

MONDAY, 11th December 1911.

GEORGE MACDONALD, M.A., LL.D., in the Chair.

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

JAMES HEWAT CRAW, West Foulden, Berwick-on-Tweed.

STEWART NAPIER MILLER, Lecturer in Latin in Glasgow University, Arbuthnott, Bearsden, Glasgow.

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

(1) Bequeathed by the late Mr ROBERT GLEN, F.S.A. Scot.

A Set of Highland Bagpipes, with Celtic ornamentation, and bearing the initials R. M'D. over a Highland galley, and the date MCCCCIX. carved in relief on the stock of the drones.

These bagpipes were exhibited and described by Mr Glen in a paper by him on the Ancient Musical Instruments of Scotland in 1880 (*Proceedings*, vol. xiv. p. 120), and his description of them is here reproduced :—

“ At what date the bag-pipe was introduced into the Highlands there is no evidence to show ; but it certainly found a Highland welcome, and must have felt more at home than anywhere else. Dr Leyden, in his introduction to the ‘ Complaynte,’ quotes from the Bannatyne MS. an unpublished poem by Alex. Hume, minister of Logie in 1598, on the defeat of the Armada, the lines :—

“ Caus nichtelie the weirlie nottes breike
On Heiland pipes, Scottes and Hybernicke,”

which shows that the bag-pipe had not only come into use in the Highlands, but it had assumed a distinctive character. Here it may

be proper to mention that the Highland, Lowland, and original Northumbrian pipes, although they differ in external appearance

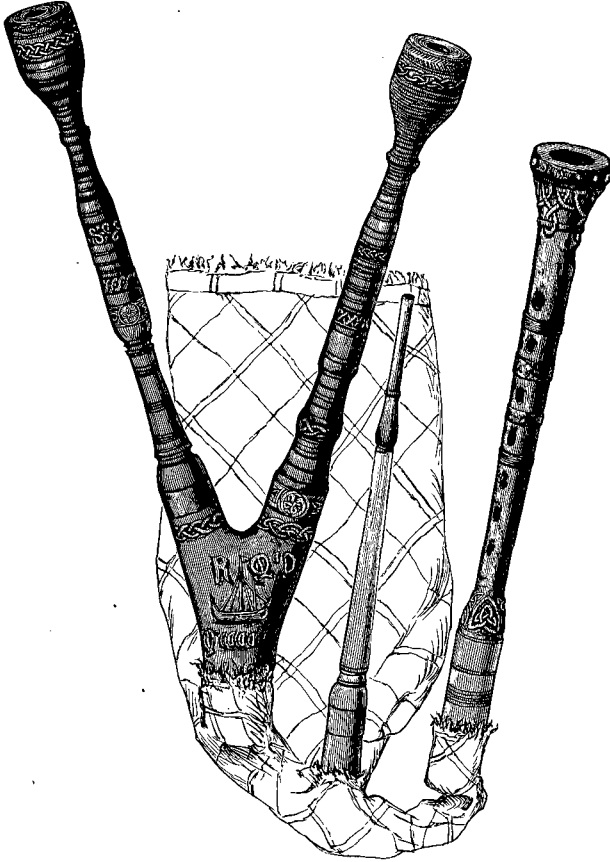


Fig. 1. Set of Highland Bagpipes, dated 1409.

and in the method of inflation, are essentially the same, the chanter being alike in all three, and the scale being a form of the diatonic.

“ The writer of this possesses a set of bag-pipes (fig. 1) bearing the date 1409. This instrument has only two small drones and chanter. Bag-pipes in this country previous to the beginning of last century had no large or bass drone. The two drones are inserted in one stock or joint, that holds them to the bag. This stock is formed of a forked branch of a tree, the fork giving the drones the proper spread for the shoulder. Carved on the stock are the date MCCCIX. and the letters R. M'D., along with a representation of a lymphad or galley, such as is seen on the sculptured crosses of the West Highlands. On the reverse side is to be seen a triple floriated knot, and on the upper parts of the fork are two carved bands of interlaced work near to the metal ferrules. The lower joint of one of the drones is ornamented in the centre with a carved band in the same style ; the corresponding joint of the other drone is not original.

