VI.

PRIMITIVE IMPLEMENTS, WEAPONS, ORNAMENTS, AND UTENSILS FROM WIGTOWNSHIRE. By SIR HERBERT EUSTACE MAXWELL, BART., M.P., F.S.A. SCOT.

The addition to the Society's Museum of a considerable number of objects, in various materials, collected in recent years in Wigtownshire, seems a fitting opportunity to review the character of the more remarkable specimens from that county not hitherto described in the *Proceedings* of the Society.

The result of an increasing interest in archæology on the part of persons resident in Galloway (due in great measure to the formation in 1878 of the Ayrshire and Wigtownshire, now the Ayrshire and Galloway, Archæological Association) has already resulted in the recovery of a vast number of remains scattered in out-of-the-way corners, and such persons, by directing the attention of field-workers to similar remains, have already effected the recovery of many more, and there is good reason to hope that much more remains to be secured.¹

In Mr Evans' work on the Ancient Stone Implements of Great Britain (published in 1878), he enumerates many specimens from all parts of the British Isles, and gives figures of 385 objects of the neolithic period, but he mentions only two as having been found in Wigtownshire. Three years later (in 1881), his work on Ancient Bronze Implements of Great Britain was published, containing 540 figures and descriptions of many more. Either metal objects had attracted more notice in Wigtownshire than stone, or the interest in ancient implements was increasing, for we find notice given of 16 objects from that county.

In the following remarks notice only will be made of some of the finer specimens lately obtained:—

¹ Within a few days of penning these lines, I picked up, in returning from church, in a ploughed field, a polished stone celt, finely formed, and two days later a good specimen of a grinding stone.

STONE.

1. Celts.—The largest stone celt recorded from the county of Wigtown was found at Kirklauchline, and presented to the National Museum

in 1877 by the Right Hon, the Earl of Stair. It is of felstone (fig. 1), and measures 13 inches in length, $3\frac{3}{4}$ inches wide at one end and $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches at the other, is oval in the cross section, and 2 inches in thickness about the middle of its length. It is flattened towards both ends, which are similarly shaped, and it expands slightly from about the middle of its length towards the wider The broad end is sharpened, the butt end rounded off. Another, nearly as large, from Kirkcolm, has also been sent to the Museum by the Earl of Stair. It is of porphyry, and measures $12\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length, 4 inches wide, and is finely polished.

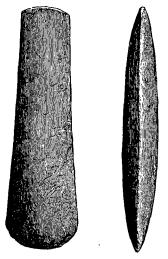


Fig. 1. Celt found at Kirklauchline (13 inches in length).

The third largest celt was found in Kirkmaiden parish.¹ It is of polished

graywacke, and measures $11\frac{7}{8}$ inches in length, 3 inches broad, and $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches thick. Fig. 2 is a very fine specimen (9 inches by $3\frac{1}{2}$ by $1\frac{1}{2}$), made of fine and hard graywacke. It was found at Falhar,² near Whithorn, and is remarkable from showing distinctly a transverse band of light colour, where the wooden haft protected it from the discoloration of soil and water. Fig. 3 shows a celt of weathered greenstone,³ from Leswalt parish $(5\frac{1}{4}$ by $2\frac{1}{5}$ by $1\frac{3}{10}$). It is hardly distinguishable in shape and substance from one found in the Himalayas, now in Mr

¹ In the possession of J. M'Douall, Esq. of Logan.

² Now in the possession of Dr Douglas, Whithorn.

³ Now in the S. A. Museum.



Fig. 2. Polished Stone Celt from Falhar, Whithorn (9 inches in length).

Evans's collection. A very pretty weapon, obtained by Dr Trotter in Kirkmaiden parish, seems to be of green porphyrite, $6\frac{3}{4}$ inches in length and $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches in greatest width near the cutting edge, which joins the side edges with an oval curve. The greatest thickness, $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches, is in

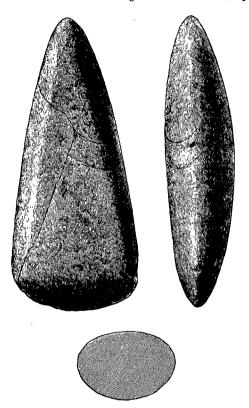


Fig. 3. Polished Stone Celt from Leswalt (54 inches in length).

the middle of the implement, the cross section there being an elongated oval, becoming more flattened towards the cutting face. The butt end is almost conical, and tapering to the bluntly-pointed extremity.

¹ Now in the S. A. Museum.

The largest piece of manufactured flint I have seen in Wigtownshire is shown in fig. 4. It appears to be a cutting rather than a hewing implement, and may have served the purpose of a flaying knife. It was found in the sandhills of Genoch, near Glenluce (Gaelic gaineach, sandy), whence many hundreds of worked flint implements of smaller size have already found their way to the Museum. In this country the only supply of flint exists in the water-rolled nodules found in the raised beaches, having originally been washed out of the denuded chalk of Antrim.

