

I.

MISCELLANEOUS RELICS FOUND IN WIGTOWNSHIRE. BY REV.

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1. *Roman Coin*.—More than thirty years ago a bronze coin was discovered on the farm of Dhuloch, in the north of the Rhins of Wigtownshire. It was secured by the late Mr Thomas M'Creadie, Stranraer, but has never been recorded. Recently it was brought to my notice by his son, Mr Peter M'Creadie, F.R.C.S., and sent to the National Museum of Antiquities, Edinburgh, for identification. Sir George Macdonald's report shows it to be a Roman Imperial coin of Alexandria, belonging to the reign of Gallienus.

Gallienus shared the government of his father, Valerian, from the latter's elevation to the throne, but became sole Emperor when Valerian was captured by the Persians in A.D. 260. He reigned till A.D. 268, when he was assassinated by one of his own officers at the siege of Milan.

The coin is in very good condition; little worn save where indented by corrosion at one or two points on the edge. The obverse has on it the bust of Gallienus in high relief, facing right, with the inscription round it—ΑΥΤ Κ Π ΔΙΚ ΓΑΛΛΙΗΝΟC CEB—"The Emperor P. Lic. Gallienus Aug." A thin, twisted cord in relief encircles the inscription and bust. The reverse shows an eagle, facing right, holding a wreath in its beak; over the left shoulder, a palm; in the field to the left the symbol L,

the conventional sign for "Year"; and to the right the Greek letters signifying 13. Evidently the coin was issued in the 13th regnal year of Gallienus, which was in Egypt from A.D. Aug. 265 to A.D. 266. The design is encircled, as on the obverse, by the twisted cord.

This is one of the few Roman coins, and probably the earliest dated, found in Wigtownshire. But it gives us no light on the vexed question of Roman occupation of this region. The coin might easily have found its way here in the ordinary course of trade, either by land or sea.

2. *Ancient Headstone.*—When an old house was being removed in the King's Row, Whithorn, in 1927, a carved stone was discovered in the chimney. It was found to be a fragment of a headstone, which in all probability had once stood in the graveyard of the Priory.



Fig. 1. Headstone from Whithorn: front.



Fig. 2. Headstone from Whithorn: back.

I forwarded a photograph to Mr W. G. Collingwood, the well-known authority on the Whithorn stones, and he very kindly gave me his opinion in regard to this stone. In his reply he said: "At first sight I am not able to say very much about the slab. The replacement of the plain frame by a row of rude rings reminds me of the crest-frame of the Donferth cross at Whithorn. It looks as though this hint was taken, but considerably later. The slab appears to be a headstone, and therefore perhaps eleventh century; that also is suggested by the very rude-hacked pattern, like the rusticated ornament of very late work."

A crosslet is cut almost in the centre of the stone (fig. 1). I am not altogether certain that the sculptor had not a definite design in view, but the loss of the lower part of the stone makes it impossible to say. The same loss makes any certainty as to the meaning of the carving on the back impossible (fig. 2).

The stone, which measures 9 inches in height and 7 inches in breadth, has now been placed in the Whithorn Museum.

3. *A Coat of Arms.*—Two or three years ago I was informed that the late Mr Husband, schoolmaster in Wigtown, had discovered a carved stone, and had set it in the wall of one of the rooms of his house (fig. 3). A little search enabled me to find the locality, and permission to examine and photograph the stone was very kindly given me by his daughter.



Fig. 3. Coat of Arms on Stone from Wigtown.

The carving proved to be a coat of arms executed in high relief; but no one could inform me to whom the coat of arms belonged, or exactly where it was found. Wigtown, being the county town, had within it for many years the town houses of various landed proprietors. A little search showed that the arms would not be easily identified.

As I knew practically nothing about heraldry, I concluded that the wisest course would be to seek the help of Sir Herbert Maxwell of Monreith, who knows the county thoroughly, and is ever ready to put his wide knowledge at the service of any needy amateur. I cannot do better than simply transcribe his kind reply. He said: "I cannot identify the arms on the interesting stone you have found. The first quarter corresponds pretty closely with the bearings assigned by Nisbet to Cochran of Balbarchan—viz. *argent*, a boar's head erased, and in chief three mullets *azure* arranged chevron-wise. On the stone they are arranged fess-wise, but that may have been the sculptor's variation. The initials M. C. agree with Cochran, and the motto—FEIR GOD—may have been a pious substitution for that given by Nisbet—'Armis et Industria.'

"The second quarter is a lion rampant, which is borne by many families in various tinctures. It may be the arms of Galloway, borne by the M'Doualls of Logan, Freuch, and Garthland—viz. *azure*, a lion rampant; *argent*, crowned *or*.

"The third quarter corresponds with the arms of Edie of Moneaght—*argent*, three cross-crosslets fitchée *gules*; or with those of Rattray of Craighall—*azure*, three cross-crosslets fitchée *or*.

"The fourth quarter is the fess-*checquy*, borne alike by the families of Stewart, Lindsay, and Boyd, to be distinguished by their tinctures."

