

Some Further Finds in Deepdale Cave, Buxton.

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IN the last volume of the *Journal*, pp. 228 and 230, I briefly described Deepdale Cave, and the bones and relics of man's occupation that had then been disinterred.

Early in January, 1891, I received from Mr. M. Salt, of High Street, Buxton, a box of valuable relics that had been found by him in Deepdale Cave during the autumn of 1890. These I have had his kind permission to briefly describe for our Society, and to procure the illustration of the more important specimens by Mr. Bailey.

It is to be understood that in the following list, the articles named were found by Mr. Salt, in October, 1890, two feet below the surface of the present ground. Where the depth of the find, or the date differ, it will be mentioned. In the description I follow the numbering of the articles adopted by Mr. Salt before the collection was submitted to me.

I. A set of silver-plated bronze toilet accessories, intended to hang at the girdle of a Roman lady. It consists of three parts, all hinged so as to work separately, nail cleaner, tweezers for the hair, and ear-pick. Size—length, $3\frac{3}{10}$ in. ; breadth, $\frac{7}{10}$ in. It is most exceptional to find this article in perfect condition. (Plate XII., Fig. 6.)

II. Thin bronze pin for piercing the hair, with small moulded head. Length, $4\frac{1}{2}$ in.

III. Small plain bronze hair tweezers. Length, 2 in.

IV. Smooth piece of narrow bronze, bent clumsily into a finger ring. Diameter, $\frac{3}{4}$ in.

V. Piece of curved bronze, about two inches long, ornamented with embossed fish's head; apparently perfect; perhaps a small strigil or scraper, to which a handle was attached when in use.

VI. This remarkable piece of bronze can be best understood by referring to Mr. Bailey's drawing (Plate XII., Fig. 5). It is 1 in. broad by 2 in. long; but it is obviously broken off in its length. The reverse is smooth. The effective bold pattern on the obverse is of separate make, and has been applied with six small rivets, two of which are missing. It has evidently been hinged, probably for the attachment of a buckle. The bronze is thin and flexible, save where the ornament is attached. We conjecture that it is part of the fillet or bandeau (*tonia, vitta*) worn round the hair by young Roman women. Occasionally the fillet was made of pliant metal.

VII. Small piece of the point and pin sheath of a broken bronze fibula.

VIII. and IX. Two bronze pins with spiral springs still attached, from small fibulæ or brooches.

X. Hooked piece of flat bronze, the shank pierced with small hole. Length, $1\frac{1}{2}$ in.; $\frac{1}{2}$ in. across the hook. It is too big for a fresh-water fish hook, and has probably been fixed to a shelf or wall to be used in the suspension of small articles.

XI. Spindle-whorl of light-coloured hard stone, 1 in. in diameter.

XII. Piece of thin curved bronze, about 6 in. long; it has probably been a part of the metallic binding of the edge of a round leathern shield or target.

XIII. Part of a broken bone nail-cleaner.

XIV. Small piece of ornamental bronze, 1 in. long.

XV. Thin bronze ear-pick, $2\frac{1}{2}$ in. long, pierced for attaching to chatelaine.

XVI. Large bead of blue glass.

XVII. Fragment of very thin piece of bronze, pierced at one end.

XVIII. Ring of thick bronze wire, with two light blue glass beads attached. Query, ear-ring?

[XIX. to XXVIII. inclusive were found in a layer of charcoal, three feet deep, in front of Deepdale Cave, and are perhaps all pre-historic, and not of Roman-British date.]

XIX. and XX. Two twisted circlets of iron, one broken ; each about $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. in diameter.

XXI. Polished piece of circular bone, $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. long, $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. in diameter. The bone is pierced or hollowed longitudinally, and also pierced with a hole in the centre.

XXII. Broken flint arrow head.

XXIII. Small flint arrow head.

XXIV. Piece of iron, 2 in. long, with returned ends ; perhaps a strike-light.

XXV. Much corroded heavy iron clout nail.

XXVI. Part of an iron knife, has had a haft ; 4 in. long by 1 in. in broadest part.

XXVII. Piece of flint ; perhaps a small scraper.

XXVIII. A small human double tooth, worn smooth and flat.

XXIX. Fibula, the metal of which is an amalgam of silver and quick-silver ; now of a fine green colour. The bow is highly arched and most beautifully chased and wrought. Length, $2\frac{3}{10}$ in. (Plate XII., Fig. 4.)

