

IV.

NOTICE OF A STONE, APPARENTLY A SINKER, WITH INCISED FIGURES OF ANIMALS, FROM A TUMULUS AT BRIDGE OF BROGAR, STENNIS, ORKNEY. BY JAMES NOBLE.

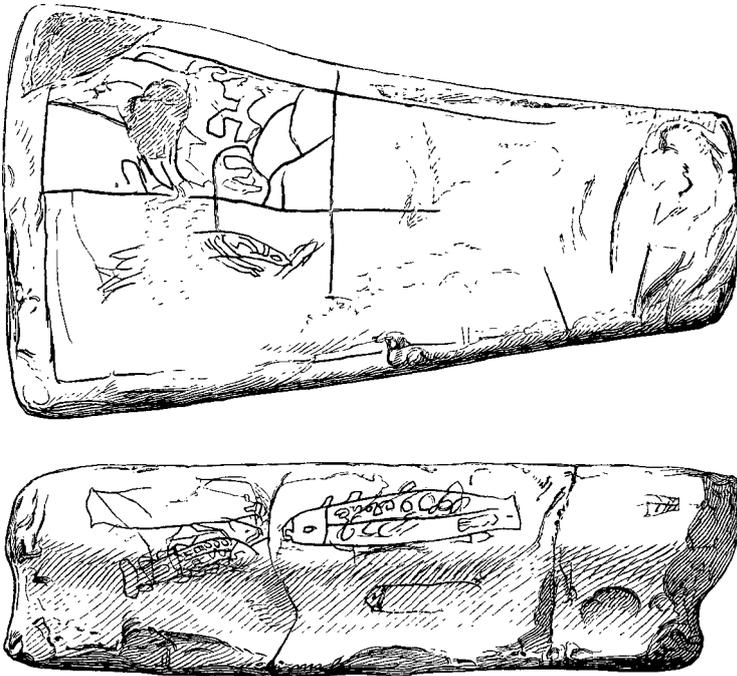
The stone now exhibited—presumably a sinker—which is the subject of the present notice, was found at a tumulus situated close to the Bridge of Brogar, Stennis, Orkney.

The tumulus impinged upon the corner of a field, and the edge of it next the field was being cut off, apparently for the purpose of enlarging the field. A considerable portion of the tumulus had thus been removed; the depth of the section up to where the workmen had cut would be from 3 to 4 feet. The stones found in the soil, which were numerous, were thrown back on the top of the tumulus, and it was amongst this heap that the sinker was found. There could be no doubt that it had been dug from the tumulus, but at what depth it was lying when unearthed I am unable to state.

It may be mentioned that a flint arrow-head and a flint scraper were found some years ago at the same tumulus.

The stone (fig. 1) is of oblong shape, tapered slightly at one end, and grooved round the sides. It is a slightly water or weather worn boulder of the sandstone common to the Mainland of Orkney and the north of Scotland. It is possible that it may have been picked off the beach of the neighbouring loch of Stennis in the form in which it now is, selected for its adaptability as a sinker, and the groove made round it (if it be not also due to weathering) in which to adjust the fishing line. Then the possessor added in some leisure hour the figures cut upon it (figs. 1 and 2), which consist of two fishes and a seal (?) on the narrow side, and further decorated the flat side by cutting a line round the edges, and one from top to bottom, and another across, thus obtaining four divisions upon which some other devices have been made, but are now unfortunately defaced beyond definite recognition. The two fishes and seal (?), however, depicted on the side are well preserved; they are wonderfully well

drawn, the manipulation indicating that the artist must have possessed considerable intelligence—the form, at any rate, is well developed. The scales on the two larger fishes are indicated by little curled scribbles, which, however, fail to give the idea of the overlapping of the scales,



Figs. 1, 2. Stone with incised Figures, found near Bridge of Brogar ($7\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length).

and it is possible he may not have given the attention necessary to this portion of his subject. An outline of what has been doubtless intended for a fish is also shown, but this he seems to have left unfinished as a failure, the form not satisfying his conceptions. The cutting seems to have been done with a sharp flat instrument.

