

ART. IV.—*On a supposed touch or assay of Silver at Carlisle.*

By R. S. FERGUSON, F.S.A.

Read at Kirkby Lonsdale, June 27th, 1883.

CLOSELY connected with the interesting paper which immediately precedes this is a question which was first raised on "Old Church Plate in the Diocese of Carlisle," viz., as to whether there was not at Carlisle in the 16th century an irregular touch or assay of silver, like that at Hull in the 17th century. It is quite certain that at Hull from the year 1625, or thereabouts, to the end of the century, the gold and silver smiths of Hull did a good trade amongst their neighbours, and that they stamped their wares with a special mark of their own—viz., the arms of Hull, three ducal crowns, one above another—for whose use in this manner no legislative or other authorisation can be cited.*

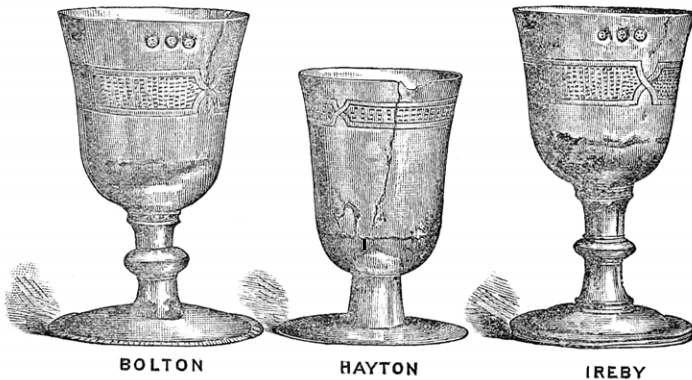
The compilers of "Old Church Plate in the Diocese of Carlisle" discovered a class of cups, containing ten examples, which, from the similarity of their workmanship and ornamentation, they were disposed to attribute to the same hand, and, from the rudeness of the work, to some local smith. These cups are as follows:—

		Maker's Mark.
Hayton cup	circa 1565	None
Bolton cup	„ do.	E D linked letters
Ireby cup	„ do.	do.
Cliburn cup	„ do.	do.
Uldale cup	dated 1571	None
Lazonby cup	dated 1571	None
Longmarton cup	circa do.	E D linked letters
Orton cup	„ do.	None

* "Old English Plate." Cripps 2nd edition, pp. 87, 88.

Wastdale Head cup	,,	do.	None
Distington cup	,,	do.	None

The four cups in this list which have a maker's mark are also marked with a rose of four petals in a circular stamp, twice repeated. We have in "Old Church Plate in the Diocese of Carlisle" an engraving of three of them, namely Bolton, Hayton, and Ireby, which we here reproduce, and we cite Miss Goodwin's account of the Bolton one, which is a typical specimen of the class :



"Bolton. Silver cup attributed by Mr. Cripps to 1565 or thereabouts. Height, five inches and one sixteenth; height to top of stem, two inches; diameter of the bowl, three inches; diameter of the foot, three and a quarter inches; weight 8oz. 13dwt; but the stem is filled with lead or solder. Three marks:—1, E D, ligatured, 2 and 3, a rose. The rose is in a circular punch, and has four petals, and a well defined minute circle for its centre, from which the pedals and leaves (rather heart shaped) radiate. The bowl has a band of ornamentation round it, consisting of two containing straps, interlaced three times in hour glass shaped curves, the space between the straps being filled with rows of small indentations made with the point of a sharp tool. A narrow ornamental moulding connects the bowl with the stem, which has a plain knop and moulding below it; it has been repaired, and the mouldings on its upper side are obliterated; the
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foot seems to have been a subsequent repair or possibly an addition in lieu of the old one. The mode of manufacture of the bowl is very rude. A small sheet of silver has been rolled into the form of a truncated cone open at both ends, to the smaller of which a shallow cup has been joined: the sheet forming the cone overlaps for about an inch; the hammer seems to have been the chief tool employed." Old Church Plate in the Diocese of Carlisle, p. 53.