Another object of flint of unusual size for this district was found



Fig. 4. Oval Knife of Flint from Torrs (3½ inches in length).

in 1886 near Whithorn. It is a small celt with rectangular section and finely ground edge, formed of ruddy flint.

2. Perforated Axe-Heads.—Many stone axe-heads of unusual size and weight have been found. With the exception of one found at Cruggleton, in Sorby parish, $10\frac{3}{4}$ inches long, a broken one found at Orchardton, in Sorby parish, and a portion of one picked up by myself in the adjacent parish of Glasserton, which are of fine-grained granite, all that I have seen, to the number

of more than 50, are made of the prevailing stone in the district, viz., Lower Silurian sandstone. The largest recorded 4 measures $11\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length by $5\frac{1}{4}$ in breadth and 3 inches through the perforation. Next in size is one found at Barnsallie, Old Luce, 5 measuring $11\frac{1}{2}$ inches by $4\frac{3}{4}$ by 3, weighing 9 lbs. 3 ounces, and having prominent lateral bulges opposite the perforation. Fig. 5 came from Barr,

¹ Now in S. A. Museum.

² Now in the possession of Sir Andrew Agnew, Bart., Lochnaw.

³ Now in S. A. Museum.

⁴ In the possession of Mr Cowan, draper, Hanover Street, Bradford.

⁵ Now in the possession of Dr Douglas, Whithorn.

Penninghame;¹ it weighs 8 lb. 14 oz., and measures $10\frac{7}{10}$ by 5 by 3 inches.

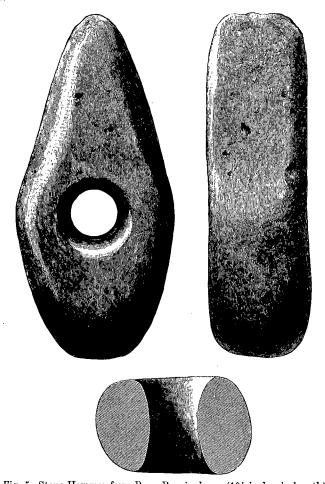


Fig. 5. Stone Hammer from Barr, Penninghame ($10\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length). Fig. 6 is a beautiful specimen ¹ from Barnkirk, the next farm to ¹ Now in S. A. Museum.

that last mentioned. It is flawless; the curves are very delicate, it retains a fine polish, measures $10\frac{7}{10}$ inches by 5 by $2\frac{1}{2}$, and weighs $7\frac{1}{2}$

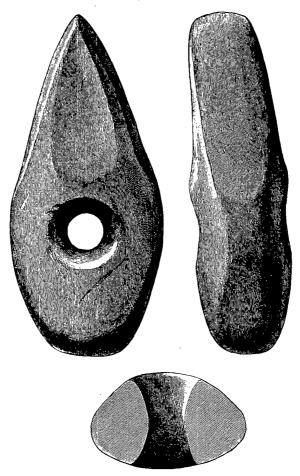


Fig. 6. Stone Hammer from Barnkirk, Penninghame (10½ inches in length).

lbs. Calling on the tenant, Mr Picken, one day, I asked him if he ever noticed any "wrought stones." He reflected for a little, and then said

he thought he remembered seeing one lying at the lower end of the garden, and there, among rubbish, we at length found this specimen, which he very kindly gave me.

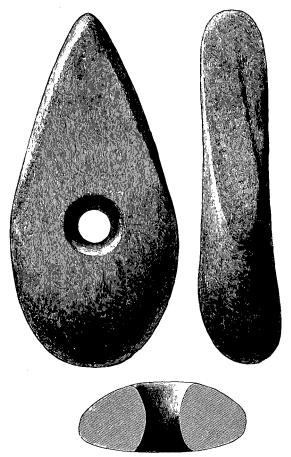


Fig. 7. Stone Hammer from West Mains of Baldoon (103 inches in length).

The axe shown in fig. 7,1 found on the farm of West Mains of

1 In the possession of Mr Broadfoot, West Mains.

Baldoon, is remarkably broad and shallow. It measures $10\frac{3}{4}$ by $5\frac{1}{4}$

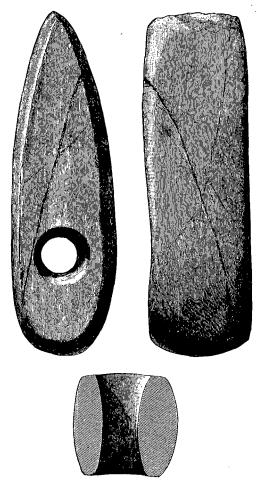


Fig. 8. Stone Hammer from Dowalton, Sorbie (7 inches in length).

by 2½ inches. Fig. 8 is a noble specimen ¹ of neolithic art, having

¹ In the possession of Dr Douglas, Whithorn.

almost the proportions of an axe of iron. It was found on the farm of Dowalton, in Sorbie parish.



