

## II.

### A HOARD OF BRONZE AGE IMPLEMENTS FOUND AT CULLERNE, NEAR FINDHORN, MORAYSHIRE. BY J. GRAHAM CALLANDER, F.S.A. SCOT., DIRECTOR OF THE MUSEUM.

An important hoard of five Bronze Age implements was found, in September 1894, by some workmen engaged in digging a drain connected with the water supply at Cullerne, near Findhorn. The objects, which consisted of two spear-heads, a socketed axe, a socketed, curved tool, and a razor, were acquired by the late Rev. John MacEwen, minister of the neighbouring parish of Dyke, a Fellow of the Society. At the sale of his collection of antiquities last summer, the hoard was purchased by Mr A. Henderson Bishop, F.S.A.Scot., who generously presented it to our National Museum.

The house of Cullerne lies some 700 yards from the eastern side of Findhorn Bay, and about 1 mile east-south-east of the village of Findhorn, the intervening space between the village and the house being covered with wide stretches of shingle—the old raised beach—which previously had been hidden under sand dunes, probably of no great height. Owing to the action of the wind the sand has been swept away, leaving only the southern edges of the dunes, just where they merge into the arable ground. A horizontal layer of dark-coloured material, formerly an old land surface, crosses the broken face of the low, sandy bluff which overlooks the bare, wind-swept beds of shingle to the north, its depth from the surface varying with the undulations of the ground. The objects were found in this dark layer, there being less than 2 feet of superincumbent sand at the spot, and, judging from the indications in an adjoining gully, probably about 5 feet of the same material between it and the underlying shingle. The place where the bronzes were found lies about 150 yards north-north-east of the house, at an elevation of about 30 feet above sea-level.

Of the two spear-heads, the larger example (fig. 1, No. 1) has been broken across the socket, but the detached portion has been recovered, and, though the lower end is ragged, very little of it seems to have been worn away. It now measures  $7\frac{3}{4}$  inches in length, and  $1\frac{3}{8}$  inch in width across the widest part of the blade, and the socket

has been about 1 inch in diameter at the mouth. The smaller spear-head (fig. 1, No. 2) is nearly complete, as it only wants a small part of the mouth of the socket; it measures  $5\frac{1}{8}$  inches in length,  $1\frac{1}{8}$  inch

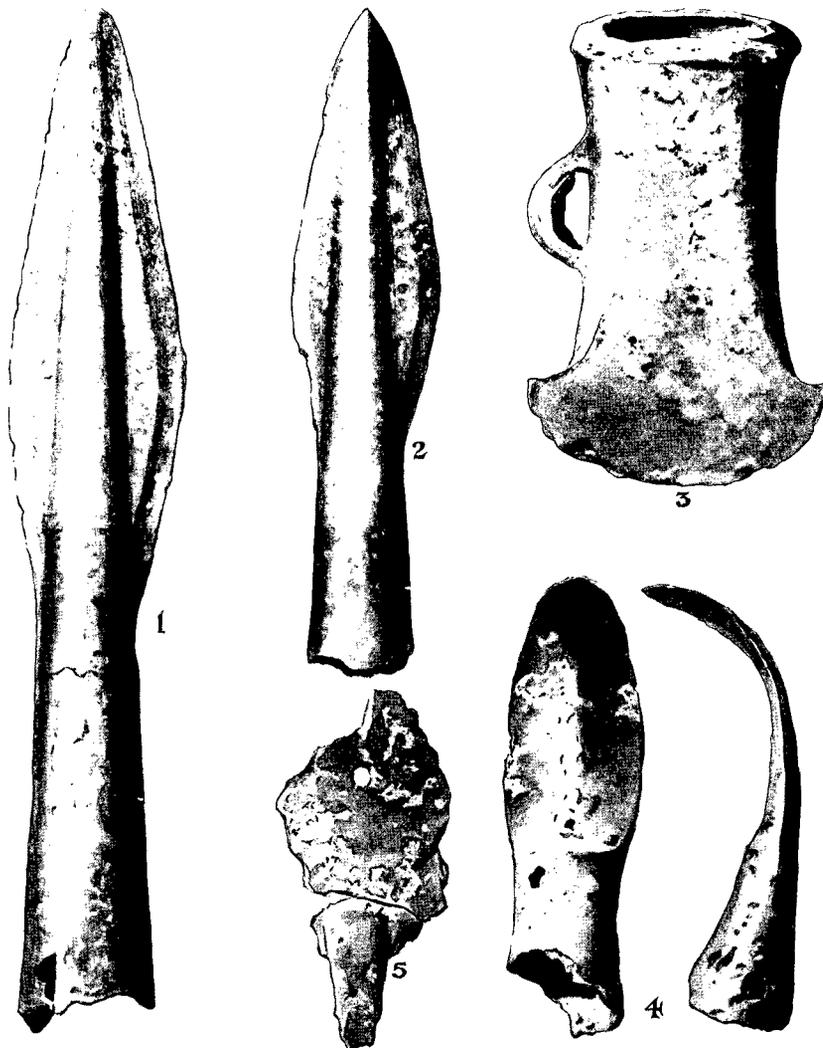


Fig. 1. Bronze Implements found at Cullerne. (3.)

