

V.J. 125.132

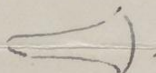
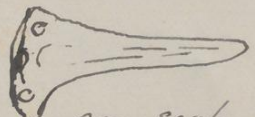


Ashmolean
Museum,
Oxford;
Dec 21st 1890.

Dear D. Muck,

Many thanks for your letter. I fear that you will have difficulties at Dublin as everything with regard to the Antiquarian Collection is in a state of transition there. The Collection, as you know, was, & is still, in the keeping of the Royal Irish Academy, but it has lately been decided to hand it over to the Government Service & Art Department to be placed in the National Museum, & the modalities of the transfer

are at present under discussion between these two bodies. I would recommend you to write & make your request in a formal way to the Secretary of the R. Irish Academy. I do not know who is the present Secretary but I doubt if he be an Archaeologist.

I have had another talk with Mr. Franks with regard to your researches. He says that only two types of Irish implements of the period in question are sometimes of copper. 1. A flat Celt . 2. A halberd head . Both these forms however are early. Mr. Franks himself is strongly inclined to account for the ~~later~~ use of copper in place of bronze in certain districts by a temporary

interruption of tin trade in the regions
in question.


With regard to the Irish Copper types
I will myself suggest that their occur-
rence should be taken in connexion with
parallel phenomena in the Iberian Peninsula.

The connexion between Ireland & Spain
, perhaps too Portugal, results most clearly
from the parallelism of forms in the two coun-
tries during part of the "Bronze Age". Forms
of Halberd, for instance, of double-looped pal-
staves, & of flint arrowheads which are rare
or altogether absent in Britain occur in
Spain & Ireland. The great chambered bar-
rows of Portugal & Ireland in which in the
former country Copper implements are mostly
found present to my mind, the most strik-
ing points of similarity.



On the other hand you must remember that Menzies first in the course of their researches into the Ancient Metal Age of S.E. Spain came to the conclusion that the earliest deposits found contained only bronze implements & that it was in those of a somewhat later date that copper appeared plentifully.

Is it possible that the Phoenicians from c. 1100 B.C. succeeded in obtaining a monopoly of the Tin Commerce of the Casiter. ides & diverted it from the Gallician or Coast entirely to Mediterranean channels? This might serve to account for a relapse into the use of pure copper implements in the Iberian Peninsula & in Ireland.

Do you know of a very curious implement described as either of bronze or copper found in Italy & modelled apparently on a stone celt . It is in the

Berlin Museum or an engraving of it appears in Wilde's Catalogue of Irish Antiquities - a cast being at Dublin. It might be worth your while, if you have not already treated of it, to try & obtain an analysis of this piece.

With regard to my Cylesford researches I must express my regret that I only saw your excellent 'Præhistorische Atlas', of which my father has a copy after my paper was in print, or I should have been glad to refer to some parallel forms represented in it. These evidences of the cultural indebtedness of the Celts to the Illyrians seem to me to be of the greatest interest.

It is very kind of you to take so much trouble with regard to my personal

relations to your Government. I know Baron v. Helfert already by his writings & have heard my Mother speak of him: I have also his little book 'Bosniaken' in which he shows his interest in the Bosnian people. I gather from what you say that Freiherr von Helfert is willing to do me a great kindness of lending me his good offices if I endeavour to make a formal appeal in this matter.

I am at present still in such trouble & perplexity owing to my wife's continued severe illness that I have no heart now to engage in such a formal appeal to your Foreign Office at the present moment but I will nevertheless reflect on your kind offer of helping me if necessary in this matter.

It remains however a difficult question how far one can honourably go in making professions to your officials. That



I do not wish to visit your Southern Prov.
inces for any political object is quite true.
& I should be quite ready to give my par-
ole not to write to the Newspapers on politi-
cal matters. But as regards the South Slav-
onic peoples of course my own point of view
remains quite independent. I am after all an
Englishman & though I am rejoiced to see
Austria-Hungary acting as a shield to the
rising nationalities of the Balkans against
the monstrous pretensions of Russia, still, for
the same reason, I do not wish to see Austria-
Hungary take possession of the Balkan Pen-
insula itself. My difference with your Govern-
ment was really due to the fact that I believed
then that there was a serious intention at Vi-
enna of going to Salonica. In that I am
quite ready to admit that I was wrong; while
as regards Austrian internal policy I am more
in sympathy with Count Taaffe than many of

my fellow-countrymen.

By the way, it is a curious illustration of 'Dual Government' that while I am still, as I gather, proscribed in Cisleithania I am quite free to go where I like in Hungary & indeed I was for some time at Budapest this summer working in the Museum.

With regard to Bosnia itself whenever the population has a voice in its own government I do not doubt that I should be welcome there. In the days of Turkish Misgovernment I championed their Cause with English & to a certain extent European public opinion. When the poor refugees were dying by thousands in the remote glens of the Dinaric Alps I helped to collect funds for their relief, & myself conducted Caravans with food & clothing bought with English money to the most remote districts of the Bosnian frontier & at times even at the risk of my own life. I have published two books

about Bosnia one 'Through Bosnia + Herzegovina on Foot' & other 'Illyrian Letters' neither of which were written in an Anti-Austrian spirit. But Freiherr von Helldorf will know this: & I know that my own interest in those countries is of a kind that is shared in a singular degree by Herr von Kallay. With regard to Bosnia at least I do not choose to plead *in forma pauperis*.

Thanking you once again for your kind offices in the matter & Hoping that if I can be of use to you on anything connected with English archaeological collections you will not hesitate to write to me

believe me

Very truly yours

Arthur J. Evans.

