

2. SOME OBJECTS FROM NAIRNSHIRE, MORAY AND BANFFSHIRE  
IN THE BRITISH MUSEUM

DURING the course of research for a thesis on the Neolithic and Bronze Ages of the counties

<sup>1</sup> See *infra*, p. 327.

of Nairnshire, Moray and Banffshire, the writer visited the Department of British and Medieval Antiquities at the British Museum in July, and again in December, 1960.

As a great deal of the material from these three counties was found not to be in the Department's county card index, this note is published in the hope that the information, taken largely from the various manuscript registers of the Department, will be of value to other researchers. I am very grateful to Mr J. W. Brailsford of the Department for his assistance in tracking down material.

#### *Beakers*

(1) Beaker from nr. Buckie, Banffshire (*Rel. and Illus. Arch.*, n.s. [3rd] 1 (1895), 229 f.), listed by Abercromby No. 267 and Crichton Mitchell No. 112, and by the latter as 'whereabouts unknown'; purchased from Wm. Taylor, Lhanbryd, Moray (from the Collection of Hugh W. Young). Catalogued in the *Reg. of Ants. Brit. and Med.*, vol. 10 as 1911, 7-19, 2 and at present (1960) on public exhibition.

(2) Beaker from Easter Gollachy, Buckie, Banffshire (*P.S.A.S.*, LXX (1935-6), 357 f.), and, like the above, from Young's Collection via Taylor. Catalogued in *Reg. of Ants. Brit. and Med.*, vol. 10 as 1911, 7-19, 5 and at present (1960) in Case 2, shelf 4 in basement.

(3) Beaker from Nether Buckie, Banffshire, Crichton Mitchell's No. 128 and again from the Young Collection via Taylor. Catalogued in *Reg. of Ants. Brit. and Med.*, vol. 10 as 1911, 7-19, 3 but now missing (not included in the Department's typescript list of Bronze Age pottery).

(4) Beaker from Afforsk, Gamrie, nr. Gardenstown, Banffshire (*Rel. and Illus. Arch.*, n.s. [3rd] 11 (1896), 178 f.), listed by Abercromby No. 283 and Crichton Mitchell No. 124, and by the latter as 'whereabouts unknown'; again from the Young Collection via Taylor. Catalogued in *Reg. of Ants. Brit. and Med.*, vol. 10 as 1911, 7-19, 4 and at present (1960) in Case 2, shelf 7 in basement).

(5) Beaker from Inchnacavarach, Cawdor Castle, Nairnshire (*Proc. Soc. Ant. Lond.*, 2nd ser., 1 (1859-61), 395 f.), listed by Abercromby No. 239 and Crichton Mitchell No. 239. The Beaker and the two bone awls and the bone chisel found with it are catalogued in *Reg. of Ants. Brit. and Med.*, vol. 7 as 1861, 6-27, 1-4, but only the Beaker (item 4) could be found in 1960. It is not listed in the Department's typescript list of Bronze Age Pottery. A photograph of the Beaker is available (negative No. PP 5-21).

#### *Food Vessel*

(6) Food Vessel from Urquhart, Morayshire (not in card index but in the typescript list of Bronze Age pottery); the label inside it says 'Greenwell Collection, Urquart, Elgin' and *Reg. of Ants. Brit. and Med.*, *Large Collections, Henderson and Greenwell*, cataloguing it as 1879, 12-9, 1928, adds that it was found in a barrow. [This vessel is in fact one of two from a mound at Kenny's Hillock, Urquhart.]

#### *Bronze Axes (none in card index)*

(7) Flat Axe from nr. Nairn (Greenwell Collection WG 1796). Butt very slightly damaged; 5 in. long,  $3\frac{1}{8}$  in. across blade,  $1\frac{3}{8}$  in. across butt.

(8) Flat Axe from parish of Dyke and Moy, Moray (Greenwell Collection WG 1798). Slightly damaged on one face, otherwise perfect and with a very marked splay to blade;  $4\frac{1}{2}$  in. long,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  in. across blade,  $\frac{1}{2}$  in. across butt.

(9) Flat Axe from Braemoray, Edinkillie parish, Moray (Greenwell Collection WG

1795). According to label, a present to Greenwell from J. P. Morgan in 1909. Broken butt and blunted blade; surviving length  $4\frac{1}{2}$  in.,  $2\frac{9}{10}$  in. across blade,  $1\frac{3}{8}$  in. across butt.

(10) Flat Axe from Lhanbryd, Moray (Greenwell Collection WG 1797). According to label 'found on Mr Jack's farm about a mile east of Lhanbryde (*sic*) in 1880 J.S. (?) Phillips' and came to Greenwell as a gift from J. P. Morgan in 1909. Surface covered with a very light pitting and sides possibly hammer finished; very marked splay to blade;  $5\frac{7}{10}$  in. long,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  in. across blade,  $1\frac{1}{4}$  in. across butt.

(11) Palstave from Elgin (city or parish?), Moray (Greenwell Collection WG 1879). Another gift to Greenwell from J. P. Morgan in 1909. Poorly preserved - butt, rear edges of flanges and part of blade being badly broken and corroded. Flanges curve over, bar-stop emphasised by the hafting end being hollowed out lower than blade part, casting seams along the sides visible;  $4\frac{9}{10}$  in. surviving length,  $2\frac{7}{10}$  in. across blade,  $1\frac{3}{8}$  in. across flanges, 1 in. across butt as it now survives.

(12) Palstave labelled Brackley, Nairn (Greenwell Collection WG 1826). Another gift to Greenwell from J. P. Morgan in 1909. [Presumably found before 1890 as boundary changes that year transferred Brackley, in Petty parish, from Nairnshire to Inverness-shire.] Body of palstave slightly waisted, very slight ridge joining the ends of the flanges, equally faint median ridge to blade face; 6 in. long, 2 in. across blade,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  in. across flanges,  $1\frac{1}{10}$  in. across butt.

