

geological phenomenon ; or as a picturesque object ; or as a Druidical altar or idol according to the more favourite local opinion, standing in the midst of the Caradon copper mine district a few miles north of Liskeard, has thus been protected from demolition.

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SUPPLEMENTARY NOTICES, RELATING TO A GOLD CUP FOUND  
IN A SEPULCHRAL CIST NEAR THE CHEESE-WRING, AND  
ALSO TO SOME OTHER GOLD RELICS IN CORNWALL.

It is remarkable that amongst the numerous objects of gold found in Great Britain none should have occurred, as I believe, of the like description as the cup which, by the gracious favor of her Majesty, we are now permitted to publish. The precious relics heretofore brought to light have been exclusively of the nature of personal ornaments. In Ireland, as Sir W. R. Wilde informs us,<sup>1</sup> it is supposed that the native gold was the metal with which the primitive inhabitants were first acquainted, and a greater number and variety of objects of gold have there been found than in any other country in North Western Europe. These likewise consist, for the most part, of articles connected with personal decorations, and it is remarkable that they have rarely occurred, as in other countries, with sepulchral deposits. Ancient Annals<sup>2</sup> give us even the name of the artificer by whom gold was first smelted in the woods of Wicklow, three centuries before the Christian era, and affirm that by him were goblets and brooches first covered with gold and silver in Ireland. Banqueting vessels of the precious metals, as Sir W. Wilde states, on the authority of the Annals, were not unknown to the Early Irish ; he points out, moreover, that some golden cup-shaped vessels in the Copenhagen Museum, which have been found suspended in tombs, strikingly resemble, when viewed in an inverted position, certain Irish relics of the same precious material and workmanship, noticed by Vallancey and other writers as regal caps or helmets.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Catalogue of the Antiquities of the Royal Irish Academy, by Sir W. R. Wilde, *Metallic Materials*, p. 355 ; *Antiquities of Gold*, p. 1.

<sup>2</sup> See the curious tradition preserved in the Book of Leinster, given by Dr. Todd, *ibid.* p. 7.

<sup>3</sup> Compare especially Worsaae, in the

The fashion of the golden *petasus*—like helm or cap with recurved brim and conical apex, seems little adapted, it must be admitted, to any use as a “banqueting vessel;” the style of decoration is doubtless that with which we are familiar alike in Early Scandinavian relics, and likewise in those of the sister kingdom. Gold cups of thin metal, ornamented with ribs and parallel lines, rows of small knots and concentric circles, that seem to be for the most part hammered up, are not infrequently found in Denmark and other northern countries; these vessels, although in their general form dissimilar to the cup found in Cornwall, present the same peculiarity of being round-bottomed; in some examples also the addition of a handle occurs, of a different fashion, however, to that of the Cornish treasure-trove.<sup>4</sup> A specimen recently shown in the Exhibition at Paris, amongst the Danish Antiquities, has, as described to me by Mr. Franks, the form of an ordinary basin, of very thin plate, ornamented with horizontal bands and concentric circles; it has a slight curved handle, like the elongated neck of some animal, terminating in a small head with ears, intended possibly to represent that of a wyvern. M. de Mortillet, however, describes it as the head of a horse rudely designed.<sup>5</sup> Eleven of these golden vessels, similar in their fashion, were found together in the Island of Funen. They are assigned by Scandinavian archæologists to the later times of the Age of Bronze.

There is great difficulty in suggesting a date, even approximately, for the remarkable relic brought before us by Mr. Smirke. Its discovery with a sepulchral deposit and urn in a cist of stones, more especially as being accompanied by a weapon of bronze, may doubtless lead us to assign the relics to a remote period, when the use of that metal prevailed.

Nordiske Oldsager, pl. 61, fig. 280. The Irish “crown,” in form precisely similar to the “billicock” hat of our own times, is figured in the Introduction to Keating’s History of Ireland; and Wilde’s Catal. R. I. A., Antiqu. of Gold, p. 8.

<sup>4</sup> See the late Lord Ellesmere’s translation of the Guide to Northern Archæology, p. 44, and various treatises on Scandinavian Antiquities. Dr. Wilson also refers to gold vessels found in Denmark; Prehistoric Annals of Scotland, vol. i. p. 406, second edit.

