

## II.

CLOTHING AND OTHER ARTICLES FROM A LATE  
17TH-CENTURY GRAVE AT GUNNISTER, SHETLAND.BY AUDREY S. HENSHALL, M.A., F.S.A.ScOT., AND  
STUART MAXWELL, M.A., F.S.A.ScOT.

## INTRODUCTION.

The Queen's and Lord Treasurer's Remembrancer, as recorded on p. 213, has placed in the Museum the clothing and other objects found on 12th May, 1951, in a peat-bank on the south side of the public road leading from the main Lerwick-Hillswick road ( $\frac{1}{4}$  mile away) to Gunnister, Northmavine, Shetland (Nat. Grid ref. N41/328732).<sup>1</sup> Thanks are further due to the finders, Mr James Bigland and Mr James Johnson, to whom rewards have also been paid, for the care with which they uncovered the remains and for informing the authorities. For an excellent report, on which this account of the discovery is based, and for prompt steps to recover and safeguard the remarkable finds, archæologists are much indebted to the Zetland County Police. Our Fellow, Mr J. R. C. Hamilton examined and kindly reported on the find-spot.

The fully clothed body of a man had been laid stretched out on its back in a shallow grave on the uninhabited moor, with its head towards the ESE. (fig. 1). It was some 30 ins. deep in the peat, of which there is a depth of more than 4 ft. above rock. A burn runs 12 ft. to the NW., and the site is 18 ft. from the nearest point of the culvert where the road crosses the burn.

Scarcely anything of the body was left—some curly dark brown hair, with no trace of grey; portions of the skull; some finger and toe nails; and very decayed fragments of bone in each sleeve and in one stocking. All the woollen clothing, now of various shades of brown, was well preserved, as were other articles of different materials. The man had worn a long coat, with short, wide-legged breeches of much the same material, a shirt and an outermost ragged jacket, apparently an addition for extra warmth. A leather belt, with a brass buckle, was round the body. Cold weather was further indicated by a pair of knitted gloves—the right one not on, but lying at the left side. Long knitted stockings came over the knees;

<sup>1</sup> Extensively reported in the press at the time, and the finds illustrated in the *Illustrated London News* of 8th September, 1951.

the feet of these were reinforced, but the only sign of shoes was a piece of "skin," 6 ins. long. On the head was a knitted woollen cap with a turned-up brim; another plainer cap, also knitted, was inside the clothing at the right side "as if it had been in a pocket," and was folded round a horn spoon. Inside the breeches at the left side, again as if in a pocket, were a small horn and a knitted purse containing a folded length of silk ribbon and three late 17th-century coins of low value, one Swedish and two Dutch. A stick lay across the legs, and at the feet were a small wooden tub, a wooden knife handle and two tablets of wood. Also near the legs were two lengths of woollen cord.

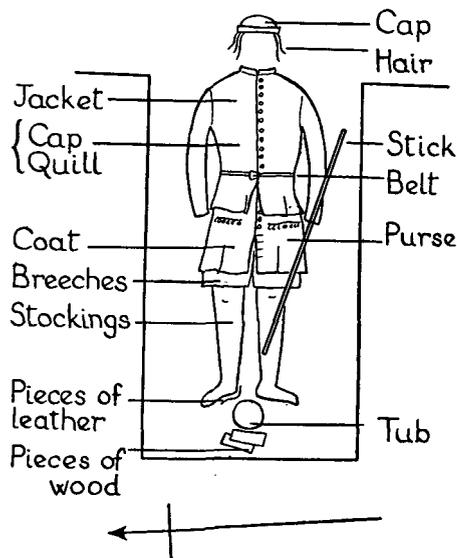


Fig. 1.

[After sketch by Mr J. R. C. Hamilton.]

## DESCRIPTION.

All the garments are sewn throughout with woollen thread and all buttons are of wool covered with cloth; Museum numbers are given.

The coat (NA 1038; Pl. V, 2) is 39 ins. long, 18 ins. across the back (between the shoulders), and the sleeves measure  $15\frac{1}{2}$  ins. (including cuffs) on the inner seams and 21 ins. on the outer; the waist measures 36 ins. and the skirt circumference, increased by two small triangular gussets, is 124 ins. The high round neck is faced inside but has no collar. It buttons to below the waist with twenty buttons, slightly more than 1 in. apart. Below these are another four buttons, the corresponding "holes" being stitched at the ends, but uncut. Below the lowest of these is a similar,

but shorter, "hole." At the level of the second functional button (*i.e.* below hip level), horizontal slits 7 ins. long have been cut for pockets and faced on the inside, but both are sewn up. Immediately below each slit are seven buttons (the middle one on the left side is missing). Above the slits, corresponding not too well with the buttons, are marked "buttonholes," similar to those mentioned above, only the centre holes being cut, but not worked. The edges of the coat are faced. The side seams are shaped to fit the waist and make a full skirt. They are left open, with their edges hemmed down, for  $9\frac{1}{2}$  ins. from waist level to below the functional buttons, thus giving access to the undergarments. There is a centre back vent from waist level, the edges faced on the inside. The skirt edge is unsewn. The right sleeve has two, and the left three, lengthwise seams.<sup>1</sup> The right cuff is formed from three, and the left from four, pieces of cloth sewn to the ends of the sleeves, and to each other, as in fig. 2 (left cuff). On the left front skirt,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  ins. above the bottom edge, two thick threads of two-ply yarn are sewn through the cloth, and a finer, dark thread is attached nearer the edge. Holes in a similar position on the right side suggest that there have been threads there also. Similar threads on the stockings, about 3 ins. from the front tops, suggest that the coat and stockings were joined.

The weave is 2/2 twill. Warp, S, about 20, weft, S, about 22.<sup>2</sup> The width of the warp is 24 ins. or more. The wool is a dull khaki colour, but is really a mixture of shades, and there is some coarse staple mixed with it though the cloth is soft to handle. It has been very heavily milled, and is so felted that the threads can only be seen where it is slightly worn. The fleece has been of the Shetland type with high felting properties. The two surfaces have been treated slightly differently—probably so that the outer surface would not hold the wet and the inner retain the maximum warmth. Both sides have been raised, but the outer to a less extent and smoothly, the inner to a rougher and deeper cover.