Fig. 9. Unfinished Stone Hammer from Physgil, Glasserton (11 inches in length).

Three incomplete specimens have been brought to my notice, one of which 1 is shown in fig. 9. It was found at Physgil, parish 1 Now in S. A. Museum.

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of Glasserton, measures 11 by 4 by $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches, and weighs only 5 lb. 2 oz.

Others are found which have been worn down by use to a mere stump, such as is shown in fig. 10. This axe, which has originally

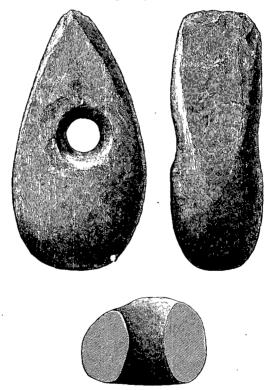


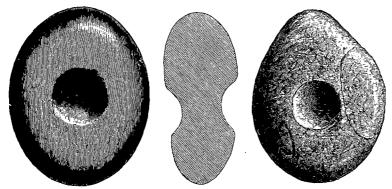
Fig. 10. Stone Hammer from Balcraig, Glasserton (11 inches in length).

been a very large one, now weighs only 4 lb. 6 oz., and measures $7\frac{1}{2}$ by 5 by $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

Axes of this kind are put to all sorts of uses for which a heavy weight and perforation is adapted. A perfect specimen, bearing a high polish and

¹ Now in S. A. Museum. ² In the possession of Mr Nicholson, Kidsdale.

effective cutting edge, was found in the farm stable of Clone, Mochrum, attached to a cord as counterpoise to a swinging lamp; another, equally perfect, was rescued from use as a coal-hammer in the farm of Garheugh.



Figs. 11, 12. From Machermore and Balcraig. Scale 1/2.

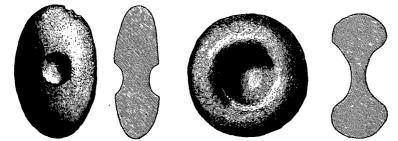


Fig. 13. From Gillespie. Scale 1/3.

Fig. 14. From Leswalt. Scale 1/2.

3. Stones with Circular Depressions on the Sides.—These form a numerous and well-defined class in this as in other districts where neolithic implements abound; but the use for which they were intended is extremely obscure. Specimens of these are shown in fig. 11, from Machermore, Old Luce, made of granite; in fig. 12, from Balcraig, in Glasserton, of silurian sandstone; in fig. 13, from Gillespie, Old Luce; in fig. 14, also made of silurian sandstone, from Leswalt parish.

¹ In the possession of the Marquis of Bute.

² Now in S. A. Museum.

4. Stone Balls.—Half a stone ball (fig. 15), which when perfect had six convex facets, was found in 1886 in the farm of Stelloch, in Glasserton parish. Though frequently recorded in the northern parts of Scotland, this is the first, so far as I know, which has occurred in Galloway.



Fig. 15. Stone Ball from Stelloch, by Glasserton (23 inches in diameter).

5. Sinkers or Weights.—These have continued in use until the present day. An old man in Kirkcowan informs me that he has seen them made, and fig. 17 represents one from Kirkcowan that was actually in use on the bottom of a net in the river Bladenock. A comparison of the Kirkcowan specimen with fig. 16,1 from Balcraig, will show that in the modern example the sides of the perforation are vertical, having been bored with a small metal jumper, whereas in the ancient specimen the hole has been chipped and rubbed out without the aid of metal.

Sinkers and weights are found of various sizes, and in considerable numbers; possibly some may have served as weapons of offence.

¹ Now in S. A. Museum.

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6. Pundler Weights.—When I found the granite ball, depicted in fig. 18, it was used as a weight to secure an animal in the stable of Barhullion

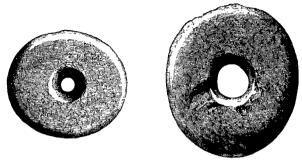


Fig. 16. From Balcraig. Scale ½. Fig. 17. From Kirkcowan (modern). Scale ½. farm. I imagined at first that it was one of the implements described by Mr Evans ² as being principally, though not absolutely, confined to

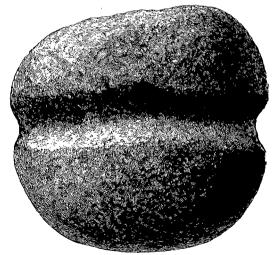
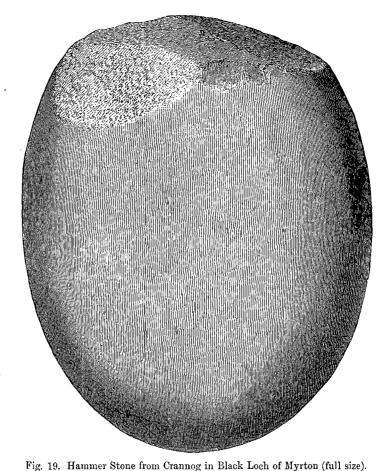


Fig. 18. Stone Weight from Barhullion. Scale ½.

the ancient mining districts throughout the habitable globe; and in
1 Now in S. A. Museum.

