

2. A TORC OF TWISTED GOLD FROM MORAYSHIRE.

In 1950 a gold torc of Late Bronze Age type, said to have been dug up at Burghead, Morayshire, in 1880, was purchased for the Burrell Collection, Glasgow.⁵

The torc (Pl. XXVIII) is formed from a single flat twisted strip of gold, with plain hooked terminals. Its width, when hooked as shown in the photograph, is $4\frac{1}{2}$ ins.; its weight is 12.525 gm.

Endeavouring to ascertain details of the discovery of the torc, I was put in touch with the Rev. R. A. Bagley, of North Chailey, Sussex, whose great-grandmother originally acquired the torc, along with two others, the present whereabouts of which are unknown. Mr Bagley, despite extensive search of family records, was unable to determine exactly where the torcs were found; he gave it as his considered opinion, however, that they came into his family in the late 1870's and were from Moray, the attribution to Burghead being incorrect.

¹ Nash-Williams, *op. cit.*, No. 182 and pl. xxxv.

² *Ibid.*, No. 276 and pl. lx.

³ Romilly Allen, *op. cit.*, pt. iii, fig. 414; Macalister, *op. cit.*, ii, No. 1074 and pl. lxxv.

⁴ Stuart, *op. cit.*, I, pl. lxxxii; Romilly Allen, *op. cit.*, pt. iii, fig. 259A.

⁵ *Inventory*, No. 301 n.

Drummond
(1950: 2)

Mention of Moray at once recalls the notable discovery in 1857 at The Law farm in the parish of Urquhart, near Elgin, of more than three dozen torcs of twisted gold.¹ Of this great hoard seven torcs, with a fragment of one of bronze, are now in the National Museum of Antiquities and seven in the British Museum; ² the rest have not been accounted for.

Of the torcs formerly in his family, Mr Bagley describes two, including that now in the Burrell Collection, as alike, but the third as larger and more elaborate. It seems *a priori* unlikely that the discovery of these three gold torcs in Moray should have been quite unnoticed, and one is tempted to believe that they may have come from The Law. Mr Bagley's account, while not expressly corroborating, does not disagree with this suggestion, nor does the typology of the torcs present any difficulty; so perhaps the torc now in the Burrell Collection, and the two formerly associated with it, may with some confidence be assigned to the great hoard found at The Law almost a century ago.

I am indebted to Mr A. Hannah, Keeper of the Burrell Collection, for permission to publish this note, and to him and to the Rev. R. A. Bagley for their help in obtaining information.

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