MONDAY, 23rd April 1888.

SHERIFF NORMAN MACPHERSON, Vice-President,
in the Chair.

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

GEORGE BROWN, Bookseller, 2 Spottiswood Street.

J. F. MACKAY, W.S., Whitehouse, Cramond.

Rev. W. C. WINSLOW, D.D., LL.D., D.C.L., American Secretary of
the Palestine Exploration Fund, Boston, Mass., U.S.A.

The following articles, acquired by the Purchase Committee for the Museum and Library, during the Session from 30th November to this date, were exhibited:—

1. Three Silver Brooches, and Fragments of other objects of bronze found with them, at Tummel Bridge, Perthshire. The brooches are of the penannular form with expanded ends, as shown in fig. 1, which represents the most entire of the three, measuring $2\frac{7}{8}$ inches diameter, the pin extending to $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length. Of the other two brooches, one is slightly larger and the other a little smaller. Both want the punctulated ornamentation on the margin of the expanded terminal parts of the ring, but the larger one has the pin so ornamented. Among the fragments of bronze objects found with them are portions of the rims of two bronze dishes, one of which must have been of pretty large size, and a circular object, which may have been a harness ornament. They were found some years ago in the earth under the roots of a tree which had been blown down.

2. Ball of Rock Crystal, $1\frac{3}{8}$ inch in diameter, said to have been found somewhere in Fife many years ago. Similar balls of rock crystal are not unfrequently found with Anglo-Saxon interments of the Pagan period in England.

3. Stone Disc, 4 inches in diameter, $1\frac{3}{4}$ inch in thickness, with a hole 2 inches in diameter in the centre, from Dolphinton.

4. Oval Badge, in silver, of the Caledonian Horticultural Society, with the figure of George IV. as a Gardener.

5. Polished Celt or Axe-Head of claystone, $4\frac{1}{4}$ inches in length by $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches in width across the cutting face ; perforated Disc of sandstone, 2 inches diameter ; and two Whorls of claystone, from Overhowden, Oxter, parish of Lauder, Berwickshire.

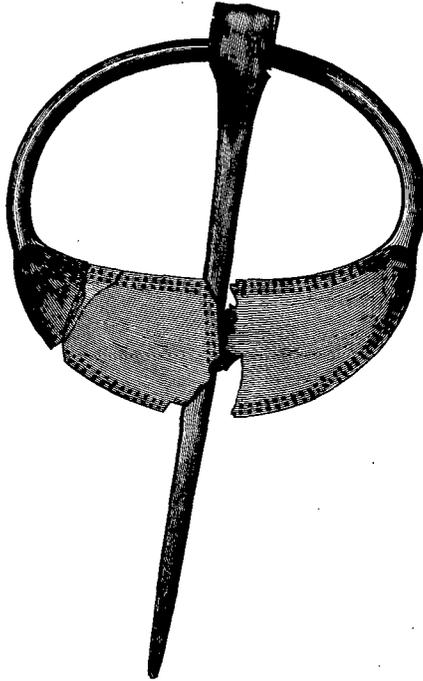


Fig. 1. Silver Brooch, one of three found at Tummel Bridge ($4\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length).

6. Portions of two Urns; a small Whetstone of claystone, $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length, $\frac{3}{4}$ inch in breadth and $\frac{1}{4}$ inch in thickness, with a hole for suspension at one end; a Side-Scraper of flint; and Fragments of a thin Bronze Blade, found with one of the urns in the sands of Glenluce. [See previous paper by the Rev. George Wilson, Glenluce.]

7. Two Arrow-Heads of Flint, one with barbs and stem, the other leaf-shaped; and a knife-like Flake of Flint, locality unknown.

8. Reproductions in electrotype of the Cadboll Challice; a cross-shaped Brooch with Celtic ornamentation, and the circular Terminal portion of a Penannular Celtic Brooch, from Orkney (see the *Proceedings*, vol. ix. New Series, pp. 344, 345); and of the Banchory Brooch, figured in the *Sculptured Stones of Scotland* (Spalding Club), vol. ii. plate xiii. This brooch is not now known to be in existence, and the reproduction is from wax impressions taken in 1859.

