

**A P P E N D I X.**

## APPENDIX.

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### *On Ancient Bronze Helmets found in 1818 at Ogmore Down, Glamorganshire.*

May 11, 1865. Major G. Grant Francis, F.S.A., exhibited drawings of some ancient Bronze Helmets found in 1818 at Castell y Lligiad, on Ogmore Down, near Cowbridge, Glamorganshire, of which the originals shortly after the discovery are stated to have been sent up to London for exhibition before the Society. The package containing them was unfortunately lost on the road, and the helmets have never since re-appeared. Under these circumstances it has been thought desirable to engrave the drawings (Plate XXXVI.) as preserving a record of interesting objects of a rare style of work. The circumstances of the find and other particulars appear in the following communication from Major Grant Francis :—

“ The discovery of several remarkable helmets and other ancient armour at Castell y Lligiad, on Ogmore Down, in Glamorganshire (portions of which were intended to have been exhibited to the Society of Antiquaries, but were lost in transit), has on several occasions been mentioned to me, with the hope that, as Local Secretary to the Society, I might possibly be able to recover the originals and lay them on the table for the inspection of the Fellows.

“ It is with regret that I feel obliged at length to report my non-success as to the originals themselves ; I have, however, the gratification of now exhibiting a series of sketches, *made at the time of the find*, 1818, together with sundry notes<sup>a</sup> made by Mr. W. W. Young and Mr. C. Redwood, who made the sketches, and whose remarks are the more valuable from their having followed up the discovery by subsequent diggings on the spot.

“ Though it has been reported that these were ‘ Saxon remains,’ the locality and the character of the work have always induced me to consider them of the later Roman period, and I am glad to find myself supported in this opinion by our learned Director Mr. Franks, Dr. Birch of the British Museum, and other members of our Society.”

“ It has been my good fortune to secure, not only the original notes and sketches made by Mr. Young, but also the memoranda of his co-explorer Mr. Charles Redwood.

“ On recently mentioning the facts to Mr. Mansel-Talbot, of Margam Park, I learnt with pleasure that the *locus in quo* was on his estate, and that he would be glad to join in a further search ; the result of which, when made, I shall feel it my duty to lay before the Society, should anything additional turn up.”

<sup>a</sup> Hereto appended.

*Memorandum (with sketches of the find of Ancient Arms) by Mr. W. W. Young, 1836.*

“No. 1. A Dagger. Several of these were found, the blade part about ten inches long, the handle about five: they were much oxydated, but the barbs pretty distinct.

“No. 2. A Helmet. Two of these were found, both broken by the workmen in digging, but the parts were afterwards put together; *the skulls were in them!* The body of these helmets was of very good brass, very little oxydated, about one line in thickness; the ornament on the top was silver, and weighed about an ounce; the small bands were gold and silver wire twisted; the side or ear-piece moved on a hinge; it was of brass, and the hollow that was in it filled with a composition of wax and vermilion; the lower rim had two bands of brass, with a blue enamel between, laid on the brass. These were found before I went to the spot. Afterwards I went with Mr. C. Redwood; we dug a little and found several pieces of iron much decayed, some bones, and one or two pieces of small brass chain, about the size of jack-chain.

“Mr. C. Redwood went again and dug, when he found the skull-cap No. 3, of copper, very much oxydated, but near a quarter of an inch thick. The farmer refused to let any further digging be made, as he was about to sow the field with wheat.

“The situation of the field is about half a mile from Old Castle-upon-Allam, adjoining to Ogmores Down; the various articles were found about two feet under the surface: there is very little more depth of soil on the limestone rock. I believe much more might be found if dug for.

“I believe Mr. Redwood has the skull-cap and some chain, but I know nothing of the other things.

“The colouring is nearly that of the different things when dug up.”—W. W. Y.

*Memorandum (extracted from a manuscript book of Charles Redwood, date 1818.)*

“As some labourers were digging for limestone in a field above Black Hall, in the parish of St. Bride’s Major, Glamorganshire, on the 29th of September, 1818, they discovered a couple of antique helmets, together with many human bones and pieces of iron. Either from the decay of the materials or the roughness with which they were taken up, or perhaps from both these causes, neither of the helmets was preserved whole, but some ornamental parts detached from the casques they had formerly adorned remained in excellent preservation. They consisted of a piece of silver with a ring attached to it, which had formed the top of the helmet, and a gold ornament detached from the side. The silver top piece was similar in shape to the annexed figure,<sup>a</sup> and about the size of a common tea saucer, or perhaps a little larger. A jeweller, to whom it was shown by the labourer in whose possession it was, offered two shillings for it!

