

III.

NOTES ON (1) A TWO-STOREYED GRAVE AT LITTLE ASTA, SHETLAND; (2) CERTAIN PREHISTORIC RELICS FROM SHETLAND; AND (3) A VIKING BROOCH OF SILVER FROM SKAILL BAY, ORKNEY. BY J. M. CORRIE, F.S.A. SCOT.

1. TWO-STOREYED GRAVE AT LITTLE ASTA, SHETLAND.

During the summer months of this year a party of workmen under the charge of Mr Andrew Hall, road foreman, Westerhoull, Scalloway, was engaged in quarrying for road metal on the east side of the public road not far from Little Asta, in the parish of Tingwall, Shetland, and on Tuesday, 2nd June, they came upon an interesting two-storeyed grave constructed of slabs of stone. As soon as he realised that a cist had been disclosed, Mr Hall, with commendable restraint, decided to leave the construction undisturbed until a careful examination of the structure could be made. By a fortunate coincidence Mr G. V. Wilson, F.S.A. Scot., of H.M. Geological Survey of Scotland, happened to pass soon after, and he was appealed to for guidance. Mr Wilson at once undertook to notify the Director of the National Museum of Antiquities by wire, and he arranged with Mr Hall to have the grave provisionally protected. On receipt of the telegram Mr Callander advised me to get into touch with Mr Wilson, and I had the privilege the following day of being associated with him and his assistant, Mr Strachan, in making a careful examination of the grave.

The district in which the discovery was made is, from an archæological point of view, one of particular interest. It is believed that in former years other cists have been discovered at various places in the neighbourhood, but unfortunately no record of these finds seems to have survived. Several constructions, however, still remain in the vicinity to testify to the occupation of the district in early times. Barely a mile to the southwards from the grave is a large but much-broken mound, popularly called the Soldier's Knowe, and only a short distance to the northwards, at the south end of the Loch of Asta, is one of the most complete mounds to be seen in Shetland. Farther north again is a fine standing stone, the Law Ting Holm, and a group of interesting mounds at Grista.

The Little Asta burial (fig. 1) was deposited at an elevation of 50 feet above sea-level, but there was no superincumbent mound or cairn to mark the position of the interment. This was located in forced soil mixed with rotten rock at a depth of from 3 feet 4 inches to 3 feet 6 inches below the present surface of the ground. It seems likely that a

supporting slab for the large cover-stone (A in figs. 1 and 2) had been removed before its real significance was noticed, for it was not until

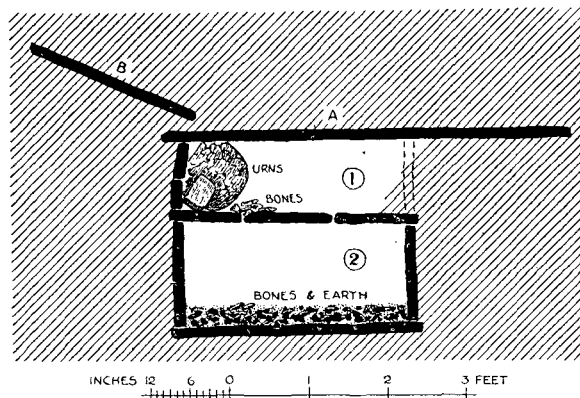


Fig. 1. Section of Two-storied Cist at Little Asta, Tingwall, Shetland.

Mr Hall had examined the cavity and found the fragments of an urn and some decayed human remains that the real nature of the con-

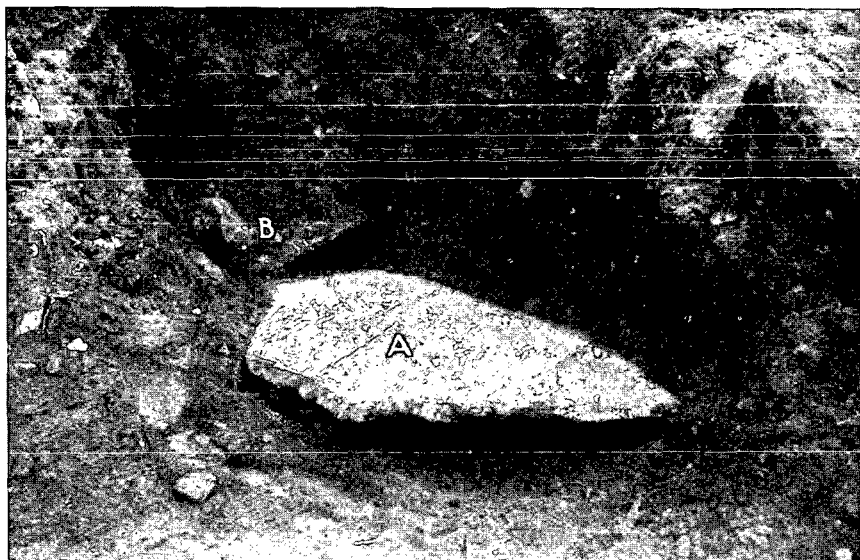


Fig. 2. Cover-stone, Upper Compartment of Grave at Little Asta.

struction was realised. Mr Hall tells me, indeed, that there appeared to have been a slab of limestone at the south end of the upper compartment of the grave, but it had rotted away, and was in such a friable

condition that it was hardly recognisable from the other disintegrated rock of the quarry.

