IV.

NOTICE OF THE EXAMINATION OF A CIST, ON THE BANKS OF THE RIVER ADD—AT CRINAN, ARGYLLSHIRE. BY REV. R. J. MAPLETON, CORR. MEM. S.A. SCOT.

About a quarter of a mile from Old Crinan, i.e., the hamlet from which the Crinan-Canal takes its name, there is a small cave in the face of some rocks, that recede from the shore of the River Add, and form a semicircular recess of flat ground; this is a favourite spot for tinkers and tramps to camp in. On the other side of the parliamentary road that runs by, there is a wide expanse of sand that soon merges into wet moss land, and in this sand, which is covered by water only at high tides, there is an extensive deposit of large oyster shells: evidently a bed of oysters when the sea covered that portion of land, i.e., before the rising of the 25 foot beach. A fortnight ago a tinker had pitched his camp there, and wishing to avoid the cold winds, dug out some of the soil, to make the cave larger and deeper. In doing so he came upon a "stone coffin," as he called it, and a quantity of bones. I immediately went to the spot to examine the place, and

1 More probably in that of the former, or about the close of the sixteenth century, the spelling "Brus" of the name being discontinued about the close of that century and the more modern one of Bruce being then adopted.
found the cist itself destroyed by the tinker, but it appeared to have been a very rough one. Upon digging down and all around it, we found mixed with soil and with lumps of stone, human bones, the bones and teeth of a pig, a few bones of a cow, a great quantity of cockle, periwinkle, scallop, and oyster shells; also two pieces of flint, one of which was manufactured, and about 24 pieces of an urn, or rather of two urns, one of which, the larger, was very thick and coarse, the other apparently of the ordinary size and make, the only ornamentation being lines made by the impression of a cord. All these things were mixed up indiscriminately, several of them in ground beyond the cist, and not disturbed by the tinker, evidently showing that some disturbance had taken place years ago. The human bones were clearly belonging to at least two persons, as the weight and substance of the bones were very different. One lower jaw is perfect, but only small portions of a skull were found here and there among the mass. It was difficult to make out the history of the place. It seemed to me, however, that there had been an original burial, and that this burial had been disturbed by a subsequent burial. That the spot had also been occupied as a dwelling, and the shells and animal bones and flint were the refuse of their food (a small "kitchen-midden"), and that this had all been disturbed at some later period, as shells and bones and urn were all mixed together.

The important feature in this burial and dwelling is the presence of the oyster shells. It is clear that the oysters must have been used as food. From whence were they procured? The nearest known spot, where oysters can now be procured, is a sea Loch 3 or 4 miles away; but there was a large oyster-bed close to the cave, not 100 yards off. Is it not reasonable to suppose that it was from this bed of oysters that the people drew their supplies? If this be so, it may throw some light upon the age or date of the circumstance. The burial certainly took place before the dwelling, and the dwelling probably before the sea receded from its old level, i.e., probably before the raising of the 25 foot beach.
DONATIONS TO THE MUSEUM.

MONDAY, 14th February 1881.

Rev. THOMAS MACLAUCHLAN, LL.D., Vice-President, in the Chair.

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

JAMES T. BLACK, Publisher, 19 Atholl Crescent.
EDWARD GORDON DUFF, Park Nook, Princes Park, Liverpool.
WILLIAM GILLON, Captain 71st Highland Light Infantry, Wallhouse, Bathgate.
ROBERT KIRKE, Greenmount, Burntisland.
R. THORNTON SHIELS, Architect, 4 St Margaret's Road.
MICHAEL W. TAYLOR, M.D., Hutton Hall, Penrith.

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

   Carved Ivory Ciborium or Cup, with Cover, figured and described in "Archaeologica Scotica," vol. v., part 2.
   Smaller Ivory Cup, carved in a similar style of art.

2. By HUGH BOWIE, Uracaig, Colonsay.
   Celt, of greenstone, polished, 8½ inches long, 3½ inches wide, lenticular in the cross section and tapering to the butt end, found on the margin of Loch Fada, Colonsay.

   Bronze Axe-Head or Flat Celt, 4 inches long, 2½ inches wide, found on the margin of Loch Fada, Colonsay.

4. By WILLIAM STROYAN, Farmer, Machrins.
   Upper Stone of a Quern of Micaceous schist, 14½ inches diameter, 7½ inches thick, with conical feed-hole, from Colonsay.
(5.) By John M'Lugash, Uracaig.

Upper and Under Stones of a Quern of Micaceous schist, 15 inches diameter, the upper stone imperfect, from Colonsay.

(6.) By James Muir, Weaver, Kilchattan.

Hand Lint-skutch of Wood, 28 inches long, 2 inches wide, from Colonsay. (See the subsequent paper by Mr W. Stevenson.)

(7.) By Mr William Stevenson.

Stone Pounder, an oval pebble of quartzite found on the edge of Loch Fada; two spindles, one 11½ inches long having the lower part square, the other 8½ inches long having the lower part round; and part of a broken Stone Cross, from Colonsay. (These donations are referred to in the subsequent paper by Mr Stevenson on the Antiquities of Colonsay and Oransay.)

(8.) By Miss Russell, Ashiestiel.

Photograph of a Fragment of the Catrail on the North Bank of the Tweed.

(9.) By the Right Hon. The Earl of Stair, F.S.A. Scot.

Large Head of Stag's Horns, found in a moss, at Rowenstone, Wigtonshire. (See the previous paper on remains of the Red Deer found in Scotland, by Dr John Alexander Smith.)

(10.) By St John Vincent Day, C.E., F.S.A. Scot., the Author.

The Prehistoric use of Iron and Steel. 8vo, 1877.

(11.) By David Douglas, Treasurer.

