

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES OF SCOTLAND.

HUNDRED AND TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION, 1905-1906.

ANNIVERSARY MEETING, 30th November 1905.

THE RIGHT HON. SIR HERBERT MAXWELL, BART., LL.D., M.P.,
President, in the Chair.

Sir James Balfour Paul and George Neilson, LL.D., were appointed
Scrutineers of the Ballot for the election of Office-Bearers and Councillors.

The Ballot having been concluded, the Scrutineers found and declared
the List of the Council for the ensuing year to be as follows :—

President.

THE RIGHT HON. SIR HERBERT E. MAXWELL, BART., LL.D., M.P.

Vice-Presidents.

Lieut.-Col. A. B. M'HARDY, C.B.
The Right Hon. LORD BALCARRES.
DAVID CHRISTISON, M.D.

Councillors.

Sir ARTHUR MITCHELL, K.C.B., M.D., LL.D.,	} <i>Representing the Board of Trustees.</i>	JAMES ROBERT REID.
The Hon. HEW HAMIL- TON DALRYMPLE,		Sir JOHN STIRLING MAXWELL, Bart. Sir GEORGE DOUGLAS, Bart. HEW MORRISON, LL.D.
Sir KENNETH J. MACKENZIE, Bart., <i>Representing the Treasury.</i>		THOMAS ROSS. J. D. G. DALRYMPLE.
Prof. G. BALDWIN BROWN.		J. GRAHAM CALLANDER.
Right Rev. JOHN DOWDEN, D.D.		

Secretaries.

WILLIAM K. DICKSON. | ALEX. O. CURLE.

For Foreign Correspondence.

Prof. A. H. SAYCE, M.A., LL.D., D.D. | J. MAITLAND THOMSON, LL.D.

Treasurer.

JOHN NOTMAN, F.F.A., 28 St Andrew Square.

Curators of the Museum.

Rev. JOHN DUNS, D.D. | ALEXANDER J. S. BROOK.

Curator of Coins.

GEORGE MACDONALD, M.A.

Librarian.

JAMES CURLE.

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

ROBERT PENRICE LEE BOOKER, Eton College, Windsor.
KENNETH COCHRANE, Newfaan, Galashiels.
ROBERT DE CARDONNEL FINDLAY of Easterhill, 14 Stafford Place, London.
ROBERT KERR, 17 Cornwall Street.
EDWARD BRUCE LOW, M.A., B.L., S.S.C., 6 Gordon Terrace.
JAMES ADAM NORRIE, Taybeach Cottage, Broughty Ferry.

JOHN ROBERTS, C.M.G., Dunedin, New Zealand.
 W. G. AITCHISON ROBERTSON, M.D., D.Sc., F.R.C.P.E., 26 Minto Street.
 JAMES ALEXANDER ROLLO, Solicitor, Argyle House, Maryfield, Dundee.
 Sir ROBERT USHER of Norton and Wells, Bart., 37 Drumsheugh Gardens.

The meeting resolved to record their sense of the loss the Society had sustained in the deaths of the following Members deceased since last Annual Meeting :—

Lady Associate.

	Elected
Mrs RAMSAY, Kildalton, Islay,	1883

Fellows.

THOMAS STUART ANDERSON, Barns o' Woodside, Newburgh, Fife,	1865
WILLIAM ADAIR ATKINSON, of Knockfarrie, Pitlochry,	1886
DAVID CORSAR, The Elms, Arbroath,	1901
GEORGE LILLIE CRAIK, 2 West Halkin Street, London,	1879
HENRY GRIFFITH, Clifton Spa, Bristol,	1889
JOHN ARCHIBALD PARK, Eastwood, Dunkeld,	1896
Lieut.-Col. GEORGE GLAS SANDEMAN, of Fonab, Pitlochry,	1894
ANDREW SEMPLE, M.D., Deputy Surgeon-General, 10 Forres Street,	1881
Sir JOHN SIBBALD, M.D., 13 Great King Street,	1879
JAMES SMAIL, 7 Bruntsfield Crescent,	1879
W. M'COMBIE SMITH, Persie, Blairgowrie,	1891
The Right Hon. THE EARL OF SOUTHESK,	1882
JOHN HUNTER TAIT, Advocate, 43 Moray Place,	1903
CHARLES TOMLINSON, Healey, Rochdale,	1896