The **outer jacket** (NA 1037; Pl. VI, 1) is darker and much more worn and patched. It is 29 ins. long, including a  $1\frac{3}{4}$  in. stand-up collar, 20 ins. across the shoulders, and the waist is 39 ins. The side and back seams of the flared skirt are open for the last 6 ins.; triangular gussets at the sides are sewn to the front portions. The skirt is 64 ins. in circumference. There are twelve *buttonholes*,  $1\frac{1}{4}$  ins. apart, down the front opening, which is faced, and one on the collar; four of the buttons are missing, including the collar button, which is replaced by a roughly cut hole with a two-ply thread knotted through it. The right sleeve is 17 ins. along the inside seam—both sleeves are too tattered to make any other accurate measurements. The right sleeve has three and the left two lengthwise seams—the reverse

<sup>1</sup> Mr Robertson, of Messrs Morrison & Mitchell, Tailors, George Street, Edinburgh, has suggested that the difference in the circumference of the elbows (right 16 ins., left  $17\frac{1}{2}$  ins.) may be due to a deformity of the left arm. The number of pieces in the arms of the shirt agrees with the coat, but the outer jacket reverses the arrangement.

<sup>2</sup> For explanation of weaving terms, see above, p. 7.

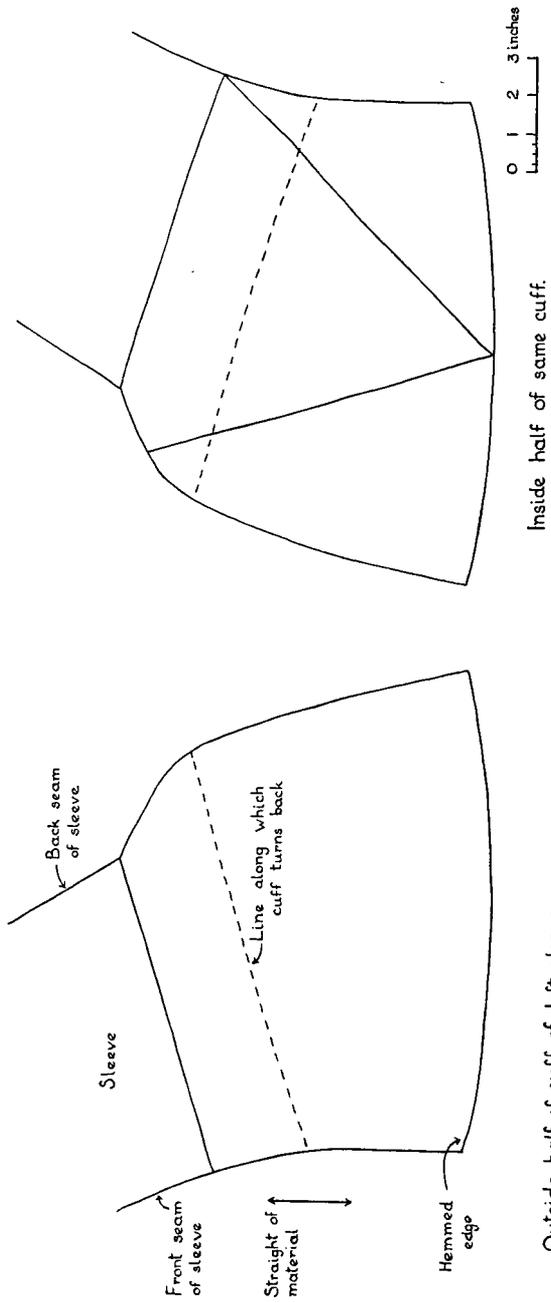


Fig. 2.

arrangement to the sleeves of the coat. There appear to have been four buttons, all functional, on each cuff. The coat is lined, with the exception of the sleeves. Knotted through the seventh buttonhole from the top is a length of thick, four-ply thread, both ends hanging down 10 ins., and one having a small knotted loop at its end.

The weave is 2/2 twill. Wa. hard-spun, Z, 32, we. softer, S, 23. The cloth is very firm and rather thick. It is a dull brown colour and consists of many shades of fleece from light to black. The inside of the cloth is raised so as to hide the threads entirely, but the outside has lost its slighter nap except in unworn places against the seams. Inside the sleeves there are, in some parts, short loops which seem to represent a pile. But it can be shown that the loops are either warp threads, or part of them, which have been pulled out in the brushing up of the nap; there are many loose warp threads showing as floats over three wefts on the right side. A parallel occurrence is noted on a cloth from Norsewick, Shetland (see above, p. 28). The lining is a similar cloth but not so thick, the count being 34-38 × 23. The jacket has been made with the most raised surface of the outer cloth and the lining facing each other, which would make a greater air-space between them and thus give greater warmth.

The shirt (NA 1039; Pl. V, 1) is 35 ins. long and is made from two widths of cloth with triangular gussets, approximately 15 ins. long and 8½ ins. wide (both are torn) at the sides. It has a ¾ in. deep standing collar, and a 17 in., faced, front opening to the waist, fastening with ten buttons (two missing, one on the collar). The right sleeve is torn at the elbow (the lower part is preserved); the left is 16 ins. long (inside seam), with a 2½ in. hem at the cuff, which fastens with three buttons (the lowest missing and replaced by a 2-ply thread). The right sleeve has two lengthwise seams and the left three. All the shirt seams are run and fell, while those of the other garments are only turned in once. The shirt is worn at the waist, and one hole, at the back, has been clumsily mended by a long horizontal tuck.

The weave is 2/2 twill. Wa. Z, 29, we. S, 22. Wool light brown in colour. Weaving and spinning are regular. The full width of the cloth remains at the bottom front and back, where it measures 19 and 23 ins. respectively. The discrepancy is probably due to greater shrinkage at the front, where the cloth is rather felted. There is no special selvedge nor any features in the weaving. The cloth is not so heavily felted as the others, and is of a different, Cheviot-like fleece. The patches on the sleeve are 2/2 twill, very felted, of darker wool.

The breeches (NA 1040; Pl. V, 1), 22½ ins. long, are similar in colour to the coat and are in excellent condition. The inch-deep waistband, which has been taken in at both sides (about 5 ins.) now measures 34 ins. round. The garment is gathered to the band and has a deep inverted pleat at the centre back. There is a fly front, with only one button at the waist. The legs are 19 ins. wide at the knees, where there is a ¾ in. hem. There

is a seam down the sides towards the back, one at the centre back, and a third at the centre front below the front opening. There are also  $3\frac{1}{2}$  ins. wide insertions between the legs. There is an  $8\frac{1}{2}$  ins. long pocket slit, cut in the cloth, at either side. These are turned in and hemmed, but superimposed on the hems round the opening are loose stitches, which probably attached pockets of linen or leather. The cloth is very similar to the coat, but it is not the same, being slightly less milled.

