

## VII.

NOTES ON THREE BUTTONS OF JET OR CANNEL-COAL, FOUND IN A  
CIST AT OLD WINDYMAINS, KEITH MARISCHAL, EAST LOTHIAN.  
BY JOSEPH ANDERSON, LL.D., ASSISTANT SECRETARY AND KEEPER  
OF THE MUSEUM.

The three jet buttons, which are the subject of this notice, were brought to me in the beginning of August by Miss Fraser-Tytler. The circumstances in which they were found are as follows:—In the course of operations for a water-supply to the residence of Mr G. M. Fraser-Tytler of Keith Marischal, a cistern was being sunk on the highest convenient site in the neighbourhood. The site selected was a small wooded knoll behind the cottages at Old Windymains, and the excavation was made in the summit of the knoll. At no great depth from the surface, two interments were found. The first, which was under the centre of the summit of the knoll, showed a cist of undressed slabs, in which the skeleton lay on its side in the usual contracted position, and near the head was an urn, which was unfortunately broken, but seemed to have been about 6 inches in height. The second interment consisted of a large cinerary urn set round with boulders. The urn, being so large and fragile, was only recovered in fragments, among which appeared the three buttons of jet (fig. 1) now described. They are of different sizes, but all of the same form and character, being circular discs, with more or less convexity in front, and more or less flattened on the reverse side, in which there are two holes sunk obliquely and in opposite directions, so as to meet under the centre of the button. The smallest of the three is  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch in diameter. It is well polished, and has a prominent central boss in front, and is also more rounded on the reverse than the others. The holes in the back, which are placed somewhat to one side, are  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch in diameter and  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch apart. They contract rapidly inwards, until at

the junction the aperture is scarcely larger than would be made by a pretty thick pin. The second button measures  $1\frac{1}{16}$  inches in diameter; the central boss in front is less prominent, and the reverse side of the disc more flattened. The holes in the reverse side are slightly nearer one side of the button than the other. They are obliquely perforated in opposite directions, and about  $\frac{3}{16}$  inch apart; their diameter at the surface is rather more than  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch, narrowing to quite a small aperture at the

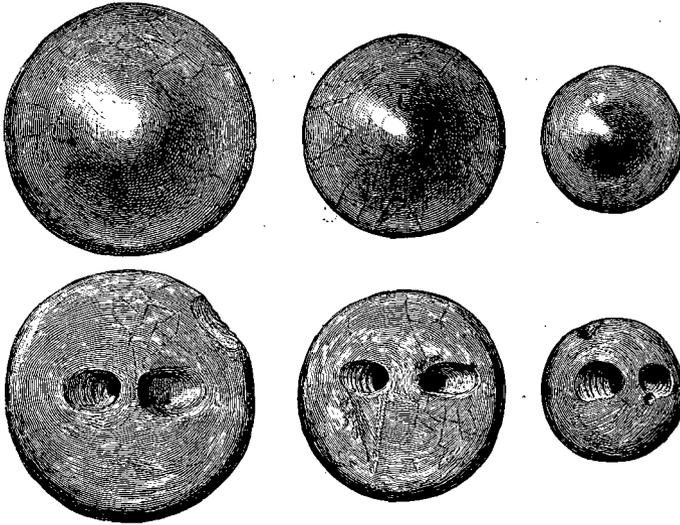


Fig. 1. Three Buttons of Jet, from a cist at Old Windymains, Keith Marischal. (3.)

junction. The largest of the three buttons is  $1\frac{3}{8}$  inches in diameter, and has only a slightly prominent boss in front. It has the holes on the reverse nearly in the centre,  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch in diameter and  $\frac{1}{16}$  inch apart. Similar studs or buttons of jet have been found not unfrequently with Bronze-age burials in England, occurring in sets of from two to five. They are not so common in Scotland.

[The three buttons have since been presented to the National Museum by the Earl of Hopetoun, on whose estate the burials were found.]

MONDAY, 9th January 1899.

J. BALFOUR PAUL, Lyon King of Arms, in the Chair.

A Ballot having been taken, the following Gentlemen were duly elected Fellows :—

FRANCIS PIERREPONT BARNARD, M.A. (Oxon.), F.S.A., St Mary's Abbey, Windermere.

