

MONDAY, 11th May 1908.

SIR ARTHUR MITCHELL, K.C.B., M.D., LL.D., Vice-President, in the Chair.

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

ALEXANDER THOMSON CLAY, W.S., 18 South Learmonth Gardens.
 GEORGE CLINCH, F.G.S., 3 Meadowcroft, Sutton, Surrey.
 JOHN CUNNINGHAM MONTGOMERIE, of Dalmore, Stair, Ayrshire.
 JOHN PARKER WATSON, W.S., 14 Magdala Crescent.
 GEORGE HARVEY JOHNSTON, 22 Garscube Terrace.

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

(1) Presented, in memory of their father, by the family of the late ARCHIBALD STAVERT, of Hoscote.

Finely Polished Axe of green Avanturine Quartz, ploughed up at Cunzierton, Roxburghshire, in 1892. This fine axe (fig. 1), one of the very finest ever found in Scotland, is absolutely perfect, and retains its original polish from edge to butt. It measures $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length, $3\frac{3}{4}$ inches in greatest breadth across the cutting face, and its greatest thickness at about one-fourth of its length from the butt is only $\frac{5}{8}$ of an inch. Axes of this thin-bladed type, and made of a somewhat similar variety of stone, are rather rare in Scotland; but there are now in the National Museum eight specimens, all made of somewhat similar stone, of which three are from Perthshire, one from Fifeshire, one from Roxburghshire, one from Kirkcudbrightshire, one from Wigtonshire, and one the locality of which is unknown but supposed to be Midlothian. They have been found in Brittany, chiefly in dolmens, and the same form, made of jadeite, occasionally occurs in Central Europe.

(2) By ARCHIBALD SHOLTO DOUGLAS, Birkhill, Muckart.

Medal in Copper of George II. and Frederick of Prussia, found near the Manse of Muckart.

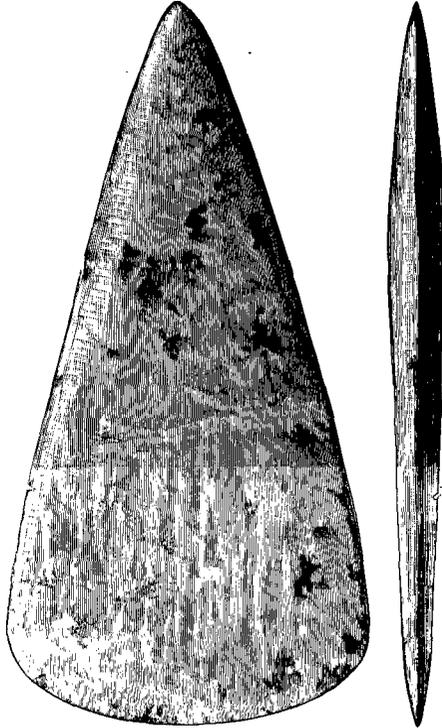


Fig. 1. Axe of Avandurine Quartz, from Cunzierton, Roxburghshire.

(3) By JOHN LANG, 2 Salisbury Road.

Stone Ball and Circular Stone with a concavity, used for grinding seeds by the natives, from Albury, New South Wales.

(4) By SENOR RUSO, per ARTURO LENGU, Almeria, Spain, through JOHN BRUCE, F.S.A. Scot.

Tribulum or Threshing-Sledge, with teeth of stone and of iron, from
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Alcantarilla, Province of Murcia, Spain. This instrument (fig. 2) is of great interest taken in connection with other two of the same kind from Cavalla in European Turkey, presented in 1904 by Mr Ludovic M'Lellan Mann, and described and figured in the *Proceedings*, vol. xxxviii. p. 506. The Spanish example is of smaller size and more roughly finished than the others, but it differs from them in the important particular that the "teeth" with which the under side is studded are, in the anterior, posterior and side rows, made of iron, the middle part of the rows being of flint or quartzite, whereas in the case of the Turkish specimens the whole of the "teeth" are of flint or quartzose stones. This survival of

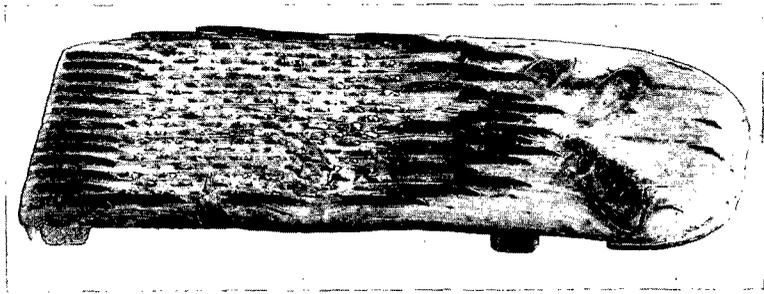


Fig. 2. Threshing Sledge from Alcantarilla, Spain.

the use of chipped flints to modern times in Europe is an interesting illustration of the past in the present, which has not received the attention it deserves from those who study archaic customs and their survivals. Mr Mann, in the paper above referred to, has given a very full description of the tribulum and its functions in connection with the grain and straw brought from the harvest-field and laid on the threshing-floor. He has also discussed the archæological relations, and the technical construction of the tribulum, and the manufacture and renewal of its flint-flake teeth, showing that, contrary to the opinion of some writers on prehistoric archæology, these modern flint flakes, which must be numerous in the agricultural soil, are finely chipped by a secondary