(13) Socketed Bag-shaped Axe from Auldearn (village or parish?), Nairnshire (Greenwell Collection WG 1979). Another gift to Greenwell from J. P. Morgan in 1909. Part of blade damaged;  $3\frac{1}{10}$  in. long,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  in. across blade, both socket diameters  $1\frac{3}{8}$  in.

(14) Socketed Bag-shaped Axe from Elgin (city or parish?), Moray. Another gift to Greenwell from J. P. Morgan in 1909. 3 in. long,  $2\frac{3}{10}$  in. across blade, socket diameters  $1\frac{5}{8}$  in. by  $1\frac{1}{2}$  in.

(15) Socketed Oval-section Axe from parish of Alves, Moray (Greenwell Collection WG 1982). Another gift from J. P. Morgan in 1909. Blade damaged;  $3\frac{1}{10}$  in. long,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  in. across blade, socket diameters  $1\frac{3}{8}$  in. by  $1\frac{1}{2}$  in.

#### Miscellanea

(16) (Not seen; information from Mr Brailsford.) Piece of 'false' ring-money (Greenwell Collection WG 23) from Coire na Fuarraig, Kirkmichael parish, Banffshire (the corruption Glen Cornafuarak also appears in the Department's lists). Found on sand, under 4 ft. of peat. Penannular,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  in. in diameter.

(17) Seven Gold Torcs, the first from 'Urquart Moray' the others from 'Law Farm, Urquart, Moray' [part of a hoard of apparently three dozen or more found at Law Farm, of which 25, plus a fragment of a bronze one, can now be fairly certainly traced.]

(i) Catalogued *Acquisitions: General Antiquities*, vol. 4, 1857, 7-29, 1; plain rectangular sectioned hooked ends, diams. 4 in. by  $3\frac{3}{8}$  in., weight 206½ gr. Purchased for £5 from W. S. Ferguson, Elgin.

(ii) Catalogued *ibid.*, vol. 5, 1958, 3-20, 1; plain rectangular sectioned hooked ends (the catalogue erroneously states that one end is knobbed), diam.  $4\frac{1}{10}$  in., but  $3\frac{9}{10}$  in. at present, weight 214 gr.

(iii) Catalogued *ibid.*, 1958, 3-20, 2; plain circular sectioned hooked ends (catalogue description misleading), diam.  $4\frac{9}{10}$  in., weight 191½ gr.

(iv) Catalogued *ibid.*, 1958, 3-20, 3; knobbed ends, diam  $3\frac{1}{2}$  in.; weight 118 gr. Numbers (iii) to (iv) purchased for £6 10s. from H. O. Cureton.

(v) Catalogued *Reg. of Ants. Brit. and Med., Large Collections, Henderson and Greenwell*,

1909 WG 12; hooked, knob at end of one hook. No weights or measurements; diam. (my measurements)  $4\frac{1}{8}$  in.

(vi) Catalogued *ibid.*, 1909 WG 13; one pronounced knob, the other a slight swelling, both circular in section (catalogue description erroneous). Diam. (my measurements)  $4\frac{1}{16}$  in.

(vii) Catalogued *ibid.*, 1909 WG 14; one end slightly expanded and circular in section, the other also circular in section, unexpanded but slightly upturned (catalogue description erroneous). Diam. (my measurements)  $3\frac{3}{8}$  in.

The remaining objects were not found, and the descriptions are taken from the catalogues.

(18) The following three objects are listed as being from 'Urquart', the second of them being labelled in addition 'Forfarshire'. However, the 9th ed. of the *Survey Gazetteer of Britain* does not list an Urquart in Forfarshire, and the catalogue numbers *Reg. of Ants. Brit. Large Collections, Greenwell and Henderson*, 1879, 12-9, 1929, 1930, and 1931 are the next three numbers following item (6) above, which came from Urquart, Moray.

(i) 1879, 12-9, 1929: rim frag. of steatite vessel with club rim and a cordon beneath; frag. measures  $1\frac{3}{4}$  in. high by  $1\frac{7}{8}$  in. long.

(ii) 1879, 12-9, 1930: 'bottom portions of an urn'.

(iii) 1879, 12-9, 1931: five sherds, one apparently pitted and another decorated with rough cross-hatching.

(19) Barbed flint arrowhead found on Culbin Sands, Nairnshire, and bequeathed with other objects by Sir Walter Calverley Trevelyan, Bart.; *Reg. of Ants. Brit. and Med.*, vol. 4. Very neatly made edges, slightly serrated,  $1\frac{1}{4}$  in. long.

(20) Pottery frag., now circular, from Chapeltown of Glenlivet, Banffshire, catalogued *Reg. of Ants. Brit. and Med.*, vol. 4, 1879, 7-4, 1; presented along with another object by Rev. Wm Greenwell. Described as being  $3\frac{1}{8}$  in. high and having a stamped pattern of a large star surrounded by seven smaller stars and a border of small stars.

(21) Glass bead found at St Andrew Lhanbryd nr. Elgin, Moray, catalogued *Reg. of Ants. Brit. and Med.*, vol. 4, 1832, 10-11, 1; presented with other objects by R. W. Franks, Esq.

(22) Slab of stone with pit marking found on a farm at Greenlawn [*sic* - Greenloan], near Cabrach, Banffshire; presented by Wm. A. Gordon, 5 Belgrave Terr., Leyton, Essex. Catalogued *Reg. Ants. Brit. and Med.*, vol. 3, 1874, 7-24, 1.

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