The first procedure was carefully to remove the earth from the covering slab, and, when this had been done, to photograph the construction with the stone in position. Fig. 2 shows the grave as then disclosed. It lay with the major axis north and south. The covering slab was found to be a fine large piece of imported schist of irregular form, measuring 5 feet 2½ inches in length. At its northern extremity it measured only 17 inches in width, but at its widest it was 2 feet 10 inches in breadth, and 1½ inch to 1¾ inch in thickness. At two points on the west side it had been tooled at the edges to provide two small but carefully made notches. It is not very clear for what purpose these had been intended. They may possibly have been associated with the lifting or transportation of the stone.¹

On removing the covering slab it was at once apparent that at some former time the grave had been, perhaps unknowingly, disturbed. It will be seen that there was another slab (B in figs. 1, 2, and 3) overhanging the cover-stone at the north end of the cist. This measured 2 feet 3 inches in length by 1 foot 8½ inches in width and 1¼ inch in thickness. It had roughly trimmed edges, and had clearly formed a part of the original structure although it was obviously not in its true position. Its proper setting could not be definitely determined, but later investigation showed that there was no support for the cover-stone on the east side of the grave, and it may be that this slab came from there. This is all the more likely in view of the fact that the east side of the construction practically encroached upon the ditch of a former line of roadway, where disturbance was likely to be frequent. The north end of the cavity (No. 1 in fig. 1), which measured about 1 foot in depth, seemed to have been roughly constructed. Here there was only some loose packing, and this, in part, had given way. Two urns without contents of any description, and some much-decayed human remains, were found at the north end of the cavity resting on a slab of stone which formed part of the covering for the lower compartment of the grave. The larger urn was broken into fragments, and it cannot on that account be definitely stated whether the smaller urn had originally been enclosed within it or simply deposited alongside it. Two small fragments of the cap of a skull showing an eye ridge and very open sutures served to indicate that the burial had been that of a young person.

In the bottom of the cavity three irregularly shaped slabs, measuring

¹ A similar feature has been noted in another two-storeyed grave at Newbigging, near Kirkwall, Orkney (*Proceedings*, vol. vi. p. 411 and pl. xxiv.). It has been observed also in Northumberland (Greenwell's *British Barrows*, p. 418).

respectively 10½ inches, 14 inches, and 13 inches in width, were laid horizontally, one against the other, to form the covering for a carefully constructed lower compartment or cist (No. 2 in fig. 1 and fig. 3), which measured 2 feet 10 inches in length, 1 foot 4 inches in width at the north end and 1 foot 7 inches at the south end, and 1 foot 5 inches deep at the north end and 1 foot 3 inches at the south end, the main axis again lying exactly geographical north and south. This cist was provided also with a thin slab for a floor. Fig. 3 shows the compartment as finally exposed.



Fig. 3. Lower Compartment of Grave at Little Asta, Tingwall, Shetland.

It was found to be partially filled with earth and a mixture of burnt and unburnt bones, the burnt remains being those of an adult and the unburnt remains those of an infant. The calcined remains had evidently been well fired, and pieces of vitrified material—known in Orkney and Shetland as “cramp”¹—still adhered closely to them. When found, intermixed with earth, they had a glutinous or pulpy feeling in the hand.

It is unfortunate that the urns (figs. 4 and 5) were broken, but most of the fragments were recovered, and it has been found possible to reconstruct the vessels. Both were made from an open-grained and easily fractured micaceous steatite. The larger of the two (fig. 4) is bowl-shaped, with the mouth nearly circular, and it measures externally 11 inches in

¹ On this substance, see *Proceedings*, vol. lxii, p. 266.

diameter at its mouth, $11\frac{3}{4}$ inches at the widest part of the wall, from 7 inches to $7\frac{3}{4}$ inches across the base, and from $8\frac{3}{4}$ inches to 9 inches in



Fig. 4. Steatite Urn from Grave at Little Asta.

height. The walls are $1\frac{1}{8}$ inch in thickness. The smaller vessel (fig. 5) is of rectangular shape, measuring $4\frac{3}{8}$ inches by $4\frac{3}{8}$ inches across the mouth, 4 inches by $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches across the base, and from 3 inches to $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches in height. The walls vary from $\frac{7}{16}$ inch to $\frac{5}{8}$ inch in thickness.

A day or two later a small, flat, water-worn pebble, measuring $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches by $1\frac{13}{16}$ inch by $\frac{1}{2}$ inch, abraded at both ends and showing signs of polishing on the flat faces, was turned up only a few feet from the north end of the grave, but no other relics have been recovered.