The **leather belt** (NA 1050; Pl. VIII, 5) lay as if its buckle had been on top of the body, *i.e.* round the waist overall. It is not well preserved. Approximately 18 ins. of it remain, in four pieces, 0·8 in. at the widest. Two pieces are still attached to the brass buckle. One end has been sewn to the central bar (the holes for the stitches remain), and there is a hole through which the missing tongue of the buckle has gone. The other end is round a wing of the buckle, then twisted round itself—there is no sign of a more secure fastening, suggesting that there has been considerably more of it twisted round itself to keep the belt fastened without using the tongue. Another piece of the belt has a cut end with five thread-holes parallel to it. The oval wings of the buckle are at an angle outwards from the central bar.

A **woven band** (NA 1047), knotted in a loop, with a circumference of 24 ins., was evidently used as a belt. Its position is not known. It is  $\frac{3}{4}$  in. wide and about 33 ins. long, a plain weave rep with the warp closely set.

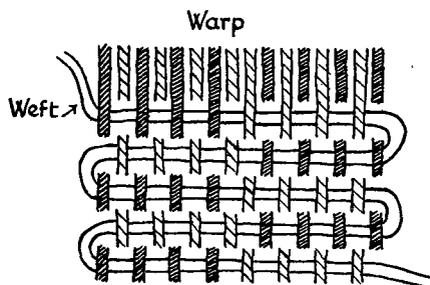


Fig. 3.

Wa. 2-ply, Z spun, S twisted, 46 in the whole width, we., lightly spun S, 10. The weft is completely hidden, the band unfelted. There is a faint pattern due to the use of two shades of thread, the darker one having a considerable amount of brown and black wool mixed with it. The band has horizontal stripes of dark and light, with a counterchange half-way across. This has been effected by setting up the warp with alternate threads of light and dark yarn (see fig. 3). In principle this is the same as the pattern of the tapes on the breeches from Barrock (see above, p. 26).

The pair of **gloves** (NA 1044; Pl. VI, 3) are mid-brown in colour. The wool is soft and has a long staple. The knitting is regular, worked on

4 needles, and there is no seam. There are horizontal ribs on the gauntlets, while the hand is stocking stitch with a pattern of three arrows on the back pointing from between the fingers towards the gauntlet. In the right-hand glove there is a large hole on the upper part of the palm which is patched with a firm 2/2 twill cloth. There are also holes at the bases of the fingers and on the left glove inside the base of the thumb. The measurements are: total length  $13\frac{1}{2}$  ins., top of middle finger to wrist  $9\frac{1}{4}$  ins., wrist to end of gauntlet 5 ins. The fingers and thumb are rather short, the thumb  $2\frac{1}{2}$  ins., first finger 3 ins., second  $3\frac{1}{2}$  ins., third  $2\frac{3}{4}$  ins., fourth 2 ins. long. Width round palm 10 ins., round wrist 9 ins., round end of gauntlet 14 ins.

There are 17 stitches and 14 rows per inch. After the casting-on there are 6 rows of garter stitch, 5 of stocking stitch, 5 of garter stitch, 6 of stocking stitch, 3 purl rows separated by 2 plain rows, 8 of stocking stitch, 5 of garter stitch, with decreases along the outer side. The shaping of the gusset of the thumb starts from here. The ends of the thumbs and fingers are shaped. The method of working the fingers and thumb with the cast-on and picked-up stitches between the fingers is the same as is usually practised to-day. The arrow-head on the back of the glove is formed by an inverted pyramid, in the first row 1 purl stitch, in the second 2 purl stitches divided by a plain stitch, in the third 3 purl stitches divided by 2 plain stitches. The shaft of the arrow is worked by a plain row alternating with a row with 2 purl stitches divided by a plain stitch, the purl stitches always above each other.

The **cap with turned-up brim** (NA 1041; Pl. VII, 3) was found on the head. The circumference of the bottom edge is 24 ins., the depth of the crown 8 ins., the depth of the turned back brim  $1\frac{1}{2}$  ins.

The cap has been made of a Cheviot-type fleece. It has been heavily shrunk to produce a thick felted surface which entirely obscures the knitted threads. This surface remains inside and behind the brim, but has gone completely from the outside of the cap. The fact that there is a knitted pattern on the brim and that the felting has so completely disappeared suggests that this area was clipped purposely (see above, p. 2). There has been a brooch in the brim of the cap. The two holes,  $\frac{3}{4}$  in. apart, and the place where the pin has lain can be clearly seen.

The material is a mid-brown wool, the yarn firmly spun 2 or 3 ply Z. There are 9 stitches and 12 rows per inch. The cap is worked on 4 needles, the crown stocking stitch. The shaping at the top is worked by four narrow strips of plain knitting forming a cross at the centre of the crown, with 8 lines of decreasing against the arms of the cross. The edge of the turned-back brim represents the beginning of the work. There is a pattern of small holes on the turn-back. The work is rather felted, but it seems that the pattern row is worked by knitting two stitches together, knitting a stitch, making a stitch, knitting a stitch, repeated round the cap, followed by 3 rows of plain knitting. There are 5 repeats of the pattern altogether.

The **cap without a brim** (NA 1042; Pl. VII, 1) was found inside the clothing. The circumference of the bottom edge is  $24\frac{1}{2}$  ins. and the depth of the crown

$7\frac{1}{2}$  ins. There are 8 stitches and 11 rows per inch. It is worked in a similar way to the former cap in stocking stitch, but is made of a softer short-stapled fleece with no coarse fibres, possibly an undercoat. It was less shrunk than the former cap. The bottom edge, which seems to be cast on, is turned under once and hemmed down by a coarse 2-ply thread. At the top of the crown there is a small loop, not sewn on but knitted from the last few stitches of the cap, the end turned over and caught down to form the loop. The pile has covered both sides of the cap, but has largely worn off the outside. It consists of a mass of small tight loops apparently of unspun fibres knitted in with the work, completely concealing the knitting and giving a bouclé effect (Pl. VII, 2). The method of making the pile has not been discovered.

The knitted stockings (NA 1043; Pl. VI, 4) measure 23 ins. from the top to under the heel. The length of the foot is about 11 ins., the circumference of the top 9 ins. The feet of both stockings are worn away, and have been replaced by other material. There are holes at the knees, some roughly mended. The woollen yarn is heavy, spun S, 2-ply. It is dark brown in colour, a mixture of various shades of brown fibres, including some black. The spinning and knitting are very even.

