

## The Archaeological Journal.

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MARCH, 1853.

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### ON THE ADDITIONS TO THE COLLECTION OF NATIONAL ANTIQUITIES IN THE BRITISH MUSEUM.

AT the close of the year 1851, I gave a slight sketch of the history of the British Room and its contents up to that time. It may be of some interest to the members of the Archaeological Institute to learn the subsequent progress of the collection.

This is the more necessary, as the progress of the British Collection depends in no small degree on the support of societies like our own. The lover of classic art may, with money at his command, soon form a considerable collection of the antiquities of Greece or Rome. The history of these nations is indelibly recorded by their historians. It is examples of their art, and the illustration of what is already known, that the student seeks : to him it is of less moment whether the bronze or terracotta which he admires be found in Athens or Pompeii.

How differently must the British antiquary investigate the fading footsteps of the past. He must traverse the ages which elapsed before the Roman conquest without the guide of a written record, or the assistance of a certain starting point. The objects for which he seeks the fragment of bronze, the flake of flint, or mouldering urn, become of little value unless the circumstances of their discovery are recorded. He must look then for assistance to the country collector and the zealous archaeologist, not to the ordinary dealer, who cares little for the objects he sells, or, if necessary, invents a fable to promote the sale of them.

It is gratifying to find that, during the past year, the British collection has had donations made to it by no less

than thirty-three persons, while the number of objects added amount to about five hundred and eighteen.

Among the additions made to the primeval antiquities, the most interesting are two of the flint knives found in the cavern known as Kent's Hole, near Torquay. They were embedded with bones of extinct bears, hyenas, and other carnivora, and together with them sealed in by the thick stalagmitic floor of the cavern. The valuable observations made by Dr. Mantell, in a former volume of this journal,<sup>1</sup> render it unnecessary for me to enter into the question of the antiquity of these remains. Frequent observations prove how little we can trust to mere juxtaposition; it should, however, be observed, that these implements must be of very considerable antiquity, as *above* the floor by which they are covered is a layer of earth containing human bones and fragments of rude pottery necessarily subsequent in date to the knives, though so primitive in manufacture. These two implements were presented by R. A. C. Austen, Esq., and resemble the rude weapons found in the early British barrows of Wiltshire and elsewhere. Four other flint weapons, of somewhat similar appearance, have been presented by J. Y. Akerman, Esq. They were discovered in a tumulus at Driffield, in Yorkshire.

The collection of celts has been enriched by a very fine one of flint, found near Reigate, and presented to the Museum by R. Clutton, Esq.<sup>2</sup> Apart from its high finish, this object was a very desirable acquisition, owing to the great poverty of the collection in stone weapons found in England. Three other stone objects have been added, found in the parish of Barton Bendish, in Norfolk.

To the Rev. S. B. Turner we are indebted for a bronze dagger-blade, found at Boston, in Lincolnshire. It is of the ordinary type, but is of interest, as there was no weapon of the kind in the collection found in that part of England. A very curious celt-mould has been presented by Sir Walter Trevelyan, found near Wallington, in Northumberland.<sup>3</sup> It is of a coarse sandstone, and appears to have been intended for casting the flat cuneiform bronze celts, which Mr. Dunoyer has placed in his first class.<sup>4</sup> It exhibits three

<sup>1</sup> Arch. Journ., vol. vii., p. 340, *vide* also Buckland's *Reliquiæ Diluvianæ*.

<sup>2</sup> Arch. Journ., vol. ix. p. 194.

<sup>3</sup> *Archæologia Æliana*, vol. iv., p. 107.