So far as I have been able to ascertain, this is the first occasion on which a grave of the two-storeyed type has been recorded for the Shetland Islands, but examples are not unknown in other districts of northern Scotland. At least four instances

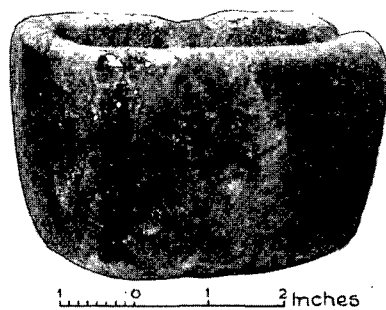


Fig. 5. Steatite Urn from Grave at Little Asta.

in Orkney—one in Stronsay,¹ one at Newbigging,² one at Crantit, near Kirkwall,³ and another at Backakeldy in the parish of Holm⁴—have been recorded in the *Proceedings* of the Society, and Mr Edwards has also described two, of larger dimensions, disclosed by him in his excavations at Ackergill in Caithness.⁵

At Stronsay Mr Petrie found what was actually a three-storeyed grave, the upper portion of which was filled with dry peat moss, in which lay a small piece of rock crystal (probably an amulet or charm), but nothing else. This small cist or compartment had been constructed on the covering stone of a larger cist, which contained some fragments of burnt bones and ashes. During a later examination another small compartment or cist was located beneath the larger one. On the bottom stone of this lower compartment a quantity of clay had been laid, and a bowl-shaped cavity made in the centre of the clay. The cavity had been nearly filled with burnt bones and then covered by a piece of clay slate dressed into a circular form. More clay had then been placed in the cist to a depth of about a couple of inches and another cavity formed in it, leaving an inch or two of the centre of the circular piece of slate exposed. There was no deposit of bones or ashes in this upper division of the cist.

At Newbigging Mr Petrie found the upper compartment empty, but the lower compartment contained a quantity of ashes and two human skeletons—one at each end—in a flexed or contracted posture. The skeletons were those of adults past middle age.

At Crantit Mr Cursiter again found the upper compartment empty, but in the lower compartment he discovered a quantity of calcined human bones and the skeleton (also in a flexed position) of a young person of about fifteen years. Beside these remains there was a perforated implement of deer's horn.

At Backakeldy Dr Marwick recorded a couple of very rude stone implements found in the upper chamber, and in the lower chamber a heap of calcined bones and the unburnt skeleton of an adult female in a flexed posture.

In one of the two examples at Ackergill Mr Edwards found in the upper chamber the skeleton of a young child in an extended posture, and in the lower chamber the skeleton of an adult female also in an extended position. In this instance he suggests that the upper burial was possibly secondary. In the other Ackergill example the upper compartment contained sand only, but the lower cavity was occupied by the fully extended skeleton of a man.

It is of interest to compare these details with what we have observed

¹ *Proceedings*, vol. viii. pt. ii. pp. 347 ff.

² *Ibid.*, vol. vi. pp. 411 ff.

³ *Ibid.*, vol. xlv. pp. 215-7.

⁴ *Ibid.*, vol. lxii. p. 265.

⁵ *Ibid.*, vol. lx. pp. 160-82.

in Shetland. It must surely be more than mere coincidence that three of the Orkney examples and the Little Asta burial should all have been found to contain both burnt and unburnt human remains, and that in two of the instances quoted in addition to the Shetland example the unburnt bones represented the remains of a very young person. In one respect—the fact that urns accompanied the interment—the Little Asta burial stands by itself, and it is much to be regretted that the investigation revealed nothing whereby it could be precisely dated.

The best thanks of the Society are due to Mr Hall, not only for the care and enthusiasm he displayed in connection with the discovery, but for his kindness in presenting the urns to the National Museum.

Professor Alexander Low, M.D., F.S.A.Scot., who has examined the human remains, reports that the bones from the upper compartment of the grave are the very fragmentary remains of the skeleton of an individual about twenty years of age, and consist of imperfect parietal bones, the orbital margin of a right frontal bone, 4 inches of upper extremity of right humerus, very much eroded middle thirds of the right and left femur, and the lower end of a right femur.

Those from the lower compartment consist of the cremated remains of an adult human skeleton. These have been very thoroughly calcined, and many of the fragments are embedded in masses of vitrified-like material, probably produced by the intense heat acting on the surrounding soil.

Amongst the many fragments of calcined bones it is possible to recognise as human *small pieces* of the following bones: flat bones of skull, shoulder blade, arm bones, ribs, lower end of thigh bone, and several bones of foot. These are very fragmentary, and no duplicate pieces are recognised.

In addition to the above there are five fragments of the unburned skeleton of an infant of perhaps three to four years of age, pieces of parietal bone and of a temporal bone, and small pubic bone. Evidently the unburned body of an infant had been buried along with the cremated remains of the adult.

It is of interest to note that in a short cist at Auchlin, Aberdour, Aberdeenshire,¹ the unburned remains of a young child of about five years of age were associated with a burial by cremation.

2. PREHISTORIC RELICS FROM SHETLAND.

The Shetland relics which I have to describe came under my notice during the last two summers while I was engaged on a survey of the islands for the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical

¹ Alex. Low, *Proc. of the Anat. and Anthropol. Soc. of the Univ. of Aberdeen*, 1904-6, p. 126.

