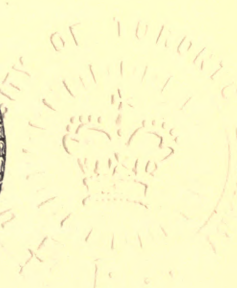


Arch

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES
OF LONDON.

NOVEMBER 17, 1859, TO JUNE 20, 1861.

SECOND SERIES. VOL. I.



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divided by stops, F. E. I., rendering it probable that they are only initials of words. The whole is ensigned with a coronet, on the ornaments of which occur the letters D. G. III. C. O., no doubt for "Don Gaspar, third Count Olivarez;" from the coronet proceeds a scroll, inscribed PHILIPPI IV. MVNIFICENTIA. Above occurs a device, probably the *impresa* of Olivarez, being a star within a circle, formed by a snake biting its tail, with the legend, HESPERE QUIS COELO LVRET FELICIOR IGNIS. This selection of stars for their devices, both by Olivarez and his son-in-law the Duke of Medina de las Torres, may be explained by a star being one of the attributes of St. Dominic, the great glory of their family.

"I have been quite unable to obtain any information as to the meaning of the letters within the circles of the ornament, which appears more like a collar in the engraving by Pontius than on the book. It is evident that the letters have not a personal allusion, as they are the same around the arms of two different members of the family of Guzman. The decoration may have been peculiar to the Guzman family, or belonged to one of the offices about the court. No collar is mentioned in the statutes of the Order of Calatrava; otherwise, as both Olivarez and the Duke of Medina de las Torres had commanderies in that order, it might have been supposed to have denoted that dignity.

"The book-stamps vary according to the size of the books on which they are impressed. The one selected for the illustration is of the larger size, and is in better proportion than the others. A specimen of one of the smaller ones has been recently acquired by the British Museum, at the sale of M. Libri's collection. It is No. 1482 in the sale catalogue, and is thus described by M. Libri: 'Macedonio (Marcello) Le Nove Muse, in Spanish binding, the copy formerly belonging to the famous Duke of Ossuna, viceroy of Sicily, and has his arms stamped in gold on the sides of the old red morocco cover.' This is evidently an error, as the Duke of Ossuna was of the family of Giron, and bore arms quite different from those which have been described."

WILLIAM BOLLAERT, Esq. read an account of the recent discovery of Indian tombs, in the Province of Chiriqui, near Panamá; and made some observations on the figures of gold found in them; specimens of which were exhibited by Mr. SCHWARZ and Mr. SIMONS:—

"In 1854, I assisted Mr. J. H. Smith of Panamá, and Dr. McDowall of Chiriqui, to draw up a paper on Chiriqui, which will be found in the Journal of the Geographical Society, vol. xxiv. p. 256; it was there stated that 'the aborigines never failed to leave valuable remains in their burial-places, or "*guacalis*." This

region contains a great number of such old graves, the burial-places of a once powerful tribe, not migratory. Many of these *guacalis* have been opened and found to contain images of birds and beasts, and trinkets in gold.

“The principal places at which the recent discoveries of the gold objects have been made are Bugaba and Mamudo. The ground at Bugaba is covered with trees, and it was by the falling of a large tree, growing out of the top of a mound, that the gold deposits were brought to light. The roots of the tree carried with them the earth and masonry of one of the mounds, leaving the gold exposed. The number of these tombs is great; and some of them had contained hundreds of bodies. The gold objects have been occasionally found in earthen vessels. A few bones were met with, as well as traces of human hair. Up to September in the present year about 400lbs. weight of these golden relics had been found; also some of a metal called guanin, or tumbaga, which is either an alloy of gold with copper, or smelted from an ore of gold and copper; its specific gravity is 11·55, while that of gold is 17·44.