<sup>4</sup> Arch. Journ., vol. iv, p. 2.

holes of different sizes for casting celts, and one for casting a ring, into which the metal was simply poured and afterwards hammered into shape. It resembles, in many particulars, a celt-mould found near Belfast, and published by Mr. Dunoyer.<sup>5</sup> To the same gentleman we are indebted for three Celtic urns, one of them discovered at Jesmond, near Newcastle-on-Tyne, the other two found in a cairn at Black Heddon, Northumberland. Portions of another urn, of a curious pattern, were presented by C. E. Long, Esq., discovered at Beedon, in Berkshire.<sup>6</sup>

These appear to be the only acquisitions which seem to belong to purely Celtic workmanship, with the exception of two very curious sets of objects found in Suffolk, which, though they do not appear to be of Roman workmanship, cannot be long anterior to the occupation of Britain by that people. The first series consists of a spear-head, hammer, knife, gouge and awl of bronze, discovered with one or two socketted celts, in a gravel pit at Thorndon, in Suffolk. The hammer is curious, and of great rarity in form; it resembles a socketted celt, but does not taper off at the point. The lower end is cut off square, and is very solid. It is not unlike an object found some years ago with a gouge and several celts on Roseberry Topping, in Cleveland, Yorkshire.<sup>7</sup> The knife is provided with a socket into which the handle was fixed by two pins. The gouge is of the ordinary type, and resembles those found with celts at Carlton Rode, near Norfolk.

The other set of objects was discovered at Exning, in Suffolk, and have a still more Roman character than the last. Among them were socketted celts, spear-heads, a gouge, some curious bullæ, and a pin with a chain, all of bronze. The form of two urns found near these objects is very similar to that of Roman urns, but the material is coarse and badly baked. All these curious remains were collected by the late Mr. Davy, of Ufford.

The additions to the collection of Roman remains have been numerous. I should especially mention some interesting stones discovered during the course of last summer in digging the foundations of a house on the East side of the Roman

<sup>5</sup> Arch. Journ., vol. iv., pl. vi., p. 333.

<sup>6</sup> Arch. Journ., vol. vii., p. 66.

<sup>7</sup> Archæologia Scotica, vol. iv., p. 53.

wall behind Trinity-house Square. They consist of an architectural fragment in the form of a scroll, a portion of a very large inscription, and another inscription which, from its worn condition, is difficult to read. The similarity of the first object to the scroll at the ends of the lid of the sarcophagus of Scipio Barbatus render it likely that this fragment may have been similarly placed on a gigantic sarcophagus, into the side of which the large inscription may have been inserted. The inscription, which is represented in the accompanying plate, records—Fabius Alpinus Classicianus,—who must have occupied a position of some importance to have required so splendid a monument. The second inscription is likewise monumental, and appears to commemorate A. Alfidius Rombo. This inscription is so faintly cut, and the stone is so much injured, that I must defer the consideration of it to another opportunity. These interesting remains were presented by W. J. Hall, Esq., on whose premises the excavations were being made.

The researches lately made on the site of a Roman villa at Boxmoor, in Hertfordshire, have furnished us with some curious flue-tiles, stucco, and other fragments, presented to the museum by the proprietor, George Davis, Esq. It would be superfluous to say much of these objects, as Mr. John Evans, to whose zeal the excavations are mainly due, has prepared a careful paper on the subject, which will shortly appear in the *Archæologia*. A perfect flue-tile, ornamented in a similar way to some found at Boxmoor, has been presented by Mr. Way. It was found, with several others, near Reigate. We are indebted to the Rev. J. W. Burgon for a fine Roman brick, found under the Post Office, and stamped with the inscription P. P. BRI. LON.<sup>8</sup>