Though the particular family bearing these quarterings cannot yet be identified, it may be that the recording of this stone will sometime lead to its discovery.

4. *Axes*.—I have to record a few axes that seem worthy of notice.

Several years ago a beautifully shaped axe, cast in bronze, was discovered on the farm of Kevans, near Garlieston, being turned up by the plough. It was in perfect condition, and showed no signs of use.

The axe is of the socketed type, belonging to the fourth and latest period of the Bronze Age in Scotland, according to the classification made by Mr J. Graham Callander in his paper in the *Proceedings* of the Society, vol. lvii. p. 143. In that period the bronze axe had reached its highest development in design, and the example I possess gives striking witness to the excellence of the craftsmanship of that period.

The main dimensions of the implement are: length, $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches; between the extreme points of the cutting edge, $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches; breadth at lower edge of bevelled socket-lip, $1\frac{7}{8}$ inch; oval socket, mouth $1\frac{1}{4}$ inch long by $1\frac{1}{8}$ inch broad. The loop is intact; and the ridges at the junction of the two sections of the mould are clear and sharp. The surface is well coated with patina but little injured.

Another socketed axe, but more of the type shown in the *Proceedings* of the Society, vol. lvii. p. 148, fig. 9, No. 2, was found some years ago on the neighbouring farm of Palmallet. I understand it was not long ago acquired that it might be placed in a museum in the Stewartry.

In the *Proceedings* of the Society vol. xl. p. 11, and in vol. lvii. p. 135, there are references to a hoard of axes found at Caldons Hill, near Stoneykirk. This hoard was located in 1905, when a hedge in front of the farmhouse was being removed. The farmer, not realising the importance of his find, allowed the axes to lie unguarded, and curiosity hunters soon gathered them in. When the authorities learned of the treasure trove, five axes were recovered and sent to the National Museum, but the rest had gone beyond recall. Two were known to have been preserved in Wigtownshire; and lately it was my good fortune to identify one of them.

The sketch of one of the hoard, given in the *Proceedings*, vol. xl. p. 11, might have been drawn from the one I have seen. It is of the palstave type, and from the latest stage of the Third Period. "The after-part of the axe between the flanges is much thinner than the front part; and the flange, much reduced in width, curves round to form the stop." There has been a loop, but it is now corroded away, leaving only slight indications of the junctions with the shaft. There is a markedly strong midrib. As in the case of the other axes of this hoard, the surface is badly corroded.

The axe is $6\frac{1}{4}$ inches long, $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches between the extreme points of the curved cutting edge, and the narrowest breadth, just below the stop, is $\frac{7}{8}$ inch.

Of stone axes I was fortunate recently in obtaining a fine specimen of the large and heavy type. It is an axe-hammer, weighing $7\frac{1}{4}$ lb., and measuring 11 inches in length, $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches at its greatest breadth, and $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches thick.

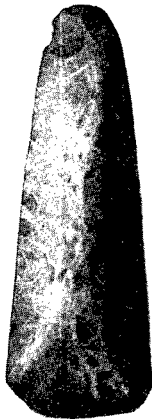


Fig. 4. Flint Axe from Galdenoch, Stoneykirk.

The hammer end is unusually flat with a sharp edging, and the lower half of the stone has much straighter sides than the upper. There is the ordinary hour-glass shaped hole for the handle, and the surface over all has been finely smoothed. So far as I could learn, this axe-hammer was found on the sands at Culmore on Luce Bay.

Another axe in my possession is of the ordinary type without a perforation, and of fairly large size—almost 7 inches long by over 3 inches in breadth above the cutting edge. It is of whinstone, and was found between Mid and High Torrs on the Glenluce Sands. It is finely made and polished; the polish being well preserved on the parts not exposed to the sand drift.

A third specimen in my possession is a flint axe, which was found on the farm of Galdenoch, Stoneykirk parish, in November 1923 (fig. 4). It is over 6 inches long and $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches just above the cutting edge. It has been roughed into shape by chipping, but the edges of the sides have been afterwards ground so that in places they are almost $\frac{1}{8}$ inch thick. The surface over all has been partially polished, on the one side more than on the other, but there seems to have been no effort to entirely remove the signs of chipping.

The most notable of the specimens I would mention is one that was found only a few weeks ago on the farm of Glenjorrie, a short distance north of Glenluce (fig. 5). Its material, shape, and colour are unusual. The stone seems to be a variety of diopside very nearly related to jade, and is probably continental in origin. In shape the axe is thin, flat, and triangular. It has been over 6 inches long, and expands from about $\frac{3}{4}$ inch at the top to fully 3 inches just above the cutting edge. Its greatest thickness is $\frac{7}{18}$ inch; its weight is 8 oz. The stone takes a very high polish, and this polish still remains almost mirror-like. The light moss-green colour of the stone, plentifully sprinkled in parts with dark speckles, probably of garnet, and the fineness of the design and workmanship, make it a very beautiful tool.

