

IX.—*On Glass Beads with a Chevron Pattern.* By JOHN BRENT, Esq. F.S.A.

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Read June 13th, 1872.

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I BEG to exhibit three beads belonging to a class which has excited considerable interest among archæologists both in this country and in America, and of which the origin appears to be somewhat uncertain.

Although the specimens exhibited differ in diameter they are all formed of sections of glass rods of the same pattern, and in order to save repetition it may be desirable to give a description which applies to most of the beads under consideration. Around the central tube is generally a small quantity of transparent greenish-white glass; this is surrounded by a narrow zigzag line of opaque white, then comes a band of transparent greenish-white, beyond which a second zigzag line of opaque white, followed by a broad band of opaque red of a deep colour; beyond this a third zigzag line of opaque white; and finally transparent deep blue glass, which forms the outer surface of the cylinder.

The zigzag lines of opaque white present in section twelve-pointed stars, of which the points are sometimes slightly curved. The patterns of the interior are shown by grinding off a portion of the outer coatings at each end, sometimes simply rounded, sometimes in six bevelled facets, the portion immediately round the central tube being left more or less truncated. The appearance of the bead varies according to the angle at which the facets are cut; the result is, that the opaque white lines have the appearance of chevrons. The beads occasionally exhibit small holes parallel to the central tube, which are probably accidentally produced in the process of manufacture.

Of the three specimens exhibited No. 1 is in the Canterbury Museum; it is  $\frac{3}{4}$  in. in diameter and  $\frac{7}{8}$  in. long, and the ends have been faceted. It was found in 1860, by Mr. James Reid, M.R.C.S. of Canterbury, in soil thrown out in making a pier of the viaduct of the Canterbury and Dover Railway, near Wincheap, where it crosses the St. Mildred meadows. It was found in the marsh itself, in a place which formerly was often inundated by the river Stour. It lay about 3 feet

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below the surface, and under a growth of peat. It was discovered in a dark soil with animal bones, and had probably been brought down from the higher land at some remote period in a watercourse. Some distance off at a higher level was an ancient cemetery, where interments had been made both by inhumation and cremation, the latter being undoubtedly Roman.

The second bead is of the usual pattern,  $1\frac{9}{10}$  in. long and  $1\frac{6}{10}$  in. in diameter, with the ends bevelled off in facets. It was found in 1837, in deepening a well at Wye, Kent, in a house near the church. It was taken by Mr. Matthews, the owner of the premises, out of the mud from the well thrown up in the garden. He bequeathed it, together with the house, to a relative, from whom I obtained it. Mr. Matthews thought the bead had been thrown into the well "to charm the water." It has been figured in Morris's "Topography of Wye," p. 21, and is represented in Plate XXII. fig. 6.

The third bead is of the same form as the last, but smaller in size, measuring  $1\frac{1}{4}$  in. in length and 1 in. in diameter. It belongs to Mr. Cecil Brent, F.S.A. by whom it was purchased from a curiosity dealer in Canterbury, who stated that he had obtained it from a labouring man, with the account that it was found in the neighbourhood. At the time in question extensive excavations were going on at Canterbury. This bead has the appearance of great antiquity, the glass being much oxidised or perhaps waterworn.

A certain number of these beads are preserved in various collections, which it may be desirable to describe:

