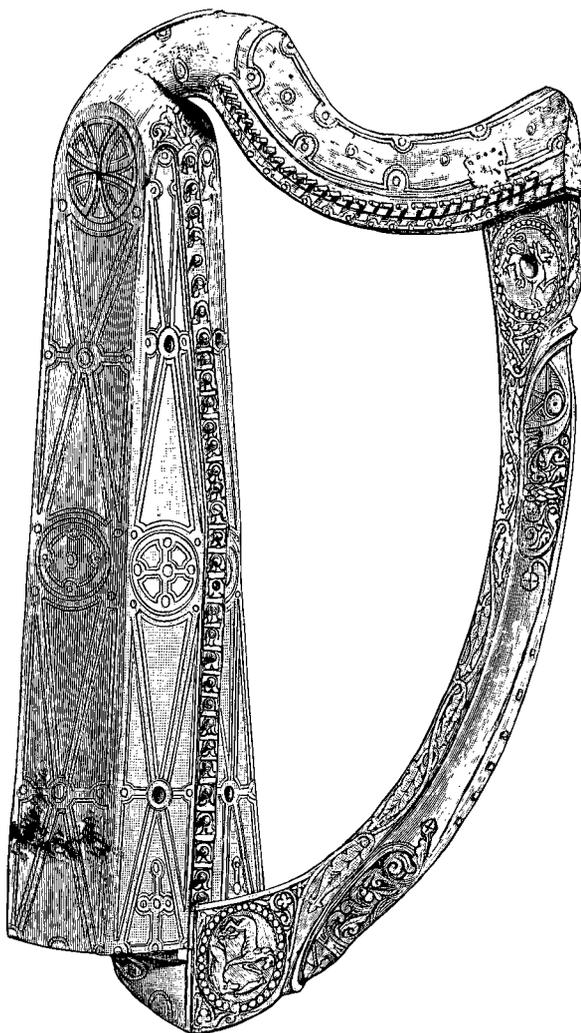


Fig. 2. The Dalgwise Harp.

fine example of the ancient Scottish harp, which, with another of larger size and less elaborately ornamented, has been exhibited on loan in the Museum since 1880, was acquired at the Dalguise sale in March last. It has been previously figured and described by the late Charles D. Bell, F.S.A. Scot., in the *Proceedings*, vol. xv., and the illustration of the harp and a summary of the description are here repeated:—

The length of the harp (fig. 2) is 31 inches, and the extreme breadth 18 inches. The sounding box, which is hollowed out of the solid, is 5 inches wide at the top and 12 inches at the bottom, with a thickness of  $4\frac{1}{2}$  inches, and has a swell of front from ends and sides to the middle of the string-hole band of  $1\frac{1}{4}$  inches. The string-hole band is pierced by 29 holes, each of which is protected on the upper side by a horse-shoe-shaped brass border.

The upper arm of the harp, which carries the pins for the strings, has a peculiar double curve, altering in section from oval at the junction with the top of the box to triangular at the outer extremity. It is strengthened on each side by a brass band  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch in width, pierced by 29 pin-holes, in each of which is a pin. There is an additional pin-hole below the line of the others in front, in which there is a shorter pin.

The bow or front of the harp rises 4 inches from the chord of the arc of the inner curve, which measures 23 inches. The flat part at the upper insertion measures  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches by  $1\frac{1}{4}$  inches, and the corresponding part of the lower insertion  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches by 2 inches in width and thickness. The front of the middle portion has a rounded swell, ending both ways in boldly carved heads of animals, and the projecting block at the bottom of the box against which the lower end of the bow is fixed is also carved into the similitude of an animal's head.

The ornamentation on the box and upper arm of the harp consists of geometrical patterns of lines, circles, and crosses, except on the upper part of the front of the box (fig. 3), where there is a fine semicircular panel of foliaceous ornament. The right and left sides of the bow or front of the harp have each near the upper and lower ends a circular space 3 inches

