

3. TWO DECORATED AXES FROM THE LAICH OF MORAY

DURING the same survey two hitherto unnoted decorated axes were found, both in the National Museum of Antiquities of Scotland.

The first, catalogued DA 72, is a flat axe (Pl. LVIII: 1) purchased by the Museum in 1903⁴ but not noted by Megaw and Hardy in their survey of decorated axes in 1938.⁵ Its provenance is given as Lhanbryd, Moray (N.G.R. NJ 2761).

It is in a poor state of preservation, being badly corroded. Its dimensions are: length $4\frac{5}{8}$ in., breadth across the cutting edge $2\frac{5}{8}$ in., original breadth across butt $1\frac{1}{8}$ in., and maximum thickness $\frac{3}{8}$ in. It is possible that the blade was originally slightly asymmetric in plan. The decoration, which occurs on both sides, is of sloppy and rather haphazard punched herringbone pattern: the blade has a series of shallow ripples parallel to the curved cutting edge, and punch marks appear on the ridges. It belongs to Megaw and Hardy's type I⁶.

The second axe, catalogued DC 128, is flanged (Pl. LVIII: 2), and has a mid-rib. It was donated in 1939⁶ along with several other items, all of which came from Miss May Davidson of Clava and Cantray, by Alexander Keiller. Among these objects was a socketed axe, catalogued DE 114, part of another catalogued DE 115, and this flanged axe, all, it is recorded, found in 1887 at Wester Golcantry [*sic*] 'in the Taylor's Garden'. The county is given as Inverness-shire, in which county Wester Golcantray was until 1890, and it is still catalogued under this county by the National Museum, though it is now in Nairnshire (N.G.R. NH 8047). It is not specifically stated that they were all found together, though on the face of it the evidence implies this. Coles⁷ lists the association (with the county as

¹ *P.S.A.S.*, XL (1905-6), 23-28.

² Abercromby, J., *A Study of the Bronze Age Pottery of Great Britain and Ireland* (1912), Vol. 1. Nos. 233a and 233b.

³ *P.S.A.S.*, LXVIII (1933-4), 132-89.

⁴ *P.S.A.S.*, XXXVIII (1903-4), 11.

⁶ *P.S.A.S.*, LXXIV (1939-40), 149.

⁵ *P.P.S.*, IV (NS) (1938), 279-307.

⁷ *P.S.A.S.*, XCII (1959-60), 134.

Inverness-shire) as doubtful. The fragmentary socketed axe suggests a founder's hoard, in which case the flanged axe could be regarded as a very old piece of scrap.

It is $4\frac{1}{2}$ in. long, $2\frac{7}{10}$ in. across the cutting edge, $\frac{3}{4}$ in. across the butt, and $\frac{3}{8}$ in. at its thickest. The blade and butt are corroded, as is one of the sides and half of the other: the uncorroded half is punch-decorated in the style of Megaw and Hardy's type IIIc.

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1 (above). Lhanbryd. 2 (below). Wester Golcantray

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