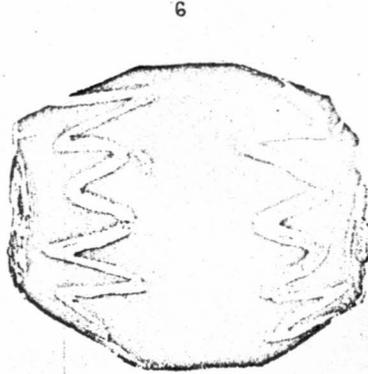
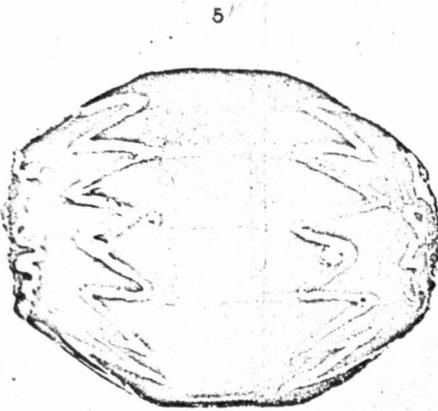
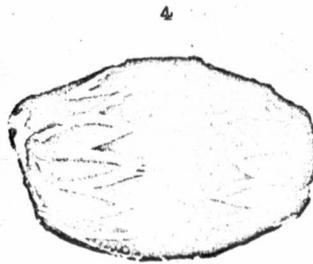
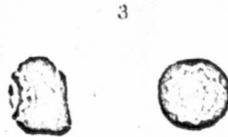
In the British Museum there are to be found thirteen specimens, of which the following account has been furnished to me by Mr. Franks:

"1. In the Egyptian collection, length  $2\frac{1}{4}$  in.; diameter  $1\frac{6}{10}$  in.; ends faceted. Obtained by the Rev. Greville Chester, at Dakkeh, in Nubia, where he purchased it of an Arab girl. It is represented in Plate XXII. fig. 5.

"2. Fragment of a large bead with faceted ends; present length  $1\frac{7}{10}$  in. It was obtained in 1853 from the collection of Dr. Gideon Mantell, but unfortunately nothing is known of its history. It may, however, have been found in Kent or Sussex, as most of his antiquities were derived from those counties.

"3. Large bead, much oxidised, and worn or bruised; the ends truncated and very slightly rounded; length  $2\frac{2}{10}$  in.; diameter  $1\frac{4}{10}$  in. The outer blue surface is partially ground or worn off so as to exhibit the ridges of the outermost star of opaque white, which gives the bead the effect of being striped. Purchased in 1861, without any history.

"4. Unusually short bead, measuring  $\frac{3}{4}$  in. in length and  $1\frac{3}{10}$  in. in diameter;



Full Size.

C.F. Kell Lith London

GLASS BEADS WITH CHEVRON PATTERN.

Published by the Society of Antiquaries of London, 1879.

ends faceted. The white lines are somewhat curved, so as to resemble a toothed wheel; but little of the outer coating of blue is visible, which forms a herring-bone pattern. It belonged to the late Mr. B. Nightingale, and was found in 1848 in the Greta, near Keswick, Westmoreland, by Mr. Donaldson, while angling.

"5. An egg-shaped bead, rather worn; length  $1\frac{6}{10}$  in.; diameter  $1\frac{1}{10}$  in.; ends faceted. From the collection of the Duc de Blacas, 1867. No history, but probably foreign.

"6. Fragment of a bead, with faceted end; present length  $\frac{9}{10}$  in.; acquired in 1868 from the collection of the late Mr. Woodhouse, of Corfu, and probably found in that island; it is slightly iridescent.

"7. A perfect bead; well preserved; length  $1\frac{3}{8}$  in.; diameter 1 in.; ends faceted. Believed to have been found in London.

"8. A small bead, evidently much more modern than those described above. It is  $\frac{5}{8}$  in. long and  $\frac{3}{8}$  in. in diameter. The outer coating is of a deep green instead of blue. It is only worth noticing as being the specimen formerly in Mr. B. Nightingale's collection, and engraved in *Archæologia*, xxxiv. pl. v. fig. 9. It is stated to have been found in the Thames near London Bridge, June, 1847, and was obtained by the British Museum with the collection of the late Mr. Lucas, of Ashborne, Derbyshire.

"The five following specimens are from the Slade collection:—

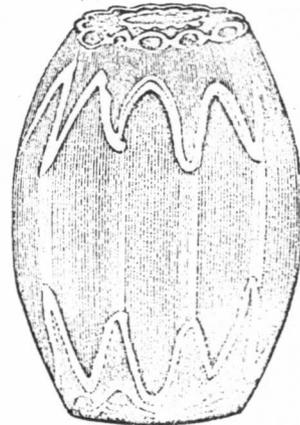
"9. A large bead; 2 in. long.;  $1\frac{4}{10}$  in. diameter; ends faceted, showing numerous 'smaller holes parallel to the rod. It is described in the catalogue of the Slade Collection No. 50, and the woodcut illustrating it in that work is here reproduced."