JOHN MANN, C.A., 18 Westbourne Gardens, Glasgow.

ALEXANDER REA, M.R.A.S., Superintendent of the Archæological Survey of South India.

Rev. WALTER SYLVESTER, St Charles' College, Notting Hill, London.

The following Donations to the Museum and Library were laid on the table, and thanks voted to the Donors :—

- (1) By Miss LANGLANDS, 4 Strathearn Place, through Sheriff Æ. J. G. MACKAY, F.S.A. Scot.

Silver Pendent Seal,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches in length, found on the farm of Newton, parish of Chillingham, Northumberland.

The following description of the seal is supplied by Sheriff Mackay :—  
The seal (fig. 1), of which the matrix and an impression are now presented to the Museum, was found about thirty years ago in a field on the farm of Newton, in the parish of Chillingham, not far from a stone called the Z'Earl Stane. The matrix is of silver. The coat of arms bears a chevron between three branches, which have been variously conjectured to be palms, wheat-stalks, or reeds. What they are seems quite uncertain, and information is required of any family of the name of Rede or Reed, who have similar arms. The impression round the margin bears the name of THOMAS DE REDE, preceded

by a letter not very easy to make out, but probably a capital S for Sigillum, which has got somewhat out of place. The Clan of Rede or Reed, who apparently took their names from Redesdale or Riddesdale, was common in Northumberland, and Hodgson's *History of Northumberland*, part. iii. vol. ii., remarks:—"The said country of Riddesdalle standeth much by surnames as Tyndall doth, of which surnames the Hauls be the greatest and moste of reputation in that countrey, and next them the Reades, Petts, Hedlies, Spoores, Dawgs, Fletchers, etc." They appear to have been yeomen rather than gentlemen of large estate, and many of them are mentioned in the lists of Hodgson's works. Amongst them there is a Thomas Reed at various dates (p. 133 and pp. 71 and 77 of vol. i. part. ii.), but these are not the same person.



Fig. 1. Silver Seal of Thomas de Rede. (†.)

(2) By the EXCAVATION COMMITTEE.

Polished Axe of felstone, Two Lamps of stone, Ring of jet or cannel-coal, and Broken Ring or Bracelet and Polisher of the same, Hammer-Stone, Two Chips of Flint, Handle of deer-horn, Spiral Finger-ring of bronze, Bronze Fibula, Iron Objects, and two portions of Wooden Vessels, found in excavating the fort at Castle Law, Abernethy, Perthshire. [See the previous Communication by Dr Joseph Anderson.]

(3) By the Most Hon. the MARQUIS OF LOTHIAN, *President*.

Plaster Cast of a portion of the shaft of a cross, with a rope-moulding on one edge, and ornamented with a scroll of foliage, found in taking down the Old Manse, Jedburgh, in 1877.

(4) By the LORD PROVOST, MAGISTRATES, and COUNCIL.

Bronze Medal, struck in commemoration of the reconstruction of the North Bridge.

(5) By T. N. ANNANDALE.

Spatha, or Weaving-Tool of cetacean bone, from Thorshavn, Faroë Isles. This spatha, which measures 2 feet  $8\frac{1}{4}$  inches in extreme length and  $3\frac{3}{4}$  inches in greatest breadth, is similar in form and character to that presented by Sir Arthur Mitchell, and described by him in the last volume of the *Proceedings*, p. 185.

Pair of Forceps, made of the limb-bones of seals, from Iceland. These forceps are still used in many farms on the south coast of Iceland, this specimen being from Bakki, near the mouth of the Markarflot. They are formed from bones of the limbs of sheep and seals, the only

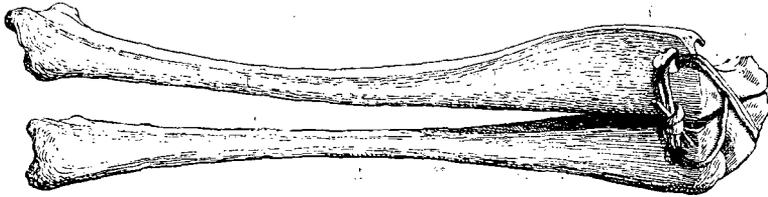


Fig. 2. Bone Forceps from Iceland. ( $\frac{1}{2}$ .)

