

I.

NOTICES OF A BRONZE AXE AND A FRAGMENT OF A TANGED DAGGER FOUND NEAR GULLANE, EAST LOTHIAN, AND OF A FOOD-VESSEL FROM CADDER, LANARKSHIRE. BY JAMES E. CREE, F.S.A. SCOT.

BRONZE AXE AND DAGGER FOUND NEAR GULLANE.

When examining one of the sandy ravines east of Gullane during the summer of 1923, my son had the good fortune to find a small

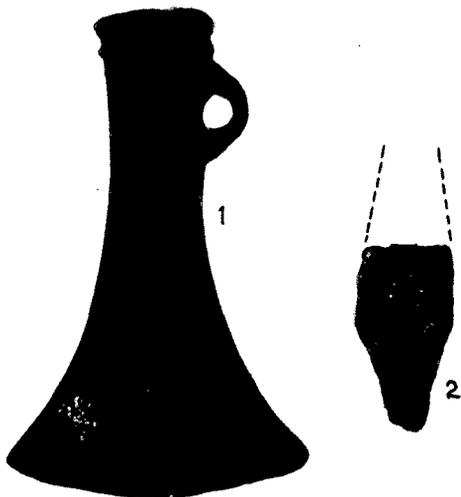


Fig. 1. Socketed Axe and Dagger of Bronze from Gullane. (†.)

bronze socketed axe which proved to be of more than ordinary interest. This was recovered at a point about 15 feet in a northerly direction from a burial—probably belonging to the Bronze Age. No artefacts were found with the interment, and it must not be supposed that I suggest that the bronze axe had any connection with this burial, although found in its vicinity.

Fig. 1, No. 1, shows the axe, which is covered with a fine green patina, measures almost  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches in length, and is in very good condition, although, owing to partial exposure, it is slightly weathered on one

side. The socket, which is circular, measures  $\frac{1\frac{9}{16}}$  inch in external diameter. It is trumpet-mouthed and is surrounded by two mouldings. Two wedge-shaped projections are placed opposite each other within the socket at right angles to the plane of the axe. This device, which is to be seen in other axes in the National collection, is a distinct improvement on what may have been the older method (a plain interior socket), and possibly may have been a late development. No doubt the purpose of these projections was to grip the plug firmly and prevent its turning in the socket. The loop is placed about  $\frac{3}{16}$  inch below the rim of the socket and immediately under the lower moulding. The cutting edge, which is nicely rounded, measures  $1\frac{9}{16}$  inch across. The axe is gracefully and symmetrically fashioned and is unlike any known to Scottish archaeology.

On another occasion my son and I were examining one of the sandy ravines in the neighbourhood of Gullane Point. Here we recovered a portion of a bronze dagger. Unfortunately the fragment (fig. 1, No. 2) was found on the surface and has therefore suffered from exposure to the elements. It is of special interest, owing to the fact that it is a tanged example—this being an extremely rare type in Scotland. The blade probably has been about 3 to  $3\frac{1}{4}$  inches in length and  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch in breadth at the widest part. The upper portion of the blade is strengthened on both sides by a slightly raised triangular-shaped thickening of the metal. The edge of this thickening is ornamented by a series of small punctulations. Unfortunately only a small portion of the tang remains, and it is impossible to estimate its total length.

#### FOOD-VESSEL FROM CADDER, LANARKSHIRE.

The food-vessel urn illustrated in fig. 2 was purchased by me at Sir Arthur Mitchell's sale. Inside the urn, which was about two-thirds full of burnt human bones, was a letter from the Rev. J. B. S. Watt, formerly the minister of the parish of Cadder, to Sir Arthur, dated 31st December 1884, from which the following extracts relating to the discovery of the vessel are taken.

"I am sorry I cannot give a very clear account of the finding of this urn.

"Workmen in my parish, hearing that I was interested in such things, brought the urn to me some months ago. . . .

"I got the following facts regarding its discovery from the donor.

"He and other three labourers were engaged in opening a sand-pit, and when about three feet below the surface they came upon a 'rickle o' stanes' some five or six feet in depth.

"In removing these stones they came upon four urns—two large two small—of which the one I send is one of the larger pair. Two urns were broken in the removal of the stones; one was carried off by another labourer and has since gone amissing. These are all the particulars I could get from the finder.

"On examining the spot I found that the urn was not taken from beneath the natural surface of the ground, but that a mound about ten feet high by thirty in circumference had to be cleared away preparatory to opening the sand-pit, and that in this mound, composed of a 'rickle of stanes' and two or three feet of soil, the urns were found. The place where they were found is about one hundred and fifty yards to the north of Antoninus' Wall in the parish of Cadder and close to the Forth and Clyde Canal.

"I am sorry my information is so scanty, but as the finder was by no means an intelligent man and the whole appearance of the ground changed before I heard of the 'find,' I am unable to say anything further."

The urn, which is made of a brownish clay, is in an excellent state of preservation. The brim is slightly concave and the vessel is encircled at the shoulder,  $1\frac{1}{4}$  inches below the lip, by two cordons or mouldings. The top of the rim,  $\frac{7}{8}$  inch in breadth, is bevelled downwards towards the interior. The vessel measures  $6\frac{3}{8}$  inches in height,  $5\frac{3}{8}$  inches in external diameter at the mouth,  $5\frac{7}{8}$  inches at the shoulder, and 3 inches across the base. The whole of the wall is decorated by upright zigzag lines incised with a pointed tool, and the top of the lip by similar markings set radially.



1 0 1 2  
Inches.

Fig. 2. Food-vessel from Cadder.