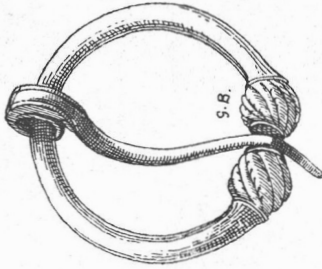
XXX. Fibula of bronze, silvered and enamelled, with hinged pin complete. Length, $2\frac{2}{5}$ in. A very good specimen, finely chased at the spring of the bow. (Plate XII., Fig. 3.)

XXXI. Fibula of light, plain, but elegant make, 2 in. long, of a bluish tinge, apparently silver enamelled on bronze.

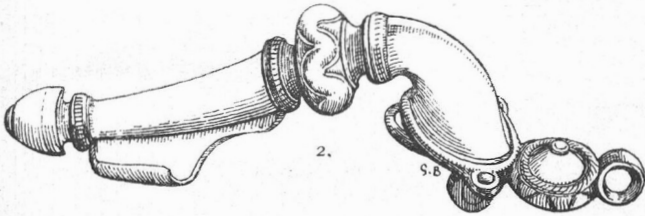
XXXII. Bronze fibula, 2 in. long, of the same style of pattern as XXIX., but thinner and less ornamented. Remains of spiral spring.

XXXIII. Fibula of same metal as XXIX. and XXX., 2 in. long, with suspensory ring beyond the rise of the bow.

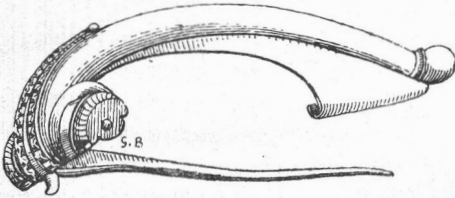
XXXIV. A large fine fibula, of bronze, silvered and enamelled ; $3\frac{1}{2}$ in. long. The bow is rounded or ornamented with an effective boss in the highest part. The nose of the bow is also well treated. The back part of the bow (as to some extent in number XXIX.) is enlarged in a cup-shaped form to cover the upper part of the



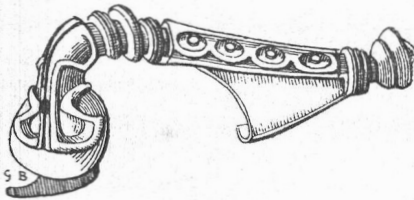
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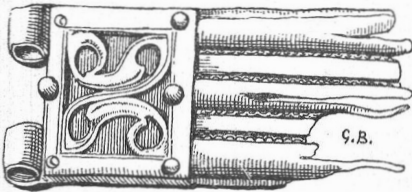
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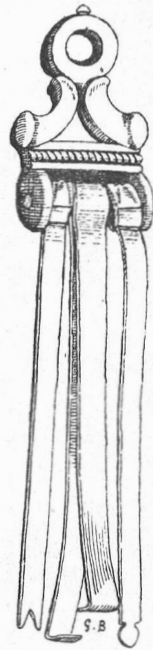
3.



4.



5.



6.

FIBULÆ, &C., FOUND AT DEEPDALE CAVE, 1890.

spiral spring, of which the pin formed a continuous part. The bow is beautifully prolonged at the back and ends in a ring for suspension. This is a most unusual and very good specimen. (Plate XII., Fig. 2.)

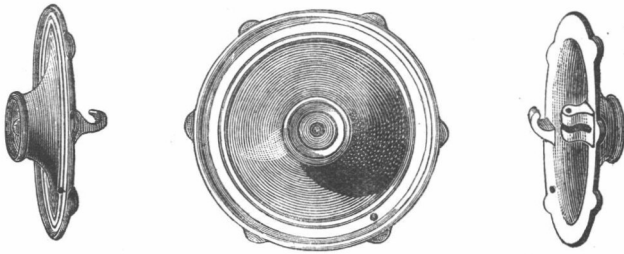
XXXV. Part of a circular iron fibula.

XXXVI. Circular bronze fibula, silvered and enamelled, about $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. in diameter, with movable pin. This is a ring brooch of the Celtic type, which has often been found of plain bronze in Ireland. (Plate XII., Fig. 1.)