The work is done on four needles,  $7\frac{1}{2}$  stitches and 10 rows per inch. 114 stitches are cast on at the top, and 7 rows of garter stitch follow. The remainder of the stocking is worked in stocking stitch, except for the clocks at the ankle and a panel down the back. The latter is worked in alternating rows of 1 plain stitch, 1 purl, 3 plain, 1 purl, 2 plain, and 2 plain, 1 purl, 3 plain, 1 purl, 1 plain, thus forming 2 moss stitch ribs divided by a rib of 2 plain stitches. On either side of this panel the increasing and decreasing of the shaping is carried out.

The first 2 inches of the work is straight, then in the next  $4\frac{3}{4}$  ins. there are 14 decreases, 2 of them not against the back panel, shaping the thigh. The calf is formed by 13 increases in the next 4 ins.,  $\frac{3}{4}$  in. unshaped, and 13 decreases in the next  $7\frac{1}{2}$  ins.  $20\frac{1}{2}$  ins. below the top of the stocking the heel-shaping begins. 24 stitches from each side of and including the back panel are divided from the rest and worked on two needles to reach under the heel. Although the underneath of the foot is not present, it is clear that the 41 remaining stitches were joined to stitches picked up from the side of the heel, all of which were worked on four needles to form the foot.

There are clocks on the inside and outside of the ankles, in the form of a diamond over an inverted pyramid from which there is a vertical rib. The diamond is worked in moss stitch, beginning with 1 purl stitch, 2 in the next row, 3 in the next, till there are 8 purl stitches at the maximum. The triangle follows immediately on the diamond, the first row of 17 purl stitches; the 2nd row 7 purl, 1 plain, 7 purl; 3rd row, 6 purl, 1 plain, 6 purl, decreasing thus to the point. The rib starts with 10 purl stitches, after which there are alternate rows of plain knitting and 2 purl, 2 plain, 2 purl, 2 plain, 2 purl for 18 rows, which is followed by the heel-shaping in stocking stitch.

One stocking has the foot replaced by the leg of another stocking. The wool is almost identical to that of the whole stockings but the yarn is fine, 2-ply Z, 10 stitches and 15 rows to the inch. It is worked in stocking stitch



a rib of 3 plain 2 purl or 2 plain 2 purl stitches. After a row of purl the remainder is all in stocking stitch; there is no shaping. In the plain part there are 3 narrow bands of "Fair Isle" pattern. The first of these is 12 rows below the ribbing and consists of 6 rows of pattern; after 15 plain rows the second pattern band of 5 rows is worked with a dull brown wool, probably originally white; after a further 5 plain rows the bottom pattern band of 5 rows reaches the lower edge of the purse (see fig. 4). The knitting is finished by the stitches being divided into two equal groups and these grafted together.

The loops at the top edge occur every 6th stitch, and consist of a single row of chained loops, such as might be made with a crochet-hook. They are worked in with the casting-on. It looks as if 6 stitches were cast on, and with the same thread a chain of 7 loops made, the last loop being knitted together with the 6th cast-on stitch; this process is then repeated.

The **silk ribbon** (NA 1049) was found neatly folded inside the purse; it measures  $1\frac{1}{2}$  ins. wide and 24 ins. long. It is a fine firm fabric, a warp rep dull brown in colour.

Three **corde**s (NA 1048) all S spun and 2-ply Z, were found near the legs. Two consist of 3 strands knotted together, in one case also twisted together, 29 and 22 ins. long. The third is a much heavier yarn and is knotted at one end and three times in the middle, measuring 43 ins. in length.

The **stick** (NA 1051) was "at the left side, lying at an angle, crossing the legs. When pulled up, it broke." Now in three pieces, it was 43.1 ins. long and 1.1 in. in diameter at widest. One and a half inches from the thicker end it is pierced, the hole larger at one end as if it were a nail-hole. The wood is birch.<sup>1</sup>

The **wooden tub** (ME 946; Pl. VIII, 1) lay at the feet. Its approximate measurements are: base diameter 5.8 ins., rim diameter 6.5 ins., height 5.7 ins. Nine slightly concave staves of Scots pine, 0.25 in. thick, form the sides, held in place by two twisted bands of wood; the upper band is juniper ( $\frac{1}{10}$  in. diam.), the lower band, of willow, is broken, and must have encircled the tub at least two and a half times. The base, also of Scots pine, now in two pieces, was held in grooves cut 0.4 in. from the end of the staves. There are holes for a handle, presumably cord, 0.2 in. from the rim, two on one side and one on the other.

The **horn spoon** (ME 947; Pl. VIII, 3) was found in the cap inside the clothing. It has been cut from a horn, not moulded; length 5.75 ins., the bowl 2.8 ins.  $\times$  1.9 in. and 0.8 in. deep.

The **wooden knife-handle**, of ash (ME 948; Pl. VIII, 6), 3.8 ins. long, is roughly oval in cross-section, 0.95  $\times$  0.8 in. and slightly thicker at the butt. The hole for the tang of the missing blade is square and is 2 ins. deep.

The **horn** (MP 688; Pl. VIII, 4) was found inside the breeches, on the left side. Slightly curved, it is 3.25 ins. long, approximately 1.25 ins. in diameter

<sup>1</sup> This, and the subsequent identifications, have been kindly made by Mr John Anthony, M.C., M.A., B.Sc.

at the mouth, which has a wooden plug, of spruce, 0.15 in. thick, kept in position by three wooden pins, one of which is missing. The outside of the plug has a cross + scored on it. The narrower end of the horn is ragged.

Inside the coat, "where a pocket would have been," there was a piece of quill, 2.75 ins. long (MP 689; Pl. VIII, 7).

Two flat pieces of wood (MP 690, *a* and *b*; Pl. VIII, 2) were found beside the tub; the larger, of oak, is 6.75 × 3.75 ins., the smaller, of Scots pine, is 6 × 1.45 ins., and both are up to 0.3 in. thick. The ends of (*a*) are curved outwards and the corners rounded. There are two holes, 0.2 in. in diameter, 1.25 ins. and 1.8 ins. from the ends and 0.2 in. from the edge of the longer straight side. Similar holes, 0.95 and 1.3 ins. from the curved ends and 1.5 ins. from the straight side of (*b*) correspond, but not exactly, in distance from each other with the holes of (*a*). They were found with the pairs of holes adjacent, but it is not possible to say whether they were side by side or folded one over the other.