Monuments of Scotland, and I am indebted to the finders and owners for allowing me to place the objects upon record. It is now many years since a paper dealing in any way with the portable antiquities of the Shetland Islands has been contributed to the Society, but this does not mean that the area, about which the late Mr Gilbert Goudie, Mr Bruce of Sumburgh, Mr Irvine, Mr Spence, and others have recorded so much, has ceased to be of interest to the archæologist, the historian, or philologist. On the contrary, many interesting finds have been made by enthusiastic observers, and public interest in antiquarian matters continues to flourish.

In Lerwick, for example, a restart for a local museum has been begun in one of the rooms of the Town Hall buildings, and many interesting exhibits are already on view. The nucleus for the collection was acquired by public subscription from the trustees of the late James M. Goudie, a former Provost of the Burgh. Two classes of relics, the axes and adzes and the thin polished implements of stone known as Shetland knives or Pechts' knives, are particularly well represented, but it is somewhat unfortunate that several very fine specimens are without precise localities. These objects, indeed, form one of the special features among Shetland's prehistoric antiquities.

Axes and Adzes.—The stone axe culture appears to have been developed in these islands to a remarkable degree of perfection, for the area has yielded an unusually large number of particularly fine and beautifully polished examples of large size, and, in many cases also, of a fully developed adze-like form. Many of the axes are from 10 inches to 14 inches in length, and not infrequently have expanded cutting edges like flat bronze axes. There seems to have been little or no restriction as to the nature of the stone used, as we find specimens made from materials which vary greatly both as regards texture and colouring. A close-grained, dark-coloured stone of a porphyritic character has frequently been used, but others have been fashioned from green serpentine or from a dark buff-coloured or light-grey coloured material. There are in all thirty-three specimens in the Lerwick collection, and throughout the islands I have seen many others in private possession. On fig. 6 are shown four of the finest examples of adze form. No. 1 came from Setter in Tingwall Parish; No. 2 from Taipwell in Whalsay; No. 3 from Break of Mews, Bigtown; and No. 4 has no locality. There is a complete absence in this collection of flat-edged examples.

A particularly neat little specimen of a polished serpentine axe with flat edges, the property of Mr E. S. Reid Tait, one of our Fellows, has, however, been kindly lent for exhibition (fig. 7). It measures $2\frac{3}{16}$ inches by $1\frac{7}{16}$ inch by $\frac{5}{16}$ inch, and was found near Mailland, in the

Whiteness area of the parish of Tingwall. It is specially interesting on account of its high finish and the unusually straight cutting edge.¹

Polished Stone Knives.—These objects are peculiar to the Shetland Islands. They are flat, irregularly oval-shaped blades, ground to a

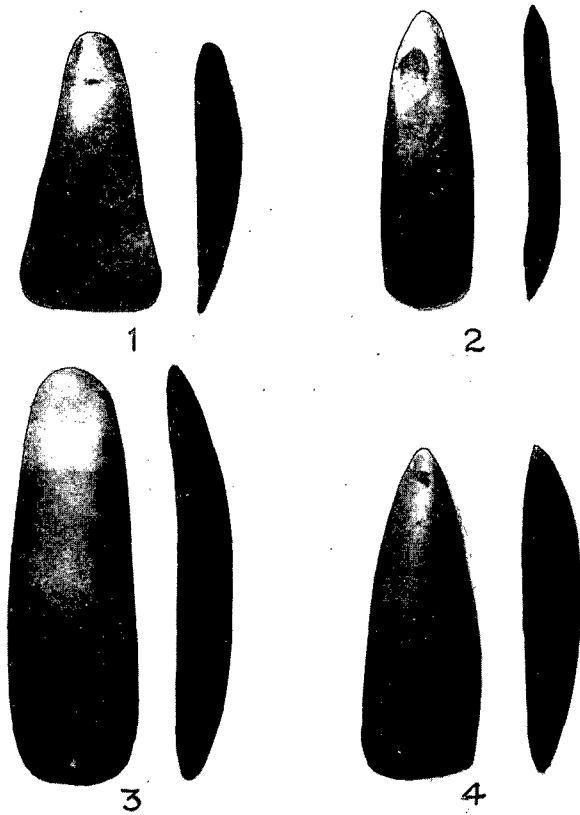


Fig. 6. Stone Adzes in Lerwick Town Hall Collection.

smooth, highly polished surface on their thin, flat faces, and with sharp edges, sometimes continued round the whole circumference, sometimes with slightly thickened or blunted backs. They show the same variations as regards size and material as do the axes, and they also have been found throughout the islands in great numbers; in many cases, indeed, in hoards of from three and four to over a dozen specimens. Thus four, now in the National Museum of Antiquities of Scotland,¹

¹ *Proceedings*, vol. xix. p. 332.

were found together in a bog in the island of Uyea; six are said to have been found in a row at the side of the Standing Stone at Yahaarwell, near Wester Skeld in Sandsting Parish;¹ and sixteen were found by a man digging peats in the parish of Walls, placed regularly on a horizontal line, and overlapping each other like slates upon the roof of a house, each standing at an angle of 45°. They lay at a depth of about 6 feet in the peat moss, and the line of stones ran east and west, with

the upper edge towards the east.² But by far the most important find of these implements was made at Modesty, about four miles north of Bridge of Walls. Here fourteen were found in a knoll with nine stone axes, fragments of three vessels of steatite, and other relics. This discovery has previously been described in detail along with other finds in our *Proceedings*, vol. xxix. pp. 48-54 and vol. xl. pp. 157-8, the relics being preserved in the National Museum.