XXXVII. A somewhat smaller circular brooch of the same design as the last, but lacking the pin, and of corroded iron.

XXXVIII. Iron bowed fibula, 2 in. long, of a pattern like XXXIII.

XXXIX. A circular bronze fibula, $1\frac{3}{10}$ in. in diameter, with a raised central boss, and with six projecting cusps at equal intervals round the margin. It was found about six yards from the entrance to the cave. This is almost a fellow to the brooch that was found in the cave and exhibited last year, and of which we now give drawings, by Mr. Bailey, in three positions.



I exhibited the one here drawn in London last spring, and it excited much interest among expert Romano-British antiquaries. No similar example was there known. It has evidently been carefully modelled by the jeweller after the fashion of a circular shield. The finding of the fellow brooch is of peculiar interest; it would have suggested that these two examples were worn, as an exact pair, on the shoulders of some Roman or Romanised lady to hold up the classic folds of her drapery; but careful

measurement shows that the more recently discovered one is $\frac{3}{16}$ in. less than the one that is engraved, so that they could not have been cast in the same mould.

I am indebted to Mr. Johnson, jeweller, of Derby, for the description of the metal of the brooches and other objects on Plate XII. Mr. Johnson says that this silver enamelling, very unusual in Roman finds, is much like the Norwegian and the Japanese enamels. He also suggests that the large heavy fibula (Fig. 2) looks like the model of a Roman catapult, particularly in the spring arrangement on the under side. The same idea holds good to some extent with regard to Fig. 4.

This large and varied collection of brooches and other ladies' ornaments seems to point to the concealing of this jewellery by thieves, or the collection of discarded or damaged specimens by some cave dwellers after the Roman occupation had ceased. At all events, it is absurd to imagine that the wearers of these brooches ever lived in these limestone crevices.

In addition to the numbered and mounted articles, Mr. Salt also sent me a variety of other pieces and fragments from the same cave of his own recent discovery.

One of these is a rounded piece of stalagmite, 5 in. long, by about $3\frac{1}{2}$ in. in diameter. It is deeply grooved in the centre as if to form a safe attachment for a cord. If it had not been that it was hollowed at one end into a decreasing hole $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. deep, I should have conjectured that it might have been used as a weight for a fishing net, in the deep places of the mountain streams. But can it have been used in connection with any spinning or weaving operation?*

Another weighty find is the large fragment of a heavy hone stone, bearing obvious traces of the whetting thereon of many an instrument.

* It is Mr. Salt's opinion that this rounded piece of stalagmite was used as a hammer, and that in the groove was fastened the twisted end of a withy or hazel stick; the hole in the end, he thinks, might have been used for a spike, and would thus make a very deadly weapon. We cannot say that this conjecture is wrong; but against it is the fact of the generally brittle or easily broken character of stalactite or stalagmite formations.

Four or five small tusks, which I suppose to be wild boar ; also the tooth of a Celtic ox, or *bos longifrons*.

Five iron fragments ; two of them large nails or bolts, and one a semi-circular handle. Also an iron buckle, probably from the harness of a horse ; and two bronze nails.

The well-polished, circular bone handle of some small instrument, $2\frac{1}{2}$ in. long.

Three large fragments of a Roman mortarium or mortar, of the usual whitish paste.

Two or three other pieces of pottery of different kinds, with varying effective patterns, have also come to light, as well as two most delicate little fragments that undoubtedly formed part of a choice vase from Italy, and of the style popularly known as "Etrurian."

Two coins are also among the recent Deepdale discoveries of Mr. Salt. My friend, Mr. Bailey, thus describes them :—

[IMP. C.] VICTORINVS. P. F. AVG.

Reverse : A female standing, draped, looking left, in right-hand a wreath, in left a hasta or spear ; V and a star. PAX. AUG. A coin of Victorinus the elder ; both father and son were assassinated together in A.D. 268.

The other is not so clear, and I cannot identify it. (Since the above has been in type, I have been able to ascertain from Mr. H. C. Grueber, of the British Museum, that it is a coin of Gallienus, struck in Gaul about A.D. 260.) Head of Gallienus, to right, with a rayed crown.

[GA] LLIE. III. the latter for germ III.

Reverse : A female standing to right, in left-hand a cornucopia, and the right extended in front. Legend indistinct, A Δ and G.