

3 No. 3

Kilgerran

Bronze Dagger 1181

During the first half of the 18th century (the object was described by Theophilus Evans in 1739) a very beautiful Roman dagger was discovered in the immediate neighbourhood of Kilgerran. John Fenton pictured and described it for THE ANTIQUARIAN AND TOPOGRAPHIC CABINET, 5th May 1811. The blade was 7 ins. long and more than half in. wide, double edged 5 ins. of the 7. The handle was of ivory of minutely skilful workmanship having on it the figure of a naked woman having a round ball in her left hand and her right resting on her hip, on which side stood the figure of a boy with sunbeams round his head, the sheath was also of ivory very curiously ornamented. This is a translation of Mr. Evans' description and very accurate. The boy is clearly a Cupid by the side of his mother, having every attribute that ancient mythology invests the son of Venus - with wings, bow and quiver. The ball is of course the apple of discord, and the design clearly Roman. When Fenton the weapon was in possession of his friend John Symmons Esq. Paddington, late of Slebech and Llanstinan.

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