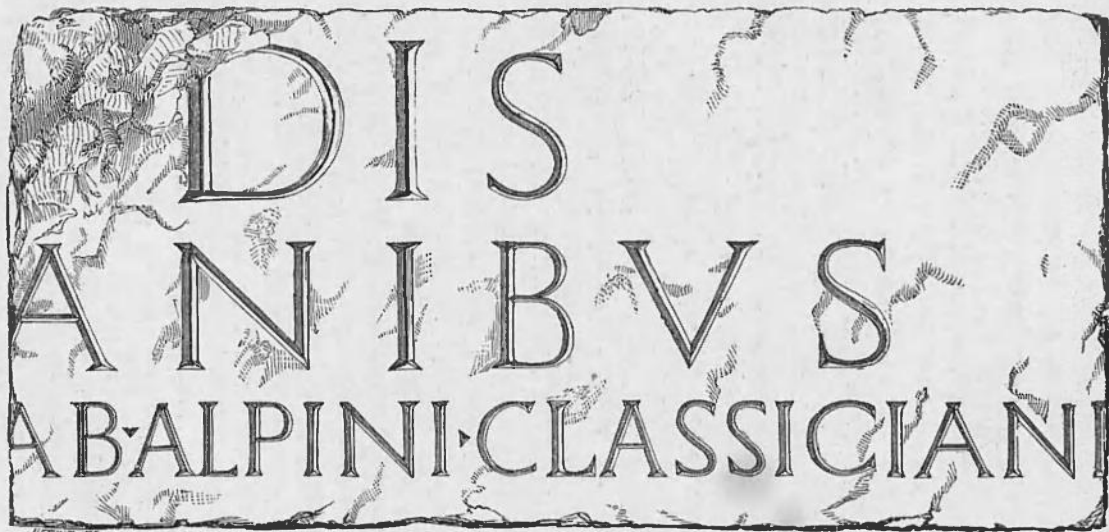


Tile-stamp. London. Half size.

I should also mention a very valuable present from Sir Walter Trevelyan: the curious enamelled bronze cup discovered at Harwood, near Cambo, in Northumberland.<sup>9</sup> The great rarity of enamelled vessels of the Roman period renders this a great acquisition to the National Collection, more

<sup>8</sup> Arch. Journ., vol. iii., p. 69.

<sup>9</sup> *Archæologia Eliana*, vol. iv., p. 102.



Sepulchral Inscription found at the base of the Roman Wall, London.

Length, 5 feet, 4 inches; height 2 feet 6 inches.

especially since the melancholy destruction of the curious enamelled vessel found in the Bartlow Hills by the fire at Lord Maynard's house at Little Easton.

With regard to Roman sepulchral antiquities, I should mention some vessels presented by the Dean of Westminster, and discovered near Old Ford, Stratford-le-Bow, in 1848.<sup>1</sup> They consist of a large globular amphora, the neck of which has been broken off, and within which was discovered a small urn, with a lid, containing burnt bones. It appears that the Romans frequently employed broken amphoræ for sepulchral purposes. The neck of the oil or wine jar must have been purposely broken off, as it would be too narrow to admit of any other vessel being placed inside. An interment from Colchester, almost identical with the one under consideration, is recorded in the *Journal of the British Archæological Association* (vol. i., p. 238). In this case, an urn with a lid was placed inside an amphora, the neck of which had been broken off and replaced after admitting the urn. An amphora was also discovered within the walls of the Roman station at Chesters in Northumberland, containing bones and a coin of Hadrian. Five sepulchral vessels, discovered at Hoo St. Werburg, near Rochester, have been presented to the Museum, by W. H. Nicholson, Esq.<sup>2</sup> They consist of a large amphora, perfect, with the exception of one of the handles, which had evidently been broken off before the deposit was made. In the neck of this amphora was placed a cup, of fine black varnished ware, almost equal in lustre to Etruscan vases; at the side of the amphora was placed a bottle. A fourth vessel (an urn of black ware, ornamented with tendrils in relief,) was found in a second interment, and appeared to have been contained in a large broken vessel; with it were the fragments of a Samian patera. The fifth vessel is a Samian patera, bearing the potter's mark CINN, and formed part of a third interment. A square Roman glass vessel has also been presented to the Museum, by the Earl of Verulam, discovered at Messing, in Essex. It is of a type frequently found in sepulchral deposits, being tall, quadrangular, and with one broad handle. The glass is of a bluish green, and, as usual with glass of this texture, scarcely exhibits a trace of corrosion.

<sup>1</sup> Arch. Journ., vol. vi., p. 76.

<sup>2</sup> They are engraved in *Journ. of Brit. Arch. Ass.*, vol. iv. p. 339.