Dr Christison, Secretary, read the following Report on the progress and work of the Society during the past year :—

The Roll of Membership.—In the Report of 1902-3 it was shown that the average annual addition to the Roll, necessary to keep up our strength to about 700, was 36. In the following year our losses through deaths, resignations, and lapses were no less than 47; and as our recruits only numbered 29, the total number of Fellows was reduced from 706 to 688. Fortunately, last year the conditions were reversed: 39 new members were elected, and as our losses amounted only to 21 (14 from

deaths, 5 from resignations, and 2 from lapses), the number on the Roll again stands at 706.

Publications.—The thirty-ninth volume of *Proceedings*, of which an advance copy lies on the table, contains 33 papers; they may be divided into two classes, the first dealing mainly with the description of finds, excavations, buildings, etc.; the second—more literary in treatment—with historical, topographical, and similar subjects. No less than 29 of the papers belong to the first division, and they may be classed chronologically as Prehistoric (12); Protohistoric (9); Mediæval (5); Post-Reformation (3).

Prehistoric subjects have always predominated in our volumes, chiefly because the flow of finds to the Museum and elsewhere is almost continuous from that department, whereas from the others it is uncertain and intermittent.

In the *Protohistoric period* I include subjects belonging to the dawn of the written history of our country, when some feeble light was thrown on it by Roman authors and British and Irish chroniclers and annalists. The main strength of this department depends on excavations, chiefly those undertaken by the Society.

The Mediæval papers are descriptive of ancient buildings and architectural remains, but include the record of a find of coins.

The *Post-Reformation subjects* treat of Kirkyard Monuments and objects found in buildings of the period.

The *literary or historical and topographical division* contains only five papers. The workers in this department of our science are either relatively few, or do not often communicate their results to the Society. Possibly it is not generally known that in our Laws it is laid down that “the purpose of the Society shall be the promotion of

archæology, especially as connected with the investigation of the antiquities and *history* of Scotland, in its relation to archæology. Certainly such papers as we have been favoured with of late by Sir Arthur Mitchell, Bishop Dowden, and others might be multiplied with advantage in our *Proceedings*.

Early Christian Monuments of Scotland.—Ten copies of this standard work have been sold in the course of the year, making 324 in all; and 20 copies having been distributed gratis, 56 remain in stock, out of the original issue of 400.

Excavations undertaken by the Society.

A. *Roman Excavations.*—The excavation of *Rough Castle*, superintended by Mr Mungo Buchanan, was accomplished in 1903, but the Report was unavoidably delayed till last year, and will appear in the forthcoming volume. Separate copies will be distributed to all the subscribers to the Fund raised in 1903 for Roman excavations.

The excavation of *Barhill*, undertaken by Mr Alexander Whitelaw of Gartshore, the proprietor, and superintended by Mr Alexander Park, F.S.A. Scot., was described by Dr George Macdonald last session; but the unusual bulk and expense of the *Proceedings* for this year obliged us to postpone the publication of his Report till the subsequent volume.

Newstead.—It was stated in last year's Report that the Council hoped to be able to make some exploratory excavations at this acknowledged Roman site. This was done, and the results were so promising that it was resolved to solicit subscriptions for a thorough investigation of the place. The balance of the Fund for Roman excavations, amounting to £112, was devoted to the purpose, and, with some preliminary subscriptions, proved more than enough to defray the expenses during the present year; but, as the site turned out to be vastly larger than that of any of our previous undertakings, it was evident that at least another year's work, and a large addition to the available funds, were required, in order to do full justice to the investigation. A circular will therefore

be distributed, shortly, to persons likely to be interested in the work, and Mr Notman, our Treasurer, will be pleased to acknowledge any subscriptions, however small, from Fellows or others whom the circular may not reach. To all subscribers separate copies of the Reports, as they appear, will be sent. The Society is fortunate in having Mr James Curle to superintend the excavations, his residence in the immediate neighbourhood enabling him to keep a more constant watch over the work than has generally been possible in our former undertakings; and our experienced Clerk of Works, Mr Alexander Mackie, was reappointed to his old post.