"10. A very similar bead; length 2 in.; diameter  $1\frac{3}{8}$  in.; ends faceted. No history.

"11. A bead nearly globular, with rounded ends; length  $\frac{9}{10}$  in.; diameter  $1\frac{1}{10}$  in.

"12. 13. A pair of beads, exactly similar, with faceted ends, mounted in metal loops, length  $\frac{8}{10}$  in.; diameter  $\frac{9}{10}$  in. These do not appear to be very ancient, and are said to have been used as ear-rings.

"14. A bead very recently obtained through the kindness of W. Edkins, Esq. Length  $1\frac{1}{2}$  in. It was found in railway cuttings in Somersetshire (Plate XXII. fig. 4.)"



BEAD IN THE SLADE COLLECTION.  
Full size.

\* The woodcut has been lent by Mr. Franks.

“The British Museum also possesses a portion of a rod of glass from which such beads could be made, a section of which is shown in Plate XXII. fig. 1. This belonged to the collection of Sir William Hamilton, and probably therefore was brought from Southern Italy. In the manuscript catalogue of the Hamilton Collection by d'Hancarville it is noticed among the antique glass as follows: “Le cylindre, No. 72a, composé de fleurons peints de bleu, de blanc, de rouge, et de vert, concentriquement posés, était fait pour être divisé en diverses tables que l'on appliquait ensuite à differens ouvrages.” The rod has been broken, but is  $6\frac{1}{4}$  in. long and about 1 in. in diameter. It is not at all oxidised. Douglas alludes to it in the *Nenia Britannica*, p. 87.

“Besides this rod, there are in the collection two transverse sections of a similar rod or bead 1 in. in diameter, which were presented by Dr. J. E. Gray, F.R.S., and one of which is reproduced in the accompanying plate (Plate XXII. fig. 2).

“It should be added that in the Slade Collection is a large pattern-book of Venetian beads, among which are some that recall the beads in question. There are thirteen varieties (Nos. 646 to 658) of the same general construction, but differing in colour; two of them exhibit the same succession of colours as the beads under consideration, excepting that the inner layers of clear glass are replaced by opaque white. They vary in length from  $1\frac{1}{10}$  in. to  $\frac{6}{10}$  in. and in diameter from  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $\frac{3}{4}$  in.”

In the South Kensington Museum are two beads of this kind:—

1. Large bead of usual pattern, but much worn or worked down on the outer surface, so that much of the blue has been removed, and the ridges of the exterior white star have become visible, giving a striped appearance to the bead; in some places even the red layer is exposed; ends rounded; length  $2\frac{5}{8}$  in.; diameter  $1\frac{5}{8}$  in. It is described as *Antique Roman*, and was presented by the Rev. Greville Chester, who believes that he obtained it in Italy.

2. A smaller bead with the ends faceted; length  $1\frac{1}{4}$  in.; diameter  $1\frac{1}{2}$  in. Purchased in 1868 from Mr. John Webb's Collection.

In the Jermyn Street Museum is one bead  $1\frac{1}{10}$  in. long and  $\frac{9}{10}$  in. in diameter. It differs slightly in the colouring, narrow lines of opaque red being introduced between the opaque white lines. It is believed to have been presented in May, 1843, by the Rev. H. R. Lloyd, vicar of Carew, Pembrokeshire, as a “Druid's bead.”

In the Ashmolean Museum at Oxford are preserved five specimens. I am informed by Mr. Rowell, the assistant curator, that two of them were in the

original catalogue of the Museum, and that the three others were presented in 1829 by Sir Richard Colt Hoare, who had purchased them from Mrs. Douglas, the widow of the Rev. James Douglas, author of *Nenia Britannica*.