requisites being that the two halves should be similar and fairly straight, that they should be strong but not too clumsy, and that they should have natural projections at one end, by which they may be more firmly fastened together. The surfaces of the bones that are to come into contact are levelled and smoothed artificially, in order that there may be as little space between them as possible. The two thicker ends are tied together by means of a sealskin thong, which passes through perforations cut in their substance; and sometimes the other extremities of the two halves are sawn off level at a convenient length. These forceps are used in sewing the sheepskin garments worn by Icelandic fishermen; the point of the large home-made steel needle employed in this work being clasped between them after it has penetrated the leather, in order that it may be drawn through more easily than if fingers only were used.

(6) By JOHN NOTMAN, F.S.A. Scot.

Communion Token of brass, Broughton, 1753. Communion tokens of brass are rather rare.

(7) By M. MACKENZIE CHARLESON, Stromness, F.S.A. Scot.

Rudely Chipped Spade-like Implement, from Tiree. This spade-like implement has been figured and described by Sir Arthur Mitchell in the last volume of the *Proceedings*, p. 31.

(8) By Dr R. DE BRUS TROTTER, Tayview, Perth.

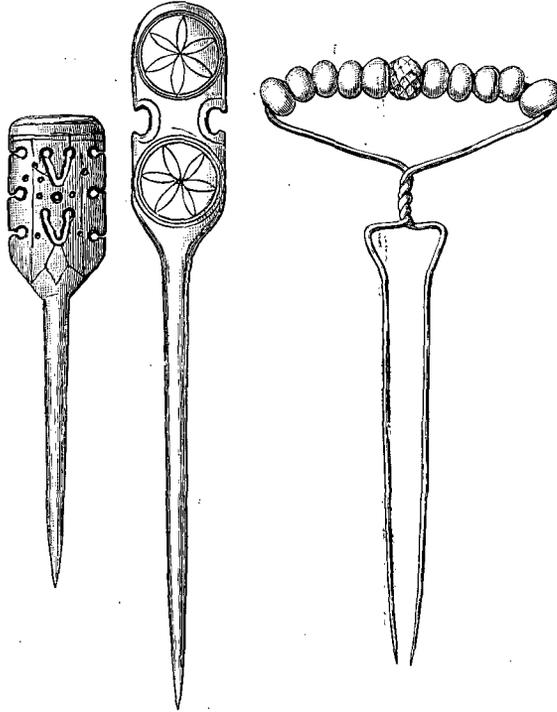
Stone Whorl,  $1\frac{1}{8}$  inch diameter, found at Letham Quarry, near Perth.

Two Hair-pins of carved bone, called "Corkin Preens," from Methven. The smaller, which measures  $4\frac{3}{4}$  inches in length, has a broad head, 2 inches in length by 1 inch in breadth, pierced with three small circular holes at equal distances close to each side, and by two V-shaped perforations in the median line, as shown in fig. 3. The larger, which measures  $7\frac{1}{4}$  inches in length, has a broad head,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches in length and 1 inch in breadth, flat on the reverse, and convex on the obverse, with semicircular indentations of the sides in the middle of their length, and ornamented on the front with two hexafoils within circles, as shown in fig. 4.

Hair-pin made of brass wire, the loop strung with ten blue beads and one amber one, as used in the neighbourhood of Perth about fifty years ago. It is 6 inches in length, and of the form shown in fig. 5.

Dr R. de Brus Trotter supplies the following information regarding the bone pins:—"I got them from a man who bought them about twelve years ago at the sale of an old woman's furniture at Methven. He called them 'corkin preens,' and said they were very scarce now, as he had not fallen in with any of them for many years. I remember them in use when I was a boy, but they were generally of brass, with ornamented heads, and sometimes a large glass bead for a head. The hair was twisted into a kind of cone on the back of the head, and the pin was stuck into it perpendicularly to hold it together. Later the pin was

double, like the brass one I send, with a large bead, or a row of beads, on the loop at the top. I enclose it as an imitation of the corking pins in use near Perth about fifty years ago, according to an old blacksmith here, who has a craze for curiosities. He used to make them for the lassies when



