

MONDAY, 11th May 1931.

CHARLES E. WHITELOW, I.A., Vice-President,
in the Chair.

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

GILBERT H. ASKEW, Fairfield, Riding Mill-on-Tyne, Northumberland.
HUGH MILLER BIGGS, L.D.S., R.F.P.S., 1 Clifton Place, Glasgow, C. 3.
HUGH MORISON CONACHER, Assistant Secretary, Department of Agriculture for Scotland, 6 Tweed Green, Peebles.
ARTHUR BURNES DALGETTY, M.D., Lossiehall, Liff, Angus.
JOSEPH HENRY MURRAY, Glengyle Lodge, Bruntsfield, Edinburgh.
WILLIAM WISEMAN of "Braehead," Clifton Road, Aberdeen, 12 Hillside Street, Edinburgh.

It was intimated that Colonel The Hon. Arthur C. Murray, C.M.G., D.S.O., the owner of the Spurs and Hunting Horn (figs. 1 and 2) which are associated with the name of "Wat Scott of Harden," and which were purchased at the Polwarth Sale in 1912, had executed a Deed of Trust by which he had arranged that these relics should remain in Scotland for all time coming.

The following note, giving a short account of Wat of Harden and the relics associated with his name, had been received from Colonel Murray:—

To THE CURATORS,
National Museum of Antiquities of Scotland, Edinburgh.

ELIBANK,
SELKIRKSHIRE, August 1st, 1930.

GENTLEMEN—It is a matter of historical knowledge that in the days of Mary Queen of Scots and James VI., whilst the "dyke of hatred" between Scottish and English Borderers still existed, and reiving, plunder and reprisal still constituted their chief occupation, there lived at Harden in Roxburghshire, Walter Scott, commonly called "Auld Wat o' Harden." For many years "Auld Wat" played an important part in Border affairs, and no other Border reiver excelled him in the art of harassing and plundering the English. In 1592, under the leadership of Bothwell, he took part in the famous, though abortive, "Raid of Falkland," as a result of which an order was issued by the King with the advice of the Lords of Council giving "express bidding and charge to Walter Scott of Gouldielandis, and Mr (subsequently Sir) Gideon Murray of Elibank, conjunctlie and severallie, to dimoleis and

caus be demoleist and cassin down to the ground, the placeis, houssis, and fortalices of Harden and Dryhoip pertening to Walter Scott of Harden, quha wes arte and parte of the lait tresonabil fact perpetrat aganis His Majesteis awin persone at Falkland."

The demolition of Harden—if indeed the order was rigorously carried out—does not seem to have damped the martial ardour of "Auld Wat," for a few years later he joined the "Bold Buccleuch," "Prince of Reivers," a kinsman of his own, in the raid on Carlisle Castle, when "Kinmont Willie" was rescued in daring fashion from captivity.

Judging by the many stories told of "Auld Wat's" forays across the Border and by the number of head of live-stock which he

transferred from English to Scottish pastures, it is clear that he was one of the most audacious and successful of Scottish Border reivers. There is on record an account of a moonlight outing into Cumberland in 1596 from which he rode back with "300 kye and oxen, 20 horses and mares, spoil of two houses, gold money and insight, worth 100 £ stg."

"Auld Wat" married, on 21st March 1567, Mary Scott of Dryhope, known for her beauty and gentleness as the "Flower of Yarrow."

Mary is said to have managed her somewhat turbulent husband with great skill, as an instance of which it is recorded that instead of upbraiding

him if he allowed the larder to become depleted she would set before him at dinner a pair of gilt Spanish spurs! The hint would be taken, and that same night "Auld Wat" and his men would ride forth, and the next morning a "bow o' kye" from the English side — or maybe from a neighbour!—would



Fig. 2. The Harden Horn.

gladden the heart of "Yarrow's Rose"!

In 1611 William Scott, eldest son and heir of "Auld Wat," married Agnes, daughter of my ancestor, Sir Gideon Murray of Elibank, Treasurer-Depute of Scotland (1612-21). Round this marriage a combination of fact

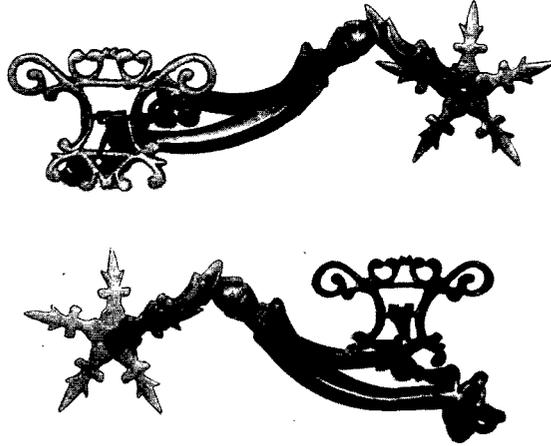


Fig. 1. The Harden Spurs.

and fiction has woven a romantic tale handed down to us through the ages as the story of Muckle-mou'd Meg.

