

## III.

## NOTE ON A "DAG" OR PISTOL WITH SNAPHAUNCE LOCK AND PEAR-SHAPED BUTT. BY CHARLES E. WHITELOW, F.S.A. Scot.

The lock (fig. 1) is on the snaphaunce principle, that is, the nose of the sear projects through the lock plate and catches over a spur on the back of the doghead; the friction plate and pan-cover are independent pieces, the latter being slid off on the fall of the doghead by the

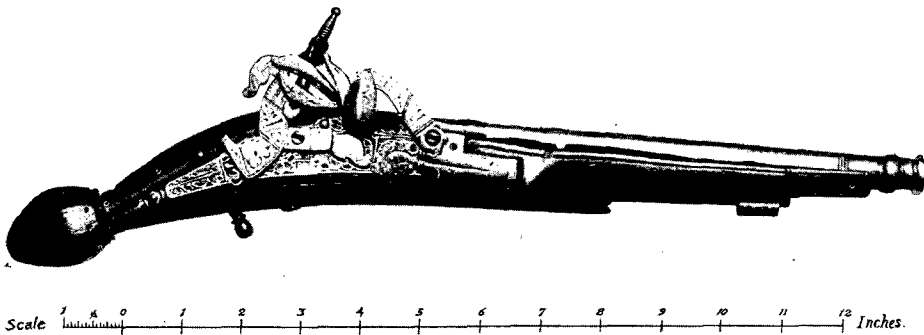


Fig. 1. Dag with Snaphaunce Lock.

thrust of an arm connected to the tumbler. There is no arrangement for half-cock. The lock plate is of brass incised with foliaceous scrolls and interlaced work, and bears the initials of the maker R. M. The works are of steel incised with foliaceous ornament, the pan having a small outer shield or "fence," straight on the sides and peaked top and bottom, while the jaws of the doghead are closed by a nut travelling down the pin. The trigger of steel has a small ball terminal.

The stock is of walnut wood with a small pear-shaped butt of octagonal section incised with lines and dots, and has no mounts. The butt has a "cast off" or curve inwards to adjust it to the hand and ensure straight shooting. The ramrod is missing, but was of wood, probably finished with a bone tip in keeping with the muzzle. There is the usual belt hook of iron.

The barrel is of brass, circular, with raised moulded cross bands,

that at the muzzle being octagonal, and the interspaces are engraved with plain intertwined bands, forming panels, filled in with foliaceous ornament, finished at the muzzle with the Scottish thistle. The breech has a raised comb with a sighting notch, and bears the date 1625, which was probably repeated on the pan shield, but is no longer visible.

Total length . . . . .	15 inches (38.1 cm.)
Length of barrel . . . . .	$9\frac{11}{16}$ inches (24.6 cm.)
Bore . . . . .	$\frac{7}{16}$ inch (1.1 cm.)

*Remarks.*—This is a fine specimen of this type of the earliest form of Scottish firearm. There are two types, those with a bulbous butt and those with a flat butt, finished by a scroll-like form (one of the latter is in the Noel Paton Collection, Royal Scottish Museum). They were stocked with wood or metal—either all brass, all steel, or a combination of both.

Dag-makers are to be found on the Hammermen Craft books during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, and their work is to be found not only in this country but abroad, the earliest dated example known being a pair in the Museum at Dresden bearing the date 1598.

I would point to Holland as the source of inspiration.