Figs. 3, 4, 5. Two Hair-pins of Bone from Methven, and one of Brass Wire with Beads from Perth. ( $\frac{1}{2}$ .)

he was an apprentice. It is evidently a modification of the big tortoise-shell and horn combs so long in use, and not yet quite extinct. Very curiously, the tinkers here (cairds, not gipsies) wear metal pins, almost similar to those shown in figs. 3 and 4, for fastening their shawls, just

about the same size and general shape, only made of metal—mostly iron. I saw one the other day made out of the shank and upper end of a German-silver spoon, with pieces cut out of the edges for ornament, something like the bone one shown in fig. 4, with incised ornamentation on the broad part of it. I have two or three times tried to buy them from them, but the prices asked were too outrageous. I expect the broad heads on the bone pins were just for ornament. I never saw any here, except the two. Those I used to see in Galloway were always known as ‘corkin preens,’ and were always worn upright in the hair.”

Copper Buckle, having engraved on the broad part of the loop a rude representation of a human head, found with human bones in digging the foundation of a house in Watergate, Perth.

(9) By the TRUSTEES OF THE BRITISH MUSEUM.

A Reproduction in fac-simile of the Glenlyon Brooch.

(10) By ANDREW W. TUER, the Author and Publisher.

History of the Horn-Book. 2 vols. 4to; London, 1896.

(11) By Lieutenant-General A. PITT RIVERS, the Author.

Excavations in Cranborne Chase, vol. iv. 4to; 1898. Privately printed.

(12) By W. E. SCOTT HALL, F.S.A. Scot.

The Oxford Portfolio of Monumental Brasses, part I. Folio; 1898: and Journal of the Oxford University Brass-Rubbing Society, vol. i. No. 5.

(13) By AMELIA G. MURRAY-MACGREGOR of Macgregor, the Editor.

History of the Clan Gregor, from Public Records and Private Collections. Compiled at the request of the Clan Gregor Society. Vol. i. 4to; 1898.

(14) By CHARLES J. GUTHRIE, Q.C., F.S.A. Scot., the Editor.

The History of the Reformation in Scotland, written by John Knox.  
Edited for popular use by C. J. Guthrie, Q.C. 8vo; 1898.

There were also Exhibited:—

(1) By D. HAY FLEMING, LL.D., F.S.A. Scot.

Bowl of bronze with its cover, found in digging a grave about half way between the tower of St Regulus and the south corner of the east gable of the Cathedral, St Andrews. Dr Hay Fleming supplies the following information:—

“The bowl and its cover were found together, at a depth of about 5 feet below the surface. In the same grave, and at the same depth, two fragments of a Celtic cross or crosses were found. The largest fragment is not more than 16 inches square, but both on the back and front, the arms, the head, and part of the shaft of a cross are quite distinct. The cross on one side of this fragment is very simple, that on the other side is very elaborate. Both are of a rather uncommon type. The smaller fragment is very much smaller. On it there is part of a scroll pattern. About  $1\frac{1}{2}$  feet still lower, there was a rude stone cist (with covers), which was only partly removed, as much, if not most of it, projected into the adjoining grave. A goodly number of the Celtic stones which have been found in the burying-ground have been unearthed in that part of it which lies to the east of the east gable of the Cathedral, and to the north of St Rule's. The original Parish Church of St Andrews, as I believe, stood there.”

The bowl (fig. 6), which is of bronze beaten very thin and turned on a lathe, is a segment of a hollow sphere considerably flattened below, being 4 inches in diameter across the mouth, and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches in height. The bottom is rounded, having a raised circular central part beaten up from below, with a slightly flattened convexity of about 2 inches in diameter standing almost  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch above the level of the surrounding part of the bottom, and consequently forming a corresponding concavity on the exte-

rior of the central part of the bottom. The upper part of the bowl is crushed and broken on one side. The brim is slightly turned over inwardly about  $\frac{1}{8}$  inch, and flattened to fit the flat lid, the edge of which is turned over all round, so as to slip over the exterior margin of the bowl to the extent of about  $\frac{1}{16}$  inch. On the upper surface of the lid, and  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch within its margin, is a circular border of  $2\frac{3}{4}$  inches diameter, formed of four concentric circles, having a space of  $\frac{1}{16}$  inch between the inner circles, and only half that between the two outer. Within this circular border