“The other ornament, which was supposed to have come from the side of the helmet, is pretty correctly represented by the figure.<sup>b</sup> It was composed of gold with a considerable quantity of alloy in it, and the part that is shaded in the drawing was inlaid with a composition of wax and vermilion. It was fastened to the helmet by a sort of hinge at the lower end, by which it could

<sup>a</sup> A rough pen-and-ink sketch of an ornament corresponding to that on the helmet, Plate XXXVI, fig. 2, is here given.

<sup>b</sup> Rough sketch of side-piece shown in figs. 1 and 2.

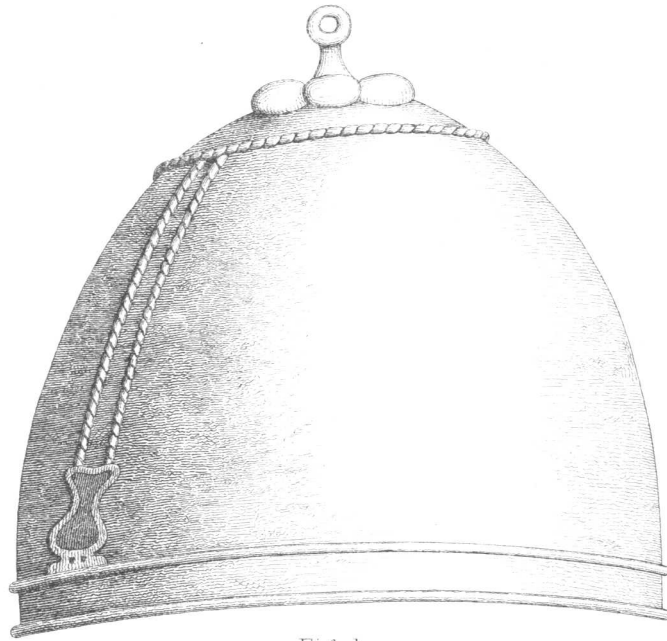


Fig. 1.

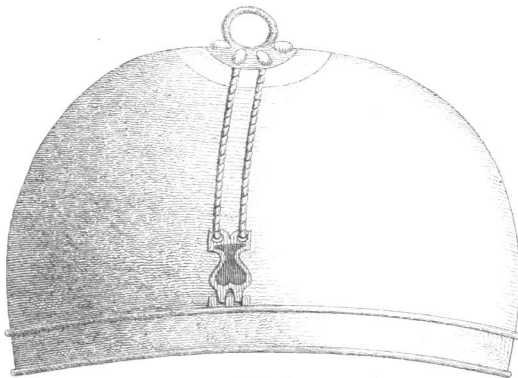


Fig. 2.

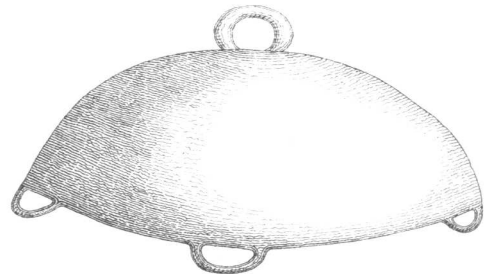


Fig. 3.

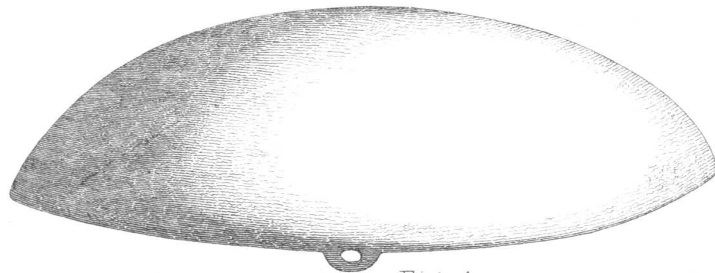


Fig. 4.



Fig. 5.

HELMETS OF BRONZE. FROM OGMORE DOWN, GLAMORGANSHIRE.

*Published by the Society of Antiquaries of London 1873.*

be turned up or down. There were wires attached to the two holes at the upper end, composed of silver and copper twisted together, and these appeared to have been attached to the silver top-piece. There was only one of the side-pieces found, but no doubt there was originally one on each side.

“A few weeks after the discovery of these relics of antiquity, I paid repeated visits to the place of their inhumation, and had the good fortune to find a copper helmet (Plate XXXVI. fig. 3), and many heads of spears, which, as well as those found by the labourers, lay interred upon a bed of small coal. The shape of this copper helmet was something similar to that of the silver ornament. Mr. Young has informed me that it is described in a book on armour in the possession of Dr. Lisle as the oldest kind of British helmet on record. It was the custom in those remote days to cover the head with a cap of *leather*, which was crowned with a copper top-piece connected by small chains from four loops at the edge, and having a ring at the top in which to fasten a tuft of hair.”