The coins from the purse have kindly been identified by Mr R. Kerr, the Society's Hon. Curator of Coins, as follows:—

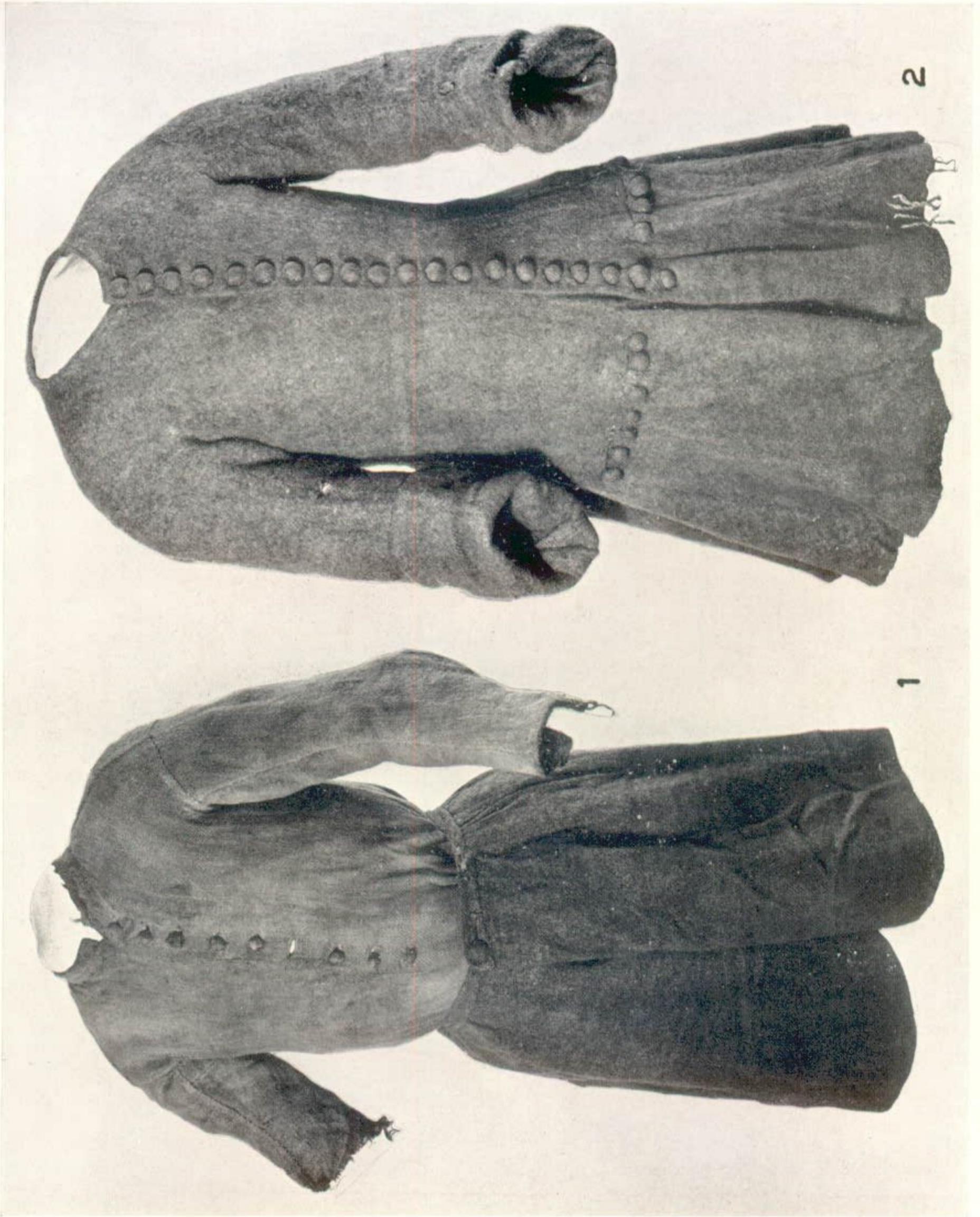
1. 6-stiver piece, billon, of Nymwegen, Netherlands, 1690.  
*Obv.*: Crowned shield of arms, between marks of value 6 S; above, date 90; around, MO(NETA) NO(VA) ARG(ENTEA) CIV(ITATIS) NOVIOMAGENSIS.  
*Rev.*: Armed horseman; around, CONCORDIA RES PARVÆ CRESCUNT.
2. 2-stiver piece, billon, of Overijssel, Netherlands, 1681.  
*Obv.*: Crowned shield of arms, between marks of value 2 S.  
*Rev.*: TRAS/ISVLA/NIA/1681.
3.  $\frac{1}{8}$  Öre, Sweden, 1683.  
*Obv.*: Three Crowns; C.R.S. (Carolus Rex Sueciæ, Charles XI) and date.  
*Rev.*: Crowned Lion Rampant, with marks of value.

#### THE DEPOSIT ON THE COINS

BY A. A. WOODHAM, B.Sc., Ph.D., F.S.A.Scot.

The deposit formed a grey brittle metallic coating averaging one millimetre in thickness. Microscopic examination revealed that the brownish fibres which constituted the material of the purse penetrated the deposit completely and were not merely adhering to its surface. Hence the deposit was formed while the coins were in contact with the interior of the purse, and does not result from the corrosion of a metallic container.

Chemical analysis of the coins and deposit revealed that the two silver coins contained an appreciable amount of copper, and the third coin was practically pure copper. The deposit consisted chiefly of metallic copper with a coating of copper oxide, but a trace of silver was also present.