Fig. 6. Bronze Bowl and its Cover, dug up in the Cathedral Burying-Ground, St Andrews. The upper fig. shows the ornament on the exterior of the bottom of the bowl. (Scale  $\frac{1}{2}$  linear.)

is a Celtic cross, equal-armed, with semicircular hollows in the intersections, and having the arms connected by a circle. A double circle

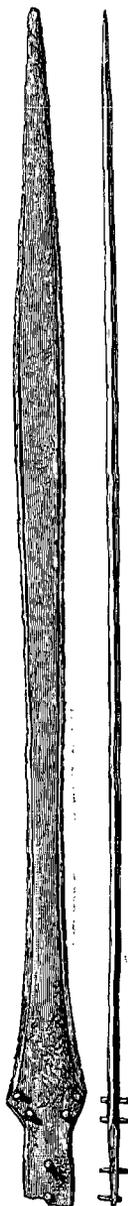


Fig. 7. Bronze Sword  
found in the Tay at  
Mugdrum Island.  
(4.)

surrounds the centre of the cross. On the raised circular central portion of the bottom is a geometrical hexafoil cross with double outlines within a circle, and there is a similar hexafoil on the corresponding concave part of the exterior. A band of two parallel lines surrounds the bowl on the exterior immediately below the rim. The surface, especially on the exterior, is considerably corroded, but the ornamentation is distinctly traceable.

As to the probable use of the bowl, there seems to be little doubt, from the nature of the ornamentation, that it was an ecclesiastical vessel; but as nothing exactly like it is on record, its precise destination must be matter of opinion. The shape of the cross is Irish, and the only other bronze bowl known to have an ecclesiastical association is one found with the Ardagh chalice, of which there is a reproduction in the Museum. It is of thin bronze,  $5\frac{1}{2}$  inches in diameter and  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches in depth, and quite plain. The lip is slightly everted, and there was no sign of a cover. Lord Dunraven thought there were indications of its having had a foot-stalk, but of this it is now apparently impossible to judge. All that can be said is that a bowl of thin bronze has occurred, in association with a chalice, attributed to a period not later than the tenth century.

(2) By the COMMITTEE OF THE LAING FREE  
LIBRARY, Newburgh-on-Tay.

Bronze Sword, brought up from the bottom of the Tay in a salmon-net at Mugdrum Island. It is  $24\frac{1}{2}$  inches in length, but wanting about half of the handle-

plate. The blade is  $22\frac{1}{2}$  inches in length,  $1\frac{7}{8}$  inches in breadth across the wings, tapering to  $\frac{1\frac{3}{8}}{16}$  inch in breadth at about  $4\frac{1}{2}$  inches from the wings, and retaining that breadth for about 4 inches, when it increases to 1 inch at about 15 inches from the wings, and tapers from thence to the point, from which perhaps  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch has been broken off. The greatest thickness of the blade in the centre is  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch. It is well defined where the roundness of the blade drops into the very thin strip drawn down along the margin for a cutting edge, though the thinnest part has been all corroded away. The handle-plate, of which only about 2 inches in length remains, is of exceptional width, measuring  $1\frac{1}{8}$  inches at its junction with the wings, and widening to  $1\frac{1}{4}$  inches where it swells towards the middle of the grip. Six rivets remain, viz., two in each of the wings and two placed at a distance of  $\frac{5}{8}$  inch apart, the lower being at a distance of 1 inch above the junction of the hilt-plate to the wings. The sword is of a form which is rather rare in Scotland, though more common in England and Ireland.

A Bronze Sword of a different type, with a broader blade, three rivet-holes in each wing, and a slot in the centre of the hilt-plate, was similarly brought up by the salmon-nets on the opposite side of the island in 1889, and is now in the Museum.

(3) By Mr R. B. Gow, Kirkland, Dalry.

Fac-simile of a Posy-ring and a Basket-work Finger-ring of gold, ploughed up near Beith. The posy is a common one in old French—JE SVI ICI EN L[IEV D'AMI], the latter part within brackets being wanting.

The following Communications were read :—