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Bronze Lion-weight, in possession of Frank Calvert, Esq. : found January, 1860, on the site of the ancient Abydos.

Weight 68 lbs. 9 oz. ; length of the Lion, 13 inches.

ON A BRONZE WEIGHT FOUND ON THE SITE OF THE  
HELLESPONTIC ABYDOS.

By FRANK CALVERT.

EARLY in the month of January in the present year, a Turkish peasant, whilst tilling his field on the site of the ancient Abydos, a city of Mysia on the Hellespont,<sup>1</sup> turned up with his plough a bronze lion, and he brought it to me for sale. As it was evidently an object worthy of attention and preservation, I immediately purchased it.

The annexed representation of this curious relic gives a lateral view, on a reduced scale, looking towards the left, and it shows an inscription on the base, of which a fac-simile, of the same size as the original, is also given. A letter or monogram is also to be noticed on the back of the lion at one extremity of the handle (at \* in the woodcut). Of this character a fac-simile is given, as seen in a vertical view of this remarkable object.

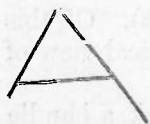
The lion is recumbent on a flat base  $1\frac{2}{3}$  inch thick, a handle springing from between the shoulders rises in an arch abutting on the haunches. The base is  $13\frac{5}{8}$  inches in length, and  $6\frac{1}{8}$  inches wide; the front part being square, and the back rounded off to suit the shape of the hinder quarters of the lion. The lion itself is 13 inches in length; the extreme width being  $5\frac{4}{8}$  inches; thus leaving a margin of  $\frac{3}{8}$  of an inch all round. The middle toe of each fore-foot slightly overlaps the base. The execution is extremely bold, and the weight appears to have been a well finished work of art. Behind the mane there is a coating in diagonals, covering the shoulders, part of the back, and the ribs, at first sight resembling net-work, or the conventional mode sometimes

<sup>1</sup> Abydos stood at the narrowest point of the Hellespont, opposite to Sestus. The modern village *Aidos* or *Avido* has

been pointed out as marking its site. See Dr. Smith's Dict. of Greek and Roman Geography, under Abydos.

used in representing armour of mail: it is low in relief. In numerous places, all over the figure, appear patches of oxidized bronze, bearing the imprint of a coarse textile fabric, in which it was probably enveloped when buried. The under surface of the base has been covered with a supplementary sheet of metal, apparently welded on after the casting, in order to make up for deficiency of weight. Through the corrosion it has undergone whilst buried in the ground, a part of this plate of bronze has exfoliated, and is deficient to the extent of about one or two pounds weight, showing the solid metal underneath. The total weight is 68 lbs. 9 ounces—or 825 ounces.

This bronze lion corresponds so nearly with the description given by Mr. Layard, in his work on Nineveh, of a series of weights discovered by him at Nimroud,<sup>2</sup> in all details except the handle (the handles in his being apparently rings), that I am convinced mine must likewise be a "Lion weight." The inscription likewise bears a strong resemblance to the inscriptions copied by Mr. Layard from the Assyrian Lion weights, which are now in the British Museum; but I can discover no marks or characters upon the sides of my weight, nor has it any other inscription on the base or on the Lion itself, with the exception of that already noticed.



The only mark, a letter or monogram (see wood-cut), is that which appears on the back of the lion, at the spot where the handle meets it. The weight of mine exceeds any that I have found mentioned by Mr. Layard by 28 lbs., and may possibly represent 50 minæ.

Its discovery on the site of the ancient Abydos, and the Semitic character of the inscription, carry us back to a very remote period, and may perhaps serve to throw some additional light on the ancient history of this part of the world.

FRANK CALVERT.

DARDANELLES, 17th January, 1860.

<sup>2</sup> Nineveh and Babylon, p. 601 (Mur-ray, 1853), where the inscriptions are figured. Compare the engravings of these weights in the First Series of the Monu-

ments of Nineveh, pl. 96. See also a valuable Memoir by Mr. Norris in the Transactions of the Royal Asiatic Society, vol. xvi. p. 215.