One of the most curious discoveries during the past year was made in the New Forest, to the east of Fordingbridge. Over a tract of some extent were found scattered the fragments of Roman vessels, the greater part of which proved to be cast away from a potter's kiln. The Museum has secured about fifty of these vessels, of various sizes and shapes, of which a small group is represented in the accompanying woodcut. The greater part of the vessels consist of upright urns, with six indentations in the sides. Many of the pieces are remarkable for an iron-red glaze, due probably to overbaking, and they are all more or less cracked and warped. The excavations have been made by the Rev. J. Bartlett, under the superintendence of Mr. Akerman. The latter gentleman is preparing a paper on the subject, and I should not therefore wish to anticipate him in the particulars of a discovery principally due to his exertions.



Pottery found in the New Forest.

The additions to the Saxon antiquities have not been very numerous, and that branch of national archæology is the most deficient in the whole collection. The principal objects are, a curious buckle, several spear-heads, and other remains, discovered near Ringwould, in Kent, and presented by the Rev. J. Monins;<sup>3</sup> a fine saucer-shaped brooch, found at Stone, in Buckinghamshire;<sup>4</sup> and a leaden brooch, dis-

<sup>3</sup> Arch. Journ., vol. ix. p. 304.

<sup>4</sup> Archæologia, vol. xxx., p. 545, *vide* also Arch. Journ., vol. viii., p. 96.

covered in Cheapside in 1844, ornamented in the centre with a lion.<sup>5</sup> The similarity of the last object to one now in the York Museum, and another found in London, and of undoubted Saxon workmanship, enables us to assign it to that period.

One of the most interesting acquisitions of the year in Medieval art, was included in a collection of various objects presented to the Museum by the Rev. George Murray, at the desire of the late Rev. H. Crowe. This is an enamelled roundel, slightly concave, 7 inches in diameter, and resembling a small dish. It consists of two semicircles, united by small plates on the back. On the upper half is represented a bishop prostrate, and carrying a large rectangular object in his hands. Under this figure are the words *HENRICVS EPISCOPVS*. On the lower plate are represented two angels, swinging censers; round the margin of both plates appears a double line of inscriptions; that on the upper half reads:

+ *Ars auro gemmisque prior prior omnibus autor  
Dona dat Henricus vivus in ere Deo  
Mente parem Musis et Marco voce priorem  
Fama viris mores conciliant superis.*

The inscription on the lower plate reads:

+ *Munera grata Deo premissus verna figurat  
Angelus ad cælum rapiat post dona datorem  
Ne tamen acceleret ne suscitetur Anglia luctus  
Cui pax (pax) vel bellum motusve quiesve per illum.*

These inscriptions may be translated: + Art is above gold and gems: the Creator is above all things. Henry while living gives gifts of brass to God; whom, (equal to the Muses in intellect, and superior to Marcus in oratory,) his renown makes acceptable to men, his morals to the Gods above. + The servant sent before, fashions gifts acceptable to God: may an angel carry up to heaven the giver after his gifts. Let not England, however, hasten this event, or excite grief: England, to whom peace or war, movement or quiet, come through him.

Engravings of this curious enamel have been twice published; the first time in the Gentleman's Magazine for 1813, without any particulars of its history, or any explanation of

<sup>5</sup> This brooch and the two others mentioned here are engraved in Journ. of Brit. Arch. Association, vol. ii., p. 313.



the inscriptions ;<sup>6</sup> the second time by Mr. George Isaacs, in the Journal of the British Archæological Association.<sup>7</sup> It has been suggested by Mr. Isaacs that the person commemorated on this object was Henry of Blois, Bishop of Winchester, and we shall see that to no one but this influential prelate can the inscriptions allude. They record the gifts of a Bishop Henry, with whom the destinies of England rested. The character of the workmanship fixes the date to about the middle of the twelfth century ; and we do not find any bishop of the name but Henry of Blois till 1190. Henry of Blois, Abbot of Glastonbury, was made Bishop of Winchester in 1129, and died in 1171. This is a long period, but the inscriptions will enable us to approach much nearer to the date of our enamel. Stephen, the bishop's brother, acquired the throne in 1135, and died in 1154. During Henry the First's reign, the bishop was in a great measure dependent on his uncle, and after Henry the Second's accession he was more or less in disgrace, and took no part in public affairs. The enamel must therefore have been made during the reign of Stephen, when the Bishop's influence alternately caused Stephen's or Matilda's party to triumph. We might even, with some reason, conjecture our relic to have been made during the six years of Henry's greatest power (1139-1146), when, as legate, he took precedence of no less a person than the Archbishop of Canterbury.