These last three beads came originally from Dr. Stukeley, but we have unfortunately no information as to where they were found. Douglas, in the *Nenia Britannica*, gives a description of these beads, and engravings of two of them, pl. xxi. No. 2, figs. 2, 7. He speaks of them as follows :

“These beads are described by Bishop Gibson in his annotations on Camden as the *gleini-nadroeth*, or glass adders, of the Druids,<sup>a</sup> and which, he says, are found in Scotland, and by the people called by that name; wherefore a bead of this kind has been prized of inestimable value, and called the Druid Anguinum. See a foolish description of this Druid charm in Pliny, lib. xxix. c. iii.

“I have three of these beads which came from Dr. Stukeley's collection, fig. 7, and one considerably smaller than fig. 2. Figs. 2 and 7, I suspect, are the identical beads engraved in Bishop Gibson's Camden.”

Mr. Brothers of High Street, Ashford, has the fragment of a large bead in his possession, said to have been found some years since at Tenterden. I have heard of another fragment found near Eastry.

In the Caerleon Museum is preserved a bead of this kind, of which an engraving may be found in the *Isca Silurum* (pl. xxviii. fig. 7, p. 53), of John Edward Lee, Esq. F.S.A. who informs me that it came from the collection of the late Mr. Hooper, and was probably found in the locality.

In the Liverpool Museum are three specimens and fragments of two others, acquired through the liberality of Joseph Mayer, Esq. F.S.A.

1. A bead of slightly irregular form, 1 in. long, 1 in. in diameter, faceted. It is engraved in the *Inventorium Sepulchrale*, pl. v. fig. 2, as found at Gilton, in Kent, where numerous Anglo-Saxon remains were excavated by the Rev. Bryan Faussett. It is not, however, alluded to in the text, and by the kindness of Mr.

<sup>a</sup> [Gibson's] Camden, p. 684. “These beads are cut from a similar rod of glass to that in the British Museum, from the collection of Sir William Hamilton, and found in Italy, I believe at Naples; and which evidently demonstrates the spot where was situated this glass manufactory, which by traffic was circulated among all the northern people, who with much avidity, like the islanders of the South Seas, received such baubles to please their fancy in dress, or to appropriate to some superstitious charms, which prevailed so much among them, and to favour which the dexterous Romans had invented every device of this kind which could possibly serve their traffic. Beads exactly similar are now manufactured in England for the African slave-trade, one of which, before mentioned, had been conveyed among a cluster of beads, in a grave which the author was opening at Ash, by a very worthy friend, who was desirous, for the sake of the jest, to surprise him with the discovery of the celebrated *glain nidr*.”

C. T. Gatty, of the Liverpool Museum, the original MS. of the inventories has been examined, and it is not there alluded to or drawn. If, therefore, found at Gilton, it must have an accidental discovery, not connected with the Anglo-Saxon graves. Mr. Faussett informs me that it was always kept separate from his father's collection. It is numbered in the Mayer Collection 6363.

2. A bead,  $1\frac{1}{16}$  in. long, of the usual type, without locality. Mayer, 6679.

3. A very small bead, said to have been found with seven other Anglo-Saxon beads at Ozengell, in Kent, Nov. 1846 (Plate XXII. fig. 3). Rolfe Collection. Mayer, 7338.

4. Fragment of a large bead  $\frac{3}{4}$  in. long, said to have been found at Gilton. From the Rolfe Collection. Mayer, 7187.

5. Another fragment, locality unknown. Mayer, 6688.

There is also preserved in the Liverpool Museum a string of beads comparatively modern, which comes from the Faussett Collection. It is labelled as being found in a ditch at Elham, in Kent, in 1767.

To these may be added a bead which belonged to the late Mr. Jesse King, of Appleford, Berks, and of which an engraving has appeared in the *Journal of the British Archæological Association*, iii. p. 328. It is  $2\frac{1}{8}$  in. long and  $1\frac{3}{8}$  in. in diameter, with faceted ends. It is stated to have been obtained at Southampton, and believed to have been found near that town. Mr. King's collection was dispersed, and it is not known where this specimen is now preserved.