9. Polished Celt or Axe-Head of dioritic stone, $6\frac{3}{4}$ inches in length by $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches across the cutting face, the side edges flattened, and tapering to the butt, which is of the same form as the cutting end, but not sharpened, from West Kilbride, Ayrshire.

10. Highland Dirk, with carved handle, brass-mounted. The blade, which is 14 inches in length, is notched on the back, and etched on both sides with trophies of arms—a thistle, St Andrew holding his cross, Britannia seated, a Highlander in kilt and plaid and with broadsword and target, a monogram G.R. crowned, and the initials D.M.

11. Gorget and Belt Clasp of brass, marked CARSE OF GOWRIE.

12. Two Flint Arrow-Heads, with barbs and stems, from Dunion Hill, Jedburgh.

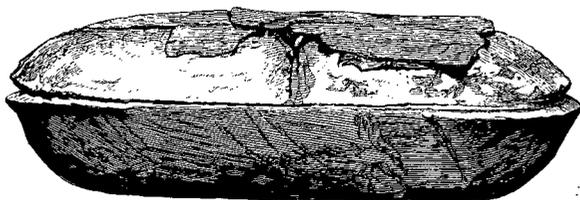


Fig. 2. Oval Wooden Dish full of butter, found in a bog in the island of Yell, Shetland.

13. Oval Wooden Dish full of butter, from a bog in the island of Yell, Shetland. The butter seems to have been heaped up above the level of the brim of the dish sufficiently to fill another dish of the same size inverted over the first. The upper dish was destroyed at the time

of discovery, and only a small portion of the bottom now remains, as in the accompanying woodcut (fig. 2). Under the uppermost dish there was a layer of birch bark (the inner bark of the birch), and a strand of rope of some vegetable fibre passed over it, the ends of which were allowed to protrude between the rims of the two dishes to lift the upper one off by. This curious find was discovered in a peat-bank at Cunnister, North Yell, at a depth of 3 feet under the surface. When found it weighed 32 lbs. It measures $19\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length by 12 inches in width.

14. Two Highland Pistols of steel, one inlaid with silver, and marked THOS. CADELL, the other simply engraved with an oval rosette, and marked BISSETT.

15. Facsimile of the Lossit Brooch, the property of Captain Hector MacNeal of Ugadale, and preserved at Lossit House, near Campbeltown. It is one of the class of reliquary brooches, of which the so-called Brooch of Lorn, and the well-known brooch formerly in the Bernal Collection (and figured in the Catalogue), now in the British Museum, are typical examples. The Lossit Brooch, which measures 5 inches in diameter across the base, is of silver gilt, and consists of a central capsule of oval form as the reliquary, surmounted by an oblong rock crystal, and surrounded by eight pillars, bearing settings of Cairngorms and red coral alternately. The circular base is ornamented with Celtic interlaced work of late and debased character. The date of these reliquary brooches is about sixteenth century.

16. Oval Stone Implement, $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches in length by $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches in width and $1\frac{1}{4}$ inch in thickness, ground flat on both faces, and having a smooth circular depression $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch in diameter, and less than $\frac{1}{4}$ inch in depth in the centre of each of the flat faces, from Falkland, Fife.

17. Two roughly chipped Axes of flint, from Hanover, and one from Denmark.

18. Four Bone Pins, found in the sands at Balishare, North Uist.

19. Two Penannular Brooches of silver, plated with gold, and richly ornamented with Celtic patterns, found at Rogart, in Sutherlandshire, and since known as the Cadboll Brooches. The larger of the two

measures $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter, and consists of a flattened penannular band of silver three quarters of an inch in width and nearly a quarter of an inch in thickness, terminating at each extremity in an ornamental expansion of a quatrefoil form 3 inches in its greatest diameter. An amber setting occupies the centre of these terminal ornaments. Round this setting there is a circular space 1 inch in diameter, enclosed by a