“ The head-pieces of both drones at the top are cup-shaped, and have each three bands of interlaced work,—two on the joint, and one near the ferrule at the head.

“ The chanter at the head, and at the lower or bell end, is finely ornamented in harmony with the carving on the other parts, and is also studded with nails round the edge of the bell. It has been repaired with two brass bands and the same number of string ligatures.

“ The blow-pipe is quite modern, the original having been lost. The ferrules are of bronze, and are highly ornamented in the Celtic style. Four of them have been wanting, and replaced by brass ones.

“ The wood of which these pipes are made is to all appearance that of the thorn, and in respect of measurement they are much the same as those of the present day. The bag and cover are matters of no importance, as those articles soon wear out and must be renewed. The instrument, on the whole, has an aged appearance, and the finger-holes on the chanter are much worn.”

(2) By the OTTERBURN MEMORIAL COMMITTEE.

Cast in plaster of the Super-Altar discovered in Southdean Church, Roxburghshire.

(3) By the DEPUTY-KEEPER OF THE RECORDS OF SCOTLAND.

Accounts of the Lord High Treasurer of Scotland. Edited by Sir James Balfour Paul, LL.D., Lord Lyon King of Arms. Vol. ix., A.D. 1546-1551.

(4) By ERSKINE BEVERIDGE, LL.D., F.S.A. Scot., the Author.

North Uist, its Archæology and Topography, with Notes upon the Early History of the Outer Hebrides. 4to. 1911.

The following articles acquired by the Purchase Committee for the Museum and Library during the recess, May 16th to November 30th, were exhibited :—

Curved flint Implement of triangular section, $4\frac{3}{4}$ inches in length, the under side being the flat unworked face of the flake ; the other two sides chipped to shape, each side being about $\frac{3}{4}$ inch in breadth at the butt end, which is rounded, and tapering to a blunt point at the other end, which presents signs of wear by use, like the point end of a fabricator. The two side edges next the flat flake surface are carefully dressed to a sharp irregular edge, like the edge of a chipped flint knife, while the ridge of the back is more roughly chipped to a blunt and partially-rounded edge. Implements of this special form are very rare. It was found on the farm of Ploughlands, Crailing, Roxburghshire.

Polished Axe of basaltic stone, $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length by 3 inches across the cutting face, tapering to $2\frac{5}{8}$ inches across the butt, which has been broken and the fracture re-ground, by 1 inch in greatest thickness

near the middle of the length, the sides rounded, found in the Water of Lyne, near West Linton.

Axe of indurated sandstone, $4\frac{1}{4}$ inches in length by $2\frac{3}{8}$ inches across the rounded cutting face, tapering to $\frac{7}{8}$ inch at the butt, the sides rounded and convexly curved longitudinally, greatest thickness $1\frac{1}{8}$ inches, found at Mauricewood, Midlothian.

Bottlenecked stoneware Jar, $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches in height by $5\frac{1}{8}$ inches in greatest diameter, and $3\frac{3}{8}$ inches across the bottom, stamped on the bulge MELSETTER 1787.

Coins from the Blackhills Hoard, Parton, Kirkcudbrightshire, viz.:—
1 Edward Farthing, 2 Pennies of Alexander III., 1 Penny of Robert Bruce, 3 Pennies of Edward I. or II., 1 Foreign Sterling, and 1 Half-penny of Edward III.

The following Books for the Library :—

Description of the Roman Antiquities collected by C. A. Niessen, British Consul in Cologne, 2 vols. ; Official Historical Catalogue of the Scottish Exhibition, Glasgow, 1911 ; Reports of the Royal Commission on Ancient Monuments in England and Wales ; Canon Macculloch's Religion of the Ancient Celts ; Longman's Pins and Pincushions ; Schuchard's Urn Cemeteries of Old Saxony.

The following Communications were read :—