2 Ancient Stone Implements, p. 208.

tended for use as a maul, by means of a withe twisted round the groove, much as a blacksmith's chisel is used at the present day. But I am inclined to think now that it is merely a mediæval weight, such as



several of various sizes which have since come to hand. This one weighs 6 lbs. $11\frac{1}{2}$ oz. If it be a pundler weight, it bears a singular

resemblance to two undoubted mauls 1 which came from the ancient copper mines of Arizona, U.S.; which shows that analogy, though an indispensable guide, must not be followed blindly.

7. Bruisers and Pounders.—A very large number of these have been

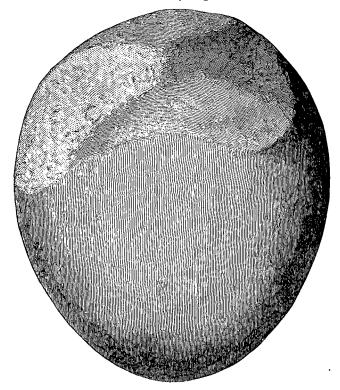


Fig. 20. Hammer Stone from Crannog in Black Loch of Myrton (full size).

collected, not only from crannogs (where they invariably are found in profusion), but also in the open fields. They are not easily detected till the eye becomes accustomed to look for them, but are then to be distinguished by the fact that they are generally water-worn pebbles from

¹ Sent with it to the S. A. Museum.

the sea-shore, and different from the ordinary fractured land-stones. The bruisers shown in figs. 19 and 20 ¹ I picked up in a crannog in the



Fig. 21. Implement from Baldoon. Scale ½.

Black Loch of Myrton, Mochrum; and another is a pounder of pure white quartz, which I also found in one of the crannogs in Dowalton Loch.

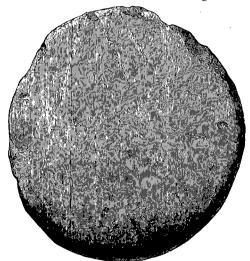


Fig. 22. Disc of Stone from Kirkmaiden. Scale 1/2.

In the first two the double action of the hand is traced in the facetted end of the stones, in the last a bumping or pounding motion has left the end rough and shattered.

¹ Now in S. A. Museum.

8. Saddle-Querns.—It is worth noting that two of these primitive utensils have been found in Mochrum parish. Antecedent probably to the circular quern, and more primitive in design, they have not previously been recorded from Galloway, though doubtless numbers of them only await recognition. These two specimens are each of granite, and were carted to a roadside with a quantity of other stones to be broken for metal; and were laid aside for me by the surfaceman, who knew that I valued "laboured stanes."