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The drawings exhibited by Major Francis are on three sheets:—

A. That described in Mr. Young's Memorandum, printed above, comprising three figures, viz.,

1. Dagger. Plate XXXVI. fig. 5.
2. Helmet. ditto, fig. 1.
3. “Skullcap.” ditto, fig. 4.

B. Another drawing by Mr. Young, with two figures, viz.,

1. Helmet, with the skull included, as found. Apparently the second of the two helmets first found. Plate XXXVI. fig. 2. (The skull omitted.)
2. “Skullcap,” fig. 3 in our Plate. Though the memoranda do not very clearly mention two “Skulleaps,” this one appears to be not identical with our fig. 4, as the former has an ornament at top, which is absent in the latter. It has therefore been thought proper to engrave both.

C. A drawing (? actual size, (9 inches in greatest width, 8 inches high exclusive of ornament) of helmet, fig. 2.

The figures in Plate XXXVI. are all of the same size as in the original drawings. The scale on which the helmet, fig. 1, is delineated seems larger than that observed in the other figures.

In 1845 a skeleton was found at Leckhampton, near Cheltenham, in or close to a Roman camp, on the skull of which, fitting closely, was the frame of a cap consisting of a circular hoop with two curved bars crossing each other in a knob at the top of the head. This knob finished in a ring. The bars, of a mixed metal, were thin and pliable; when first found there was a complete chin-chain. The cap itself had perished, but was conjectured to have been made of felt.<sup>a</sup> A similar discovery of the frame for a leathern cap was made in 1844 at Souldern,

<sup>a</sup> *Archæological Journal*, i. 386, iii. 352, where a small cut of the frame is given; xi. 293, 413.

in Oxfordshire.<sup>a</sup> In this example, as in the Ogmores helmets, there was “an ornamented hinge for a chin-strap” on each side.

The Leckhampton frame will be found engraved in the *Archæological Journal*, vol. xii. p. 9, with an interesting paper by Mr. Way, entering into a full account of head-pieces of this description, with his reasons for considering them to belong to the late Roman period.

*On Antiquities from the neighbourhood of Abergele, North Wales.*

March 26, 1868. H. R. Hughes, Esq., of Kinnel Park, Denbighshire, exhibited a collection of Bronze Ornaments, the most typical of which will be found figured in Plate XXXVII. Mr. Hughes, in a letter to A. W. Franks, Esq., F.S.A., communicated the following notes as to the discovery:—

“The bronze ornaments were found in a bed of broken limestone mixed with soil, at the foot of a crag which forms part of a hill called ‘Parc-y-meirch’ (*Anglicè*, The Park of the Horses), situated in Denbighshire, on the Kinnel estate, about two miles south-east of Abergele. They were lying all together at a depth of about three feet below the surface, under the roots of an old ash tree. There are no large stones on the spot to indicate a cairn, but small bits of rotten bone are found mixed up with the soil. A jawbone was found in another part of the same bed of broken stone, which extends for about one hundred yards along the base of the crag, and in some places is of considerable depth—say thirty feet. Within the last three weeks many more bones have come to light, also fragments of skulls, and a portion of another lower jawbone, with three teeth in it. And the workmen tell me that they are constantly finding bones which crumble to dust as soon as they touch them.

“On the top of the hill are traces of a camp famous in Welsh history as the place where Owen Gwynedd entrenched himself, and opposed a successful resistance to the further progress of Henry II. into Wales. The names of some of the adjacent fields suggest a military occupation, and in one of them the accompanying arrow-head was ploughed up.”

The following description of the relics has been furnished by Mr. Franks:—

“The objects exhibited by Mr. Hughes consist of about 90 specimens, which may be divided into the following classes:

“1. A singular object (fig. 1), consisting of three pairs of irregular oval plates with loops, through which is passed a bar of the same metal. The loops show marks of wear, and the whole was probably a jingling ornament to be attached to horse-harness. Objects of the same nature have been found in Denmark with bridle-bits, and are engraved in Madsen, *Afbildninger af Danske Oldsager*, and in Worsaae, *Nordiske Oldsager, Broncealderen*, fig. 266.

“2. Double rings or bullæ (fig. 2) cast hollow; to the inner one has been attached a loop, which fitted into a hole in the outer ring. There were portions of nine specimens of this description.

<sup>a</sup> Wing, *Antiq. of Steeple Aston*, cited in *Archæological Journal*, iii. 353.