A fragment of a bead in the late Mr. B. Nightingale's collection is engraved in the *Archæologia*, xxxiv. pl. v. fig. 10.

Another bead, stated to have been found at Maes-y-Pandy, Merionethshire, was published by Bishop Gibson in his edition of Camden's *Britannia* (ii. 832), reproduced in Gough's *Camden*, 1789 (ii. pl. xviii. fig. 18, 19), who considers it to be a specimen of the *Glain-nadroeth*, or glass adder-beads, of the Druids. The Bishop asserts that these beads have been found in Scotland.

Such are the specimens which I have met with in England, although there may be others in private collections of which I have obtained no account.

I have addressed letters, with drawings, to the Directors or Conservators of continental museums, with the following results:—

Our honorary fellow, Abbé Cochet, that indefatigable investigator of ancient remains, now deceased, informed me that in the museum at Rouen, containing very numerous Roman antiquities, no bead of this type is preserved, nor had he ever met with a specimen in Normandy or in the departments of the Seine.

M. Parenteau, of Nantes, wrote to me that he had seen a bead of this description, found at Pornic, in Brittany.

M. Martin-Daussigny, director of the museum at Lyons, stated that there is no bead of that kind in that museum; and M. Alexandre Bertrand has informed me that there is no specimen identical in the museum at St. Germain.

M. Boncoiran, writing from Nismes, has forwarded me letters from the distinguished antiquaries, M. Révoil, of Nismes, and M. Edouard Flouest, to both of whom he had communicated my letter; from which it appears that no such beads are known at Nismes or in that neighbourhood.

The only bead of which I have heard in France is in the Egyptian collection of the museum of the Louvre, which M. Ravaisson, director of that museum, writes was obtained from the collection of Clot-bey, and came from Egypt. It measures  $2\frac{3}{4}$  in. in length.

In the remarks on ancient beads published by Mr. J. G. Akerman in the *Archæologia*, vol. xxxiv. he notices the fragment of a bead of this description in the collection of Mr. B. Nightingale, who, in the description which he has furnished Mr. Akerman, states that perfect beads, equal in dimensions to what this has originally been, are frequently found in the countries bordering on the Rhine, and the local museums of Rhenish towns, especially Mannheim and Baden, are full of such specimens.

This statement led me to make inquiries from Baron A. von Bayer, of Carlsruhe, who in answer informs me that "no glass beads corresponding to the drawing sent exist in the collection of which I am conservator, nor in any collections in these parts."

Dr. Ladner, writing to me from Trèves, states that no such beads are to be found in the museum of that city.

With regard to the North of Europe, I have ascertained that two specimens are preserved in the Museum of Northern Antiquities at Copenhagen, which have been noticed by M. Morlot, in his memoir "On the Date of the Copper Age in America," where they are both engraved. M. Herbst (keeper of the archives), of the museum at Copenhagen, has most kindly sent me drawings of the beads; they are of the usual type. The first is a fragment of a large bead with faceted end (No. 5211), which was found in a tumulus, but of what age is not stated, in the parish of Skjörpinge, in the bailiwick of Aalborg, Jutland, and was bought in 1839 at the sale of the late Bishop Münter's collection. The other (No. 12,390) is perfect,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  in. long and 1 in. in diameter, and was bought at the sale of Colonel Sommer's collection in 1852. It is noticed in the sale catalogue of the collection among antiquities of the Iron Age, No. 222, "Perle en mosaïque très-grand et belle, trouvée près de Stockholm (rare)."

In North America several beads of this kind have been found or preserved.

Dr. L. G. Olmstead, of Fort Edward, New York, who has taken great interest in these beads, writes that there are three in the Egyptian Collection of the Historical Society of New York, forming part of the collection of Dr. Abbott, by whom they are stated to have been taken out of a tomb at Sakkara, in Egypt. Another, he states, was ploughed up more than fifty years since on the south shore of Lake Erie, in Pennsylvania, on land formerly occupied by the Erie tribe of Indians. It is of large size, measuring  $1\frac{1}{2}$  in. in length,  $1\frac{1}{10}$  in. in diameter.