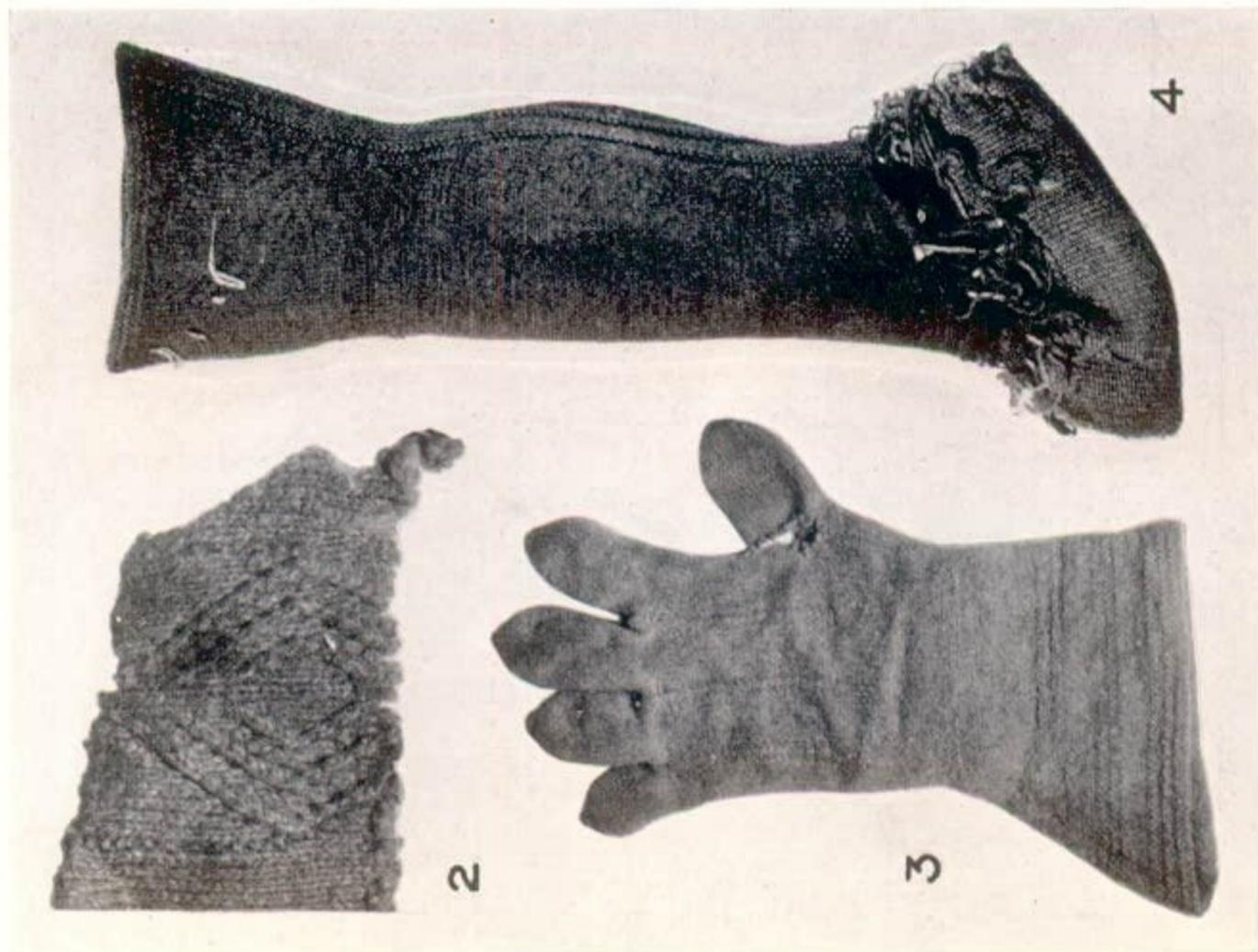


2. The Coat. (1/2.)

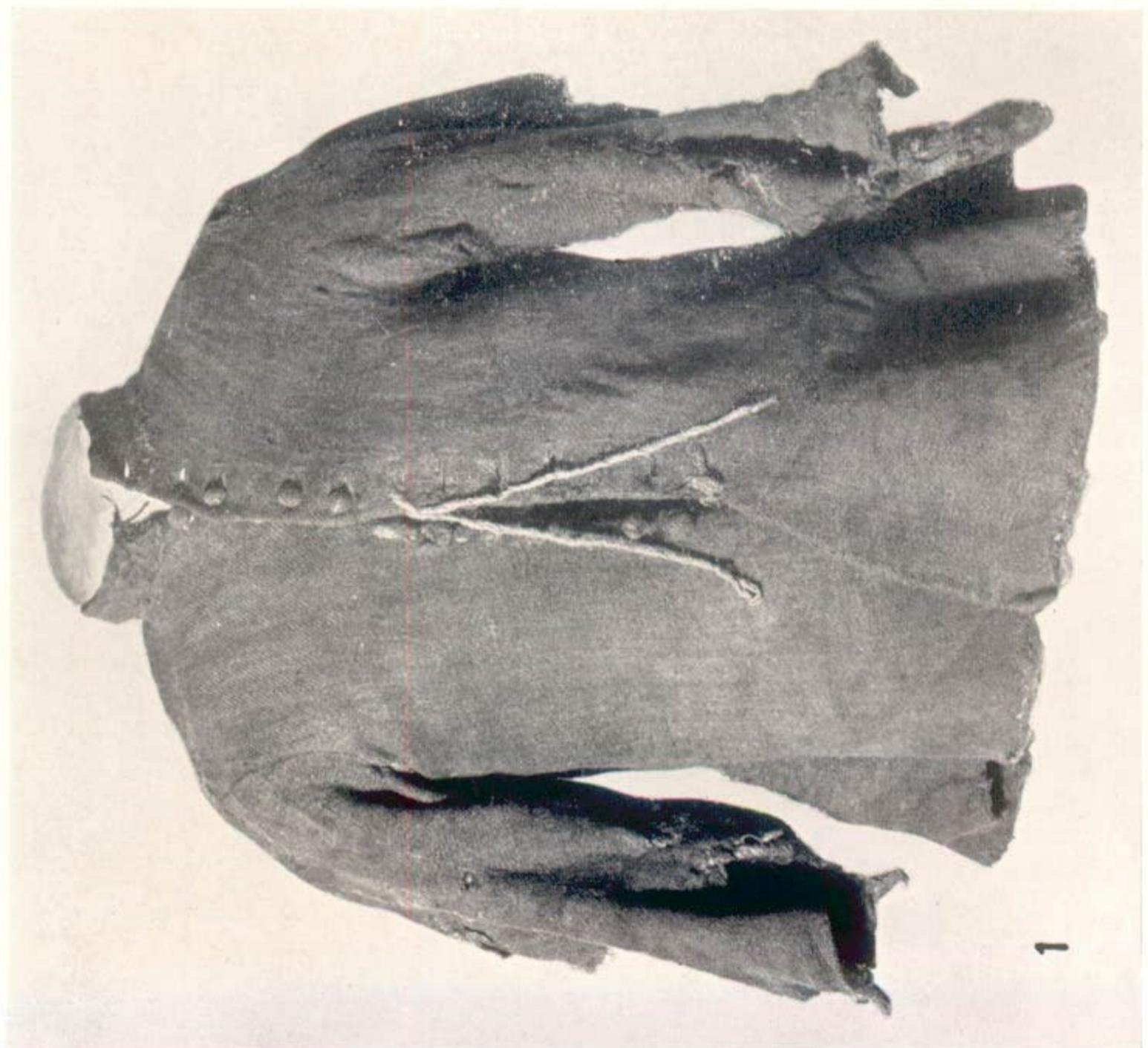
1. The Shirt and Breeches. (1/2.)