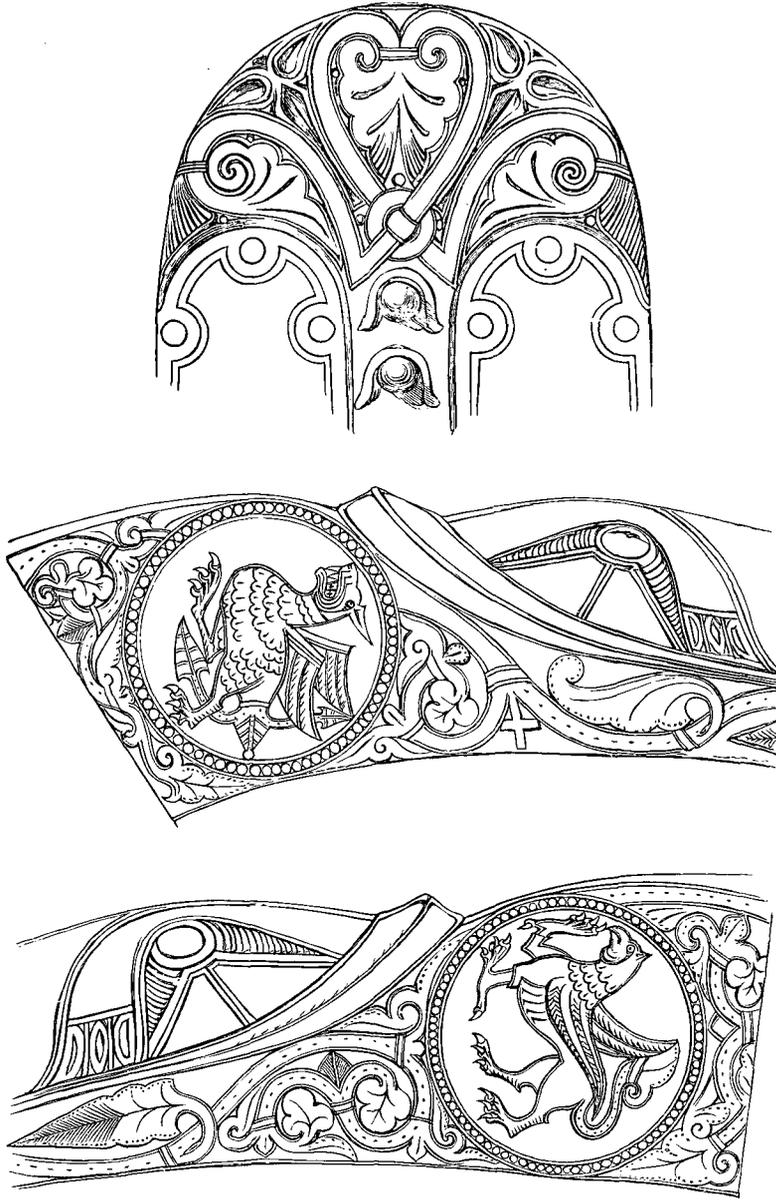


Fig. 3. Ornamentation of the upper part of the box and of the upper and lower ends of the bow of the Dalguise Harp on the left side.

in diameter surrounded by a pellet border. That on the upper right side is filled with a figure of a lion, unfortunately disfigured by a circular sunk space made subsequently for a setting of some kind. On the lower end the medallion-like space contains a group of animal figures consisting of a horse with its left fore-paw, uplifted over a crouching animal with a twisted tail ending in a triangular-shaped leaf, and holding a fish in its mouth by the head. On the lower left side (fig. 3) the medallion-like space contains a griffin with its right fore-paw uplifted, and the upper a nondescript animal with wings and a triple tail ending in triangular leaves. The flat part of the bow between these medallions is ornamented with a running pattern of foliageous scroll-work, while the inner curve or edge is occupied by a pattern of interlaced linear ornament. On the rounded swell of the front, next to the animals' heads, are two symmetrical patterns of interlaced work of foliageous scrolls carved in bold relief.

Both these harps were described and figured by Mr John Gunn in his *Historical Inquiry respecting the Performance on the Harp in the Highlands*, published under the patronage of the Highland Society of Scotland in 1807. They have also been recently described and figured with great care and accuracy by Mr R. B. Armstrong, F.S.A. Scot., in a work on *The Irish and Highland Harps*, 1904.

The following books purchased for the Library :—

Thoyt's How to Decipher Old Documents; Laking's Armoury of Windsor Castle; Taylor's Journey to Edenborough in Scotland; Chrystal's Kingdom of Kippen; Joyce's Social History of Ireland; A Royalist Family and Prince Charles Edward, 1689-1789; Fittis's Ecclesiastical Annals of Perth, Renwick's Peebles in Early History; Forrest's History and Antiquities of St Leonard's Hospital, Edinburgh.

There was also exhibited :—

By Mr ALEXANDER GRAY, New Deer, Aberdeenshire.

A Mould of Sandstone, for flat bronze axes and bars, 9 inches by  $6\frac{1}{2}$  inches, and  $2\frac{3}{4}$  inches in thickness, much weathered on one face,

bearing on the best-preserved face a mould for a flat bronze axe  $5\frac{1}{4}$  inches in length by  $3\frac{1}{4}$  inches in breadth at the cutting end and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches at the butt end. The cavity is smoothed, about half an inch in depth in the middle, rising towards either end. On the reverse face are two cavities, both much weathered. One is for a flat bronze axe  $3\frac{1}{4}$  inches in length, by about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches in breadth across the cutting face, and  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch at the butt end. The other cavity is for a bar  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches in length by about  $\frac{5}{8}$  inch in width. On one of the edges of the mould is a cavity for a chisel-shaped instrument 6 inches in length by  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch in width at the broader end, narrowing very gradually to little more than half an inch at the other end. The difference is so slight that it may be merely intended for a mould for a bar or ingot. This mould was found about two years ago in the parish of New Deer, Aberdeenshire, and is now in Mr Gray's collection.

The following Communications were read :—