

# PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

**Cambridge Antiquarian Society,**

23 OCTOBER, 1893 TO 16 MAY, 1894,

WITH

**Communications**

MADE TO THE SOCIETY.

No. XXXVI.

BEING No. 3 OF THE EIGHTH VOLUME.

(SECOND VOLUME OF THE NEW SERIES.)

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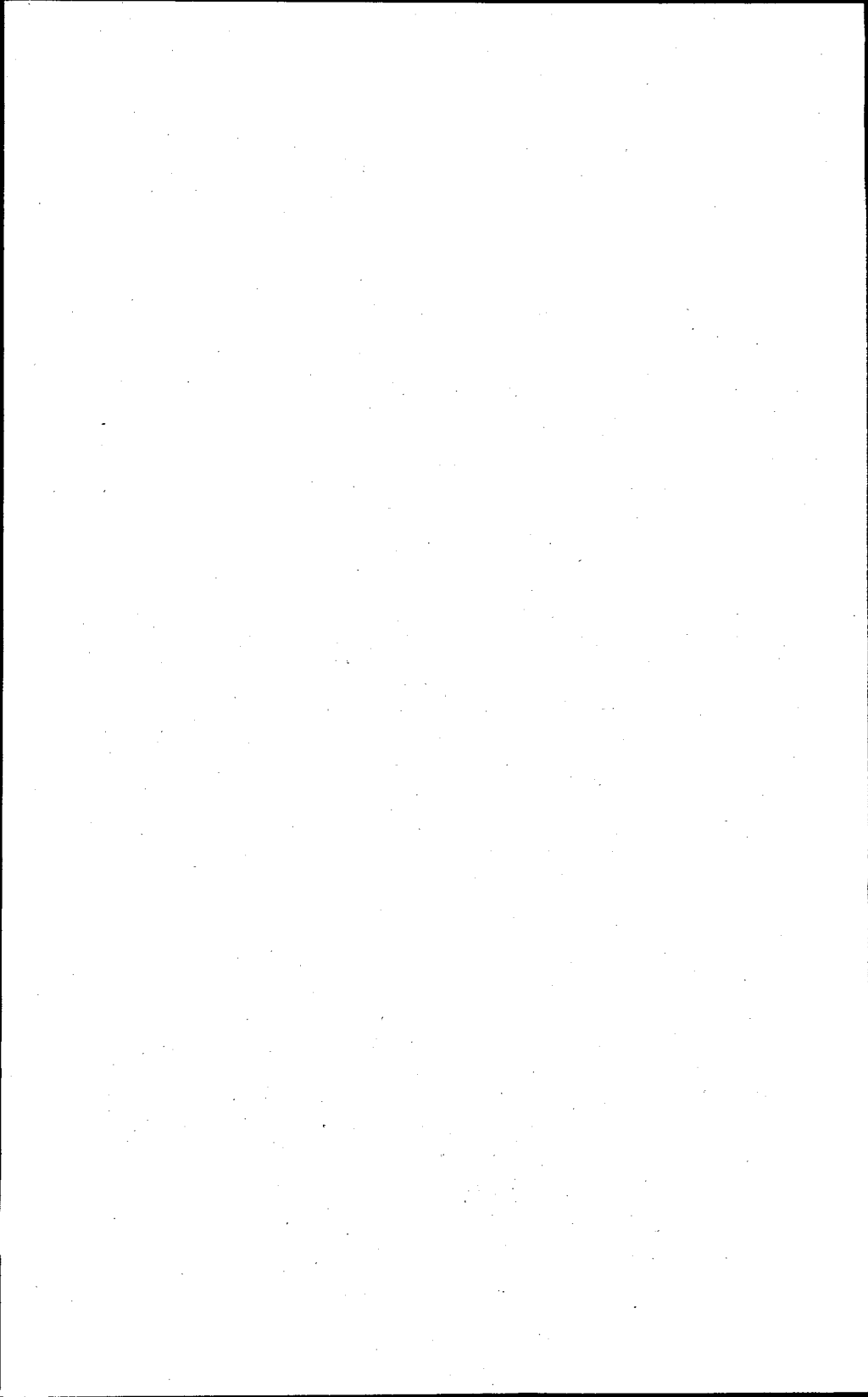
Cambridge:

DEIGHTON, BELL & CO.; MACMILLAN & BOWES.

LONDON: G. BELL AND SONS.

1895.

*Price 7s. 6d.*



CAMBRIDGE ANTIQUARIAN  
PROCEEDINGS AND COMMUNICATIONS.

STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF DALLAS

PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
**Cambridge Antiquarian Society,**  
WITH  
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VOL. VIII.



NEW SERIES.

VOL. II.

1891—1894.

CAMBRIDGE:

PRINTED FOR THE CAMBRIDGE ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY.

SOLD BY DEIGHTON, BELL & CO.; AND MACMILLAN & BOWES.  
LONDON, GEORGE BELL AND SONS.

1895.

Cambridge:

PRINTED BY J. AND C. F. CLAY,  
AT THE UNIVERSITY PRESS.

Twenty-one new members have been elected, and the Society now numbers 287 ordinary and 11 honorary members.

Ten meetings have been held, at which the average attendance has been 24 members and 11 visitors, making a total of 35 at each meeting. At the afternoon meetings the average number of members and visitors together has been 36, and in the evening 34. Two of the Communications made at the evening meetings were illustrated by lantern slides.