across the blade, and  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch in diameter across the end of the socket. Both weapons are of the same type; they have a circular, tapering socket, and a strong, leaf-shaped blade, the socket extending in a

straight line almost to the point so as to form a prominent, rounded mid-rib, from either side of which spring the wings of the blade. The sharpening of these weapons has been accomplished by hammering out the edges for a width of about  $\frac{1}{8}$  to  $\frac{3}{16}$  inch; there is no indication of grinding. One of the wings of the blade of the larger spear-head is rather broader than the other. Both examples have a rivet-hole, about  $\frac{3}{16}$  inch in diameter, on opposite sides of the socket, in the line of the plane of the blade, which demonstrates the method of fixing the head to its wooden shaft.

The axe (fig. 1, No. 3), which is of the socketed and looped type, is well preserved, and, like the other objects found, is covered with a green patina which is considerably pitted. It measures  $3\frac{3}{8}$  inches in length, and  $2\frac{5}{16}$  inches across the cutting edge; the socket, which is of rectangular, ovoid shape, and has a slight, rounded moulding encircling the mouth, measures  $1\frac{3}{4}$  inch by  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inch externally, and  $1\frac{3}{16}$  inch by  $1\frac{1}{8}$  inch internally, and the loop has a segmental opening measuring  $\frac{9}{16}$  inch by  $\frac{5}{16}$  inch.

The curved tool (fig. 1, No. 4), like the second spear-head described, also has part of the mouth of the socket worn away. The blade, which describes about the quadrant of a circle in its curve, is solid and is strengthened on the inside of the bend by a slight thickening of the metal. It differs from the spear-heads inasmuch as the socket does not extend into the blade, but the method of its attachment to the handle is the same, as one rivet-hole appears on the surviving part of the socket. From the blunt, rounded point to the lip of the socket the length of the tool, measured along the outer curve, is  $4\frac{3}{16}$  inches, and the greatest breadth of the blade is  $1\frac{1}{8}$  inch.

The razor (fig. 1, No. 5) is in a worse state of preservation than any other object in the hoard, and what remains is broken into two pieces. As it is of slighter make than the other implements, it has suffered more from disintegration and decay, and the whole of the edge has been eaten away. Though its original outline is not now discernible, enough remains to indicate the form when complete. The peculiar characteristics of one variety of this class of instrument are that the blade, which is ovoid in shape, is bifid, there being a deep notch in the top; it has a small perforation a short distance below the point of the notch, and it is provided with a tang, not a socket, for fixing it to the handle. Though the Cullerne example is not complete, it plainly exhibits these features. One side of the notch has disappeared, but the other has escaped corrosion, and it is noticeable that it has been cut out with a chisel after the object was cast; the perforation is clearly defined and measures  $\frac{3}{16}$  inch in diameter. The object is now  $2\frac{3}{4}$  inches in length,

$1\frac{3}{8}$  inch in breadth, and  $\frac{7}{16}$  inch in thickness, the tang measuring  $\frac{11}{16}$  inch in length, and decreasing from  $\frac{7}{16}$  inch in width where it joins the blade to  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch at the end.

Discoveries of prehistoric relics of different classes in direct association are of the utmost value to archæology, and, though this find may not add anything to our knowledge of the varieties or combinations of instruments and weapons which were familiar to the inhabitants of Scotland at the period to which it belongs, it is important because it confirms deductions which have been made from previous discoveries. It has been the custom to divide deposits of Bronze Age weapons and implements into three categories—those which, according to the constituent parts, are believed to have been the property of a private individual, of a merchant, or of a founder. The Cullerne hoard

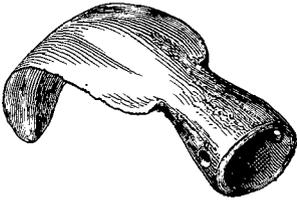


Fig. 2. Curved Implement from Wester Ord.