Fig. 7. Axe of Serpentine from Mail-land, Whiteness, Shetland. (†.)

There are sixteen specimens in the Lerwick collection and many others are in private possession. Those illustrated (fig. 8) came from Papa (No. 1); Northmavine (No. 3); Tingwall (No. 4); and Sandness (No. 5). No. 2 has no locality. Neither the purpose nor the period of these objects has as yet

been conclusively determined, and it may be noted that several of the specimens (*cf.* Nos. 2 and 4) show striated markings on their flat, polished faces. A specimen, exhibited to the Society in 1908, is peculiar in having a groove on each side hollowed nearly parallel with the back, apparently for the purpose of giving a more secure grip when using the implement. The grooves are placed somewhat obliquely and in reverse directions in relation to each other.³

Arrow-heads.—Arthur Edmonston, M.D., in his books on Shetland,⁴ asserts that “flint heads of arrows have been found at different times,” and the Rev. John Turnbull, a former minister of the united parishes of Tingwall, Whiteness, and Weisdale, says also that “Steinbartes or stone axes, called here thunderbolts, are frequently found, also arrow-heads.”⁵

¹ *Memoirs read before the Anthropological Society of London*, vol. ii. p. 318.

² *Wilson's Prehistoric Annals of Scotland*, vol. i. p. 184.

³ *Proceedings*, vol. xliii. pp. 22-3.

⁴ *A View of the Ancient and Present State of the Zetland Islands* (1809), vol. i. p. 121.

⁵ *New Statistical Account*, vol. xv. p. 59.

Yet the belief has been prevalent for many years that no arrow-heads of flint or other silicious material were to be found in Shetland. To some extent the assumption may have been fostered by the lack of actual specimens or by the statements of other writers. Hibbert, for example, says: "The flint heads of arrows are frequently found in Orkney. . . . But I am not prepared to say if such relics ought to be

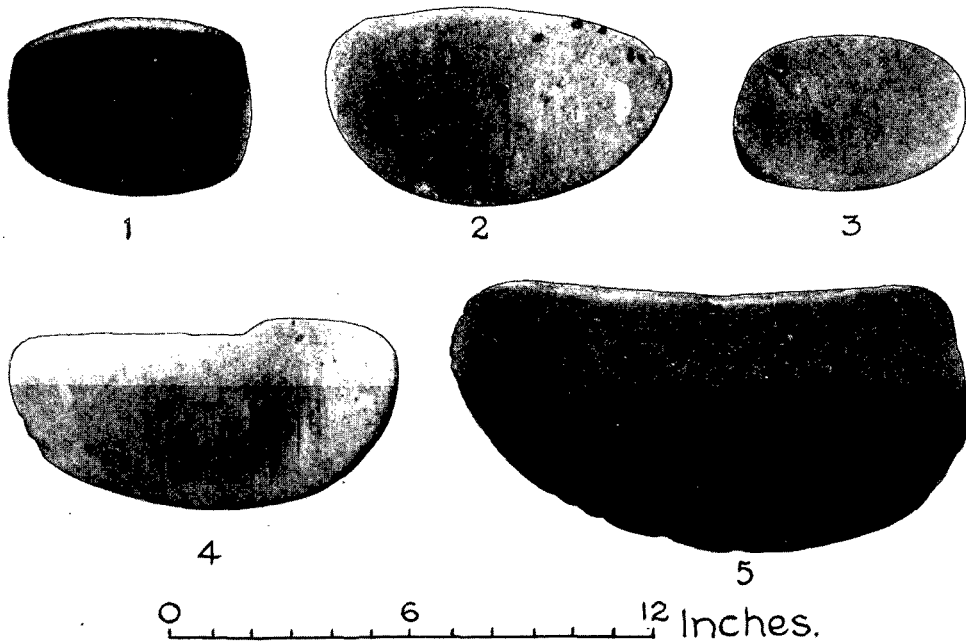


Fig. 8. Polished Stone Knives in Lerwick Town Hall Collection.

enumerated among the vestiges of the ancient armoury of Shetland."¹ Chalmers in his *Caledonia*² makes the same assertion, and Russell,³ writing as late as 1887, repeats the statement. It was with great satisfaction, therefore, that I learned, after repeated disappointing inquiries in different areas, that such relics had indeed been found on one area in the parish of Sandsting and that the specimens were still in the possession of the finder, Mr Peterson. This gentleman not only allowed five of his specimens (fig. 9) to be examined and photo-

¹ *A Description of the Zetland Islands* (1822), pp. 226-30.

² Vol. i. p. 261, footnote (f).