process which he witnessed in operation. He also mentions that in some parts of Turkey the threshing-sledge is armed with teeth of iron instead of flint or stone, the iron being used in the shape of nails driven in and turned over, a less successful method than the one exhibited in the Spanish example from Alcantarilla, in which the iron teeth are blades of wrought iron. It measures 3 feet 6 inches in length by $15\frac{1}{2}$ inches in breadth, the front being rounded off from side to side, and also rounded upwards with a considerable slope to the front. The under side is armed by 38 knife-shaped blades of iron disposed in rows at the front, down the sides, and at the back, with 14 rows of stone teeth in the centre, these rows numbering 10 and 9 alternately. The groups of knife-like blades of iron in front are disposed in 3 rows, the first row consisting of 3, the second of 7, and the third of 7, but so disposed that the hinder half of those in each row in front comes in between the front half of those in the row behind it. A single row of 3 blades goes down each margin on the outer side of the group of stone teeth, and a row of 13 blades across the hinder end of the sledge completes the armature. Of the 133 stone teeth the majority appear to be of quartz or quartzite, a few being of a light-coloured flint and some of a darkish greenstone. They are arranged in rows of 10 or 11, alternating with rows of 9, so that those of the shorter row come in line with the middle of the gap between those of the longer. The upper part of the sledge is strengthened by two transverse cross-bars firmly riveted on, one near the rear and the other near the front. In the front part, which is strengthened by a piece riveted on to the upper side, there is an iron staple, through which passes an iron draw-bar ending in a hook, the other end being fastened to the forward transverse bar, to which the traction rope or harness was affixed. Mr John Bruce communicates the further information that "the Spanish name for the implement is 'trillo,' the full name being 'Trillo de Piedras de Lumbre' (Harrow of Fire Stones). This particular implement was used up till about eight years ago. It is not at all common at present, and there are very few left in the country. What are being used now are either made entirely of iron or with wooden

rollers fitted with steel pikes or knives. The trillo in question came from Alcantarilla, in the Province of Murcia."

The following purchases, acquired by the Purchase Committee during the session 30th November 1907 to 11th May 1908, were exhibited:—

Flat Axe of bronze, 6 inches in length by $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches across the cutting face, found at The Lee, Innerleithen.

Stone Cup, $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter by $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches in depth, having a squarish, perforated handle at one side, and a slight groove round the rim on the outside, found at Old Scone, Perthshire.

Polished Axe of brownish basaltic stone, measuring $6\frac{3}{16}$ inches in length by $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches in breadth across the cutting face, by $1\frac{3}{16}$ in greatest thickness, of peculiar form, the body of the axe slightly oval in the cross-section, with broad, flattened sides, straight and almost parallel from butt to where they merge into the cutting edge, which is almost semicircular, said to have been found sixty years ago, or thereby, near Blairgowrie.

Polished and perforated Stone Hammer of indurated clay-slate, slightly oval in the cross-section and the ends slightly rounded, measuring almost 4 inches in length by $2\frac{3}{4}$ in breadth and 2 inches in thickness, the shaft hole nearly in the middle of the length of the implement and $1\frac{3}{16}$ inches in diameter, bored straight through, found near Birsay, Orkney.

Perforated Stone Hammer of reddish sandstone, oval in the cross-section and measuring $4\frac{3}{16}$ inches in length by $2\frac{5}{8}$ inches in breadth, and $2\frac{1}{8}$ inches in thickness, the shaft-hole nearly in the middle of the length and slightly wider at both orifices than in the middle, found at Forgandenny, Perthshire.

Whorl of reddish sandstone, plain, $1\frac{5}{8}$ inches in diameter.

Polished Axe of quartzose stone, slightly oval in the cross-section, measuring $3\frac{1}{8}$ inches in length by $1\frac{7}{8}$ inches in breadth and $1\frac{1}{8}$ inches in thickness, the sides roughened for hafting, found in making a road near Broadford, Skye.

Cup of steatite, shallow and saucer-like, measuring $4\frac{3}{8}$ inches by $3\frac{7}{8}$ inches and less than an inch in depth, found in making a road near Broadford, Skye.

Brooch of brass, circular, $2\frac{1}{8}$ inches in diameter, the flattened band of which it is made $\frac{3}{8}$ inch in width, plain, the pin $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length, found in an old ruin at Balishare, North Uist.

Whorl of greyish stone, dome-shaped on upper side, flat on lower side, measuring $1\frac{7}{8}$ inches in diameter and $\frac{7}{8}$ inch in thickness, the spindle-hole $\frac{9}{16}$ inch wide, from Balishare, North Uist.

Small Arrow-head of flint, and worked flakes from Tannadice, Forfarshire.

Hanging Candle-holder of wrought iron, measuring, when extended, 3 feet $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches, with a scalloped tray $4\frac{3}{4}$ inches in diameter, in the centre of which is the socket for the candle.

Porter's Badge of pewter, with Edinburgh Arms and "Town Porter, No. 888."

Papal Seal of lead, $1\frac{5}{8}$ inches in diameter, and having on reverse the Adoration of the Magi, found in digging the foundations of a house at Warrender Park.

Celtic Illuminative Art in the Gospel Books of Durrow, Lindisfarne, and Kells. By Rev. Stanford F. H. Robinson. 4to. Dublin, 1908.

Musée Ostéologique, Étude de la faune quaternaire, Ostéométrie des mammifères, par Edmond Hue. 8vo. Paris, 1907.

Neue Untersuchungen über die römische Bronzeindustrie von Capua und von nieder Germanien von Heinrich Willers. 4to. Hanover, 1907.

L'art celtique avant et après Columban, par Charles Roessler. 4to. Paris, 1908.

Manuel d'Archéologie préhistorique, celtique et gallo-romaine, par Joseph Dechelette. Vol. i. 8vo. Paris, 1908.

Index of Archaeological Papers, 1665-1890. Compiled by George Laurence Gomme. 8vo. London, 1907.

Ancient Britain and the Invasions of Julius Cæsar. By T. Rice Holmes. 8vo. London, 1908.

The following Communications were read :—