B. *British Excavations*.—Under the Fund for this object, furnished by the Hon. John Abercromby, a considerable amount of work was accomplished.

Of a prehistoric kind were (1) the excavation of nondescript structures in Shetland and near Kinross, by Mr Abercromby and Dr Munro, with the result of discovering all that could be known of the facts that lay beneath the surface, although the origin and objects of the structures could not be satisfactorily made out.

(2) The results of Dr Thomas H. Bryce's excavations of a megalithic structure on the Holy Loch, and of a Mound near Biggar, marked "Tumulus" on the Ordnance map, were unfortunately so negative that he did not think it worth while to bring them before the Society. The mound has been called a mote, but he found it had none of the specific characters of a mote. The upper ten or twelve feet proved to be of forced earth, but the lower six or eight were the natural soil. Negative results, however, are not without their value.

(3) A larger investigation, protohistoric in kind, was accomplished in the excavation of four forts on the Pottaloch Estate, by permission of Colonel Malcolm, R.E., C.B. Of special interest were (1) the discovery that the supposed Broch at *Ardifuar* was not a broch, so that the southern limit of the known brochs of the West Highlands has to be withdrawn to the island of Lismore; (2) the proof obtained that at the vitrified

fort of *Duntroon* only the inner face had been vitrified, the outer face being of dry masonry, that only the stones of the place were used, and that no flux had been employed; these were all new and unexpected facts, but besides, the finds were such as to suggest that the "vitrified forts" might be anterior in date to the ordinary forts. (3) Of still greater interest were the results at Dunadd, the early capital of the Scots, the complicated fortifications of which were thoroughly traced, within which a great number and variety of relics were found, showing that the inhabitants used crucibles for melting bronze, numerous stone moulds for casting ingots and implements, compasses which aided them in drawing designs on stone, bronze pins, and bone pins and combs. These and other finds, particularly the great abundance of querns, proved that the fortress was no mere temporary refuge; and this other important fact was ascertained—namely, that the inhabitants did not dwell in *cytiau* or stone houses. Christian influence was also proved by the words *in nomine* neatly engraved in Irish-like minuscules, and by a cross-potent carved on a quern.

By these Poltalloch investigations a foundation has been laid for two important lines of inquiry:—First, is there really a class of "vitrified forts" of an earlier date than the ordinary hill forts? Secondly, do the large forts in Pictish Scotland in general, such as the White Caterthun, resemble the primitive capital of the Scots in structure and contents? We already know that the walls of Burghead and of the citadel at Abernethy differ in having logs of wood incorporated in the substance of the wall, as in the Gaulish forts described by Julius Cæsar. The same questions may also be put regarding Dundurn, the reputed capital of Fortrenn.

Museum and Library.

(a) *Donations.*—The National Collection has been enriched in the past year by numerous donations. Although none were on the great scale of one or two that were chronicled in last Report, considerable collections of prehistoric articles were presented by Mr H. W. Seton-Kerr,

Wimbledon, Colonel J. P. Robertson, C.B., Callander, and Mr Joseph Downs, Irvine; and, supplementary to a previous gift, Mr Robert Christison of Lammermoor, Queensland, contributed a number of weapons and implements collected by himself from the native tribes in his neighbourhood.

A considerable number of books were also presented; but our special thanks are due to Dr Erskine Beveridge for his munificent gift of *The Dictionary of National Biography* in sixty-nine volumes.

(b) *Purchases*.—Although sadly crippled through the appropriation by the Treasury towards the acquisition of the “Queen Mary” Harp of more than half of the Annual Grant for the year, the Council have nevertheless effected several important purchases, including a large Bronze Caldron from Peeblesshire, and a Sepulchral Urn from Caithness, both recovered by the King’s Remembrancer; a Collection of Flint Implements found at Bonchester, Hawick, and another from Torrs, Glenluce; and a Mediæval Jar from Lochmaben, interesting because there are so few specimens of mediæval pottery in the Museum.

