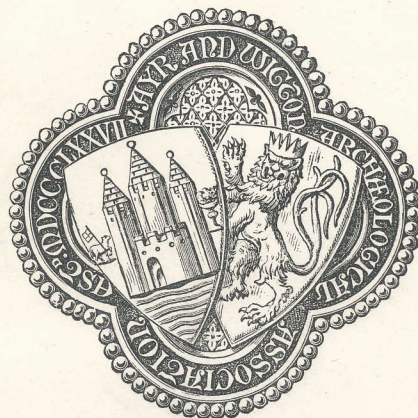


ARCHÆOLOGICAL
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RELATING TO THE COUNTIES OF

AYR AND WIGTON

VOL. I.



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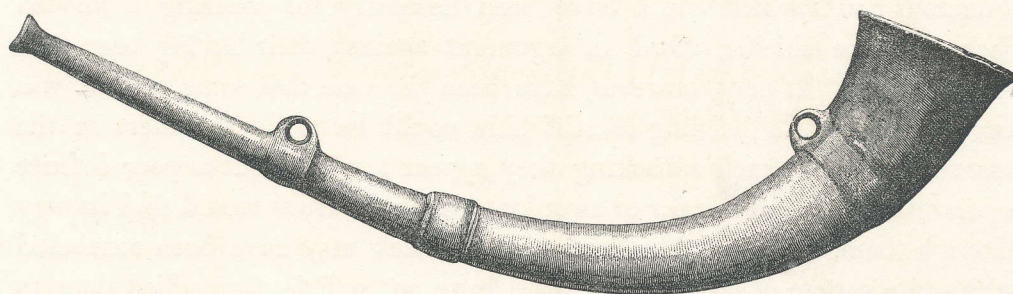
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VI.

THE CAPRINGTON HORN.

THE Horn, of which an illustration is here given, was found on the estate of Coilsfield,¹ in the parish of Torbolton, in Kyle, some time before 1654.

It is thus referred to by Sir Robert Gordon in the description of Kyle, given in Bleau's *Atlas*, published at Amsterdam in 1654:—

“In campo ubi decertatum cituus incurvus figura sua cornu referens, in primus canovus, multo post annis effusus est, quo comarchi Caprintonii, quorum ædes primariae nostris Coilsfield dicitur, ad cogendos rusticos suos et operarios utuntur.”²

Defoe says, “A trumpet, resembling a crooked horn, which has a very shrill sound, was dug up in the field of battle, and is still kept in the Laird of Caprington's house called Coilsfield.”³

The writer of the *New Statistical Account* notes that “This horn, so minutely described in Bleau's great work, and by Defoe, is carefully preserved at Caprington Castle.”⁴

¹ *New Statistical Account of Ayrshire*, p. 753.

² Vol. vi. p. 50.

³ *Tour through Britain*, vol. iv. p. 130.

⁴ *Ayrshire*, p. 754.

By permission of Mr. Smith Cuninghame of Caprington, it was exhibited at a meeting of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland in February 1878.

The horn is 25 inches in length, measuring from the mouthpiece to the aperture along the centre. The circumference, 1 inch from the mouthpiece, is 2 inches. At the lowest band the circumference is almost 8 inches. It is nearly 4 inches across the aperture.

It is the only instance of a bronze horn recorded as having been found in Scotland.

From an analysis made by Professor Stevenson Macadam, the composition of the bronze is as follows :—

Copper	.	.	90·26
Tin	.	.	9·61
Loss	.	.	·13
			<hr/>
			100·00

Bronze trumpets are of very rare occurrence in Britain. Mr. Franks records one found in England.¹ They are not uncommon in Ireland. For an account of the Irish specimens reference may be made to the *Ulster Journal of Archaeology*, vol. viii. p. 99.

R. W. COCHRAN-PATRICK.

WOODSIDE, BEITH,
March 1878.

¹ *Horæ Ferales*, pl. xiii. fig. 2.