An excursion was made last summer to Colchester, on which occasion Mr Henry Laver, J.P., F.S.A., the Honorary Curator of the Colchester Museum, kindly acted as guide.

The Laws of the Society have been revised.

Five names have been added to the list of Societies, &c., in union for the exchange of publications : viz.

The Guildhall Library, London ;

The East Riding Antiquarian Society ;

The Thoresby Society, Leeds ;

The Society of Architects ;

The Academy of Belles-lettres, History, and Antiquities, Stockholm.

A collection of coins has been bequeathed to the Society by the late Miss Ann Taylor Fox, of Huntingdon. It includes a series of Roman denarii, extending from Vespasian to Marcus Aurelius, found at Knapwell in the year 1840. The collection was made by Mr R. Fox, F.A.S., M.N.S., Surgeon, of Godmanchester.

Mr JOHN FERGUSON, F.S.A., Professor of Chemistry in the University of Glasgow, made the following communication :

ON JOHN FRANCIS VIGANI, FIRST PROFESSOR OF  
CHEMISTRY IN THE UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE<sup>1</sup>.

Professor HUGHES exhibited a crystal bowl with stand and lid, representing a wyvern. The whole is  $15\frac{1}{4}$  inches in height, of which the legs, forming the stand, occupy  $5\frac{1}{4}$  inches, the bowl 3 inches, the cover  $2\frac{1}{4}$  inches, and the head and neck  $4\frac{3}{4}$  inches. The length of the bowl is  $9\frac{5}{8}$  inches, and the greatest breadth  $6\frac{1}{2}$  inches. The tapering was probably determined by the original form of the crystal.

The bowl was cut out of one mass, as was also the cover. The distribution of the bands of "feather" in the quartz suggests

<sup>1</sup> It is hoped that this communication will appear as one of the Society's Octavo Publications.

that they may both have formed part of one crystal, but the treatment of the ornament on the bowl and lid is not quite alike, and they have been referred by some to different dates. The stand, head, wings, and tail are all of separate pieces.

The whole is mounted in silver, with arabesque enamel of the style of the Italian work of the 16th century. The outside enamelled mounting round the rim and base is evidently recent; that round the neck, wings, and legs perhaps a century earlier.

Some much older work is, however, seen through the bottom of the bowl, where the top of the stand has been joined on. The delicate tracery and soft turquoise blue of the enamel on this part, which probably belongs to the 16th century or even to late in the 15th, produces a far more pleasing effect than the more brilliant ornament round the rim and base, and indicates the high finish of the original work.

The feet and claws are those of an eagle or griffin. On each side of the bowl there is a dragon, the treatment of the head, tongue, teeth, and tail of which differs considerably from that seen on the corresponding parts of the wyvern, which has a griffin head and crested tail.

It seems probable that the bowl with the cover is the oldest part. On both of these wings are carved entirely distinct and different from the wings of the wyvern, which, with the head, tail, and stand, are later work, and were screwed on through the original wings of the dragon which are carved in relief on the bowl and lid. The irregular fractured margin of the crystal where the stand is fastened on, and the condition of the older enamel and tracery seen through the base of the bowl, point to considerable alteration and restorations.

On the front of the bowl there is a head with a triquetral halo, and a cross-barred stole folded across the breast and produced into an endless intertwined ornament prolonged below the bowl to the opposite side. The conchoidal fracture of the crystal shows that something has been broken off the tongue, thus explaining the rotund gape of the mouth, which indicates that some object originally projected from it.



Ornamental vessels of this sort were of great repute in the Middle Ages, being filled with salt or other condiment and placed on the festive board.

The crystal work is on the whole referred to two distinct periods, and the enamelled metal to three, of which the last is obviously quite recent. The dragon on the lid probably once had a head, and it may be that the precious metal of the original mounting and its adjuncts was the reason why the object was so roughly handled, as that has been torn away in some ancient looting.

Professor HUGHES also exhibited a *Universal Ring Dial* of English make and bearing the inscription "Henry Sutton fecit, 1660."

This form of dial is a variety of *Astrolabe* derived from the *Mariner's Ring*. The *Common Ring Dial* is supposed not to have been in general use in England until the middle of the 17th century, and the *Universal Ring Dial* is said by Seller to have been invented by Edward Wright; who died in 1615.

In *Archæologia* for 1806<sup>1</sup> there is an account by Craven Ord, F.R.S., of "three curious old paintings from Olivers, the seat of the Eldred family, in the County of Essex," the second of which is a portrait of one of the two great navigators of that family, Thomas or John Eldred, who lived about the end of the 16th, or the beginning of the 17th, century. In this picture the traveller is represented holding in his hand, suspended from a ring, a dial of apparently much the same form and construction as that now exhibited. On the front of the instrument the date 1620 is inscribed.

Mr Walter Scott of Sunderland exhibited in 1893 a similar instrument to the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle-upon-Tyne<sup>2</sup>, and Mr Spence supplied a descriptive note upon it.

In 1890 Professor Adams described a specimen of the Ring Dial, known as the "Shepherd's Clock," from Cumberland, to the Cambridge Antiquarian Society<sup>3</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> Vol. xv., pp. 402, 403. Pl. xxxviii.

<sup>2</sup> *Proceedings*, Vol. vi., p. 70.

<sup>3</sup> Camb. Ant. Soc. Proc. and Comm. vii. 130.

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