Report of the Departmental Committee upon the Board of Manufactures.—The recommendation of this Committee “that an addition of £200 a year shall be made to the grant for maintenance” to the National Museum, was passed through Parliament, and has been given effect to by the Treasury. Its destination is to make a much-needed increase in the salaries of the Staff. Effect has not yet been given to the other recommendations in our favour, as they are mixed up with the proposed measures regarding the National Gallery, etc., which are still under consideration.

Finally, it is much to be regretted that every effort to induce the Treasury to withdraw the obnoxious conditions of the purchase of the “Queen Mary” Harp, whereby the Society is left almost entirely destitute of the means of adding to the National Collection and Library for the next two years, have failed. The Council, therefore, look more

than ever to the generosity of the Fellows, to make up by donations in some measure for the deficiency thus caused.

The Treasurer submitted a statement of the Society's funds, which was ordered to be printed and circulated among the Fellows.

The Secretary read the Annual Report to the Board of Trustees, as follows :—

ANNUAL REPORT to the Board of Trustees for Manufactures in Scotland by the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, with reference to the National Museum of Antiquities under their charge, for the year ending 30th September 1905 :—

During the year the Museum has been open to the public as formerly, and has been visited by 15,464 persons, of whom 1202 were visitors on pay days, and 14,262 on free days.

The number of objects of antiquity added to the Museum during the year has been 726 by donation and 66 by purchase ; and the number of volumes added to the Library has been 205 by donation and 25 by purchase.

Among the donations to the Museum may be mentioned a collection of 332 objects obtained in course of the excavation by the Society of the Forts of Dunadd and Duntroon, Argyleshire, presented with consent of the proprietor, Colonel E. W. Malcolm, C.B., of Poltalloch ; and a collection of 114 objects obtained from the excavation by the Society of the Roman Fort of Rough Castle, on the Antonine Wall, near Falkirk, presented with consent of the proprietors, Mr Forbes of Callander and the Very Rev. Dr J. C. Russell.

Among the donations to the Library may be mentioned a set of *The Dictionary of National Biography* (69 vols.), presented by Erskine Beveridge, LL.D., F.S.A. Scot., of Vallay and St Leonard's Hill, Dunfermline.

D. CHRISTISON, *Secretary.*

MONDAY, 11th December 1905.

LIEUT.-COL. A. B. M'HARDY, C.B., Vice-President, in the Chair.

A ballot having been taken,

Mr HUGH DONALDSON, Camelon, Falkirk

was duly elected a Fellow of the Society.

The following purchases acquired by the Purchase Committee for the Museum and Library during the year ending 30th November 1905 were exhibited :—

Finger-ring of copper, the body of the ring flat and strap-shaped, a small ivory knob and a black button, found in digging a foundation at Liberton.

Snuff-horn made of a ram's horn, $11\frac{1}{2}$ inches across the curve, with a hinged iron lid and iron mountings and chain, found under the hearth-stone of an old house in Gallowgate, Aberdeen.

Whorl of sandstone, scored on both sides with one concentric ring and twelve radiating lines, found at Delvine, Perthshire.

Fancy Box of wood, $7\frac{3}{8}$ inches in length, 5 inches in breadth, and $1\frac{7}{8}$ inches in depth, the interior divided into three compartments, and having a small mirror fixed on the inside of the lid, the exterior overlaid with designs and pictorial representations of houses, etc., executed in coloured straw, made by French prisoners in Edinburgh Castle.

Teetotum, inlaid with wood of the Fortingall Yew.

Bronze Spearhead, $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length, with a flat loop on each side of the socket, ploughed up at Cauldshiels, East Lothian.

Five leaf-shaped Arrow-heads of flint; one Arrow-head with barbs and stem; one small Fabricator, $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches in length; one double-edged Saw, $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches in length, the edges slightly concave; five Scrapers

and two Flakes—all found in one field at Easter Balgillo, Tannadice, Forfarshire.

Flanged Axe of bronze, $6\frac{5}{8}$ inches in length by $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches in breadth over the cutting edge, with pronounced flanges and stop-ridges, found in digging a foundation near the Convalescent Home at Corstorphine.