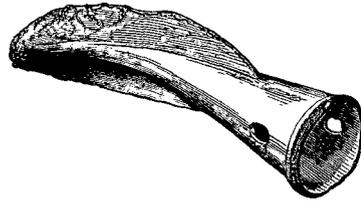


Fig. 3. Curved Implement from Sleat.

evidently should be placed in the first of these classes, as there is little doubt that it contains the weapons and instruments of a single individual, perhaps his complete kit of metal tools. It is notable because, in addition to the common socketed axe and spear-head, it includes an example of two very rare types of Bronze Age relics, the curved tool and the razor. There are only two other records of such curved tools having been found in Scotland, and fortunately they were discovered in association with other bronze objects. The record of the first of these discoveries is incomplete, but our information is that a tool of this class (fig. 2) was found under the corner of a large boulder at Wester Ord, Invergordon, Ross-shire, along with other bronzes, which are stated to have included axes of unspecified types, three fragments of a peculiar, ornamented bronze rod, and two rings.<sup>1</sup> The second example (fig. 3) was found near the Point of Sleat, Skye, in association with a sword, two spear-heads, and a long pin with expanded, circular, cup-shaped head, all made of bronze.<sup>2</sup> An armilla

<sup>1</sup> *Proc. Soc. Ant. of Scot.*, vol. viii. p. 310, fig. 1.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. viii. p. 310, fig. 2; Anderson, *Scotland in Pagan Times—Bronze and Stone Ages*, p. 145, figs. 144 and 145.

of gold and other objects of this precious metal are also said to have been found in the hoard. Sir John Evans mentions only one example from England, and it is just a fragment of what seems to have been one of these objects—it had a solid handle, and was found at Hounslow.<sup>1</sup> He also reports one or two continental discoveries, but none from Ireland—a country peculiarly rich in relics of the period.

Small bifid blades as well as other varieties of small bronze instruments are believed to have been used as razors, and these are widely distributed over central and western Europe, but examples of the type under review are of rare occurrence. Six have been found in Scotland: three at Bowerhouses, near Dunbar,<sup>2</sup> in an interment containing a

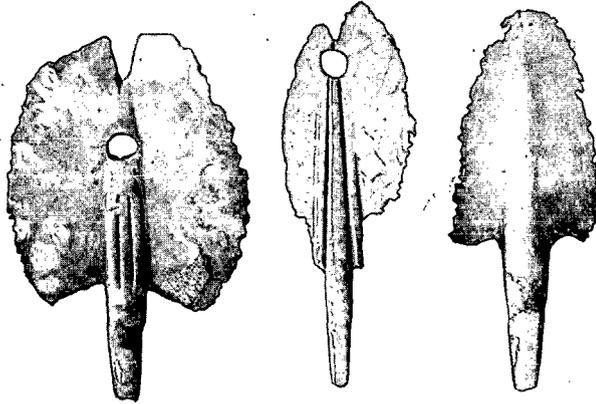


Fig. 4. Bronze Razors from Adabrock, Lewis.

socketed bronze axe and urns; and three (fig. 4) at Adabrock, Ness, Lewis, in a hoard which included two socketed axes, a spear-head, a hammer, a gouge, a chisel, and part of a bowl, all of bronze, four beads, one of beaten gold of a doubly conical shape, two of amber and one of glass, and two whetstones.<sup>3</sup> One of the second lot of razors had no perforation, and two were ornamented on the tang, a feature seen on English and Irish examples. In the aggregate the numbers found in the British Isles are not large.

The classification of the contents of six Scottish hoards containing either a gouge or a curved tool, in the annexed table, brings out one feature very prominently, and that is the striking similarity of the general facies of these deposits. It is obvious that the relics portray groups of objects in use over a large part of Scotland during a restricted period of time, even though the localities are widely separated by great mountain masses and stormy seas. It may be said that this is just what

<sup>1</sup> *Ancient Bronze Implements*, p. 209.    <sup>2</sup> *Proceedings*, vol. x. p. 439.    <sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. xlv. p. 27.

might be expected, as Scotland is a small country, but it is of some importance to be able to produce evidence which raises the question from one of mere supposition to one of comparative certainty.