The next question is, for what purpose were these plates made ? They evidently record one of the numerous gifts made by this munificent prelate to every church in which he was interested, and must have formed a portion of that gift, the form of which is determined by the rectangular object carried by the Bishop. It would seem too large for a book, nor could the plates have formed part of a book-cover. It has been suggested that the Bishop carries one of the chests which he caused to be made to contain the bones of the Saxon kings and bishops interred in Winchester Cathedral.<sup>8</sup> These chests, however, are recorded to have been made of lead ;<sup>9</sup> whereas the gifts are by the inscription mentioned to be *in ære* ; nor do the verses which are said

<sup>6</sup> Gent. Mag., Dec. 1813, pl. ii., p. 545.

<sup>7</sup> Vol. iii., p. 102. Mr. Isaacs' translation of the inscription differs considerably from the one here given, especially in the fourth lines of each inscription.

<sup>8</sup> By Mr. Isaacs, *loco citato*.

<sup>9</sup> Milner's Survey of Winchester Cathedral, p. 52. Rudborne, lib. ii., c. 4. Henricus Episcopus posuit in sarcophagis plumbeis reges cum episcopis, &c.

to have been inscribed on the chests at all agree with those in question. It is not likely, moreover, that so laudatory an inscription should have been put up under the Bishop's immediate superintendence, or the chests be described as "*Munera Deo*." It seems more probable that the object represented is intended for a super-altar, or tabula, made out of the Bishop's bounty, though not under his own superintendence. An enamelled altar-piece existed till 1790 in the abbey church of Grammont,<sup>1</sup> which was made between the years 1165 and 1188; and we find *tabula Lemovitica* given to a church in Apulia, in 1197.<sup>2</sup>

This brings us to a third question, and that is, as to the place where this enamel was made. The great similarity of the work to German miniatures of the twelfth century,<sup>3</sup> would induce me to attribute it to a German rather than a French origin. It has been the custom to ascribe most early enamels to the workshops of Limoges. The constant presence, however, of small enamels as accessories to German metal-work, especially in the neighbourhood of Cologne, has obliged one or two writers on the subject to allow that there must have been a Rhenish school of enamellers;<sup>4</sup> and it is this school, I am inclined to think, that produced the enamel under consideration. This is a point, however, which rests on such slender evidence and such minute details, that I will only at present offer it as a suggestion. I should mention that it is very doubtful whether the two semi-circular plates ever occupied the relative positions that they now do; the rivet-holes along the central division do not correspond, and the angels must have originally formed the uppermost part of some subject, while below them must have been some figure which they were censuring. The plate of the prostrate bishop could only have formed the lower part of the design.

The principal additions made to the collection of seals are the four following matrices:—1. The seal of Boxgrave Priory,<sup>5</sup> which has excited so much interest from the peculiar triforiated appearance which the impression was

<sup>1</sup> Texier, *Les Emailliers de Limoges*. Laborde, *Notices des enaux du Louvre*. p. 34. Two of the enamels from this altar-piece are preserved in the Hotel de Cluny at Paris.

- Ducange, *voce* Limogia.

<sup>3</sup> Especially the illuminations of the Cottonian MS. Nero., C. 4.

<sup>4</sup> Labarte, *Catalogue Debruge-Dumeynil*, p. 153.