Whatever the origin and truth of the story there can be little doubt that the marriage took place with the consent of the parents on both sides, but possibly it was arranged by them without asking the young people. It may be that young William of Harden, who was aware of the plainness of the young lady, did not want to marry her, and got up a raid in order to embroil the parents and get out of the match—hence the legend of Muckle-mou'd Meg. The marriage contract, which is still in existence among the Elibank papers, is an interesting and curious looking document.

So far as can be ascertained William and Muckle-mou'd Meg proved a very attached couple, and at a later date the lady saved her husband's life when the "Committee of Estates" were after him, by putting him in a chest and sitting on it whilst the troopers of the Covenant were searching the house.

William, in succeeding on the death of his father to the Harden property, acquired, amongst others of his father's possessions, "Auld Wat's" famous Bugle-Horn, used by the celebrated reiver on his reiving expeditions (and referred to by Sir Walter Scott in "The Reiver's Wedding"), and likewise the gilt Spurs so suggestively served up for dinner by his Mother, the "Flower of Yarrow."

The Horn and the Spurs were preserved by his descendants, but passed from the Scott family at the sale in 1912 of the treasures at Mertoun House belonging to the late Lord Polwarth, and they are now in my possession.

I think it will be generally agreed that if these very interesting Border relics are not in the keeping of the Scott family, it is not inappropriate that they should be in the possession of the Murrays of Elibank.

But who can say whether at some future date the Murrays of Elibank for some reason or another will not cease to possess them?

And into whose hands will they in that event fall? These are the questions that I put to myself some little time ago, but being of a hypothetical nature they were clearly not questions to which answers could be given! But they prompted a line of thought upon which I have since taken action. You will remember that in the early part of this year I asked you whether you would be prepared in certain circumstances to become parties to a Trust to hold the Horn and Spurs in perpetual possession.

You were good enough to reply in the affirmative. I have accordingly had drawn up a Deed of Trust of which the Trustees are the Curators of the Museum and the present Baron (my brother) and succeeding Barons Elibank. The Deed recites that the Horn and Spurs shall remain in the keeping of the Elibank family so long as there is a Baron Elibank and so long as he retains a residence in Scotland. Failing these conditions the relics are to be taken possession of by the Museum for exhibition to the public.

These provisions fulfil the object I have had in view in creating the Trust, namely, to ensure that the Horn and Spurs shall remain in perpetuity in Scotland and in, what I consider to be, appropriate hands. It is with much pleasure, therefore, that I ask you to accept possession of the Trust Deed which you will find enclosed with this letter.—I am,
Yours very truly,

ARTHUR C. MURRAY.

Photographs of the relics were exhibited, and, on the motion of the Chairman, a cordial vote of thanks was accorded to Colonel Murray for his patriotic action, and the hope was expressed that other owners of Scottish historical relics, by following Colonel Murray's lead, might ensure that such relics should never be lost to Scotland.

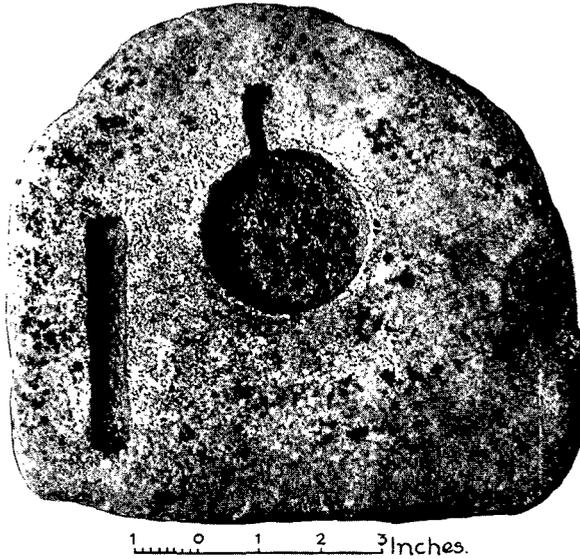


Fig. 3. Stone Mould from Loophill, Evertown, Dumfriesshire.

There was exhibited by Mr David R. Milne Hume a stone mould for casting flat circular objects and bars, found at Evertown, Loophill, Canonbie, Dumfriesshire. The mould (fig. 3) was of flat segmental shape, and measured $9\frac{1}{4}$ inches in breadth, $8\frac{1}{4}$ inches in height, and $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches in thickness. On one face were two matrices, the first being of circular shape and measuring $2\frac{11}{16}$ inches in diameter and $\frac{1}{4}$ inch in depth, and the second for casting a bar or ingot, and measuring $3\frac{11}{16}$ inches in length, $\frac{5}{8}$ inch in breadth, and $\frac{3}{16}$ inch in depth. Running into the circular matrix was a short channel, but it was doubtful whether this might not have been a later addition.

