

ART. III.—*Roman-British Fibulæ and other Objects from Brough.* By H. S. COWPER, F.S.A.

Read at Penrith, August 28th, 1902.

BY the kindness of Mr. W. B. Brunskill of Windermere, I exhibit to the Society a small collection of bronze fibulæ and other ornaments. This collection was made at Brough by Mr. Brunskill's grandfather, the late Mr. William Brunskill, to whom, I understand, many such objects were sold as they were found, after having been washed out of the river bank at the Brough camp.

The most interesting are as follows :—

Three harp-shaped fibulæ (Plate I., A B C).

One brooch, consisting of a small circular plaque ornamented with spiral ornament in relief of late Celtic type (figured below).

One small annular fibula (Plate I., D).

Four leaden seals (Plate II., E) inscribed respectively :—

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and an unexplained object in bronze, which appears to be a sort of ornamental finial, having a screw at the bottom (Plate II., F).

Though so many of these objects have been found that they are not rare, their interest is considerable. They are, of course, of Roman date, probably most of the third century A.D. ; but it should be observed in the case of the harp-shaped fibulæ that, although the fashion is Roman, there is strong Celtic influence apparent both in the ornament and finish. There seems little doubt that they are of native manufacture, and probably were made by Romanized Britons, partly for their own use, and perhaps also for sale in the garrison market.

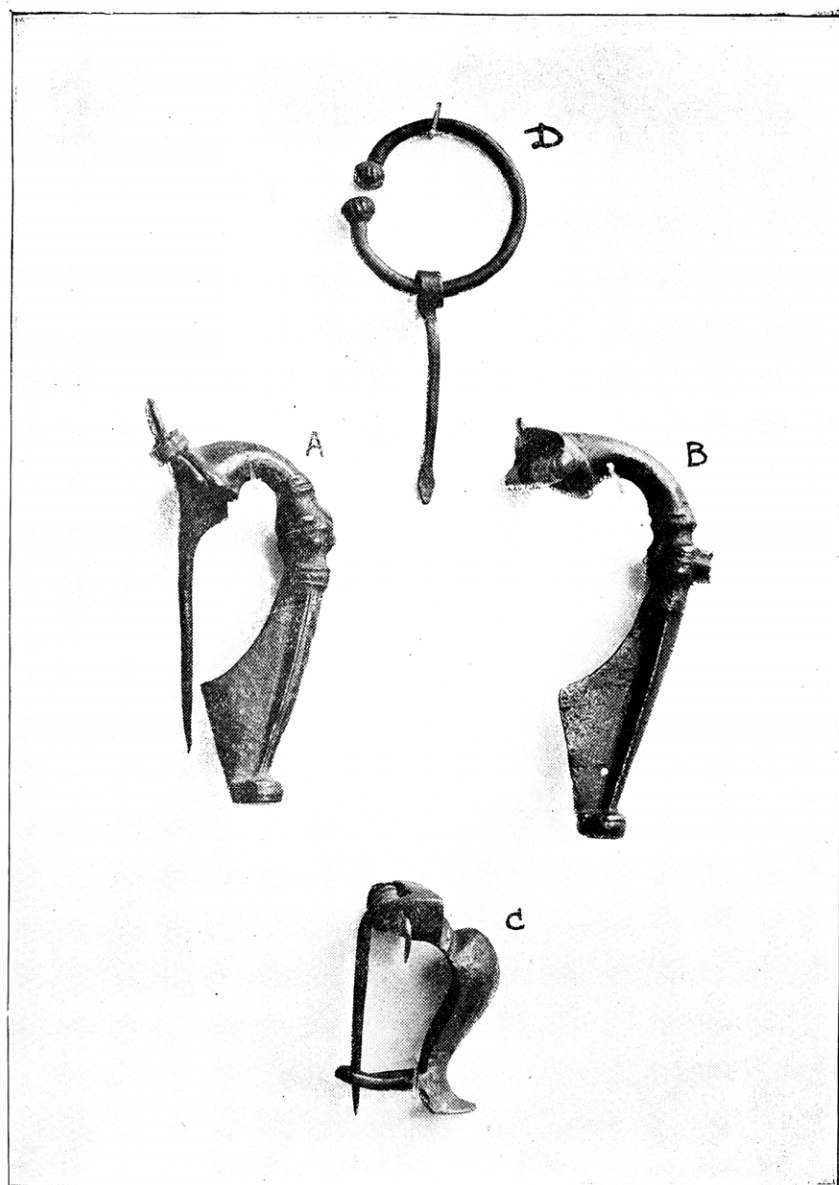


PLATE I.—ROMAN-BRITISH FIBULÆ FROM BROUGH.

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The flat circular brooch is less common, though others of the type have been found at Brough. It is nearly



ROMAN-BRITISH FIBULA, FROM BROUGH (ACTUAL SIZE).

purely Celtic in type, though Mr. C. H. Read tells me he could not say that it belongs to a different date.

These fibulæ or brooches were used for pinning women's dresses like the modern safety pin, of which the fibula is the archetype.

I should mention that Mr. Brunskill has given the collection to the National Museum, where they fit into a considerable series of similar relics from Kirkby Thore and Brough. A fully worked-out paper on the Roman and Roman-British fibulæ from Cumberland and Westmorland would be of much interest in our *Transactions*.*

* For Roman and Roman-British fibulæ, see *Archæologia* LV., p. 183; LII., p. 381; Wright, *Celt, Roman, and Saxon*, p. 332; &c.