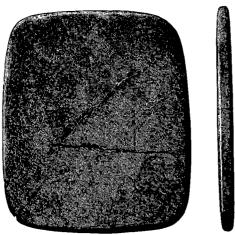
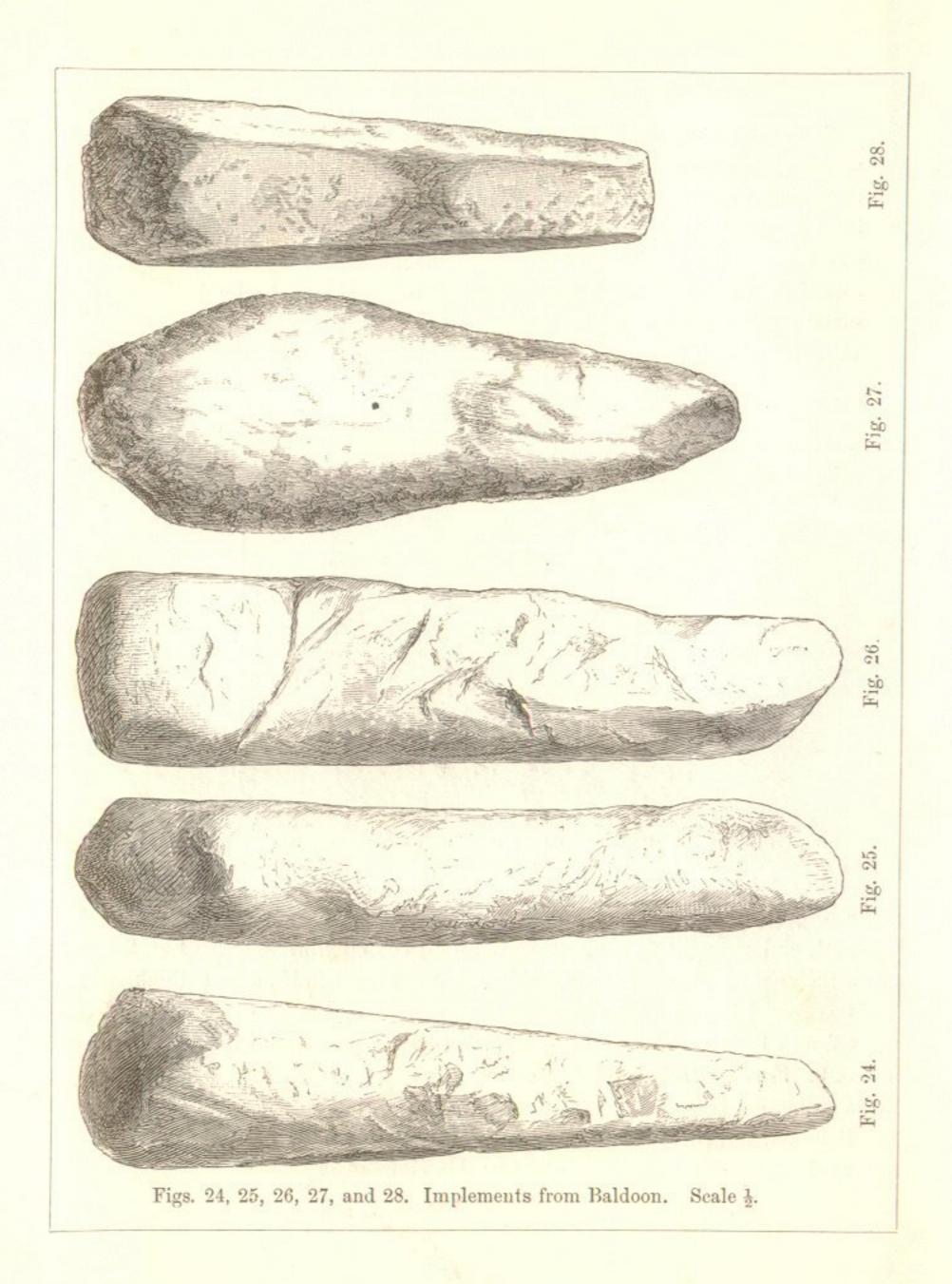


Fig. 23. Of Polished Stone from a Crannog in Dowalton. Scale 3.

Fig. 22 is an object of doubtful use, from Kirkmaiden parish. It is a disc of hard stone, measuring 5 inches across, $\frac{2}{3}$ inch at the thickest part, and wrought to a blunt edge round the circumference. Fig. 23 is a rectangular piece of stone, $\frac{1}{3}$ by 4 inches and half an inch thick. It was found in one of the crannogs in Dowalton; the corners are rounded off, and both surfaces showed traces of having been polished.

9. Various Objects of Stone.—Figs. 21, 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, represent a collection of implements? found lying together in the soil of a field in Baldoon, Kirkinner parish. They may possibly have been the tools of a worker in stone, and show considerable signs of use.

¹ Now in S. A. Museum. ² In the possession of Mr Broadfoot, West Mains.



10. Whetstones.—The neatly formed objects of ruddy quartz, like that

from Knockneen (fig. 29), several of which have since been collected and presented to the Museum, have been classified doubtfully as whetstones or burnishers. I am inclined to think that they are small slick-

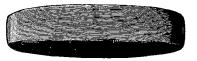
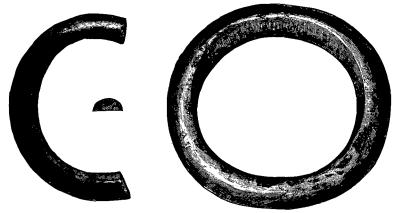


Fig. 29. From Knockneen. 3/6.

stones, as I am informed that they have been used in this district within living memory to smooth seams in needlework.



Figs. 30, 31. Shale Rings from the Crannog in Barhapple Loch (full size).



Fig. 32. Rings of Shale from Dowalton Crannog (full size).

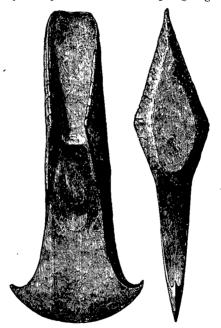
11. Ornaments of Jet or Shale.-Nearly every crannog hitherto

examined has yielded rings and ornaments of jet, cannel coal, or shale. The latter mineral occurs in bands in the northern part of the shire, but most of the objects appear to be of material that must have been imported from Ayrshire or elsewhere. A portion of a very large and finely finished ring, from Kirkmaiden parish, gives a diameter of $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches for the ornament when complete.

