

VII.—A NOTE UPON TWO HELMETS FROM THE
TAYLOR COLLECTION IN THE LAING
ART GALLERY AND MUSEUM,
NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE.

The helmets illustrated on plates v and vi and described in this article are part of an important collection of arms and armour which has recently been bequeathed to the Laing Municipal Art Gallery and Museum by the late Mr. Evelyn Edmund Percy Taylor. He wished it to be known as "The Henry Edmund Taylor (Whickham) Collection" in memory of his father, who was mainly responsible for bringing the collection together. It consists of some five hundred objects, and includes swords, halberds, cross-bows, helmets, armour, powder horns, flintlocks, pistols, etc.

There are 17 helmets in the collection; all in a good state of preservation and of considerable educational interest. The two examples chosen for the purposes of this article are comparatively rare, and therefore of special value from the historical point of view.

C. BERNARD STEVENSON, *Curator*.

PLATE V.

This close helmet is a good example of South German make of the middle of the sixteenth century, decorated with etched bands of foliage, birds and strap-work of a not unusual pattern. It will be noticed that the holes for lacing the lining have brass washers which is often found on helmets of good quality of this date. The gorget plates have been added and a hole pierced in the crown when the helmet was adapted for funeral purposes in England in the

seventeenth century. The back gorget plate is rough and plain; the front gorget plate, which is decorated with raised bands and rivet heads, possibly comes from a pikeman's armour.

PLATE VI.

This morion is North Italian of the second half of the sixteenth century, with bands etched with formal ornament including a female figure beneath a vase with foliage and grotesques. The four panels of the sides are decorated with cartouches containing heroic heads. It was probably formerly blued and the etching gilt, and this may still be the case, though I cannot be certain from the photograph.

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CLOSE HELMET OF MID-SIXTEENTH CENTURY. SOUTH GERMAN MAKE.



ITALIAN MORION OF SIXTEENTH CENTURY.