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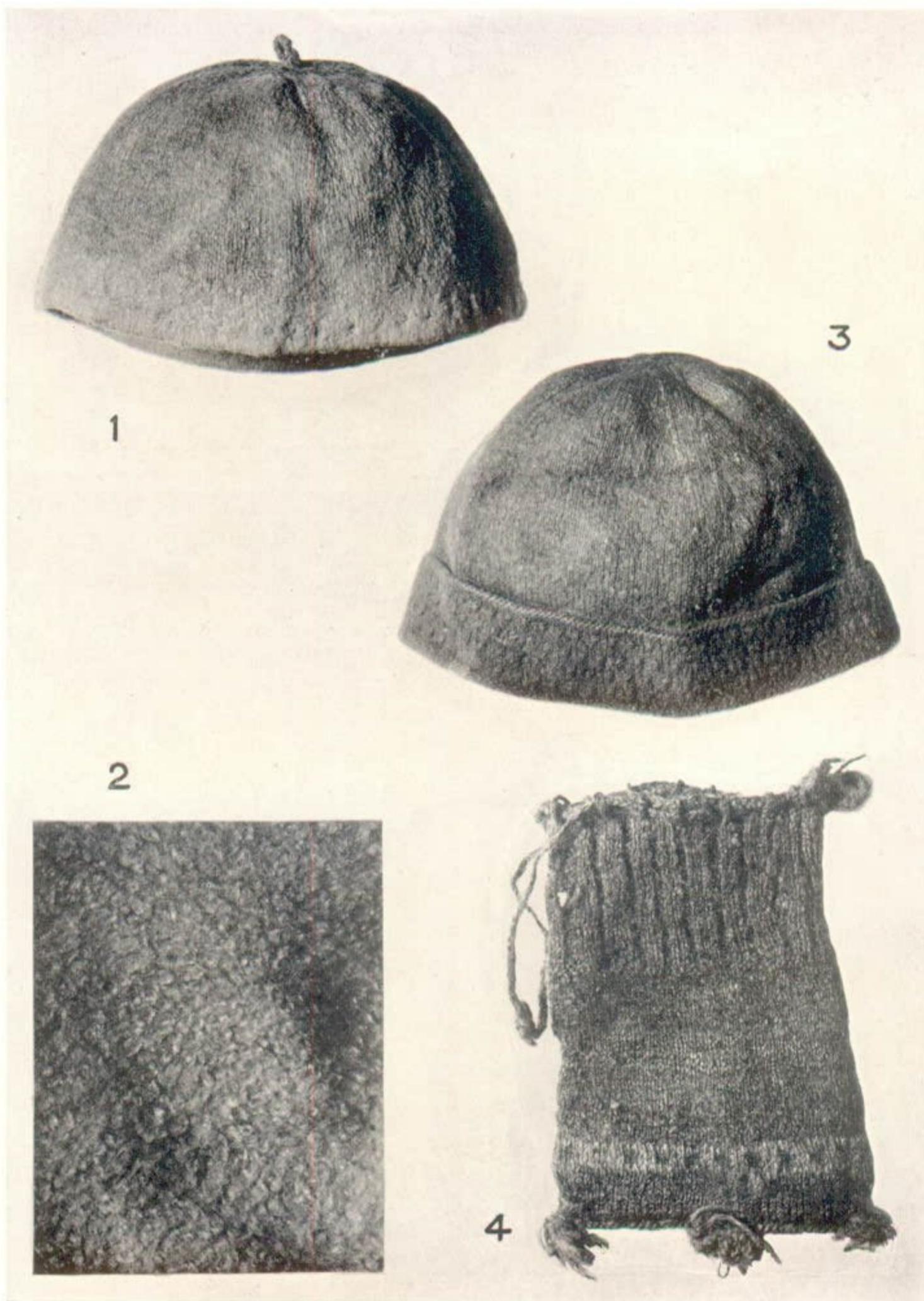
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2. Piece of knitting. ( $\frac{1}{2}$ .)  
3. Left Glove. ( $\frac{1}{6}$ .)  
4. Stocking. ( $\frac{1}{6}$ .)



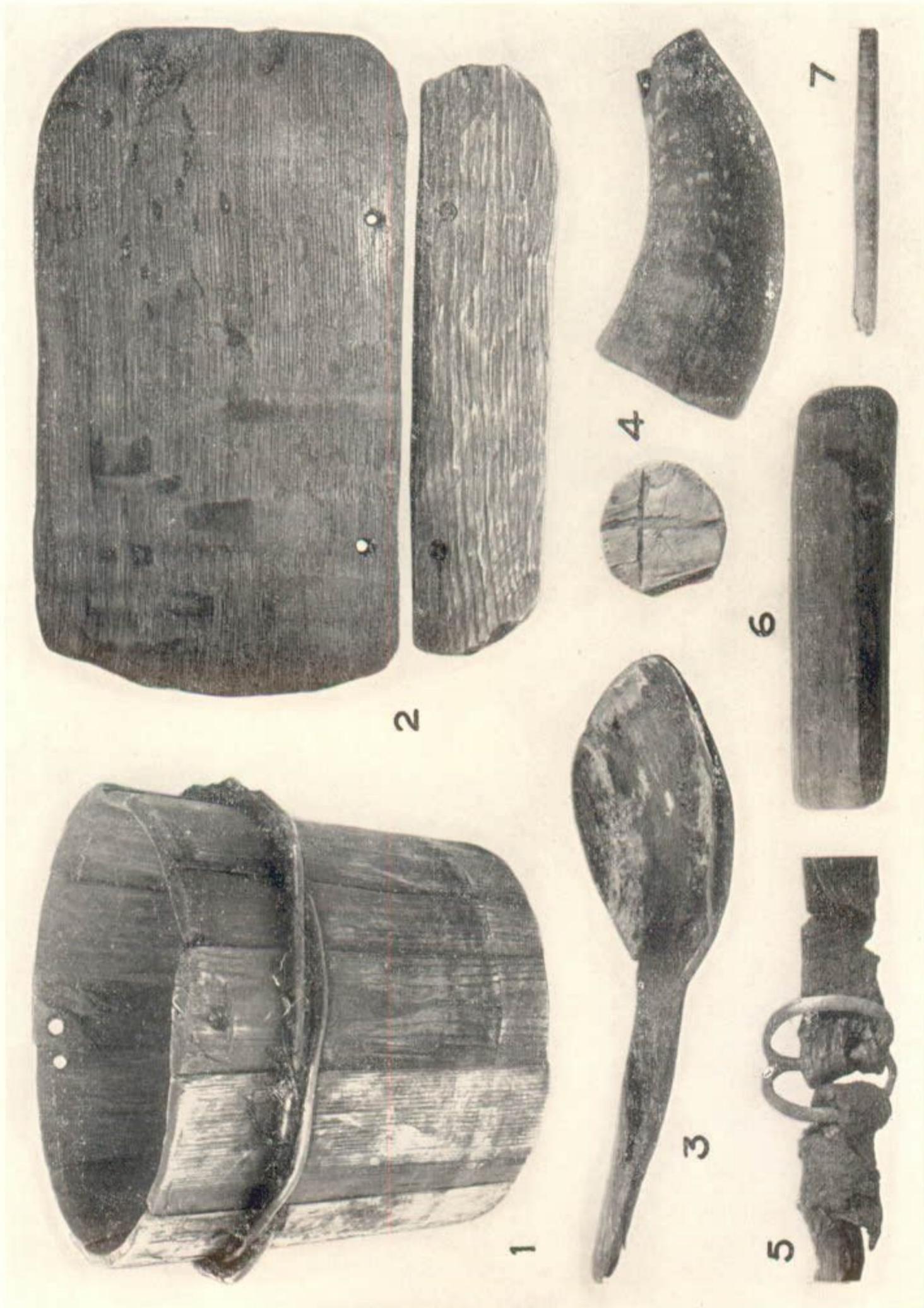
1. The Outer Jacket. ( $\frac{1}{6}$ .)



