

IV.

NOTE ON A BRONZE SCABBARD-TIP FOUND ON GLENCOTHO FARM,
PEEBLESHIRE. BY WILLIAM BUCHAN, TOWN CLERK, PEBBLES,
F.S.A. Scot.

The object to which this note refers was found in the month of June 1899, on the farm of Glencotho in Holms Water, Peeblesshire, by Mr Walter Smail, shepherd. He states that one showery day in the end of June he was passing an open grassy space amongst the surrounding heather near the head of Glencotho Burn, when he saw something

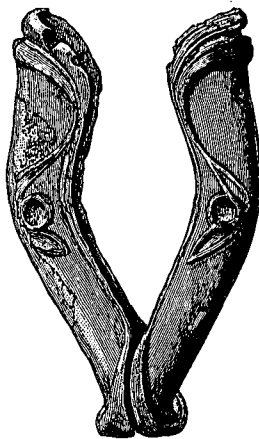


Fig. 1. Bronze Chape of Scabbard for a Sword of the late Celtic period.

glittering in the sun on the top of a newly thrown-up molehill, about fifty yards from the burnside. He picked up the object here shown (fig 1.), which is the bronze chape or tip of a scabbard for a sword of

the Late-Celtic period. It weighs a little over two and a half ounces and is formed of two curved pieces of bronze, separate at the top and joined at the foot, but it is possible that it may have been cast in a single piece. It is three inches in length, each arm is on an average half an inch wide by three-eighths of an inch deep. At the top the arms converge to within half an inch of each other, then open out to a width of seven-eighths of an inch and gradually converge towards the foot where they join. The outer sides of the arms are rounded, and the inner sides are deeply grooved or hollowed out from top to bottom. On the outside of the inner edges of each arm, back and front, there is a narrow moulding which at the top of each arm swells out into two lip-like mouldings with a well marked groove between them and smaller mouldings at the edges of the lips. At the foot the narrow lateral moulding swells out into another lip which curves outwards and backwards upon itself. There is a deep groove between the mouldings where the arms join. On what may be called the front of the chape the lower of the two lip mouldings at the top runs downwards for about half the length of each arm, and curves outwards, ending on each arm in an ornament like a leaf or bird's head, in the centre of which is a small hollow circle with the ring in relief. The outer surface of the chape is polished except where eroded. The right arm looking at the front has a small nail or rivet hole near the top running from the outside of the arm through to the inner groove.

Mr Smail says that the locality of the find, although on a hillside, is not on steep ground. He saw no trace of a camp or fort, but states that in the grassy area there are a number of small knolls like large mole-hills grown over with grass. The place is about 1200 feet above sea level.

Glencotho is about two miles from the watershed between the Tweed and the Clyde. About two miles to the east as the crow flies is the farm of Stanhope on Tweedside, where in 1876 a Late-Celtic bronze armlet, a Roman patella and two small bronze ornaments were found—these are numbers F.A. 25-28 of the Museum Catalogue.

I have much pleasure in announcing that since this paper was read, the bronze scabbard-tip has been presented to the National Museum by Rev. Andrew Baird, B.D., minister of Broughton, to whom it had been given by the finder.

MONDAY, 12th March 1900.

THE HON. JOHN ABERCROMBY, Vice-President, in the Chair.

A Ballot having been taken, W. D. GRAHAM-MENZIES of Hallyburton was duly elected a Fellow, and MUNGO BUCHANAN, Falkirk, a Corresponding Member of the Society.

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

- (1) By the EXCAVATION COMMITTEE, with consent of Mr FORBES of Callander, the Proprietor.

Large collection of Pottery ; bronze objects, chiefly Harness-mountings and Fibulæ, some beautifully enamelled ; iron implements and objects of bone and stone, obtained by the Society from the excavation of the Roman site of Camelon, near Falkirk. [See the subsequent account of the excavation of Camelon.]

- (2) By Mr JAMES RUSSEL of Blackbraes, through Mr JAMES CURLE.

