

3. A DECORATED BRONZE AXEHEAD FROM PERTSHIRE.

A decorated bronze axehead, found by Mr Archibald G. Shaw at Bentick Farm, Braco, Dunblane, Perthshire,<sup>3</sup> has recently been presented by him to Glasgow Art Gallery and Museum.<sup>4</sup>

The axehead (fig. 3) is of Mr and Mrs Megaw's Type 1.<sup>5</sup> It has incipient side flanges, probably produced by hammering, and a definite thickening, not

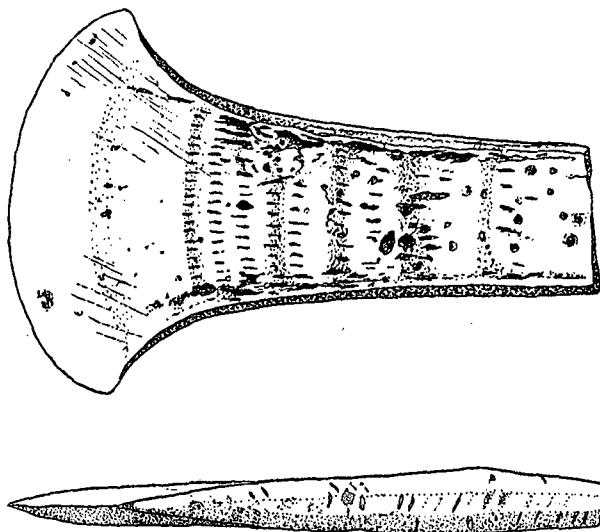


Fig. 3. Decorated bronze axehead from Perthshire. (1.)

<sup>1</sup> *P.S.A.S.*, II (1856-7), 530-3.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, LVII (1922-3), 165, and LXIII (1928-9), 311.

<sup>3</sup> 6-inch O.S. map, Perthshire, CXVI SE.; Nat. Grid ref. 37/807089.

<sup>4</sup> Reg. No. '53-37.

<sup>5</sup> *P.P.S.*, IV (1938), 272, "British Decorated Axes and their Diffusion during the Earlier Part of the Bronze Age," by B. R. S. Megaw and E. M. Hardy.

amounting to a stop-ridge, in the middle, giving a profile which is lozenge-shaped rather than oval. The cutting edge is widely expanded, but the sides curve in a smooth sweep towards the missing butt. The axehead is  $4\frac{1}{2}$  ins. long, with perhaps 1 in. of the butt broken away; it is  $2\frac{11}{16}$  ins. broad at its widest part and weighs 8 oz. The cutting edge is keen, but the casting has been poor, with many air bubbles.

Decoration is confined to the faces, on each of which, below the central thickening, there are four ribs arranged roughly in arcs parallel to the cutting edge. Over and above the ribs are horizontal rows of vertical stabs or strokes; faint traces of similar strokes can on one face be detected above the central thickening. Each side shows traces of three facets, but no decoration can certainly be discerned.

Mr Shaw states that he found the axehead in a building on Bentick Farm. He at first thought that it was made of stone, because of its grey colour; he considers that the axehead may have acquired this colour through lying in clay such as forms the subsoil on the SE. of his farm. It therefore seems not unlikely that the axehead was discovered upon Bentick Farm itself. Since decorated axeheads of Type 1 derive from Ireland in inspiration if not in origin, the finding of such an axehead near Braco may be a further indication that the Forth route across Scotland, as defined by Scott,<sup>1</sup> was in use in the Early Bronze Age.

J. G. SCOTT.