<sup>5</sup> G. de Mortillet, Promenades pré-

historiques à l’Exposition Universelle, p. 121; given also in his Matériaux pour l’histoire primitive de l’homme, tom. iii. The head, as supposed, of a horse, occurs likewise on the termination of the handle, in objects of bronze found in Denmark, and described as razors. This feature, M. de Mortillet observes, may indicate a date subsequent to the Age of Bronze, properly so called. Representations of animals first occur, as it is stated, on objects of the early part of the Age of Iron. Promenades, *ut supra*, p. 120.

The fact, moreover, that in another remarkable discovery of golden relics in Cornwall, namely the two *lunulæ* found at Padstow, as related in this Journal by Mr. Smirke, the precious deposit was likewise accompanied by an object of bronze, a celt of the most simple form, the flat axe-blade that may have been probably the earliest type of the series of relics of that class.<sup>6</sup>

It is to be regretted that no record of the fashion either of the blade, described as a "spear-head," or of the cinerary vase and its incised ornamentation, should have been preserved. The sepulchral mound, however, enclosing an urn-burial in a cist, may unquestionably be referred to an early age of British antiquity, subsequent to the so-called Stone-Period. It is worthy of remark that the one-handled cup of amber, noticed by Mr. Smirke, found in a barrow at Hove near Brighton, was likewise accompanied by a bronze blade; the contents of that tomb included also one of those skilfully wrought stone axe-heads, perforated for a haft, a type of weapon familiar amongst Scandinavian relics of the "Age of Bronze."

I may here cite the opinion of one of our most reliable authorities in all such questions of difficulty, Mr. Franks, that the Cornish cup should be classed with the corslet found in the grave-hill at Mold, and the Lincolnshire armlet figured above; with certain golden ornaments also found in Scotland, in Ireland, and in Scandinavia. The same type of ornamentation will be found to prevail in all; its general arrangement being in horizontal bands, more or less enriched with lines of stippled, beaded or corded work, the surface in some examples ribbed or corrugated, in others elaborately embossed, as in the gold corslet from the barrow near Mold, with rows of studs, nail-head and other ornaments in strong relief. We find moreover, especially in Irish relics of gold, small concentric circles, and also patterns for the most part of chevrons or lozenge type, that closely resemble those on early sepulchral urns, occurring likewise, but more rarely, on bronze weapons and celts.

In considering the peculiar ribbed or corrugated fashion of relics of gold, such as those to which I have briefly adverted, we cannot fail to recognise a certain constructive

<sup>6</sup> Arch. Journ., vol. xxii. p. 277. See Acad., by Sir W. R. Wilde, p. 362. of this type of celt, Catal. Antiqu. R. I.

analogy to the remarkable circular British shields of thin bronze plate that have repeatedly been brought under our notice. In these we find around the boss a series of concentric rings hammered up, with intervening circles of knobs, in alternate arrangement, the knobs or studs having the appearance of round-headed nails, such as are often seen on the old Highland targets that frequently present an almost archaic aspect. In the bronze shield, as also in the corrugated cup or armlet of gold, it is probable that by such mode of construction, as already noticed, increased strength was obtained, with lightness and economy of metal.<sup>7</sup>

A few other golden relics found in Great Britain and on the Continent claim notice, in connection with the subject of the curious discovery brought before us by the gracious consideration of the Queen.

Of the great hoard of gold that was brought to light by the plough a few years since near Hastings, consisting chiefly it is believed of torques, armlets, and the like, some fragments only escaped speedy destruction in the melting-pot. Two of these are now in the British Museum; they have been figured in the Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries, and apparently may have been portions of broad armlets, resembling that before figured found in Lincolnshire, or of some similar ornament.<sup>8</sup> They bear the same stamp of workmanship, the ribs with the lines of stippled markings between them.