Miss Goodwin proceeded to conjecture that this class of cups were by a local man; and that the rose mark pointed to Carlisle. A single rose has long been used by the Corporation of Carlisle as a stamp for weights and measures; it would equally be used for authenticating the standard of silver, and was doubtless taken from the ancient city arms, on which it appears as a charge five times. That there were gold and silversmiths in Carlisle in the 16th century, or at least men capable of working in the precious metals, is proved by the fact that the full title of the Smiths' Guild, whose rules come down from a revise made in 1562, is the

"Ancient fraternite of blacksmiths, whitesmiths, goldsmiths, and silversmiths."

No doubt a brother of the guild considered himself qualified and free to work in any metal that was susceptible to the "hammery art," while their apprentices continued up to the year 1728, to be bound to the

"Trade faculty, mistery, and occupation of a blacksmith, whitesmith, and goldsmith."

If a hammerman of Carlisle was in the habit of having his pewter pots authenticated by the stamp of a rose, he would think the same stamp a very suitable one to authenticate his silver pots with. My theory of the rose mark being a Carlisle mark is strongly confirmed by the siege pieces to which Mr. Nanson and myself have called attention. There is no doubt that they were minted in Carlisle, and they bear for mint marks what Ruding in his *Annals of the Coinage* describes as *anemone-flowers*, but the things

things which Ruding calls *anemone-flowers* are very rude roses ; they are, in fact, sexfoils, or octofoils, the same as on the coat of arms on the city seal.* They are very rude attempts at roses, but so are the coins themselves very rude attempts at coins.

Now to turn to the other mark, the E.D. linked. Although a copy of the rules of the Blacksmiths' Guild as revised in 1562 is in possession of the Guild, their only other records consist of a minute book, commencing in 1819, and an index to the members, commencing in 1735. These do not assist us, but I have been lucky enough to tumble upon the following entry in the accounts of the Chamberlains of Carlisle for the year October 1610 to October 1611, when Mr. Edward Aglionby was Mayor and Richard Stage and Thomas Raylton chamberlains, elected the first of October 1610.

"Itm to Edward Dalton for amendinge one of the cittie's great pottes. vi.s."

We know from Mr. Nanson's paper that the city had two great silver pots, each weighing 58oz. or thereabouts, and it is clear Edward Dalton was a silversmith. He seems to have had something to do with the Shrove Tuesday sports, as an annual payment of 20s. is made to him for the summer games. His name appears in the accounts until 1640, and he also,† in 1645, contributed

" One bowle one Tumbler & 2 pieces of broken plate w^t ^{oz} 022 — 0 — $\frac{1}{8}$ to be coined into money: so that he could not have made the class of cups, of which the Bolton one is the typical specimen, if they are of the dates assigned to them, 1565 to 1571 ; but I should think his father was a silversmith before him, or more probably his grandfather, after whom he would be

* *Ante* pp. 48, 53, 54—57. *And see* The Armorial Bearings of the City of Carlisle. Transactions of this Society Vol vi. p. 1.

† *Ante* p. 62.

christened,

christened, according to the Cumberland fashion of christening the eldest son after his grandfather. The Daltons were a family of position in Carlisle in the 16th and 17th centuries: a Robert Dalton was Mayor in 1566-7. The accounts of the Corporation show that from 1600 to 1644, there always was some one in Carlisle, who could work in silver; there are yearly entries of repairs to the sergeants' maces, which were of iron covered with silver, but the workman's name is not given. No accounts exist anterior to 1600. After 1644; everything went to ruin; in 1660, the maces had to be sent to Newcastle for repair, so that I conclude the art had died out in Carlisle. During the 16th century, until James I. broke the garrison of Carlisle, there must have been work for a silversmith in Carlisle, at any rate in repairing and mending. The Lord Warden of the western marches lay in Carlisle Castle; Henry Lord Scroope died there in Queen Elizabeth's time; and his son and successor, and his deputy, Sir Thomas Cary, with their families came to reside there.

The proof, therefore, seems conclusive that there was in Carlisle in the 16th century an irregular touch or assay of silver, whose mark is a rose. There may have been, it is true, only one practitioner, or silversmith, who used it.



