

1) 927551/6211
(Colonel Lane Fox — Catalogue of the anthropological collection lent by Col. Lane Fox for Exhibition in the Bethnal Green branch of the South Kensington Museum. London 1874).

n^o 1233 — Fig. 131. Greek Kopis, found in a tomb between Madrid and Toledo, with others of the same form, and two daggers, a spear-head, and part of the shaft of a Roman pilum.

n^o 1234 — Fig. 132. Copy of figures on a Greek Vase in the British Museum, representing a battle between the Gods and Giants. The latter with the Kopis.

n^o 1235 — Copy of figures on a vase in the British Museum, representing a battle between Hercules and the Amazons, the latter armed with the Kopis.

n^o 1236 - 1237 — Amazons and Greek warrior using the Kopis. From Vases in the Museum at Naples.

n^o 1238 — Fig. 133. Kookrie, the weapon of the Goorkhas of Nepal, used at the present time. Its form is the same as that of the Greek Kopis.

(Page 174) — Kopis. Perhaps one of the most interesting groups in the collection is that which represents the distribution and varieties of the form of weapon known as the Greek Kopis. n^o 1233 - fig. 131 is this ancient weapon. It was found with others in a tomb, said to be Roman, between Madrid and Toledo; together with iron daggers, an iron spear-head, and part of the shaft of a Roman pilum, which are in the desk cases in this collection. With the exception of one other, from the same find, now in the British Museum, this is

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I believe, the only weapon of this kind that has come to this country. Its identity with the greek Kopis may be judged of by comparing it with the copy of a painting on a greek vase in the British Museum, representing a battle between the gods and giants, n^o 1834. fig. 132, in which one of the latter having fallen upon his knee, has raised the Kopis in defending himself. Every part of the sword in the hand of the giant, even to the curve of the pommel, the projection of the guard and the groove on the blade, is identical with the weapon here exhibited.

Copies of other paintings upon vases are shown in order to identify this weapon. According to Meyrick the Kopis was used by the Argives in Greece, and the following remarks by Senior Soromenho, of the Academia das Sciencias at Lisbon, are quoted with his permission and prove the Oriental origin of this form of sword. Xenophon, he says, « speaks of the Kopis as being used by the Persians and barbarians » and Quintus Curtius says that it was employed by the Persians in the chase, « Copidas vocant gladios leviter curvatos faucibus similes; » and Polybius gives the Persians the priority in the use of it over the Greeks. Senior Soromenho, than whom there can be no better authority on the antiquities of the Iberian peninsula, expresses himself confident that the weapon is not Etruscan, no remains of that people having been found in Spain, and believes that it must be assigned either to a Greek or an Arab origin. If, he says, « it was originally of Oriental origin, why should it not have come into this country through the Arabs? » The very close resemblance in points of detail to the weapon

on the Greek vases appears, however, to leave little room for doubt that this question must be decided in favour of a Greek origin; and if so, the most plausible explanation of its presence in Spain appears to me to be that it must have been brought there direct by the Roman legions who were fighting about the same time in both countries. Its form is obviously derived from that of the straight leaf-shaped bronze sword, of which it is simply a curved variety. Both the straight and the curved weapon are represented on the same vases, the former being the one most commonly employed. Referring to No 1238, fig. 133, the Kookrie of the Goorkahs of Nepal, it will be seen that this is unmistakably the same weapon; it is a formidable instrument of offence in the hands of these people, who used it with great effect during the Indian Mutiny. This form of blade is also used in other parts of India, some of them being of great antiquity. No 1239 is an Indian blade of this kind with a European handle attached. The Turkish Albanian, and Persian yataghans are also the lineal descendants of this ancient weapon, the width of the blade having been reduced in order to lighten it. No 1244 is the Kabyle flissa; it is the same form, but the back is straightened exactly like the Greek specimen represented on the Neapolitan vase, No 1237, and it has in all probability been brought by the Arabs from the East. It will thus be seen that the distribution of this class of blade is continuous, extending from

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India into Northern Africa and Spain, and
having been originally a variety of the bronze
leaf-shaped sword; it has survived continuously
with but slight modification for upwards of
2000 years.



Fig. 133

Pl. XIV.

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Fig. 131



Fig. 132