Of similar workmanship is a broad gold bracelet in possession of Lord Panmure, at Brechin Castle, N. Britain, figured in Wilson's Prehistoric Annals of Scotland. It is of thin metal, hammered up, and formed with five ribs or cor-

<sup>7</sup> The corrugated material of which the bronze shields are formed is so thin that they seem little suited to resist any blow: it has even been suggested that these British relics were either objects of parade, or merely the superficial coatings of defences of more substantial description. This inference is wholly set aside on examination of the fastenings affixed to the inner side of these shields, and serving for the attachment of straps by which they were held on the arm, termed in after times *enarmes*, and also for that which passed over the neck or shoulder. It is then clear that there could not have been, as conjectured, any substantial lining, even of hide, upon which the

corrugated bronze was affixed. The defensive quality of such a shield, insufficient as it would appear, may as I believe have been materially augmented by its corrugated construction. See notices of the principal examples of these shields in my Catalogue of Antiquities in possession of the Society of Antiquaries, and in an account of specimens found near Yetholm, Roxburghshire, recently published by the Antiquaries of Scotland.

<sup>8</sup> Proceedings Soc. Ant., vol. ii. new series, p. 247. A full account of the discovery at Hastings may be found in the Transactions of the Sussex Archaeological Society.

rugated bands, and slight corded ornaments between them. This ornament, of which a portion is lost, was found at Camuston, Angus, in a cist, under an erect stone sculptured with a cross. A large skeleton lay in the cist; part of the skull had been cut away: an urn, ornamented with zig-zag patterns, was also found with this deposit, traditionally regarded as the remains of the leader of the Danish marauders slain there by Malcolm II. about the close of the seventh century. The interment, however, was doubtless of a much earlier period. The fashion of this Scottish specimen seems to be precisely similar to that of a diadem found in the county of Limerick, figured in Sir W. Wilde's Catalogue of Antiquities of Gold in the Museum of the Royal Irish Academy, p. 24, fig. 551.

Amongst other relics of gold obtained in Scotland, where such objects have been found in considerable variety, I may here mention an armlet brought to light in Angus. It had been deposited in a stone cist, and was accompanied by an urn; this example of the occurrence of ornaments of gold at the period to which the interments of that description may be assigned is recorded by Mr. Jervise, *Memorials of Angus*, p. 22\*.

Some remarkable examples of golden ornaments have been brought to light in France, especially the rich treasure of armlets found in Brittany, as described by the Rev. J. Bathurst Deane. The most singular object of the like precious material is a relic found in 1844 near Poitiers, and figured in this Journal.<sup>9</sup> It was regarded by Raoul Rochette as Gaulish. In general form it bears resemblance to a quiver; its length is 21 in., the decoration consists, as on the Scandinavian cups, of numerous concentric circles arranged in bands horizontally, and stippled markings. The ornaments seem to have been hammered up; the metal, in this instance, is not corrugated. The ornamentation may be compared with that of certain Irish objects of gold, such as the cupped "fibula" in the Museum of Trinity College, Dublin; and the boxes, by some supposed to have been used for mortuary purposes, in that of the Royal Irish Academy.<sup>1</sup>

It may seem scarcely necessary to remind the reader of

<sup>9</sup> Arch. Journ., vol. i. p. 252.

Ornaments of Gold, pp. 60, 84.

<sup>1</sup> Figured in Sir W. Wilde's Catalogue.

the frequent occurrence of small fictile vessels with early interments ; it has been supposed, with much probability, that they had contained food or drink, placed near the remains of the dead.<sup>2</sup> Examples of such vessels of any other material, especially of metal, as in the deposit described by Mr. Smirke, are very rare. He has adverted to the remarkable discovery of a one-handed cup of amber, accompanied by weapons of stone and bronze, in a barrow near Brighton. Such precious relics were, doubtless, objects that had been most prized in life by the deceased. A singular little cup, described as of oak, but possibly of the Kimmeridge shale obtained near the shores of Dorset, was found in that county in 1767, in a grave-hill known as the King Barrow near Wareham. In this instance the corpse had been placed, wrapped as it appeared in deer-skins, in a large hollow trunk of an oak ; no weapon was noticed with the bones nor any trace of metal, with the exception of a portion, as stated, of gold lace. The little bowl-shaped vessel had no foot or handle, it was of oval form, the diameter at the mouth being 3 in. by 2 in. ; the depth about 2 in. ; the whole of the surface was engraved with horizontal and oblique lines.<sup>3</sup> It is supposed that it had been placed at the head of the corpse.