Roman Altar (fig. 1) dedicated by an Officer in the Tungrian Cavalry to the Magusan Hercules, found in 1841 near the Bridge of Brightons, to the south-east of Falkirk. The altar is 2 feet 9 inches in height by 1 foot wide, and bears on the front the following inscription :—HERCULI MAGUSAN[O] SACRUM. VALERIUS NIGRINUS DUPLI[CARIUS] ALAE TUNGORUM. It is No. 1090 of Hubner's "Inscriptiones Britanniae Latinae"

in the seventh volume of the *Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum*, Berlin, 1873, and is described and figured in Stuart's *Caledonia Romana*, p. 359 and plate xv.

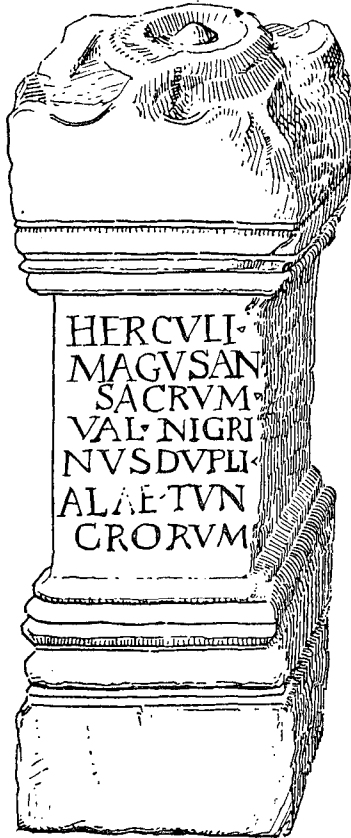


Fig. 1. Roman Altar found near Bridge of Brightons in 1841.

(3) By R. F. BUCHANAN, 19 Rodney Street.

Perforated Hammer of porphyritic stone from Orkney.

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- (4) By Miss CHRYSTALL, Aucheries, through JAMES DALGARNO,
 Corr. Mem. S.A. Scot.

Polished Stone Axe, $7\frac{1}{4}$ inches in length, found on the farm of Aucheries, Cruden, Aberdeenshire.

- (5) By CHARLES MENMUIR.

Three of Dassier's Medals, Henry II., Queen Anne, and George II.

- (6) By Rev. ANDREW BAIRD, B.D., Minister of Broughton.

Bronze Scabbard-Tip, of Late-Celtic type, found in a molehill on Glen-
 cotho Farm, Broughton, Peeblesshire. [See the previous Communication
 by William Buchan, F.S.A. Scot.]

- (7) By Mr DAVID BRIGHAM, 9 Mentone Terrace.

Photographs—Two exterior views and one interior view of the Broch
 of Mousa, Shetland; view of the Broch of Clickemin, Shetland; of stone
 axes and other antiquities, at Lerwick; and of a Shetland quern.

- (8) By the MASTER OF THE ROLLS.

Calendar of State Papers, Domestic, 1672; Calendar of Treasury
 Books and Papers, vol. ii., 1731-34; Acts of the Council, 1589-90;
 Calendar of Home Office Papers, 1773-75; Calendar of Documents in
 France illustrative of English History; Acts of the Privy Council,
 vol. xix.; Calendar of Letters and State Papers, Spanish, 1587-1602.

- (9) By the GENERAL COMMITTEE OF THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY.

Calendar of the Laing Charters, A.D. 854-1837, belonging to the
 University of Edinburgh. Edited by Rev. John Anderson, Assistant
 Curator of the Historical Department, H.M. General Register House.

- (10) By the KEEPER OF THE RECORDS OF SCOTLAND.

The Register of the Privy Council of Scotland, vol. i., New Series.
 The Exchequer Rolls of Scotland, vol. xx.

There were also Exhibited :—

(1) By Rev. J. D. ANDERSON, Manse of Hoy, Orkney.

Silver Bracelet, with jointed opening, said to have been found in a moss near Alford, Aberdeenshire.

(2) By ALEXANDER GRAY, New Deer, Aberdeenshire.

Seventeen Borers of flint, and three notched implements, from Aberdeenshire.

(3) By Mrs M'INTOSH, Dick Place, Edinburgh.

Large Spear-head of bronze, with crossbar, found in the neighbourhood of Meerut, India.

The following Communications were read :—

I.

ACCOUNT OF THE EXCAVATION OF THE ROMAN SITE OF CAMELON, NEAR FALKIRK, UNDERTAKEN BY THE SOCIETY, 1899-1900.

[The papers composing the account of these excavations have been postponed in order to give time for the preparation of the plans and other illustrations.]