In Schoolcraft's great work on the Indian Tribes<sup>a</sup> five beads of the same description are engraved. They vary in length from  $\frac{3}{4}$  to  $\frac{3}{10}$  in. and in diameter from  $\frac{6}{10}$  to  $\frac{3}{8}$ . They were found about 1837 in old Indian ossuaries at Beverley, twelve miles from Dundas, Canada West, together with shell beads, clay pipes, glass bugles and smaller beads, eight amulets of red pipe-stone, teeth, &c. Schoolcraft says of the beads, "they are believed to be of European origin, and agree completely with the beads found in 1817 in antique Indian graves at Hamburg, Erie, N.Y."<sup>b</sup> In another passage<sup>c</sup> he seems to attribute the introduction of these beads to the French settlers in Canada. I am informed that other specimens are in the collection of Professor S. S. Haldeman, of Pennsylvania.

As a general rule the American specimens are smaller than those found in Europe, but the succession of colours appears to be identical.

M. A. Morlot, a distinguished Swiss archæologist, has communicated to the American Philosophical Society a memoir "On the Date of the Copper Age in the United States," printed in their Proceedings for 1862, pp. 111-114, in which he has engraved one of the Beverley beads as well as the specimens at Copenhagen, and he endeavours to prove that the Copper Age of America was synchronous with the Phœnicians.<sup>d</sup>

Such are the materials that we have at our disposal for investigating the origin and age of the beads under consideration. Unfortunately most of the specimens have been found under circumstances that do not afford any clue to their age.

The principal sources from which they may have been derived are as follows: 1. Eastern, that is, Ancient Egyptian or Phœnician. 2. Celtic, either British or Gaulish. 3. Roman. 4. Teutonic, viz. Anglo-Saxon, Merovingian, or Scandinavian. 5. Mediæval or Venetian.

<sup>a</sup> Vol. i. pl. xxiv. figs. 7-11. As represented, the colours seem to be transposed, the red forming the outer coating. This does not, however, agree with the end views of the same beads, and it is probable, therefore, that the lithographer has made a mistake. M. Morlot has corrected this in the work referred to in the text.

<sup>b</sup> He refers to second part of Lead Mines of Missouri, New York, 1819.

<sup>c</sup> Vol. v. p. 110.

<sup>d</sup> See some remarks on this subject in Proceedings Soc. Ant. 2d S. ii. 334.

I have inserted the last class because I am aware that Mr. Franks has expressed an opinion as to the comparatively modern origin of these beads, based partly on the continuance of similar patterns in the modern workshops of Murano.\* My own belief is that most of them at any rate are more ancient.

As to the Anglo-Saxon origin, it rests chiefly on the Gilton bead, the history of which however seems doubtful, not being alluded to in the text of the Inventorium, so that if from Gilton it may have been accidentally found, and not associated with any grave. At any rate the excavations of Mr. Akerman, Mr. Wylic, Lord Braybrooke, myself at Sarre, and other explorers, did not lead to the discovery of any similar bead in Anglo-Saxon cemeteries, nor did the explorations in contemporary cemeteries by Abbé Cochet in Normandy, M. Baudot in Burgundy, or Dr. Lindenschmit at Selzen, lead to the finding of any such bead.

As to Roman origin, we have the negative evidence of the French archæologists already mentioned, as well as of Dr. Ladner of Trèves, and Baron von Bayer, of Carlsruhe, all acquainted with localities very fertile in Roman remains, and none are to be found in the museums with which they are acquainted. Dr. Collingwood Bruce, Mr. John Clayton of Chester, and the late Dr. Kenrick of York, all deny having observed such beads. I must however observe that Mr. J. E. Lee, F.S.A. and Mr. Herbst, of Copenhagen, and the late Mr. T. Wright, F.S.A. incline to a Roman origin. These gentlemen are high authorities, but we have no evidence that a single specimen of the bead has ever been found connected with a Roman interment, which I think is decisive that they are not of Roman origin.