Figs. 30 and 31² are from the large crannog in Barhapple Loch, explored in 1880 and 1884; while fig. 32 shows two smaller and rougher specimens, from the crannog in Dowalton.

Bronze.

Bronze.—A very fine palstave,2 found in ploughing on the farm of



Figs. 33. Bronze Palstave from Barr, Penninghame. Scale ½.

Barr, Penninghame, is the subject of fig. 33. Several of similar design

1 In the possession of Dr Trotter, Perth.

2 Now in S. A. Museum.

have been found in the country; fig. 34 is a portion of a looped palstave, 1 found in Culnoag, Sorbie.

The small bronze celt 1 (fig. 35), from Stelloch, in Glasserton, is a very delicate little article, and, so far as I have seen, there is none similar to it in any collection in Great Britain or on the Continent. Mr Evans assigns it to a late period of bronze manufacture, but it is difficult to say whether it has been intended for an ornament or for use as a small glyptic tool or chisel.



Fig. 34. Looped Palstave from Sorbie. Scale ½.



Fig. 35. Small Looped Celt from Stelloch (full size).

In fig. 36 is represented one of a common type of looped and socketed celt, almost identical with an Irish one figured by Mr Evans at page 138 of his *Ancient Bronze Implements*.

A fine leaf-shaped sword,¹ found in a moss at Dowies, Glasserton, is shown in fig. 37; and a similar one,² from the neighbourhood of Whithorn, in fig. 38.

The spear head ¹ in fig. 39 was found jammed between two rocks on the Fell of Barhullion.

¹ Now in S. A. Museum.

² In the possession of Dr Douglas, Whithorn.