“The figures may be divided into the following classes:—bats with wings and legs, a dragon-like head, and horns curling inward; frogs or toads with large protruding eyes; alligators with heads like a lamb, mouth and teeth large; some of the human figures are hideous and obscene. We find frogs coupled together; the existence of the frog showing an affinity with the Muisca of Bogotá. The eagle, or rather macaw, leads me to think that these remains belonged to the Dorachos, an extinct nation of Chiriqui, sometimes known as the ‘martial tribes of Veraguas.’ There are also armadillos, bells, and thin circular gold plates.

“The objects exhibited by Mr. Schwarz are ten in number, and weigh altogether thirty-five ounces. Six of them represent the guacamayo, or sacred macaw (not eagle). Two are male human figures showing some identity to the Muisca race. The others are a puma, and a bell of guanin metal. They have all been cast hollow, and burnished with hard stone instruments: at the back are loops to suspend them round the neck, in their habitations, or in their temples.

“The objects exhibited by Mr. Simons are twelve in number, and weigh nearly twenty-four ounces. They consist of a good representation of a tapir; heads of the caiman, or alligator, with whiskers and scroll; heads of the guacamayo, with human body; grotesque human figures; a bird ornamented with four heads; and the never-failing toad or frog.

“Certain writers in the United States say that some of these objects bear unmistakable signs of Chinese character; this is not, however, my opinion, for I would rather consider that not only these as well as similar objects found in Yucatan, Mexico, Bogotá,

and Peru, but also the various styles of architecture, religion, customs, and language, are the result of the advance of each nation in its own peculiar and independent path towards civilization. On this and kindred subjects I am about to publish a work, entitled 'Antiquarian, Ethnological, and other Researches in North Granada, Equador, Peru, and Chile, with Observations on the Pre-Incarial, Incarial, and other Monuments of Peruvian Nations.'

"Monuments covered with hieroglyphs were discovered in 1851 by Messrs. Whiting and Shuman, in the Island of Muerto, on the coast of Chiriqui. Through the kindness of Mr. Sœmann, naturalist of H. M.'s ship 'Herald,' I am enabled to show his original drawings of similar hieroglyphs met with at Caldera, near David the capital of Chiriqui (3° 17' N., 82° 30' W.). It is a block of granite known as the 'Piedra Pintal, and is fifteen feet high, fifty feet in circumference, and flat at the top. It is covered with figures: one of them representing the radiant sun, followed by a series of heads, all with some variation, scorpions, and fantastic figures. The sculpture is ascribed to the Dorachos.

"The inhabitants of Alenje speak of other remarkable remains in the Northern Cordillera, one of which is a rocking stone."

Thanks were returned for these Communications.

Thursday, December 15th, 1859.

JOHN BRUCE, Esq. V. P. in the Chair.

The following Presents were announced, and Thanks ordered to be returned to the donors :—

From the Editor, S. C. Hall, Esq., F.S.A.—The Royal Gallery of Art, Part xli. Folio. London, 1859.

From the Author.—Chronicles of a City Church; being an account of the Parish Church of St. Dunstan-in-the-East, in the city of London. By the Rev. Thomas Boyles Murray. 4to. London, 1859.

From William J. Thoms, Esq., F.S.A.—

1. *Instituzione Antiquaria Lapidaria o sia introduzione allo studio delle antiche Latine Iscrizioni in tre libri proposta.* 8vo. Rome, 1770.

2. *Handbuch der Germanischen Alterthumskunde.* Von Dr. Gustav Klemm. 8vo. Dresden, 1836.

3. *Brief Memorials of the Case and Conduct of Trinity College, Dublin, A.D. 1686—90.* By the Venerable Arthur Blennerhasset Rowan, D.D. 4to. Dublin, 1858.

From Augustus W. Franks, Esq., Dir. S.A.—*Ninive und sein Gebeit mit Rücksicht auf die neuesten Ausgrabungen im Tigristhale,* von Dr. Hermann Jo. Chr. Weissenborn. 4to. Erfurt, 1851.

From C. Villiers Bayly, Esq., F.S.A.—*A true and exact History of the Island of Barbados.* By Richard Ligon, Gent. Folio. London, 1657.