Of the Celtic origin of these beads we certainly have no proof; only a vague impression derived probably from Bishop Gibson's Additions to Camden's Britannia; where, as already mentioned, is engraved one of these beads as the *glain nidr*, or adder-bead, of the Druids. This opinion seems derived from a mistaken reading of Pliny, who in his description of certain magical beads, "the product of the saliva of serpents or snakes when twisted or convoluted amongst themselves," seems rather to refer to rings than to beads, especially as he further states that the bubble formed like a ring round the heads of these reptiles passes down the body and comes off the tails.

\* The glass-works of Venice claim to have taken their origin in the seventh century, and were, at any rate, in full activity in the thirteenth, and they still supply the bulk of the beads exported to uncivilised countries.

Doubtless there was an old superstition connected with the "adder-bead" or "snake-stone," and I think it not at all unlikely that the "cor anguinum," an encrinite in its fossil state so called, had a value attached to it through superstitious observances.

These fossils somewhat resemble a bead, and I have found in ancient graves two specimens buried with relics belonging to the deceased, one from Sarre and the other from Faversham.

These graves were not Celtic, nevertheless the practice might have descended, as when in other respects we find that the Anglo-Saxon who practised interment by inhumation buried an urn or two after the custom of the Romans, whose remains were generally deposited according to the rites of cremation.

I am not aware that these beads have ever been found with British or Celtic remains. The Copenhagen bead, said to have been taken from a Danish grave, could hardly prove their Scandinavian origin. It is an isolated case if correct, and as the great rivers of Northern Europe were once the chief highways for the transmission of Eastern manufactures into Sweden and Denmark, as in the instance of the Arabic coins found in Scandinavia referred to by Mr. Akerman, so one of these beads might have been derived from the East, and been placed as a valuable relic in the grave of its Danish possessor, in the same manner as these Northmen, in their expeditions to North America in the eleventh century, might have obtained specimens of the polychrome bead, and carried some of these objects to Canada; there after a time they became the spoil of the victorious aborigines, when the Scandinavian settlers were overpowered and destroyed. However, we are here attempting to elucidate a discovery which it is difficult to explain. The structure of the bead itself, and the artistic skill required for its manufacture, seems to negative the idea that it belonged to these primitive peoples.

Nothing in glass has been produced by the Celts and Scandinavians analogous to it.

In M. de la Villemarqué's "Chansons de la Bretagne"<sup>a</sup> (Barzaz-Breiz) there are allusions to the mythical serpent's egg, "L'oeuf rouge du serpent marin, dans le creux du rocher," which the Merlin of the Bretons is supposed to be constantly in search of. The snake-stones were used as charms and amulets amongst the Druids of Brittany. They might be the "cor anguinum," though the colour is against this idea ("l'oeuf rouge"), or chance specimens of our polychrome bead, the fabrication of

<sup>a</sup> Tome i. p. 59.

some ancient people, trading with the Celtic tribes of the north-west coasts of France. The remarkable fact connected with these beads is that they are always found in isolated spots, singly, and never with other antiquarian relics. Thus we have scarcely a clue to lead to the discovery of their origin.

Although a solitary specimen found in a Roman, Danish, or Anglo-Saxon grave, would hardly settle the question, except perhaps as regards their antiquity, I do not consider that they can be of modern origin—I mean the productions of the last three or four centuries; my views incline to the opinion that they are objects of great antiquity. Possibly they may be old Venetian, but against this supposition we have the facts that no specimens of them have been found in Italy, and have no instance of the Old Venetians trading to the British Isles.

Where all seems to be uncertainty we must fall back as regards their origin on the few authorities we *can* quote, or the supposed facts relative to them which we possess, and which are in favour of an Eastern origin, Egyptian or Phœnician.