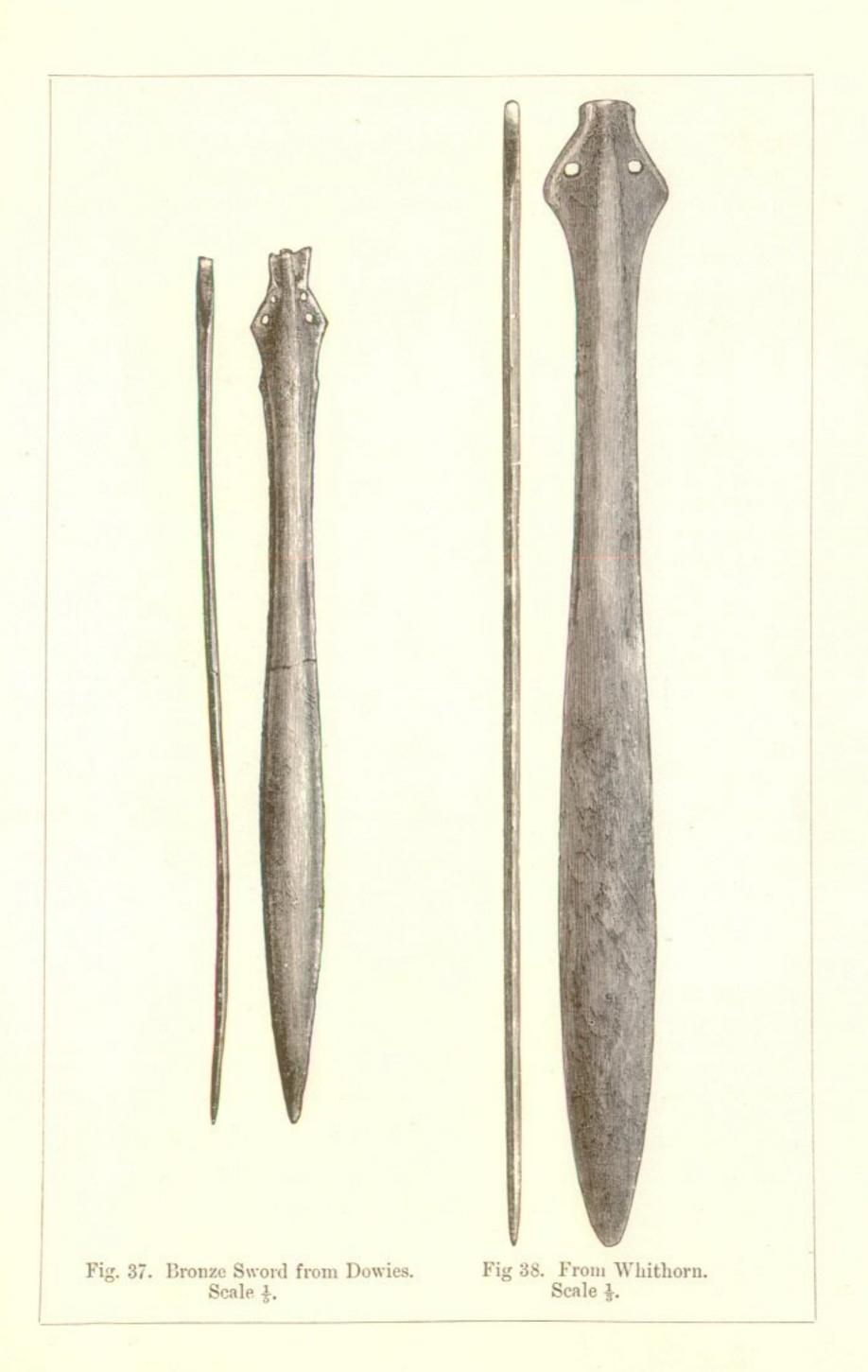


Fig. 40 is a portion of a bronze side-blast trumpet, showing part of the mouthpiece, from Innermessan (anciently Rerigonium?), parish of Inch. No similar one has yet been recorded from Scotland, but several

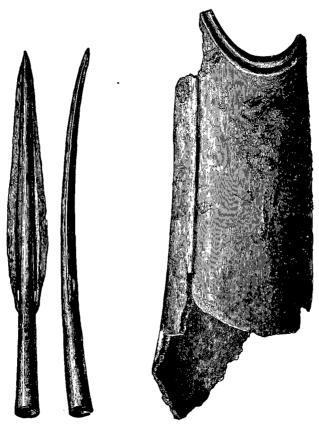


Fig. 39. Spear-Head from Barhullion. Scale ½.

Fig. 40. Portion of Trumpet from Innermessan(full size).

have been found in Ireland, some of which are now in the British Museum.

¹ Now in S. A. Museum.

A handsome bronze armlet,¹ from Barhullion, is the subject of fig. 41. It is ribbed transversely throughout the circumference, save where the free ends are wrought into the likeness of snake-heads.

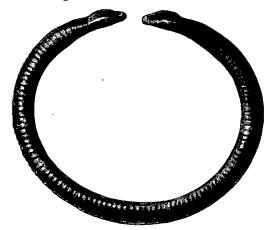


Fig. 41. Armlet from Barhullion (full size).

Fig. 42 is a small button-like object, found in Airieolland crannog;



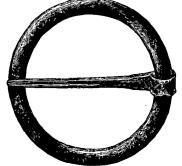


Fig. 42. From Airieolland Crannog. 1. Fig. 43. Bronze Buckle from Genoch. 1. and fig. 43 is a plain bronze buckle 1 or brooch, from the sandhills of Genoch, near Glenluce.

¹ Now in S. A. Museum.

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Fig. 44, though appertaining to mediæval rather than prehistoric times, is given as showing a fine specimen 1 of a well-known type of cooking-pot. It was found in the drained bed of Dowalton Loch, by a boy who said that it was full of tow, which he threw away.



Fig. 44. Brass Pot from Dowalton. Scale 1/4.

Fig. 45, from Innermessan, is also mediæval. Two similar vessels² were found in a turf dike on Skeog farm, Whithorn.

POTTERY AND GLASS.

Nothing is more remarkable in this district than the rareness with which pottery (other than sepulchral) has been met with among the remains of the primitive inhabitants. In the numerous crannogs which have been excavated nothing of the kind, except a few crucibles like

- 1 Now in S. A. Museum.
- ² Lately in the possession of Mr Dinnel, Skeog, Whithorn.

that shown in fig. 46,¹ and a fragment of Samian ware,¹ fig. 47, have been secured.



Fig. 45. Water Ewer of Brass, from Innermessan. Scale 1/4.

Sepulchral urns and "food vessels" (such as fig. 48, from Cairngaan, Kirkmaiden)¹ are of common occurrence, but no evidence exists that the



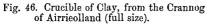




Fig. 47. Fragment of Samian Ware, from Dowalton Crannog.

people of the lake-dwellings possessed the art of making utensils of ¹ In the possession of Mr M'Cosh, Cairngaan.

harder pottery, though the remains of vitreous slag and crucibles show that they practised the art of making ornaments of coarse glass, and wrought in bronze or other metals.



Fig. 48. Sepulchral Urn from Cairngaan. ½.



Fig. 49. Pendant or Sinker of Red Earthenware from Dunora (actual size).

Fig. 49 is a baked globe of red earthenware¹ from Dunora, Kirkmaiden, perforated for suspension.



Fig. 50. Beads of Scarlet Glass. 1.

Fig. 51. Melon-shaped Bead from Kirkmaiden. 1.

Fig. 50 represents some delicate beads² of scarlet vitreous paste found in Airrieolland crannog; and fig. 51, from Kirkmaiden, is one of

¹ In the possession of Dr Trotter, Perth.