<sup>5</sup> *Archæologia*, vol. xxvii. p. 375.

originally intended to exhibit. 2. The seal of the Lepers of St. Radegund "de Locover," found with the last. We owe to Dr. Husenbeth (the author of the useful *Manual of the Emblems of Saints*) the suggestion of *de Locover* being the town of Louviers, in Normandy, better known under the name of Lupariæ. The probability of this is confirmed by our finding the church "de Locoveris" constantly occurring, to the exclusion of Lupariæ, in the deeds relating to the Abbey of St. Taurin, at Evreux,<sup>6</sup> to which Louviers belonged. 3. The seal of the Hundred of Walshcroft, in Lincolnshire, which is here represented. In the centre is the name of the hundred, spelt WALCROST, which approaches



more nearly to its name in Domesday, Walecross, than to the modern form. This seal is evidently of the same date and workmanship as two belonging to the county of Cambridge, and has not, I believe, been hitherto published. 4. The seal of William de Flamenville, who is supposed to be the person of that name recorded as living in the 1st

year of King John.<sup>7</sup> It consists of an antique gem set in silver, on which is engraved the inscription. This interesting object was presented by W. Wilshire Smith, Esq. To the Rev. J. M. Traherne we are indebted for a silver ring-brooch, and a gold ring with a merchant's mark, both of which were exhibited in the collection formed during the meeting of the Institute at Bristol.

The wooden crozier discovered with the body of Bishop Lyndwood in St. Stephen's Chapel, has been deposited in the Museum, by Lord Seymour, H. M. Chief Commissioner of Woods and Forests.

The additions to the collection of encaustic tiles have been very numerous. The most important are some from Jervaulx Abbey, Yorkshire, presented by the Rev. J. Ward, which are the only remains of the splendid pavements that have been recently so well engraved by Mr. Shaw. The others consist of several from Harpsden, Oxfordshire, from the Rev. I. K. Leighton.<sup>8</sup> Three with patterns in relief, from Birkenhead Priory (Mr. Pidgeon). One from Eynsham,

<sup>6</sup> *Gallia Sacra.*, vol. xi., pp. 55-139.

<sup>7</sup> *Minutes of Soc. Antiq. London*, vol. ii., p. 256, where a representation is given.

<sup>8</sup> *Arch. Journ.*, vol. ix., p. 297. These have likewise been engraved by Mr. Shaw.

Oxfordshire (Mr. Westwood).<sup>9</sup> A fine wall-tile, from Malvern (Mr. Way); and one of the wall-tiles discovered at Monmouth, presented by Mr. George. This tile was described in the ninth volume of the *Journal* (p. 298), where the name of the person recorded is given as Coke. The great similarity of the arms (3 *towers*) to those of Callis,—*Gu.*, 3 *towers or.*, on each a *demi-lion ramp. or.*, would seem to suggest the true reading to be the cognate name, Colie.

The only other object which it remains for me to mention is an earthenware dish, which appears to belong to one of the early English manufactories. The front is ornamented with a sun, surrounded by sprigs in the form of fleur-de-lis; on the back is inscribed JOSEPH KING .C.W. 1664. The letters following the name would suggest the possibility of the dish having been made by some churchwarden in the potteries for an alms-dish.

I think we may congratulate ourselves on the promising commencement of the British Collection. The existence of such a collection is mainly to be attributed to the exertions of the Archaeological Institute. To the Duke of Northumberland it is under special obligations, as the antiquities discovered at Stanwick were the first and most valuable contributions to a British collection; and one of the most important Egyptian tablets in the Museum was, according to his promise, presented by his Grace on the completion of the British Room. It is sad, however, to compare our own scanty beginnings with the magnificent series of National Antiquities which the Danish antiquaries have formed. The law of Treasure-trove, as it exists in this country, has no doubt caused the destruction of many interesting relics, and led to the concealment of many more. It is chiefly, however, the backwardness of our own countrymen, the lukewarmness of public establishments, and the neglect with which the antiquities of this country were regarded at a time when they were to be procured, which has led to this state of things. It is to be hoped, that in a few years a collection may be formed which, if not as good as it might have been, may still be such as to enable us to form some notion of the nations which have successively occupied the land which we inhabit.

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<sup>9</sup> Arch. Journ., vol. viii., p. 211.