³ *Three Years in Shetland*, pp. 182-3.

graphed, but he obligingly supplied me with the exact location of his finds and gave details of their discovery. In the first year of search he recovered four specimens, and since then he has added two other examples from the same site. All of them are of fine workmanship, and they measure respectively: No. 1, $1\frac{3}{16}$ inch by $\frac{9}{16}$ inch; No. 2, $1\frac{1}{16}$ inch by $\frac{15}{16}$ inch; No. 3, $1\frac{1}{16}$ inch by $\frac{5}{8}$ inch; No. 4 (imperfect), $1\frac{1}{16}$ inch by $\frac{13}{16}$ inch; No. 5, $1\frac{3}{16}$ inch by $\frac{13}{16}$ inch; and No. 6, 2 inches by $\frac{7}{8}$ inch. The sixth specimen has not been figured, but it closely resembles No. 2. They are all of the leaf-shaped type, and they have an additional interest on account of the materials from which they have been made. No. 4, a

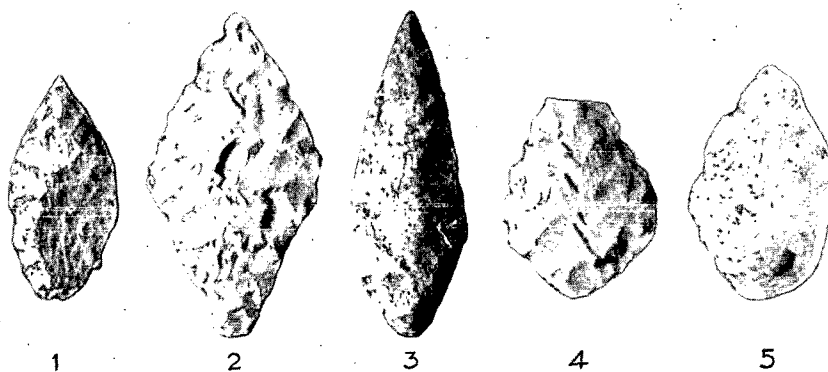


Fig. 9. Arrow-heads of Stone and Flint from Parish of Sandsting, Shetland. (†)

slightly imperfect specimen, is made from an impure flint, No. 5 from a crystal-like quartz, but the others are of unusual materials. Mr G. V. Wilson of H.M. Geological Survey identifies the large broad specimen (fig. 9, No. 2) as being made from a quartz felspar porphyry, and the others (Nos. 1, 3, and 6) as having been fabricated from a very fine-grained silicious epi-schist. In view of the remarkable scarcity of such relics throughout the islands, this discovery is one of the greatest importance, and I feel honoured in having been permitted to bring it before your notice. While congratulating Mr Peterson upon the success which has attended his observations, we hope that it may be an inducement to others to prosecute the search in other districts.

Penannular Bronze Brooch.—This interesting brooch (fig. 10) was found many years ago in a peat bank to the west of Pinhoulland in the parish of Walls, and it has recently been acquired for the National Museum. It is of penannular type, dating probably from about the

fourth or fifth century, and it measures $2\frac{3}{8}$ inches in diameter. The ring is round in section, and the broadened terminals assume conventional zoomorphic forms resembling the heads of beasts with duck-bill-shaped snouts. The pin, which is broken into two parts, has a barrel-shaped hinge encircled with three raised mouldings.

Viking Brooch of Silver.—One of the most prized exhibits in the Lerwick Town Hall collection is a very fine Viking brooch of silver. The relic (figs. 11 and 12) was formerly in Mr J. M. Goudie's possession,