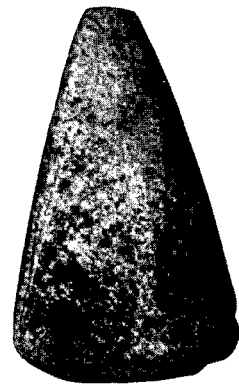


Fig. 5. Stone Axe from Glenjorrie, Glenluce.

5. *Arrowheads, etc.*—The finest arrowhead I have got recently is one that was found near Culmore, on the Glenluce sandhills. It is of the barbed and tanged type, finely and carefully worked and finished; serrated on the edges, having 19 teeth to the inch. The length is $1\frac{3}{8}$ inch, and it is 1 inch across the barbs. The material is a very clear flint. The most notable feature of the arrowhead is the amount of artistic work expended on it as contrasted with the merely utilitarian.

In the small collection of flints belonging to the late Mr M'Creddie of Stranraer there is an interesting series that might serve for illustrations of the development of the arrowhead from the leaf-shape to the lozenge-shape. The best lozenge-shaped specimen is made of the same kind of flint as the above-mentioned arrowhead, and is also finely chipped and of perfect formation. It is $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch long and $\frac{7}{8}$ inch across the angles.

A somewhat rare flint is also found in this collection. It is of the sub-triangular type mentioned by Mr Callander in the *Proceedings* of the Society, vol. lxii. p. 179, as having been found in large numbers at Airhouse, Berwickshire. Nowhere else does it seem common, so far as yet ascertained. From the Glenluce sands there are five specimens in the Museum. The one now being recorded is in all probability from the same district. It is a broad, flat flake with a base projecting in a deep curve, part of which is naturally sharp and the rest chipped to a fine edge. The sides are unequal in length and concave, being chipped both front and back. The apex may have been rounded originally, but is now $\frac{5}{16}$ inch across—in two shallow curves. The edges in these are blunt, so that there has probably been a fracture.

Another unusual item in the same collection is a double bead of clear glass. Two single beads have been joined together endways, so that the perforation for a cord passes straight through both. Each bead is four-sided; the sides expanding half-way and then contracting. One of the beads, at first sight, looks as if meant for a pentagon, but this is due to a fault in the workmanship.

In this collection there is also a small jet pendant, such as are frequently found with burials in the Bronze Age; and three bronze pins of more recent times from the Glenluce sands, the heads made as usual by two twists of the same gauge of wire taken round the top and welded on.

I have a bronze buckle, probably of the same period, which I found on the sands near Clayshant.

6. *Moulds.*—Three or four years ago a workman on Stannock farm, Isle of Whithorn, while mending a dyke, found a stone which had

evidently been used as a mould (fig. 6). It was a block of coarse granite, exceedingly tough and heavy, one surface being flat and almost triangular in shape. On this flat surface had been cut moulds for two discs, and for two short bars. The discs made in these would measure 3 inches and $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch in diameter. They would be slightly rounded on top, and their thickness at their centres would be about $\frac{3}{8}$ inch. The bars would be respectively 5 inches long, $\frac{5}{8}$ inch broad, $\frac{3}{8}$ inch thick; and $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches long, $\frac{1}{4}$ inch broad, $\frac{3}{8}$ inch thick. The larger bar has a projection $\frac{3}{4}$ inch broad, stretching for $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches along one side. From the bottom of the groove this thins gradually to zero at the surface level. This mould has all the appearance of being intended for a knife blade with a tang. Not very far from where this stone was found there was discovered, some years ago, the site of a prehistoric hut with hearths and considerable evidence of fires. It has been suggested to me that the mould is of more recent date than the Bronze Age.

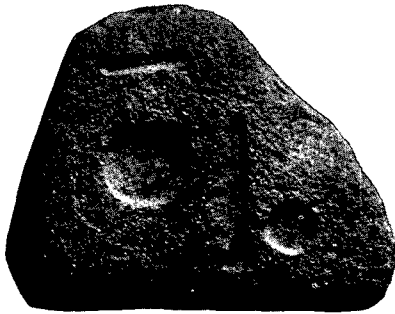


Fig. 6. Stone Mould from Stannock,
Isle of Whithorn.

I have in my possession another mould made in a small oblong of red sandstone. It was found near the site of an old smithy on the former road from Castle Kennedy to Stranraer. A vertical cup, $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches in diameter and $\frac{7}{8}$ inch deep, has been cut in it. There is evidence of a short V-shaped spout. It has evidently been the mould for a crusie—a domestic utensil that was commonly made in the local blacksmith's shop.

I am greatly indebted to the friends who have provided me with much of the material for this paper, among whom, besides those I have mentioned already, I may name Mrs M'Creddie, Stranraer; Mr Owen of Kevans; Mr Gordon, Drumflower; and the Rev. R. Ingles, Glenluce. I have also to thank Mr Balsillie, of the Royal Scottish Museum, for his identification of the stone of the Glenjorrie axe.