LABYRINTH ON ROCKCLIFFE MARSH.

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ART. V.—*A Labyrinth on Rockcliffe Marsh.* By R. S. FERGUSON, F.S.A.

Read at Kirkby Lonsdale, June 27th, 1883.

DR. Trollope, the learned Bishop suffragan of Nottingham, in an exhaustive paper, called "Notices of Ancient and Mediæval Labyrinths," published in the 15th volume of the *Archæological Journal*, instances the vicinity of the Solway as one of the localities where have been found the turf-mazes, termed *Caerdroia*, or *Troy Walls*, and he refers for his authority to an article in *Notes and Queries*, ser. ii., vol. v., p. 211, called "The walls of Troy," and signed with the initials W.H.M., the initials of the late learned and genial Captain William Henry Mounsey of Castletown and Rockcliffe, the "eremita peregrinans" who traced the Eden from the Solway to its source in Mallerstang.* Captain Mounsey in this communication to *Notes and Queries* cites from a Welsh book on British history, entitled *Drych y Prif Oesoedd*, an allusion to a custom formerly prevalent among the shepherds of the Principality, of cutting on the turf a figure in the form of a labyrinth, which they called *Caerdroia*, i.e., the walls or citadel of Troy. He proceeds to say:—"On reading the passage in *Drych y Prif Oesoedd*, which refers to *Caerdroia*, I immediately recognised a custom familiar to me from boyhood. On the extensive grassy plains of Burgh and Rockcliffe marshes contiguous to the Solway Sands in Cumberland, the herdsmen at the present day are in the habit of cutting labyrinthine figures, which they also call

* Itinere apud ostium suscepto fonte tenuis confecto
Genio Itunæ et nymphis V.S. YESNUOM
SUMLEILUG
Eremita peregrinans XV Martii A.C. MDCCCL.
From the pillar at the source of the Eden.

the

the walls of Troy." Captain Mounsey wished to ascertain if these turf mazes occurred only in those parts of the United Kingdom, which had been the seats of Cymric population, and to ascertain if the custom existed in Bretayne. He was replied to by Dr. Trollope (Ib., p. 419) to the effect that the turf-mazes are not confined to the parts of the United Kingdom said to have been peopled by the Cymri; and that turf-mazes did not occur in Bretayne, or indeed on the continent at all, although architectural ones abound both in France and Italy.

On becoming acquainted with the interesting facts just related, the writer of this present communication felt that it was his duty on behalf of this society to institute a local inquiry into this matter with a view of placing the facts on permanent record, a matter of the more importance because the custom has fallen into disuse in Wales, owing, Captain Mounsey suggests, to the spread of Calvinistic sectarianism. Nor does any tradition now remain of any turf-mazes on Burgh marshes. The field reeve knows of none, nor can he find that the herds even recollect even hearing of them.

Rockcliff Marsh is a large tract of land, between the estuaries of the Eden and the Esk, while the harder inhabitable and cultivated part of the parish of Rockcliffe lies between the two rivers. A very old road indeed runs through the parish: at its southern end, it once went to Carlisle by a ford over the Eden now disused, called Etterby Wath, and thence through the Willow Holme. The fact of the road having gone by this often impassable wath, when a mile round would have taken it to a bridge, points to its being older than any bridge, *i.e.* pre-Roman. It runs more or less parallel to the Eden, as far as the commencement of the Castletown grounds; here access can be had to the marsh, but the road shoots across the hard part of the parish to the river Esk, entering on the marsh at a place called by the Ordnance Surveyors
"Greenbed."

“Greenbed,” but better known as “Willie of the Boats.” Until the year 1816, this was the main road from England to Glasgow, and the western parts of Scotland: here the bridgeless Esk had to be forded, and “Willie of the Boats,” was the guide. But in 1816, an entirely new road was made from Carlisle to Glasgow, which crossed the Esk higher up, by the Pot Metal Bridge, an early effort at an iron bridge. This and the subsequent introduction of steam superseded Willie, and he is commemorated by these doggerel lines outside the house:—

Ere Metal Brig or Rail were thowt on
 Here honest Will, the Boatman wrout on,
 Gentle an' semple he did guide
 To either Scotch or English side.
 Wi' them o' horseback he did ride,
 An' boat the footman:
 An' none did ever dread the tide
 Wi' Will the boatman.
 Now, tho' Will's works is done an' Will himsel lies quiet,
 Yet lives his Spirit here. Step in an' try it,
 Nor Brig nor Rail can half so pure supply it.