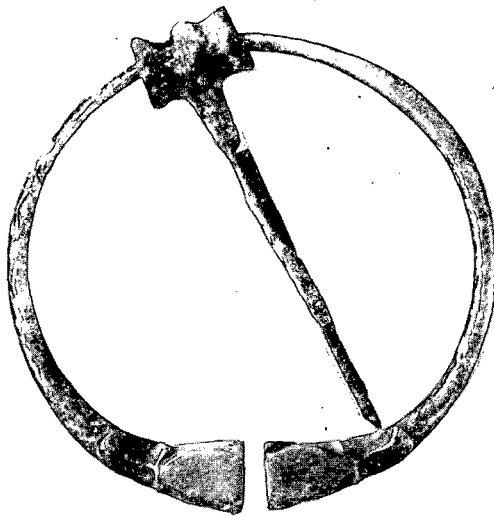
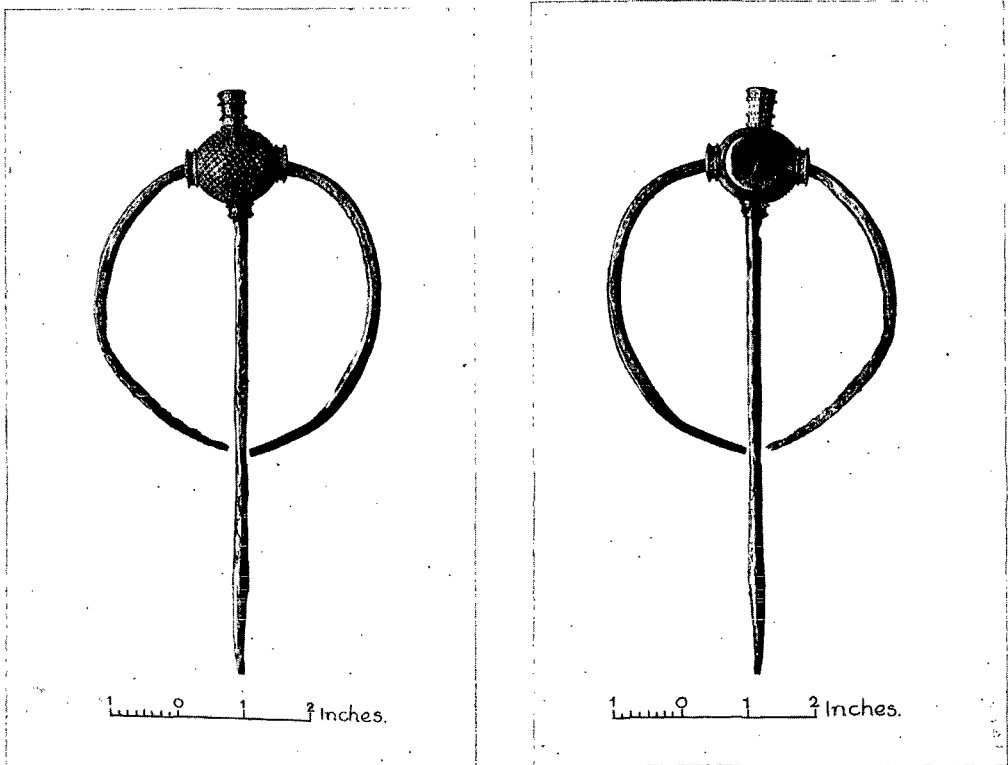


Fig. 10. Penannular Bronze Brooch from Pinhoulland, Walls, Shetland. (†.)

and I understand that it was found many years ago in the peat at Gulberwick, near Lerwick. It consists of a solid cylindrical rod of silver $\frac{1}{4}$ inch in section, bent into a penannular ring $4\frac{1}{4}$ inches in diameter, with the two extremities gradually tapering to bluntish points instead of, as in many examples, being fitted with bulbs and ornamented terminals. The pin, which measures $8\frac{5}{8}$ inches in length, is cylindrical in section in the upper part, but flattens out to an oval section near the point. It is fitted by means of an ornamented collar to the lower part of a hollow-cast bulbous head, which turns loosely on the ring of the brooch. The bulb, which measures $1\frac{1}{16}$ inch by $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch in diameter, is, on the front, elaborately decorated with a characteristic prickly ornament, and on the reverse it has a six-rayed star, with dots and small circles between the rays, engraved on a flat circular panel

$\frac{7}{8}$ of an inch in diameter. On either side it has ornamented collars through which the ring of the brooch passes, and on the top it has the conventional ornamented thistle-head terminal.

Ornamented Stone Disc.—Ornamented discs of sandstone have previously been found in Shetland, but to-night I have to present to you



Figs. 11 and 12. Silver Brooch from Gulberwick, Lerwick, Shetland.

an example made of soapstone (fig. 13), which clearly belongs to the same class. It was found on rough ground on the hillside about 100 yards outside the dike of the township area of Gletness, in Nesting Parish. It measures $2\frac{5}{8}$ inches in diameter by $\frac{1}{2}$ inch in thickness. The surface has been nicely smoothed and polished, and the ornamentation occurs on one face only. The design has been carefully executed, and it differs in pattern from any of the known examples, although it corresponds almost exactly to the design on the boss of the elaborately ornamented cross at Monymusk, Aberdeenshire.¹ The purpose of these

¹ *Proceedings*, vol. lix. p. 37.

ornamented discs is not known, but they appear to resemble tablemen more than anything else. They are of rare occurrence. Six have been recorded from the Shetland Islands,¹ some of them from broch sites, and there is another specimen in the Museum from Stemster Hill in the parish of Bower, Caithness.

Ornamented Club-like Implement.—In the Lerwick Town Hall collection there is also a very fine ornamented specimen of a handled implement (fig. 14) which belongs to a class of objects that is almost entirely confined to the Orkney and Shet-

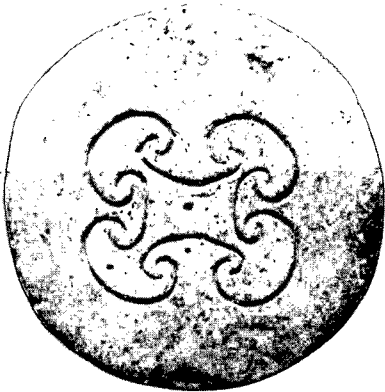


Fig. 13. Ornamented Stone Disc from Gletness, Nesting, Shetland. (3.)