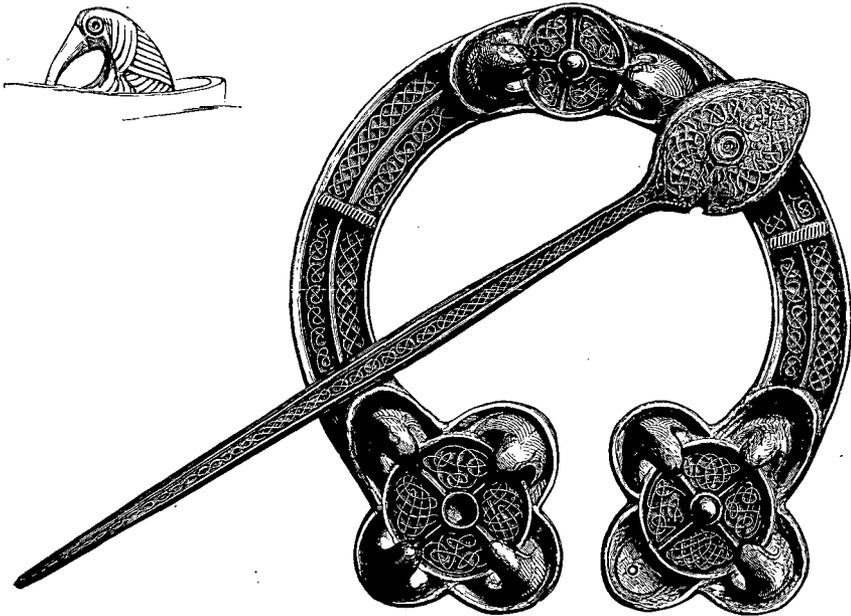


Fig. 3. Penannular Brooch of Silver overlaid with Gold, found at Rogart, Sutherlandshire.

plain raised border and quartered by similar partitions, each quarter being filled with an interlacing pattern. The four semicircular spaces surrounding the central circle, and forming the quatrefoils, are also surrounded by plain raised borders, and from each of the spaces so enclosed there rises, to the height of half an inch, part of the body and neck of a large billed bird. The eyes are set with green glass, the neck bends gracefully, and the long flattened bill dips into the interior

of the enclosed circle. These birds' heads are each secured by a central rivet passing through the body of the brooch. They are plain on the upper part of the neck and head, and ornamented with a chevrony pattern towards the base. In the middle of the bend of the circular part of the brooch, there is also a circular space divided into four segments with a central setting of amber, and the segments filled in with interlacing patterns. On either side of the circle are two birds' heads similarly placed and ornamented in the same manner as those which adorn the extremities of the brooch. The surface

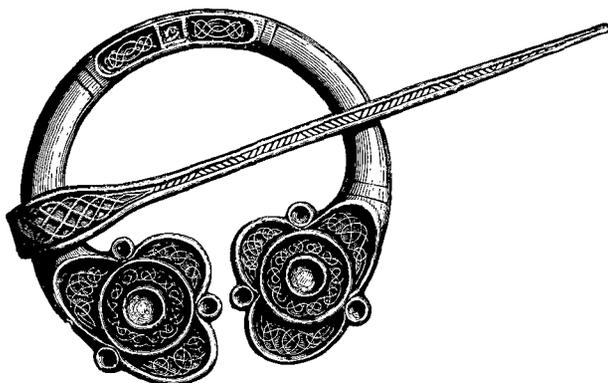


Fig. 4. Penannular Brooch of Silver, found at Rogart, Sutherlandshire.

