

VI.

NOTICE OF A FLINT ARROW-HEAD FOUND AT BALLACHULISH, AND ANOTHER AT BOLESKIN, EXHIBITED BY ALEX. ROSS, F.S.A. SCOT., INVERNESS. BY DR D. CHRISTISON, SECRETARY.

This beautiful specimen (fig. 1) was dug up in the autumn of 1888 by a man who was cutting turf on Tom Iain, of the ancient township of North Ballachulish, not far from the spot where a large "find" of worked flints was discovered about fifteen years ago.<sup>1</sup> The arrow is remarkable for its large size, sharp point, and perfect symmetry of form, when looked at in front or back; a symmetry which, as in all flint arrow-heads, disappears entirely on a side view. As shown in the woodcut, the serration of the edges is also remarkably fine and regular, the number of teeth being about twenty on each edge.

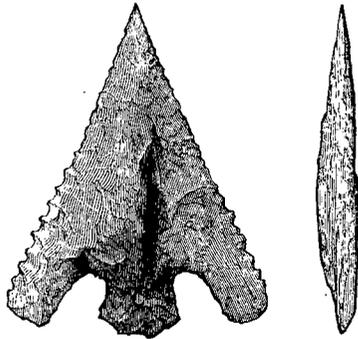


Fig. 1. Arrow-Head of Flint, found at Ballachulish.

On passing the finger along the serrated edge, it feels much rougher from barb to point than from point to barb, as if the teeth were purposely set backwards, but it is difficult to see any great object in this, and it is probably merely the natural result of getting a fine edge by chipping. Serration of the edges is quite common in flint arrow-heads, but I have not noticed this setting backwards in other examples. No

<sup>1</sup> See *Nether Lochaber*, by the Rev. Alexander Stewart, LL.D., p. 232.

attempt has been made to sharpen the barbs, which are large, and wide at the ends.

Superstitious respect for flint arrow-heads still lingers in the Highlands. A Ballachulish crofter picked up one, which he is fully persuaded he heard whizzing past his ear, and although offered a considerable sum, he refused to part with the *saignhead shith*, or fairy dart, as it brings luck to his family.

The arrow-head from Boleskin is only worthy of note, because it was turned up by a mole.

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MONDAY, 14th January 1889.

J. R. FINDLAY, Vice-President, in the Chair.

A Ballot having been taken, the following Gentlemen were duly elected Fellows of the Society :—

JAMES AITCHISON, Goldsmith, 7 Regent Terrace.  
 WILLIAM BAIN, Bank of Scotland, 6 Coates Gardens.  
 CHARLES R. A. HOWDEN, Advocate, 25 Melville Street.  
 JOHN FOWLER HISLOP, Castlepark, Prestonpans.  
 DAVID C. E. ERSKINE, junior, of Linlathen.  
 ANDREW WILLIAM KERR, Royal Bank House.

And the following, a Corresponding Member of the Society—

Rev. DAVID LANDBOROUGH, Minister of Henderson Free Church,  
 Kilmarnock.

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

(1) By J. R. FINDLAY, Vice-President.

Scraper, and three worked Flakes of Flint—found at Aberlour, Banffshire.

Old Scottish Memorial Marriage Ring of pinchbeck, inscribed NEIL PATON MAR<sup>d</sup> JUNE 14, 1769.

(2) By the Right Hon. The EARL OF STAIR, Vice-President.

Upper Stone of Quern of sandstone, broken round the edges and with side hole—found at Fordel Park, Oxenford.

(3) By ROBERT MUNRO, M.A., M.D., *Secretary*.

Small Arrow-Head of flint—from Perugia, Italy.

Collection from the Terp Mound of Aalzum, in Friesland, comprising—

Bone Needle, 2 inches in length, with oval eye-hole.

Bone Needle,  $3\frac{1}{4}$  inches in length, with oval eye-hole.

Bone Pin or Bodkin,  $3\frac{1}{4}$  inches in length, with circular eye-hole.

Bone Pin or Bodkin,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches in length, with slightly oval eye-hole.

Cylindrical or shuttle-shaped Bone Implement,  $6\frac{3}{4}$  inches in length and  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch in diameter in the centre, tapering to both ends.

Round-backed single-edged Comb of bone, 6 inches in length, with rivets of iron, the back ornamented with straight-line patterns, the teeth mostly gone.

Slightly round-backed single-edged Comb of bone,  $4\frac{3}{4}$  inches in length, with rivets of iron, and the back ornamented with straight-line patterns, the teeth mostly gone, and one end imperfect. Judging from the form and ornamentation of the back, this comb, when perfect, must have been 7 inches in length.