A small wooden vessel has been described by Professor Worsaae as found in a similar depository in Denmark in 1827. The oaken trunk lay in a barrow, near the village called Vollerslev ; an urn was first disinterred in the superincumbent earth ; below this was a heap of small stones, that covered the wooden coffin in which lay some locks of human hair, a woollen mantle, a sword and dagger of bronze, a palstave also with a brooch of the same metal, and a horn comb. The little cup that accompanied this remarkable interment had two handles ; it contained some deposit having the appearance of ashes.<sup>4</sup> Several interments of the same description have been noticed in this Journal as occurring in

<sup>2</sup> Ancient fictile vessels, similar in some respects to the gold Cornish cup, but of less ancient periods, are doubtless familiar to the reader. I may mention particularly a small one-handed cup of earthenware, amongst Roman relics brought before the Institute in 1858 by Count Paolo Vimercati-Sozzi, of Bergamo. These objects were found in sepulchral cists of brick near Lovere, in Lombardy. The cup, lathe-made, is round-bottomed,

and has a flat handle through which the finger could scarcely pass.

<sup>3</sup> See the account by Mr. Hutchins, in his County History, and in *Gent. Mag.* vol. xxxvii. p. 53 ; given also by Mr. Warne in his *Celtic Tumuli of Dorset*, in the Section of "Tumuli opened at various periods," p. 4. The cup, as stated, afterwards belonged to Gough.

<sup>4</sup> Worsaae, *Primeval Antiquities of Denmark*, p. 96.

the northern part of Sleswick. With the unburnt bodies, wrapped in woollen cloth and laid upon hides, had been deposited swords and other objects of bronze, with other relics, including cups of wood described as turned on the lathe, and in some instances ornamented with minute studs of tin skilfully hammered in. One of these curious cups, found in the trunk of an oak in a barrow called Dragshoi, has been figured in this Journal. It has one handle; the base is of such narrow dimensions that the vessel, when filled, could scarcely preserve its equilibrium, even when carefully balanced; the under surface of this foot is ornamented with six concentric circles of diminutive nails or studs of tin.<sup>5</sup> It may deserve notice that in one instance an armlet of gold was brought to light. These remains have been assigned by Professor Worsaae to the Early Bronze Age.

I have willingly acceded to the wish of our friend Mr. Smirke, that I should append to his account of the Rillaton Treasure Trove some notices of other objects which appear to present features of analogy that, by comparison, may aid the investigation of the period to which these and other golden relics should be assigned, especially in regard to their occurrence with some mortuary intention. We have been indebted to his kindness on a former occasion for an account of golden crescent-shaped ornaments, or *lunulæ*, found in Cornwall, four in number, resembling such as have frequently occurred in Ireland.<sup>6</sup> Whilst the foregoing notes have been in preparation, I have received from an obliging friend at Penzance, Mr. J. T. Blight, F.S.A., whose knowledge of antiquity has repeatedly aided my researches, drawings of two other Cornish relics of gold, likewise of Irish types. One of these, a portion of a penannular armlet, or possibly of a neck ornament, was found at Tredinney in ploughing near the "vow," or subterranean walled chamber and passages at Chapel Uny in the parish of Sancreed, about two miles from Penzance; it is preserved in the Museum of the Antiquarian Society of that town.<sup>7</sup> British hut-circles and other early vestiges occur

<sup>5</sup> See the translation, by Mr. Ch. Gosch, of Worsaae's memoir on the Antiquities of South Jutland, Arch. Journal, vol. xxiii. p. 32. The wooden cup above noticed measures 6 in. in height; diam. of the mouth  $12\frac{1}{2}$  inches.

<sup>6</sup> See Mr. Smirke's Memoir on the golden ornaments found near Padstow,

Arch. Journ., vol. xxii. p. 275; Journ. Roy. Inst. Corn., 1866, p. 134.

