

3. BROCHS AND DUNS IN TIREE.

Mr J. D. Jones, of the Carisbrooke Castle Museum, Isle of Wight, kindly lent for inspection a set of notes and plans of certain ancient structures in Tiree, which he examined during the summer of 1952. By means of his observations Mr Jones has clarified the ambiguity of the term "semi-broch," introduced by the late Mr Erskine Beveridge to describe six of these structures¹—a usage which inevitably suggested that they formed a peculiar class, distinct from all the other broch-like remains known in the West and North. It now seems safe to conclude that of these six structures Dun Mor Vaul is certainly, and Dun Mor a' Chaolais and Dun Heanish are almost certainly, broch; that Dun Hiader is also a broch in all probability, as its divergence from the circular plan is hardly significant; that Dun Ibrig is fully broch-like in shape and size though showing no distinctive features; and that Dun Boraige Mor—if not actually a broch, which is by no means impossible—would readily fall into the class of "galleried dun." There is thus no reason whatever to suppose that these structures are in any way unique, and are not to be placed in one or other of the normally recognised classes.

Other sites noted by Mr Jones are Dun an t'Sithean, Dun Cleit, Dun Beg Vaul and Dunan Nighean, but in none of these are distinctive features forthcoming.

Mrs C. M. Piggott, F.S.A., has contributed the following notes on pottery collected by Beveridge on the Tiree sites, which is now preserved in the National Museum of Antiquities.

THE EDITOR.

NOTE ON POTTERY. BY C. M. PIGGOTT.

*The Pottery from Dun Boraige Mor and Dunan Nighean, Tiree,
in the Beveridge Collection. (Fig. 9.)*

(The registration numbers in the National Museum of Antiquities in Edinburgh are given in brackets.)

- 1-3. From *Dun Boraige Mor*. 1. (HD 365). Fine smooth red clay with no visible grit backing. Stabs made with sharp stick or bone.
2. (HD 364). Light red-brown fine gritted ware. 3. (HD 366). Ware fine with grey-black outer surface.
- 4-7. From *Dunan Nighean*. 4. (HD 374). Light red smooth ware.
5. (HD 372). Smooth red and grey outside and slightly gritted light

¹ *Coll and Tiree*. Individual page-references are: Dun Mor a' Chaolais, 75; Dun Mor Vaul, 76; Dun Boraigemor, 78; Dun Hiader, 80; Dun Heanish, 87; Dun Ibrig, 112.

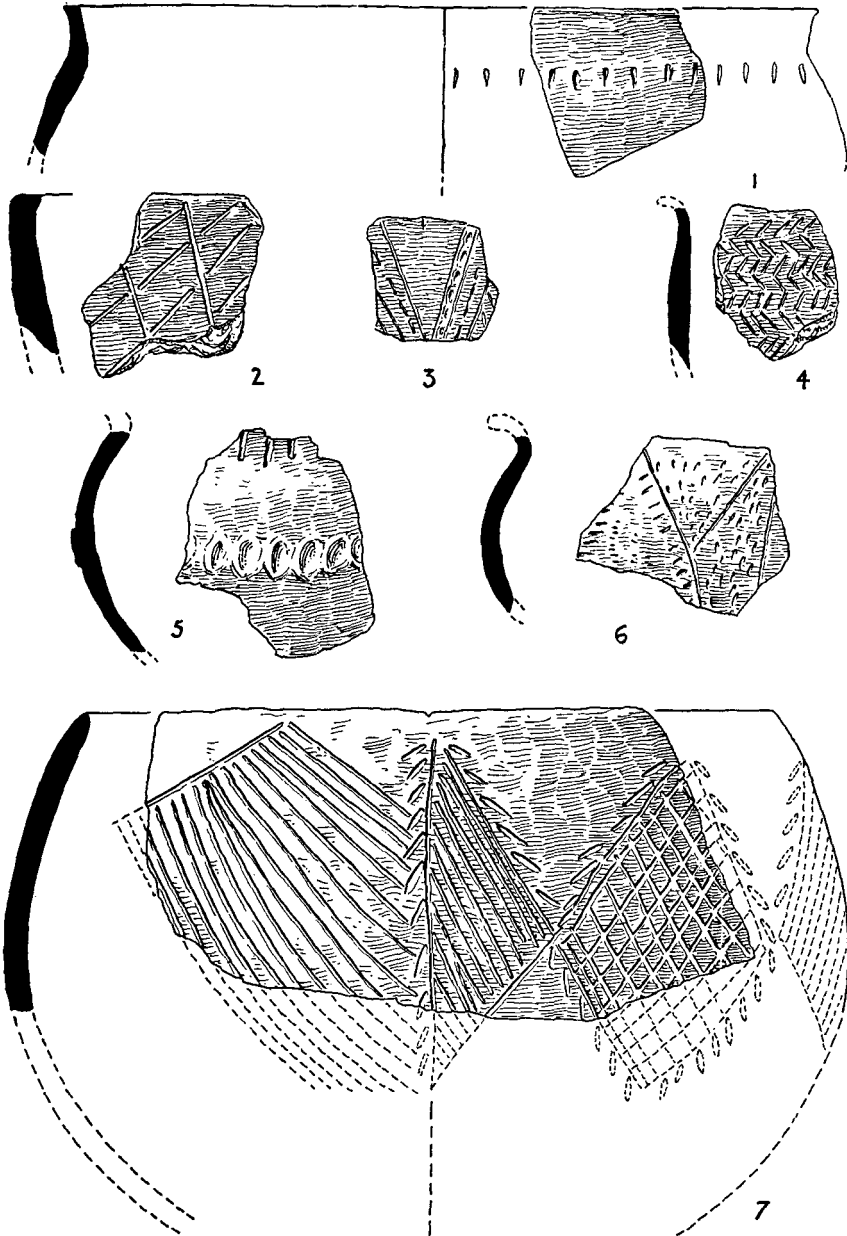


Fig. 9. Pottery from Tیره: 1-3, Dun Boraige Mor; 4-7, Dunan Nighean. (†)

red inside. 6. (HD 373). Dark grey ware with unevenly smoothed surface. Few grits. Jags made with sharp tool. 7. (HD 370-371). Fine reddish-brown ware with smoothed surfaces. Some grit backing, but carefully made.

These sherds represent pottery of a type familiar from the north-west Broch and Wheel-house cultures, the cultural and chronological differences between which have yet to be worked out. Such pottery appears as a fully matured style in the Hebrides in the early centuries A.D. but its origin has not yet been identified, though Mr Lethbridge has suggested that the west French coastal area may be the source.¹ Similarities between this pottery and that from the south-west of England have perhaps been exaggerated, and a revision of the study based on stratified sites in Scotland and the examination of continental material is needed. The immediate source from which this pottery reached Scotland must surely be outside Britain, unless it represents a local development from Neolithic and Bronze Age traditions.