

The following donations were presented:—

From the Kent Archæological Society.  
Archæologia Cantiana. Vols. II and III.

From the Society.  
Transactions of the Ossianic Society, Vol. VI.

From the Society.  
Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, Vol. III,  
Part 2.

From the Author.  
Notes on the Origin and History of the Bayonet. Communicated  
to the Society of Antiquaries, by John Yonge Akerman, Esq.,  
F.S.A., Secretary.

From the Author.  
On Anglo-Saxon remains discovered recently in various places in  
Kent, by C. Roach Smith, H.M.R.S.L.

From Joseph Mayer, F.S.A., V.P.  
Photograph of a monument found at Uriconium, on the site of the  
cemetery.

The following objects of interest were exhibited:—

By the Chairman.

1. A copy of the earliest English translation of Camden's *Britannia*,  
by Philemon Holland, dated 1610.
2. *Vetera Romanorum Itineraria*, by Wesseling, printed at Am-  
sterdam in 1735.

By the Rev. Dr. Hume.

A panel in white marble, containing the effigies of Saint Peter and  
Saint Paul, apparently of the eleventh century. It is said to  
have belonged to the collection of the late Earl of Shrewsbury.

By Mr. H. Ecrolyd Smith.

A number of the antiquarian products of last year's excavations by  
the advancing tides in the sea-beach of Cheshire; comprising  
several novel types of brooches, hasps and buckles in brass, with  
Norman goad-spur and arrow-head in iron, &c.; some coins,  
including a sestertius of the Emperor Antoninus Pius (A.D.  
138—161), and the clipped half of a silver penny of Henry II.

The following Paper was read:—

NOTES SUGGESTED BY A VISIT TO URICONIUM, *by the Rev. J. S.  
Howson, D.D.*

DR. HOWSON justified his bringing forward these slight notes so  
soon after Mr. Wright's communication on *Uriconium*, by the growing  
interest of the subject and by reference to recent excavations. He said  
he had only to offer literally some "notes suggested by a recent visit"  
to the place; and (1) he noticed how pleasant and how easy the excursion  
is from Liverpool, alluding generally to the historical associations of  
Shrewsbury and the aspect of the country towards Wroxeter. (2) He  
called attention to the geographical position of the place, not merely in  
regard to physical features, especially the Wrekin, the Severn and the

hills of the Welsh frontier, but rather in connection with military relations, noticing especially the river in front, and the space intervening between it and the hills, and the Roman roads running northwards to Chester (*Deva*) and southwards to Caerleon (*Isca*), which were great military stations, besides the Watling Street running S.E. to London and the Kentish coast. In connection with this last point he mentioned the great heaps of oyster shells at Uriconium, which had doubtless come from Richborough (*Rutupia*), the oyster-beds of which are celebrated by the Roman satirist. (3) Next he turned to the name, which is unquestionably the Latinized form of "Wrekin," the word so familiar to every Shropshire man.—"Wroxeter," having the same root disguised in a modern form, as is evident from the combination "Wrekin-Chester" in the earliest English translation of Camden. (4) The sources of identification were next touched on, and it was remarked that *Uriconium* is not mentioned by any Historian, but merely by Geographical authorities, viz., Ptolemy, Antonine, in his Itinerary, and the anonymous geographer of Ravenna—the mention, however, being of such a kind as leaves no doubt of its identity with the buried city near Worcester. (5) As to its history, it was shewn that the coins discovered there connected it with the period between Domitian and Valerian, many of them being those of Constantine and the usurper Carausius, and that all the appearances led to the conclusion that it was destroyed by violence just before the Saxons were settled in this country, a period when great destruction took place of cities near the Welsh frontier. (6) Some description was then given of the aspect of the place in its present state, and a notice of the books in which fuller descriptions may be found. (7) Among the results of the excavations, which began in February, 1859, the following were adduced:—proofs of the use of mineral coal by the Romans,—indications of a larger use of glass than is commonly taken for granted,—interesting traces of the zoology and vegetation of Britain in the Roman period, with illustrations of the social life of the time,—the use of slate,—various kinds of pottery,—ornaments, amusements, &c. (8) Turning now to the most recent excavations, Dr. Howson noticed that they were chiefly in the old cemetery of the city, along the road leading towards London; and especially he mentioned the fresh remains of a funeral pile, which had lately been brought to view, in which the very direction of the wind on the day when the cremation took place could be ascertained from the appearance of the charred fragments of wood. In conclusion, the difficulties of the Excavation Committee were alluded to, and a hope was expressed that the proprietor, the Duke of Cleveland, might continue his encouragement till he had done for this great monument of British Roman times, what another Northern Duke (the Duke of Northumberland) has done for the Roman Wall.

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13th February, 1862. LITERARY SECTION.

A. CRAIG GIBSON, F.S.A., Hon. Curator, in the Chair.

Mr. Charles Holt, Bolton, was duly elected an ordinary member of the Society.