<sup>7</sup> Penzance Nat. Hist. and Antiqu. Soc. Reports for 1862-65, p. 38; an account of the curious "fogou" or cave is given by Mr. Borlase, with a ground-plan, *ibid.* p. 14. The gold relic was found in 1864.



near the spot. The length of this fragment of gold is about  $4\frac{1}{2}$  in.; the armlet was a slight round bar of gold, in part somewhat twisted, it may be in the process of working it; the extremity is gradually dilated, terminating in an enlarged flat end rather more than a quarter of an inch in diameter. The dilated terminal knobs, varying from the simple button-shaped terminations, that first take a slightly cupped form, and gradually expand until they assume the broad saucer-like fashion of the so-called "mammillary brooches," are characteristic of Irish penannular ornaments.<sup>8</sup> The second relic of gold is a portion of a more massive penannular object, a cupped "fibula" of unusually large dimensions, and of a type almost exclusively Irish.<sup>9</sup> It was found near the Lizard, in a district of Western Cornwall replete with early remains, and is now preserved in the British Museum. The length of this fragment is 3 in., its weight  $5\frac{1}{2}$  oz. It formed part of Payne Knight's Collection. The "calicinated" extremity must have been of unusual breadth, when perfect; the portion that remains measures  $1\frac{3}{4}$  in. in diameter. The largest brooch of this description in the Museum of the Royal Irish Academy weighs 16 oz. 17 dwt. 4 gr., the cupped disc at each of its extremities measures 5 in. in diameter. It will be noticed in the woodcut, that the bow or handle of the Cornish fragment is lozenge-shaped, a variety of fashion that occurs in Irish specimens, but no example is figured by Sir W. Wilde. I have seen only one other "mammillary brooch" found in England; it was figured in my *Memoir on Ancient Gold Ornaments* in this Journal, vol. vi. p. 61, having been brought before the Institute by Mrs. Danby Harcourt, through Mr. Charles Tucker. This specimen, weighing 5 oz. 7 dwts. 22 gr., was found at Swinton Park, Yorkshire. Two similar objects are noticed by Gough as found, in 1780, near Ripon.

It is very remarkable, as Mr. Blight truly observes, that all the Cornish gold ornaments have their counterparts in Ireland. I have much pleasure in being enabled to publish representations of these remarkable relics that have become known to me through his courtesy.

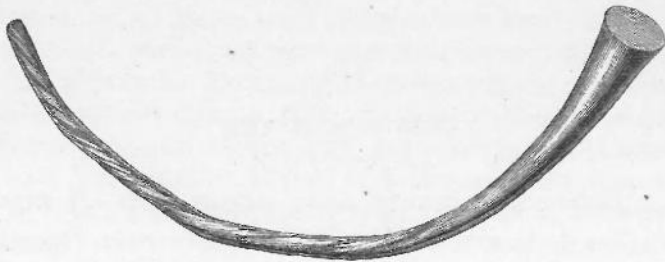
ALBERT WAY.

<sup>8</sup> See Sir W. Wilde's Catalogue, *Antiqu. of Gold*, Mus. Roy. I. Acad., p. 52-75.

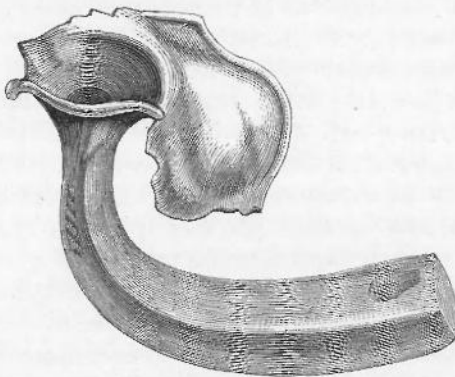
<sup>9</sup> *Ibid.*; compare Nos. 120, 122, 593, &c.



ANCIENT RELICS OF GOLD FOUND IN CORNWALL.



Portion of an Armlet found at Tredinney near Penzance.  
Museum of the Penzance Nat. Hist. and Antiqu. Soc. Weight, 10 awt. 16 grs. Orig. size



Section of the solid handle.

Fragment of a "Mamillary Brooch" found near the Lizard. Payne Knight Collection,  
British Museum. Weight,  $\frac{1}{4}$  oz. Orig. size.

From Drawings by Mr. J. T. Blight, F.S.A.