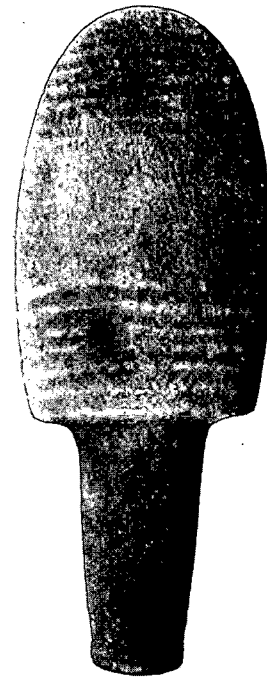


Fig. 14. Stone Club from Sandness, Shetland.

land Islands. On certain sites in Shetland, as at Quendale Sands, Sefster, and Houlland, broken examples of this class have been often found lying together in large numbers, but their particular purpose has not so far been determined. As a rule they are crudely fashioned, but this Lerwick example, from the Sandness district, is remarkable for its symmetry of outline and its decoration. A cast of the implement can be seen in the National Museum. It measures 11 inches in length by $4\frac{1}{8}$ inches in breadth and $1\frac{1}{8}$ inch in thickness. The handle is

¹ *Proceedings*, vol. xvii. pp. 296-7 and vol. xli. p. 33.

4 inches in length. The body or blade of the implement is broad and flattened, with an oval-shaped section, and it has been ornamented with two parallel groups of six-cord mouldings, which encircle it at the tip and at the base above the handle. One face of the implement is somewhat worn or weathered. It cannot be definitely stated to what period the relic

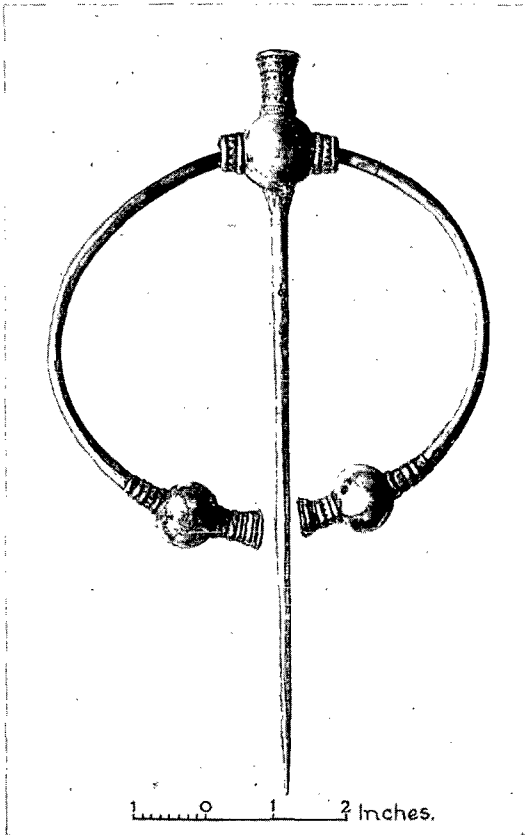


Fig. 15. Brooch of Silver from Skail, Orkney.

should be assigned, for implements of this class have been found in associations which seem to imply that they have a wide range in time. Thus they have been found in Bressay, in the heart of a burnt mound,¹ in Sandsting, around an underground structure,² and at Jarls-hof³—all in Shetland; and at Redland, Orkney, on broch sites.⁴

3. VIKING BROOCH OF SILVER FROM SKAILL BAY, ORKNEY.

This fine silver brooch (fig. 15) from Skail Bay, Orkney, was one of the items found in the important hoard of Viking relics which was accidentally discovered in March 1858.⁵ Since that date the brooch has been in private possession, and has not previously been described in the *Proceedings* of the Society or in any other publication. It is now in the possession of one of our Fellows, Mr J. Storer Clouston, President of the Orkney Antiquarian Society, and we

are greatly indebted to him for allowing it to be figured and for permitting this short notice of the relic to be added to the existing records of such an important deposit.

The brooch is of large size and in a good state of preservation. In general type it is not unlike six others that were found in the same

¹ *Proceedings*, vol. vii. p. 127.

³ *Ibid.*, vol. xli. pp. 26-7.

⁵ Most of these objects are now in the National Museum.

² *Ibid.*, vol. vii. p. 119.

⁴ *Ibid.*, vol. lxiii. p. 17.

hoard, but it differs from them in the details of its ornamented parts. The incomplete ring of the brooch, which measures $5\frac{1}{4}$ inches by $6\frac{1}{8}$ inches in diameter, is made of a solid cylindrical rod of silver, $\frac{1}{4}$ inch in diameter, and it is fitted with ornamented terminal knobs furnished with hollow-cast bulbous expansions, which give them a strong resemblance to thistle heads. These bulbous expansions or spheres are undecorated, and are each $\frac{1.5}{16}$ of an inch in diameter. A larger knob or expansion, $1\frac{3}{32}$ of an inch in diameter, with ornamented collars on either side of it, fits loosely on the ring of the brooch. Its upper part terminates in a conventional thistle head, and from its lower part there projects a stout pin $10\frac{1}{4}$ inches in length. The pin is also of silver, cylindrical in section in the upper part but flattening out a little near the somewhat blunted point. The ornamentation, which is confined to the collars and terminal points, is simple but effective. It consists of a series of engraved parallel lines passing obliquely across the spaces they fill, and alternating with other bands of indented triangular spaces or circles, or with bands that are plain.