Portion of a Comb of bone, consisting of one terminal plate,  $1\frac{3}{4}$  by  $1\frac{1}{4}$  inches, with seven teeth.

Whorl of burnt clay,  $1\frac{3}{4}$  inches diameter.

Whorl of bone,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches diameter, ornamented with a pattern of straight lines and zigzags.

Circular Disc of wood,  $1\frac{3}{4}$  inches diameter, with an oblique perforation through the centre.

Small Bead of vitreous paste,  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch in diameter, whitish in colour, and enamelled with circles of green, each enclosing a red spot.

Lump of native Amber,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  by 1 inch and  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch in thickness, irregular in form, but flattened and polished on one side.

Bone Skate, made of the leg-bone of a horse, 9 inches in length, and highly polished on the under part by use.

Tine of Deer-Horn,  $7\frac{1}{2}$  inches in length, perforated at the thick end by a hole about  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch in diameter.

Bridle-Bit of iron,  $5\frac{1}{2}$  inches in width between the cheek pieces.

Seven fragments of Pottery, being portions of the lips of vessels, wheel-made, but unglazed.

Large Disc of burnt clay,  $3\frac{3}{4}$  inches in diameter and 1 inch in thickness, with a central hole 1 inch in diameter. [See the subsequent communication by Dr Munro.]

(4) By JOHN M'NEEKAN, Knockneen, Kirkholm, through Rev. GEORGE WILSON, Glenluce, Cor. Mem. S.A. Scot.

Polished Axe of claystone,  $4\frac{1}{16}$  inches in length by  $2\frac{3}{16}$  inches across the cutting face, somewhat rudely finished and fractured—found in a drain on the farm of Ardwell, Kirkcolm, Wigtownshire.

Axe of sandstone,  $7\frac{5}{8}$  inches in length by  $3\frac{1}{4}$  inches in breadth, and  $2\frac{3}{8}$  inches in greatest thickness, the surface rough, but the cutting edge polished—found at Float, Stoneykirk, Wigtownshire.

Polished Axe of brownish yellow flint,  $3\frac{7}{8}$  inches in length by  $2\frac{1}{16}$  inches in breadth across the cutting face, the surface finely polished, the butt imperfect—found at Wellhouse Farm, Kirkcolm, Wigtownshire.

Large Hammer-Head of grey diorite, wedge-shaped, 11 inches in length by  $4\frac{1}{2}$  inches in breadth and  $3\frac{5}{8}$  inches in thickness, partially perforated and unfinished in form—found at Balgour, Kirkcolm, Wigtownshire.

Hammer-Stone of dark grey quartzite,  $2\frac{7}{8}$  inches diameter, flat on each face, and having a circular edge—from Kirkbride, Kirkcolm, Wigtownshire.

Adze of compact lava,  $3\frac{3}{8}$  inches in length by  $1\frac{7}{8}$  inches across the cutting face, finely polished—probably from New Zealand.

(5) By D. W. KEMP, Ivy Lodge, Trinity.

Four fragments of Stained Glass from the Cathedral of St Canice, Kilkenny.

Large Photograph of St Kieran's Crosier.

Notes on Early Iron-Smelting in Sutherland. 1887. 8vo.

(6) By R. H. BLYTH, F.S.A. Scot., Moffat.

Enlarged Photograph of the lower part of the Ruthwell Cross, showing part of the Runic Inscription.

(7) By ADAM B. RICHARDSON, *Curator of Coins*.

Two London Groats of Henry VI.; one of Edward IV.; Half-Crown of Charles I., by Briot; Sovereign of Charles I., Tower Mint; George III. Guinea, 1775.

(8) By Rev. B. H. BLACKER, M.A., the Editor.

Gloucestershire Notes and Queries. Part 38.

(9) By Rev. WILLIAM TEMPLE, M.A., F.S.A. Scot., the Author.

St Margaret's Forge, Frendraught, &c. 1881. 8vo.

(10) By J. CARMICHAEL-FERRAL, Augher Castle, Tyrone, the Author.

The Ulster Carmichaels. Part I.

(11) By the DEPUTY CLERK-REGISTER FOR SCOTLAND.

Register of the Great Seal of Scotland, 1580-93.

Calendar of Documents relating to Scotland. Vol. IV.

(12) By M. W. TAYLOR, M.D., F.S.A. Scot., the Author.

Notes on Prehistoric Graves in Wynaad, Southern India.

(13) By R. G. ERSKINE WEMYSS of Wemyss and Torrie, through Sir WILLIAM FRASER, K.C.B., LL.D., F.S.A. Scot., the Author.

Memorials of the Family of Wemyss of Wemyss. 1888. 3 vols. 4to. Privately printed.

The following Communications were read :—