

10. CORSTORPHINE ARMORIAL PENDANT. (Pl. XXVIII, 2).

In April 1958 when digging foundation trenches on the Broomhall housing estate at Corstorphine, a workman found a thin metal disc, below plough level.

Cleaning revealed a corroded bronze disc, 1.25 ins. in diameter. It is decorated with a hunting horn, and traces of gilding remain. The body of the horn is sunk, but no signs of enamel survive; in the engraved channels outlining the horn and baldric, however, there are traces of a black substance probably enamel. The relic was submitted to Dr James S. Richardson who identified it as "the remains of an armorial pendant which must have belonged to one of the Forresters lying in effigy in the Collegiate Kirk," and comments as follows: "These pendants were usually attached to the trapping of a horse but as small enamelled escutcheons they were worn on the person by heralds, messengers and dependants of princes or barons in order to show upon whose business they travelled. They further appear to have been worn about the neck by knights in the 14th and 15th centuries. These pendants are generally of bronze and the devices on them such as the Forrester's horn are enamelled by the champlevé process, the exposed parts of the metal being gilded."

The site of the find, now 35/37 Broomhall Terrace (Nat. Grid ref. NT/194724), is on raised ground on the south bank of the eastern end of the former Gogar Loch (before it was drained in the 17th century by cutting the "Stank" through a sill of high ground separating it from the adjoining Corstorphine Loch). Building operations on the site exposed a number of large boulders in linear settings suggesting the foundations of a man made structure—perhaps a medieval stronghold when Adam Forrester bought the grounds of Corstorphine in 1374 and built his castle between the Lochs a quarter mile further east before his death in 1405.

The pendant has been kindly donated to the Museum by Messrs MacTaggart & Mickel Ltd.

Thanks are due also to Dr J. S. Richardson for his opinion and comments, to Mr W. Norman Robertson for cleaning and mounting the relic, and to the anonymous workman who found it.

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