² Now in S. A. Museum.

the ordinary "melon" beads, which are found all over Western Europe, and also in Egypt, Italy, and Greece. They were glazed green, and if not of Roman manufacture, were at all events co-extensive with Roman occupation.

Wood.

For obvious reasons, wooden objects, except in the structure of lakedwellings, rarely survive from prehistoric times; and those which are

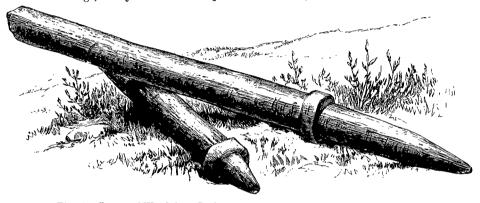


Fig. 52. Beams of Wood from Barhapple Crannog (7 feet 10 inches in length).

found in crannogs or mosses usually go to pieces when exposed to the air.

The skilfully worked oaken beams in fig. 52 formed part of an important



Fig. 53. Portion of Wooden Implement from Barhapple Crannog (full size).

structure on Barhapple crannog. They had been partially charred by a conflagration, which seems to have destroyed the habitation. The largest of them measured 7 feet 10 inches in length and 19 inches in circumference.

¹ In the possession of Dr Trotter, Perth.

Fig. 53 shows an object ¹ from the same crannog, which has also been charred, and appears to be part of a spoon-like utensil.

Fig. 54 is from a drawing made on the spot of a weighty oaken trough, found on a crannog in Dowalton, which has since gone to pieces; while fig.

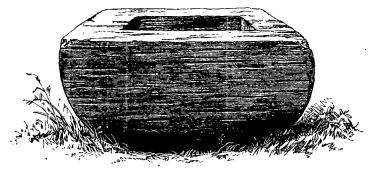


Fig. 54. Vessel or Trough of Oak, from a Crannog in Dowalton Loch (21 inches in length).

55 is a large bowl ¹ cut out of a solid block of willow, which was taken out of a moss on Kirkchrist, Penninghame, at a depth of 4 feet, in 1884.

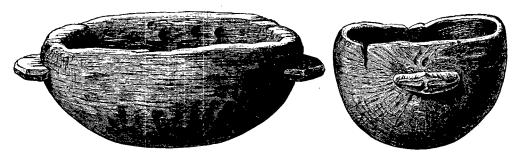


Fig. 55. Large Quaich-like Vessel of Wood, from Kirkchrist (22 inches in length).

It is, exclusive of handles, 22 inches long, 10 high, and 14 wide. Several other wooden objects have been taken out of the same moss lately.

The oaken effigy represented in fig. 56 was dug out of a moss near

¹ Now in S. A. Museum.

Whithorn, and evidently is a relic of the interior decoration of the Priory. It measures 2 feet 8 inches long, and retains traces of a high quality of art. It is in the possession of Mr Johnston Stewart of Physgil.

Bone or Horn.

Not many articles in this material have hitherto been recovered. A well-formed spindle whorl (?) from the crannog in Arricolland is shown in fig. 57; 1 a portion of another article 2 made of deer's horn, was found during the excavation of St Ninian's Cave, Glasserton, where so many early Christian remains were discovered.3 It resembles a class of objects of which several specimens were found in Borness Cave, Kirkcudbright, figured in the Society's *Proceedings*, vol. x. plate xxi. and vol. xii. plate xxxi., and which it has been surmised have been "bone links for fastening dress."

It is hardly within the scope of this paper to take note of a discovery of coins, yet allusion may be made to an interesting find in a peat moss at Barwinnock, parish of Glasserton, where, in 1886, at a depth of 4



Fig. 56. Oaken Effigy. 12.

or 5 feet, a leather purse 1 was exhumed, containing two silver farthings of Alexander III. and a spindle whorl of steatite. The purse unfortunately was torn open by the finder. the coins is an unpublished variety; Mr Cochrane Patrick writes as follows about it in the Numismatic Chronicle 4 —"The farthings of Alexander III. are very rare, and up to the present time only one variety has been noticed, bearing on the reverse four mullets

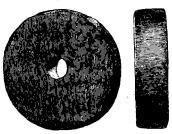


Fig. 57. Whorl of Bone or Horn, from Arricolland Craunog. 1.

¹ Now in S. A. Museum.

² Journal of Anthropological Institute, vol. i. p. 64, and plate ii. fig. 2.

³ See papers in vol. vii. p. 82, and vol. ix. p. 137 (New Series) of the Proceedings of the Society of Scottish Antiquaries. 4 Vol. vi., Third Series, pp. 38-40.

of six points. The variety now to be recorded bears one star of seven points and three mullets of six points. It very often happens that the open space in the centre of the mullet gets closed up accidentally; but in the present case the coin is in perfect preservation, and the star is quite different in appearance and size from the mullets."