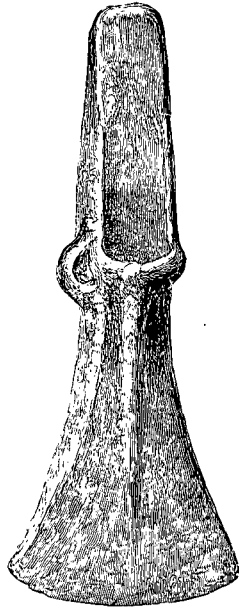


Fig. 1. Bronze Axe or Palstave from the Caldonshill hoard. ($\frac{1}{2}$.)

Flanged Axe of bronze, $5\frac{1}{4}$ inches in length and $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches across the cutting face, with pronounced flanges and stop-ridges; and slightly flanged Axe, $4\frac{3}{4}$ inches in length, with narrow upper part, expanding to an almost semicircular cutting edge, $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches in breadth—both found in Aberdeenshire.

Five bronze Axes, of palstave form, considerably corroded on the surface, being part of a hoard of seven found in the beginning of June

1905, on the farm of Caldonshill, in the parish of Stoneykirk, Wigtownshire. They were found all together about a foot below a hedge which was being removed from the front of the farmhouse. Mr Blair, the farmer, did not at first recognise the importance of the find, having never seen bronze axes, and they were left lying about till the beginning of July, when others happened to see them and they were dispersed. One found its way to the National Museum in July, the other four were recovered by the King's Remembrancer, and two have not been traced. Three of the five in the Museum are of the variety having a rather narrow upper part with slight flanges, a side-loop, and an expanding lower part, with a prominent swelling or mid-rib tapering towards the cutting face. They are nearly the same size, about $6\frac{3}{4}$ inches in length by $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches across the cutting face. Only one (fig. 1) retains the side-loop, which seems to have failed in the casting, as it remains unperforated. The fourth axe is of the same variety, but has been broken, and only the lower part remains. The fifth is smaller in size, being only $5\frac{3}{4}$ inches in length by $2\frac{1}{8}$ inches in breadth across the cutting face, and has no loop at the side, but prominent wings, a well-developed stop-ridge, and no mid-rib.

Carved Panel of oak (fig. 2), 1 foot 11 inches in height by 10 inches in breadth, having in the upper part a figure of a horseman, bearded and looking backwards, and underneath two grotesque figures, and a female figure, nude, and holding in one hand a club upraised, and with the other grasping what seems to be the tail of a serpent. The panel is said to have been taken from the parish church when it was pulled down in 1811. It passed into the possession of the Fifeshire Antiquarian Society, from whom it has now been acquired for the National Museum through the good offices of Rev. James Campbell, D.D., F.S.A. Scot., Minister of Balmerino. The Society is also indebted to Rev. Dr Campbell for the use of the block from his *Balmerino and its Abbey: A Parish History* (new edition), 1899, published by W. Blackwood & Sons, Edinburgh. The panel is supposed to have come originally either from the Abbey of Balmerino, or from its chapel of St Ayle.



Fig. 2. Carved Panel of oak from Balmerino. (1.)

Nine Communion Tokens, including Liberton, with the figure of the old church on reverse; Peterculter, 1787; Rothiemay (no date); Dunse, 1771; Carnwath, 1807; Kingussie, 1802; and three others.

Crown Half-Groat of James II., Aberdeen Mint—an unpublished example. It was found in the bank of the Burn of Balnaguard, in the parish of Grantully, by a man fishing there, and brought to the notice of the Society by Rev. John M'Lean, Grantully, F.S.A. Scot.

Index to the four volumes of General Pitt-Rivers's Excavations in Wiltshire, etc., 4to, 1905; The Burgh Records of Glasgow, vol. iii.; Rymer's *Fœdera, Conventiones, etc.* (London, 1727), 20 vols., folio; Dechelette's *Vases Céramique de la Gaule Romaine*, 2 vols.; Mortimer's *Forty Years' Researches in the Burial Mounds of Yorkshire*, 4to, 1905; Hampel's *Alterthumer des fruhen Mittelalters in Ungarn*, 3 vols., 4to, 1905.

The following Communications were read:—