of that portion of the ring of the brooch intervening between the central group of the two, and the terminal groups of the four birds' heads, is divided on each side into four oblong panels filled with interlaced patterns. The pin, which is $7\frac{3}{4}$ inches in length, is loosely attached to the brooch by a large loop open at the back; while the head has an oval expansion covered with an intricately interlaced pattern, which is continued down the front of the pin. In the centre of the oval head of the pin there has been a setting, now gone. The whole of the ornamental details are worked out with the greatest delicacy and precision. The interlaced patterns are not formed of filigree work implanted on the

surface, but of ridges left by the cutting out of the portions of metal intervening between the interlacements, and plated with gold. These ridges widen downwards, so that the hollows between each intersection present four triangular facets at different angles to the light, and thus give a peculiarly effective character to the ornament. The smaller brooch (fig. 4), which is also of silver, and of the same penannular form, is $3\frac{1}{8}$ inches in greatest diameter. Its terminal expansions are triple panels of interlaced work of semi-oval shape, with circular settings at their intersections, surrounding a circular panel with a larger central setting. The body of the brooch is plain, but there is a square setting in the middle of the circular part with an oblong panel of interlacements on either side of it. The pin is $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length. [These brooches have been described in the *Archæological Journal*, vol. xxvi. p. 293; *Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland* (First Series), vol. viii. p. 305; and Dr Anderson's *Scotland in Early Christian Times*, vol. ii. p. 7.]

20. Large wedge-shaped Hammer of greenstone, $13\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length, $4\frac{1}{4}$ inches in greatest breadth, and $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches in greatest thickness, the butt rounded off, the shaft-hole partially pierced to a depth of $1\frac{1}{4}$ inch on one side and $1\frac{3}{4}$ inch on the other side, found at Mearns, Renfrewshire.

Basket-hilted Sword, the blade $24\frac{3}{4}$ inches in length.

21. Polished Axe of brownish schist, $7\frac{3}{4}$ inches in length and $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches across the cutting face, oval in section in the middle of its length, and tapering to a bluntly rounded butt, found at Dinnet, Aberdeenshire.

Roughly polished Axe of greenstone, $5\frac{1}{4}$ inches in length by $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches in breadth across the cutting face, oval in section in the middle of its length, and tapering to a bluntly rounded butt, found at Coull, Aberdeenshire.

Four iron Crusies; two closed Crusies of tin; two "Peer Men"; two Lanterns; a Bannock-Spade; a Fir-gully; a Dubrach for poaching sea trout; and a small circular Vessel of cast brass, $3\frac{1}{8}$ inches diameter and $2\frac{2}{8}$ inches high, ornamented on the outside with punched patterns in panels.

22. Long club-like Implement of steatitic stone, $32\frac{3}{4}$ inches in length, from Cunningsburgh, Shetland.

23. Eleven collections of Flint Implements, from the Culbin Sands, about 400 specimens.

24. Three collections of Flint Implements, from the Glenluce Sands, about 100 specimens.

25. *Tatowiren narbenzeichnen und Korperbemalen.* Von Wilhelm Joest. Berlin, 1887. Folio.

26. *The History of Montrose.* By David Mitchell, A.M. Montrose, 1866. 8vo.

Loch Creran, Notes from the West Highlands. By W. Anderson Smith. Paisley, 1887. 8vo.

The Tragedy of Gowrie House. By Louis A. Barbe. Paisley, 1887. 4to.

Early Christian Art in Ireland. By Margaret Stokes. London, 1888. 8vo.

There were also Exhibited :—

By Captain W. J. B. BIRD, Bengal Staff Corps.

Two Bows and three Arrows of different forms, from the Andaman Islands. Captain Bird explains the peculiarities of these weapons :—

The bows are made of some local wood, and are of a peculiar shape, the upper and lower lengths forming very different curves. The markings on the bows are similar to the tattooings on the bodies of the men and women.

The arrows exhibited are specimens of the three varieties made. The one with the large iron head is said to be used for shooting pigs. When the animal has been struck, the shaft shakes loose from the buried head, to which it is attached by a twisted cord, and catching in the undergrowth as the pig runs away, tends to check him, and allows the hunters to come up and finish him off. The arrow with the plain iron point is said to be used for killing fish ; the one with the hardened wooden head, for killing birds.

At short ranges, say from 20 to 40 yards, the Andamanese seem to shoot with fair accuracy. It is astonishing to see the small men—4 feet 6 inches to 5 feet in height—using their mis-shapen bows, and drawing these long arrows to the head.

The following Communications were read :—