There was an older inscription, existing during Willie's life, which is attributed to Robert Burns, and which Mr. Jackson of Carlisle, took down from the recitation of an old man who remembered Will Irving the boatman:—

Here gentlemen, you have a guide
 To either Scotch or English side,
 And you need never fear the tide,
 When with the boatman,
 With horse or drove he'll with you ride.
 And boat the footman.

WILLIAM IRVING.

A maze formerly existed on the marsh close to “Willie of the Boats,” about 150 yards from the house, and was more or less in evidence about six years ago, but the vast number of cattle that constantly resort to the gates at “Willie of the Boats” have poached it out of existence, and its precise site cannot now be ascertained. This was
 cut

cut by one Christopher Graham, about the year 1815. Graham was then a lad of 16, son of the herd of the marsh, and an apprentice to the sea. He was afterwards drowned in foreign parts. My informant, a relative of Graham, tells me that a maze of smaller dimensions existed immediately west of Graham's, but that it has long ago grown up or been trodden out. This probably was the original from which Graham got the pattern.

The only existing maze we could hear of, is about a mile from "Willie of the Boats," and about 150 yards from the hedge dividing the marsh from the hard ground. A friendly herd conducted the writer and his colleague, Mr. W. Nanson, to the spot, which would be very difficult to find without a guide, for the paths have not been cleared out for some ten years, and Dr. Trollope's quotation from Shakespeare comes aptly in:—

"The nine men's morris is filled up with mud:
And the quaint maizes on the wanton green,
For lack of tread, are undistinguishable."

—*Midsummer Night's Dream*, act 2, scene 2.

But by aid of a little patience we made out the plan, and, as the accompanying sketch shows, for which I am indebted to Mr. W. Nanson, it is one of the simplest character. The path is one continuous curve, presenting no *cul-de-sacs* from which a retreat has to be made in search of the right road. It is of small size, covering a space of 26ft. by 24ft. The path is nine inches wide, and the interval between its coils eight inches. The destroyed maze at "Willie of the Boats" was precisely similar; a local tradition says that this existing one was cut by Robert Edgar, a sailor, also drowned at sea, in imitation of the one cut by Graham. Another story we heard was that these mazes were first cut by foreign sailors. To this point I will recur.

As for the object with which these mazes were first cut: Dr. Trollope has shown that these turf mazes often occurred

occurred near churches and chapels, and were of ecclesiastical origin, and used as places of penance. But no inhabitant of Rockcliffe, who was wicked enough to require the infliction of penance at the order of the Rockcliffe priest, would be good enough to pass "Willie of the Boats" without a sup of Willie's spirit; and no Rockcliffe priest would trust his penitent in such a vicinity. The path too, nine inches only in width, is too small to crawl round on one's knees. On the whole, I incline to the theory put forward by Captain Mounsey, that these mazes were cut

"Merely because they (the cutters) had nothing else to do, and named it, as they had heard it named, without knowing or caring what it meant."

The captain's boyhood carries the mazes back beyond the days of Graham or Edgar, but the idea and the pattern may have been first brought to Burgh or Rockcliffe by foreign sailors. The *Sainte Genevieve*, of Dunkirk, alias the *Jumping Jenny*, well known to readers of *Redguntlet*, ran Nantz Brandy into the Creeks of the Solway. Craft of 80 tons burden used once to come up to Rockcliffe and still larger to Sandsfield, which is but a little below it, on the opposite side of the Eden. Rockcliffe itself was a shipbuilding place; for instance, the *Endeavour*, of Whitehaven, of 155 tons burden, was built at Rockcliffe in 1762, and was still afloat in 1874 and may be so now.