Locality.	Swords.	Socketed axes.	Spear-heads with rivet holes.	Curved tools.	Gouges.	Chisels.	Hammers.	Razors.	Ornaments, etc.	References.
Point of Sleat, Skye	1	...	2	1	...	...	...	...	1 pin	<i>Proc. Soc. Ant. of Scot.</i> , vol. viii. p. 310, fig. 2. <i>Ibid.</i> , vol. viii. p. 310, fig. 1.
Wester Ord, Invergordon, Ross-shire	...	?	...	1	...	...	...	...	2 rings ornamented rod	
Cullerne, Findhorn, Morayshire	...	1	2	1	...	...	...	1		
Adabrock, Ness, Lewis	...	2	1	...	1	1	1	3	2 amber beads 1 glass bead 1 gold do.	<i>Ibid.</i> , vol. xlv. p. 27.
Monmore, Killin, Perthshire	1 <sup>1</sup>	2	1	...	1	...	...	...	9 solid rings 1 hollow ring 1 penannular ring	Anderson, <i>Scotland in Pagan Times: Bronze and Stone Ages</i> , p. 149.
Torran, Ford, Argyll	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	...	<i>Ibid.</i> , p. 149.

The presence of either a gouge or a curved implement in every one of these hoards indicates that the owners were accustomed to work in wood, as the gouge is a typical carpenter's tool, and the curved instrument was admirably adapted for hollowing out wooden vessels or even for putting the finishing touches to the inside of a dug-out canoe after the rough work had been done by fire and the axe. From the occurrence of a sword in two of the finds it is evident that our wood-worker in two cases, at least, was prepared for warfare. These two hoards also contained examples of the spear-head, a weapon quite as serviceable for killing a man as for sticking wild boars or wolves, animals which were to be found in the Scottish wilds in historic times. It is unlikely that in the two cases in which they were associated with a sword they would be entirely reserved for the chase, and if they were part of the accoutrements of men of war in Skye and Perthshire, it is not unreasonable to suggest that they were used for a like purpose by the owners of the other three hoards in which they occur. Indeed, it is quite possible that they may have been represented in the remaining deposit from Wester Ord, because the information about it is vague, and we are not told that the relics found were limited to axes, a curved tool, and rings. On the analogy of the other discoveries it may well have contained a spear-head. What has been said about the spear as a domestic tool or as a weapon

<sup>1</sup> Part of hilt only.

of war applies with equal force to the axe, and this object was present in four of the finds. It is not necessary that a sword should be present to prove that the deposit belonged to a warrior, because in the Bronze Age such weapons were in all probability too rare and expensive to be carried by the rank and file. In much later times Scottish fighting men had often to go into battle without even an iron sword. Five of the hoards produced either razors or ornaments, and so it is evident that care was bestowed on personal appearance. The presence of the razor, if the purpose of these little blades has been correctly diagnosed, shows that shaving was in vogue throughout the country, as we have seen that they have been found from Lewis to the Lothians.

From a close examination of the shapes and types of the axes and spear-heads it will be noted that there is a very great resemblance between the examples found in every one of the hoards, and consequently it may be claimed that the different deposits must have been in use almost contemporaneously, and during a period comparatively restricted as to length. The axes have all a fine, bold, crescentic cutting edge, as the horns at either end extend well beyond the line of the socket, those from Lewis, Skye, and Cullerne having the points carried well back. The spear-heads are all of the same variety; they have the tapering, cylindrical socket extending nearly to the point and forming a pronounced mid-rib, the stout leaf-shaped blade, and the simple rivet-hole for fixing them to the shaft. Swords and socketed weapons are recognised as products of the latest part of the Bronze Age, and it has been demonstrated that the spear-head with only the rivet for attachment is a later development than that with the loops on the socket or at the base of the blade;<sup>1</sup> thus we may assign all these finds to a very late part of the period.

The Cullerne hoard of weapons and other objects tells the same story as the other five mentioned. In short, it is that towards the close of the Bronze Age, scattered over a great part of Scotland, even in such a remote corner as the neighbourhood of the Butt of Lewis, there was a race of men who, besides providing their families with food, raiment, and shelter, were accustomed to work in wood with highly developed tools, and, at the same time, were prepared to fight for their hearths and homes; also that they were not neglectful in the matters of dress and the arrangement of the hair. This people had attained to a considerable degree of culture, they were expert bronze founders, and their artistic sense was developing. It is a difficult problem to assess the time required among primitive people for new types of objects or systems of ornamentation to penetrate to these parts of a country most remote

<sup>1</sup> *Proc. Royal Irish Academy*, 3rd series, vol. iii. p. 486.

from the sources where they were discovered or from which they were introduced; but the marked similarity of the individual examples of the different classes of articles in all these discoveries, and the absence of divergence from type in even one of them, seem to indicate that at this early period there were regular means of communication by which improvements and new developments in weapons, implements, and ornaments, of ordinary use, became known over a great part of Scotland in a very short time.

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