1. Cap without brim. ( $\frac{1}{4}$ .)  
2. Pile inside Cap 1. ( $\frac{3}{8}$ .)

3. Cap with turned-up brim. ( $\frac{1}{4}$ .)  
4. Purse. (c.  $\frac{1}{2}$ .)

AUDREY S. HENSHALL AND STUART MAXWELL.



1. Wooden Tub. ( $\frac{1}{3}$ .)      2. Two flat pieces of wood. ( $\frac{1}{3}$ .)      3. Horn Spoon. ( $c. \frac{1}{2}$ .)  
4. Horn and wooden plug. ( $\frac{1}{2}$ .)      5. Buckle. ( $c. \frac{1}{3}$ .)      6. Knife handle. ( $c. \frac{1}{2}$ .)      7. Quill. ( $c. \frac{1}{3}$ .)

A plausible explanation of the deposit would seem to be that the copper has been deposited on the silver by electrolytic action resulting from the acid medium of the peat bog in which the coins were buried. The copper has migrated from the copper coin to the two silver ones which were on either side of it. Transmigration of copper from the two silver coins has probably also occurred. Action would continue till a protective coating of copper oxide prevented further action.

Immersion of the copper coin with each of the silver coins in a medium having the same acidity as peat produced a current of several micro-amps—as did immersion of the silver coins alone, thus confirming the inferences made.

#### DISCUSSION.

It has been well suggested by Mr Peter Moar, F.S.A.Scot.,<sup>1</sup> that the remains are those of a traveller who had perished in wintry weather, and that they had been buried where they lay when found by accident later in the year. In late 17th-century Scotland a body so found would not necessarily have been removed to consecrated ground.<sup>2</sup> There is a local legend about the small loch at the foot of the hill, called "Johnny man's Loch" (Mr Hamilton suggests "Journeyman's Loch"), to the effect that a sheep thief carrying a sheep on his shoulders across the ice fell into the water and was drowned. Presumably this is not the body of a thief, but the clothing gives contradictory evidence of the wearer's status. The quality and cut of the jacket and breeches do not agree with the patched stockings and the ragged garments. Another writer in the same issue of *The Shetland Times* ("Finla") relates the legend of the murder of the Laird of Ure (Eshaness).

The coins in the purse do not imply a foreigner, for they were common in Shetland at that time (and much later) owing to the visits of the Dutch fishing fleets and traders from the Low Countries.<sup>3</sup> One feature of the clothing, the wide-legged breeches, suggests a Low Countries' origin. Several pictures and prints showing men wearing similar breeches could be quoted, notably the "Courtyard with an Arbour at Delft" by Pieter de Hooch of 1658,<sup>4</sup> but there was a revival of this style in Britain nearer the date of the burial;<sup>5</sup> similar breeches were worn in France<sup>6</sup> towards the end of the century, and survived later in Norway.<sup>7</sup> The knitted garments and the purse may suggest a native Shetlander.

In 1920 clothing was found in a bog at Barrock in Caithness,<sup>8</sup> dated by coins to within ten years of the Gunnister find. Both finds are of wool

<sup>1</sup> *The Shetland Times*, June 1st, 1951, p. 3.

<sup>2</sup> Cf. *P.S.A.S.*, LXXX (1945-6), 28-30.

<sup>3</sup> As for note 1; also Shand, J., in *Viking Soc.* (Old Lore Miscellany) V, VI (1913), 37, and Donaldson, J. E., *Caithness in the 18th Century* (1938), 173 ff.

<sup>4</sup> Illustrated souvenir of the Dutch Art Exhibition, Burlington House, London, 1929, 41.

<sup>5</sup> The diarist Pepys (1661), quoted in Cunnington, C. W., *The Art of English Costume* (1948), 57.

<sup>6</sup> "Les Cris de Paris" by F. Guérard, in Davenport, F., *The Book of Costume*, II (1948), 559.

<sup>7</sup> Dreiers, J. F. L., *Norske Folkedragter* (1913; edited by E. Lexow), pl. 13 ("Mand fra Siørenver").

<sup>8</sup> *P.S.A.S.*, LV (1920-1), 218 and above p. 25.

throughout, including buttons, but Barrock has no knitted garments, his cap and stockings being of cloth. The finding of articles in positions suggesting inside pockets in the case of Gunnister, and stitching where pockets would be in both, suggest that some other fabric, probably linen, has disappeared. It is even possible that there was linen underwear in both cases, which has completely disappeared, although the fact that the Barrock man wore his more ragged suit underneath has been thought to mean that he wore no underwear.

The coats of both have narrow standing collars, but their cut is different, Gunnister having a central back seam, with comparatively narrow gussets in the flared skirt, while the back of the outer Barrock coat is made from one width of cloth, with a lengthwise addition from the waist and additional gussets for the skirt. Barrock's breeches are of similar construction to those of Gunnister, with a single button at the waist, but they fasten at the knee, as breeches continued to do throughout the 18th century.

It has been suggested that the Gunnister man was a clerk of some sort, the two pieces of wood being his writing desk, the quill his pen and the horn his inkwell.<sup>1</sup> The quill, however, seems too short for a pen and is not shaped in any way to suggest that it has been one. If the horn is a snuff mull, the quill may be a snuff pen.

<sup>1</sup> *The Shetland Times*, op. cit.