Thus I find it reported that the beads in the museum of the Louvre were brought from Egypt. One of the British Museum beads was obtained by the Rev. Greville Chester from Dakkeh, in Nubia. The beads in the museum at New York were brought by Dr. Abbott from a tomb at Sakkara, in Egypt, and lastly, whilst giving the final revision to this paper, Dr. L. G. Olmstead, of Fort Edward, N.Y. informs me that he has just seen at Boston one of the Chevron beads in the Museum of Fine Art in that city, which is also said to have been brought from Egypt.

Now, if all or even one of these statements be true, the original type of these beads must be ancient, and the specimens themselves of Eastern if not of Egyptian origin.

This is the conclusion to which I arrive, being ready, however, to admit that where a certain sort of uncertainty prevails an opinion should be advanced with caution, and that the question may still lie open, hereafter to be more satisfactorily solved by some discovery or circumstance which shall conclusively demonstrate the origin of these beads.

I cannot conclude this paper without expressing my great obligation to Mr. A. W. Franks, F.S.A. in many ways for the assistance he has rendered me in the elucidation of my inquiries, and the valuable suggestions he has made in regard to the facts and authorities which I have collected.

## POSTSCRIPT.

I have since received from Mr. Franks the following additional information :—

On looking over my note-books I have found a few mentions of the bead with chevron patterns which you may like to add to your communication.

In the *Antiquarium* of the Berlin Museum is a specimen 1 in. long,  $\frac{3}{4}$  in. in diameter; as usual it has no history. In the Austrian Industrial Museum at Vienna are two beads and a fragment; one of the beads is of large size; they formed part of a collection purchased at Rome. In the Museum at Hanover are two, which are said to have come from Lüneburg. There is a specimen in the collection of our friend John Evans, Esq. F.S.A. but without history. Mr. C. T. Gatty, of the Liverpool Museum, informs me that Miss Lovell has one, about 1 in. long, which she found in the garden of Catherington House, Horn Dean, Hants.

The Rev. Greville Chester has obtained, for the British Museum, a very pretty little specimen from Egypt, only  $\frac{1}{16}$  in. long. It is of the usual pattern but cut square, with only four facets at the ends. In the Egyptian section at the Paris Exhibition, 1878, was a very large bead, mounted in bronze at each end. It was among the Arab objects, but I was unable to obtain any information concerning it.

Professor S. S. Haldeman, of Chickies, Pennsylvania, has kindly sent me one of the little beads from North America, and informs me that a large bead  $1\frac{1}{4}$  in. long has been recently sent to the Smithsonian Institution. This last was found in a mound in Florida.<sup>a</sup> He has also called my attention to the *Journal of the Museum Godefroy* at Hamburg, in which is an account of the Pelew Islands, where certain ancient beads pass as money and are much treasured up. Among these are four chevron beads, considered by the natives to be varieties of their most valued coin, the *Kalebukubs*. These four, the only ones known to them, ornament the necklace of the King's youngest daughter. They seem from the engravings to be rounded, like the North American beads, from  $\frac{2}{3}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. in diameter, and if correctly drawn have more than twelve points in the stars. The King stated that he believed this kind of coin to have come from the north-west. The ancient beads constitute the principal wealth of the families and cannot be purchased. One small black and white bead belonging to the King is considered to be worth a complete war-canoe.<sup>b</sup> The whole account is exceedingly curious, and is accompanied by the legends of the natives as to how they became possessed of the various kinds of beads, some of which they attempt to imitate by melting fragments of European bottles.

Another remarkable discovery is that beads of exactly the same pattern as the chevron beads, but very small, have been found in ancient Peruvian graves at Ancon. Two of them are in the Ethnographical Museum at Berlin. Others, also found in Peru, and likewise very small, have recently been acquired for the Liverpool Museum.

<sup>a</sup> Smithsonian Report, 1877. On a Polychrome Bead from Florida, by S. S. Haldeman; where is engraved another,  $1\frac{3}{4}$  in. long, from Santa Barbara, California.

<sup>b</sup> *Journal des Museum Godefroy*, Heft 4, p. 52, and pl. 2, figs. 8, 9. 1873.