The mould bore a striking resemblance to one found at Stannock, Whithorn, which had matrices for two flat circular objects and two bars on one face (see *Proceedings*, vol. lxiv. p. 300, fig. 6). Another

with matrices for a circular object and a bar was found in the Buston crannog, Ayrshire (see Munro, *Ancient Scottish Lake Dwellings*, p. 211, fig. 194).

The following Donations to the Museum were intimated and thanks voted to the Donors:—

- (1) By Mrs M'LEAN, Maryborough, Dingwall.

The archæological collections formed by her late husband, Dr William M'Lean.

Collection of Objects of Stone, Bone, and Deer-horn from the Caird's Cave at Rosemarkie, Ross-shire, excavated by Dr M'Lean, assisted by Colonel Hall, Fortrose. Amongst the objects found is a unique Pin of Bone measuring $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch in length; the head had been decorated with five small settings of amber, but only three now remain (fig. 4).

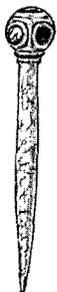


Fig. 4. Bone Pin with Amber Mounts (†).

Collection of Flint Implements from the neighbourhood of Dingwall and from the Black Isle, Ross-shire. The most of them were found within four miles of Fortrose.

- (2) By COLONEL A. J. MACDOUGALL OF MACDOUGALL, C.M.G., Dunollie, Oban.

Part of a Flooring Board of red-wood, measuring $3\frac{3}{4}$ inches in breadth and $\frac{3}{4}$ inch thick, showing the method of joining the boards with dowels of pitch pine inserted on both edges, at intervals $6\frac{1}{8}$ inches to $7\frac{1}{8}$ inches apart. From Dunollie House.

- (3) By JAMES CURLE, LL.D., F.S.A.Scot.

Fire-plate of Tinned Iron painted in black and gold, of the Caledonian Insurance Company. From Priorwood, Melrose.

- (4) By JAMES S. RICHARDSON, F.S.A.Scot.

Fragment of a Stone Mould for casting long, pointed, wire-like objects, with six matrices cut side by side on one face and eight on the other. The gates for each group are set at opposite ends. The two complementary parts of the mould are awaiting. The fragment measures $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches broad and $\frac{5}{8}$ inch thick. Found at Linlithgow.

Part of an Iron Staple and fragment of a Bead of dark blue Glass, which is encircled by four corrugations. From Dunadd, Argyll.

The following Donations to the Library were intimated and thanks voted to the Donors:—

- (1) By THE FIRST COMMISSIONER OF H.M. WORKS.

Ancient Monuments Consolidation and Amendment Act, 1913. List

of Monuments prepared by the Commissioner of Works in Pursuance of Section 12 of the Act. To 31st December 1930. London, 1931.

(2) By H.M. GOVERNMENT.

Acts of the Privy Council of England, 1619-1621. London, 1930.

The Pipe Rolls of 2-3-4 Henry II. Reproduced in Facsimile from the Edition of 1844. London, 1930.

(3) By Professor HAROLD WILLIAM THOMPSON, Ph.D., D.Litt., F.S.A.Scot., the Author.

A Scottish Man of Feeling: Some Account of Henry Mackenzie, Esq., of Edinburgh, and of the Golden Age of Burns and Scott. London and New York, 1931.

(4) By JOHN WARRACK, F.S.A.Scot., the Author.

The Scot Abroad and the Kirk of Greyfriars, Edinburgh. Edinburgh, n.d.

(5) By A. D. LACAILLE, F.S.A.Scot.

La Vie Musicale de l'Église. Par Amédée Gastoné. n.p., n.d.

(6) By THE SECRETARY, The Manx Museum, Douglas, I.O.M.

Journal of the Manx Museum. June and September 1925 and December 1930.

(7) By W. DOUGLAS SIMPSON, D.Litt., F.S.A.Scot., the Author.

Dunnottar Castle: Historical and Descriptive. Third Edition. Aberdeen, 1631.

The following Purchase for the Museum was announced:—

Copper Axe, measuring 4 inches by $2\frac{3}{8}$ inches by $\frac{1}{3}\frac{1}{2}$ inch, found $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet below the surface at Glenelg, Inverness-shire.

The following Purchases of Books for the Library were intimated:—

Le Gard Préhistorique. Capitaine M. Louis. Nîmes, 1931.

English Ivories. By Miss M. H. Longhurst (of the Victoria and Albert Museum). London, 1926.

Primitive Beliefs in the North-East of Scotland. By J. M. M'Pherson B.D. London, 1929.

The following Communications were read:—