Religiose Symboler, &c., af Dr L. Muller. 4to. Copenhagen, 1864.

(12.) By the Secretary of State for India.

DONATIONS TO THE MUSEUM.

(13.) By Charles Poyntz Stewart, M.A., F.S.A. Scot., the Author.


(14.) By the Master of the Rolls.

The Historical Works of Gervase of Canterbury. Vol. II.

(15.) By James Cruikshanks Roger, F.S.A. Scot.

Drawing in Sepia, by the late Mr Charles Roger, of a Bronze Crescent-shaped Plate dug up at Laws, Monifeith, in 1796, and bearing the characteristic Symbols of the Sculptured Stones of Scotland, as described in the "Proceedings" of the Society, vol. xiv. p. 268.

There were also exhibited:

(1.) By James T. Gibson-Craig, F.S.A. Scot.

The Minute Books of the Bannatyne Club; 3 vols. folio., viz., vol. in 1823–1836, vol. ii. 1837–1852, vol. iii. 1852–1861, the minutes throughout being in the handwriting of the late David Laing, LL.D., the Secretary of the Club. Deposited for preservation in the Society's Library by James T. Gibson-Craig, Treasurer to the Club, with consent of the executors and representatives of the late David Laing, LL.D., Secretary of the Club.

(2.) By Robert Munro, M.A., M.D., F.S.A. Scot.

A selection of Relics from two Ayrshire Crannogs recently explored.
1. Articles from a Crannog in Lochspouts, near Maybole, the property of Sir James Fergusson of Kilkerran, consisting of:
   Two Hammer Stones made of Dolorite.
   Two Whetstones, one of fine Sandstone, and neatly shaped like the
modern sharpening stone used for scythes; the other, a fragment, has a small hole for suspension.

Three Flat portions of Sandstone, each perforated by a small hole which opens up into a funnel-shaped cavity on both sides.

A Spindle Whorl made of fine Sandstone, 1\(\frac{3}{4}\) in. in diam. and \(\frac{5}{8}\) in. thick.

Two polished Stone Discs. One, the larger segment of a circle, is made of whitish micaceous stone, and measures 4\(\frac{1}{4}\) inches in diameter, and has a uniform thickness of a quarter of an inch (fig. 1). The other, a fragment,

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**Fig. 1. Polished Stone Disc.**
(4\(\frac{1}{4}\) inches diameter).

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**Fig. 2. Oval Implements,**
hollowed on both surfaces.

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is 4\(\frac{3}{4}\) inches in diameter and \(\frac{1}{4}\) inch thick at the edges, but becomes a shade thicker towards the centre. It is made of a hard, dark, and compact stone, highly polished on both sides, and neatly cut at the circumference.

An oval implement with two hollowed surfaces. Its length is 3\(\frac{1}{4}\) inches, breadth 2\(\frac{3}{8}\), and thickness 1 inch. The diameter of the depressions is 1\(\frac{5}{8}\) inch, and depth half an inch (fig. 2).

Two rudely formed Flint Scrapers. The larger is roughly circular and about 2 inches in diameter (fig. 3).

A polished Ring of Lignite, diameter (external measurement) 1\(\frac{1}{4}\) inch; portions of Armlets of a similar material.
A polished Bone Pin 2\(\frac{3}{4}\) inches long (fig. 4).
A Bone Chisel 4\(\frac{3}{4}\) inches long.

Fig. 3. Flint Scraper. (2 inches diameter.)

A Pick made of body of Deer Horn and portion of first tyne.

Fig. 4. Polished Bone Pin. (Actual size.)

A small Key (fig. 5).
Fig. (6) represents a curiously shaped ornament.

Fig. 5. Bronze Key.
(Actual size.)

Fig. 6. Bronze Ornament
(Actual size.)
A small yellow bead of vitreous paste, another ribbed made of green glazed ware, and half of another similar to last but much larger (fig. 7).

Fig. 7. Beads. (Actual size.)

2. Articles from the Buston Crannog, near Kilmarnock, now being excavated, belonging to Lord Eglinton, and exhibited by permission of his Lordship's Commissioner, the Hon. G. R. Vernon, consisting of:
   A large Whetstone with hole at one end, 12 inches long and 4 broad.
   Two Pestle-like Polishers, each about 7 inches long.

Fig. 8. Flint Knife. (Actual size).

Flint Knife, curved, and showing evidence of having been much used (fig. 8). Small polished Flint Implement?
One polished Borer of Horn, 7½ inches long and 1½ inch broad.
Several Combs of bone (fig. 9) and an Implement of Bone, with hole and groove.

About a dozen Bone Pins beautifully shaped and polished, some having round heads, others somewhat flattened, and one ornamented. They vary in length from $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches to $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

A variety of Iron Tools, including a Gouge 14 inches long; five Knives, with tangs and blades varying from 2 to 4 inches; two pointed Implements like Arrow-heads, $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches long; one socketed Spear-head, $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches long (fig. 10); several Awl-shaped Implements, and one implement shaped like a bayonet having a hole at the curved end and two springs attached to the middle of the straight portion.
Two small Spindle Whorls made of Shale.
One Bronze Circular Brooch, 1½ inch in diameter.

![Fig. 11. Bronze Pin. (Actual size.)](image)

Two small Bronze Pins ornamented (fig. 11), one has a bead inserted in its top.

Two Gold Spiral Finger Rings, one has five and a half twists, two of which were drawn asunder so that the ring looks like a spectacle ornament, the other has six twists and has both ends ornamented by circular grooves (fig. 12).

(A complete description of the relics found in both of these crannogs will be found in the third volume of the "Collections of the Ayrshire and Wigtownshire Archaeological Association").

The following Communications were read:—