

## NOTES

### I. THREE BEAKERS FROM THE CAWDOR AREA, NAIRNSHIRE

THREE Beakers, none completely preserved, were recently donated to the National Museum by the Right Hon. The Earl of Cawdor<sup>1</sup>. Their find-spots are unknown, though it is said that they probably came from the Cawdor estates.

No fewer than nine Beakers are known to have come from Cawdor parish.<sup>2</sup> Of these, three – Walker's Nos. 6 to 8 – cannot now be traced: two (Nos. 6 and 7) were in Nairn Museum at the end of last century, and possibly still there in the 1920s; No. 8 was at Cawdor Castle at the end of last century and possibly still there in the 1920s. When one of the writers (Iain C. Walker) visited Nairn Museum in 1960, however, the then Curator, Mr T. Campbell, had no knowledge of the two Beakers formerly there. (At that time no information was obtainable about any material in the Castle.)

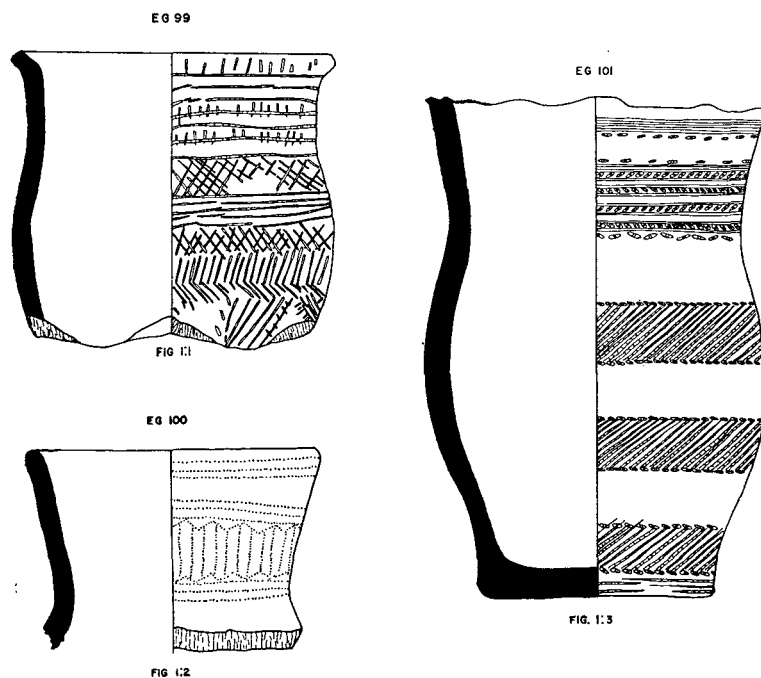


FIG. 1. Beakers from the Cawdor area: Scale  $\frac{1}{2}$

In 1888 the two in the Museum were described as 'a very fine Urn of the tall thin-lipped variety with bulging sides,  $7\frac{1}{2}$  inches in height, and the fragments of another'; the one at the Castle was referred to in 1893 as being 'a still finer specimen [than those in the Museum]' which implies that it was whole at that time. Unfortunately these descriptions do not provide enough information to identify them with the three now in the National Museum: all three are fragmentary, although one (fig. 1, 3) can be reconstructed to show

<sup>1</sup> *PSAS*, xcvi (1963-4), 255.

<sup>2</sup> *ibid.*, xcvi (1964-6), 100 f.

all save the rim, and must have been c.8 in. tall. Of the other two, number 1 appears to be a rather late Beaker, and was probably less than 6 in. tall. It does seem possible, however, that the two Beakers formerly in Nairn Museum might have at some time been transferred to Cawdor Castle – if not, then even if the third is that mentioned as being at the Castle last century, we have to add two more Beakers to the list of those from Cawdor parish and immediately down the River Nairn from the Clava area of chambered tombs.

EG 99: most of the body minus the base, mouth diameter 5 in., surviving height  $4\frac{7}{10}$  in.; brown outside, dark grey inside, gritty texture, inner surface rough; comb decoration for horizontal lines and a knife-like instrument for the slashes.

EG 100: neck only, mouth diameter  $4\frac{1}{2}$  in., surviving height  $3\frac{1}{10}$  in.; brown with a black core, heavily gritted, contains mica, crumbly; comb decoration with oval teeth-marks.

EG 101: drawing reconstructed from sherds, rim missing, original rim diameter 5-5½ in., surviving height  $7\frac{7}{10}$  in.; grey to orange-buff outside, dark grey inside, heavily gritted with much quartz, inner surface rough, harder ware than EG 100; decoration by two different combs – one normal, the other oval with three teeth, – incised lines at top probably made by dragging comb.

I. C. WALKER and A. S. HENSHALL