



APPENDIX 13-6

**ANCIENT OBJECTS IN IRISH
BOGS AND FARM LANDS**



AN ROINN OIDEACÁIS

neite ársa i bportacáib nó
i bfeirmeacáib éireann

treóir do lucht a bfaigála

ANCIENT OBJECTS IN IRISH BOGS AND FARM LANDS

A GUIDE FOR FINDERS

PREPARED BY
HAROLD G. LEASK, M.R.I.A.I., M.R.I.A.
Inspector of National Monuments

1942

(Reprinted 1952)



neite ársa i bportachaið nó i
bfeirmeachaið éireann

mar a haithnístear iad agus cad ba fóra
a dóanamh in a dtuais, marille le halt ar
gréitire de cultiúr pó-lueta.

treóir do luét a bfaála

foilsigte as
an roinn oideachais
1942

ANCIENT OBJECTS IN IRISH BOGS
AND FARM LANDS

HOW THEY MAY BE RECOGNIZED
AND WHAT TO DO ABOUT THEM,
WITH A NOTE ON ARTICLES OF
FOLK CULTURE

A GUIDE FOR FINDERS

PREPARED BY
HAROLD G. LEASK, M.R.I.A.I., M.R.I.A.,
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AND ISSUED BY
THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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neithe ársa i bportadáib nó i bfeirmeadáib éireann

A mór-líon agus a dtábhacht, agus cad ba chóir do luét a bfaigála
do déanamh

O'fás portáda móna Éireann trí cóm-oibriú teasa na gréime agus iomaíocht na feardeamne a chuitas in ár n-úchaisib. Is iad ár bpríomh-ábhar comair d'úchaisib iad, agus is iongantach mar a coimeádaíod ó lobad gac cineál gréite deanta d'admaí, de leatár, de cnámh, de miteal, agus fiú éadaíse figte. Is éachtach iomaíocht an uimhir de neitib den tsórt san a fuaratas ceana féin i bportadáib Éireann; is beag tír san Eóirip d'féadfaí dul in iomaíocht linn sa cúrsa so. Toisc go bhfuil anró agus easba ábhair teime in ár n-úchaisib i mbliadna caitear breis mór móna do baint agus do triomúsaí seachas mar a d'imead le linn don-aga de stair ár dtíre; teastuigeann na míleóim tonna dí, agus caitear gac portad a éion féin do cur san áireamh.

Sa mór-gearraí móna so a caitear a déanamh, is ró-deallramhach go bfaigfeadh níos mó de neitib ársa i mbliadna, ná mar a fuaratas in don-bliadna riamh ceana. Is é an Múseum Náisiúnta an t-únn-tuireadach Stáit le n-a mbaineann an scéal so, agus tá imníomh ar an luét stiúrta ar eagla go scaillfeadh nó go loitfeadh don ruid luachmair. Bead munnair Éireann go hiomlán ar an aigne céadna.

Is é an Múseum Náisiúnta an t-ionad ceart dún Neithe Ársa do coimead, agus bíonn fonn ar an luét stiúrta i gcóinnaróe, glacad le haon rud in a gcuirfeadh sum. Go fírinneach, cuireann an dlí sin "Act na Séadcomair Náisiúnta," 1930, d'fíadaib ar faigálarde ruda ar a dtugtar "Ruid Ársa"—céarma in a dtugtear gac ní in-aistirighe, mar úrlisí, soicighe, airm, cnámh a lámh-greannad, in don focail, airteagal sead-deanta ar bit—é d'imsint do dume de shia fárdáib Siotcéana bead ar obair sa ceannair, nó do Caommarde Árs-seo Éireann, in san Múseum Náisiúnta in Át Cliaí. Cuimnítear go bfeadfaí ruid a samalócaí an faigálarde a beir san tábhacht, nó aiseamhail do tabairt i dtadob ghe éigin de beasáib, de nósáib nó de sligheib maraí ar n-árs-sinnsear; uime sin, níor cóir don ruid d'á luigead do braisead ná do caiteamh uait.

Ac ní hé gac domne a chuideann cad ba ceart a déanamh le gearrad ársa dún é do coimead iomlán san mácaí, go sroiseann sé an dume cóir. Fairsin, bíonn iarrad fé leir ag an Múseum ar earraróib gur eol go beadh cá bfuaratas iad, agus méir an domnis in ar fitead iad. Is iad na rudaí sin is mó maiteas don oibriú leithilleac in san Múseum, agus é ad' iarrad pictiúra de saogal an daonnair

ANCIENT OBJECTS IN IRISH BOGS AND FARM LANDS

Their great number and importance and what the finders should do

The turf bogs of Ireland, which we owe to the sun, warmth and too abundant rainfall of the remote past, are not only our main native source of fuel but are quite remarkable for the way in which they preserve all kinds of objects of wood, leather, bone, metal, and even woven materials. Indeed, the number of such things which have been found already in Irish bogs is truly enormous; few other countries in Europe can match ours in this respect. In this year of stress and shortage of fuel much more turf must be cut and won than at any previous time in the history of the country; millions of tons are wanted and every bog must yield its quota.

In the very extensive cutting which will have to be done it is very probable that more ancient things will come to light than in any single year before. The National Museum, which is the State institution concerned, is anxious that nothing of value found should be lost or destroyed. With this object all Irish people will agree.

The proper place for ancient objects is the National Museum, which is always ready to receive those it thinks of interest. Indeed, the law, in the National Monuments Act of 1930, requires that the finder of what is called an "archaeological object"—a term which includes all ancient movable things: tools, vessels, weapons, bones engraved by hand, in fact any ancient manufactured article—shall report the find to a member of the Garda Síochána on duty in the district or to the Keeper of Irish Antiquities in the National Museum in Dublin. Let it be remembered that even an object which seems to the finder to be of little importance may give a useful clue to some aspect of the life, manners, and customs of our remote ancestors; nothing, therefore, should be needlessly broken or thrown away.

But not everyone knows what to do with an ancient object to keep it whole and undamaged until it reaches the proper hands. Moreover the Museum wants most the objects of which the positions are best known; that is to say, those of which the exact spot and depth below the surface are exactly known. Finds like these are the most useful to the specialist in the Museum who is trying to piece together a

i dtúis doiléir na Staire, nó sul ar breacaó scríbhinní ar bit, do cur le a céile. Iarrtar, mar sin, ar luét bainte móna, beic ag sáil go bfuigrois sean-earraíde sa pórtaic, agus tar sáic ní, an spota cruinn agus an domhneas beaict in a bfuaraicas iad, do tabairt pé n'eara.

Ná dearmadotar go scrappair agus go gheaspar earraí aomuro nó leatair, má pástar é ag triomuigáó pá an ngrém nó pá an ngróic, agus go scaitítear é do coimeáó tais ; gur gnát gur luaitre de corp daonna a d'ógáó, agus b'féidir blúirín de úma, a bíonn istig in ártac cre—ac gur ab ar éigean a bíonn ór coróce ann—, agus, de bris gur b'ana-fuiris é a briseáó, gur cóir é a glacaó ana-aireac, ana-cáiriseac, agus gan é o'folamúgáó ar don cúmse. Is fíor go bfuaraicas earraíde óir i bportacaib, agus in áiteannaib náic iad, agus má bíonn tume cóm h'áomaraic san agus go bfuigro sé earraíde óir, cuim-nigáó sé, má is earraíde fíor-ársa é, go bfuil aige ruo is luacmaire i b'fáó ná a meáóacaint, don múseum. Mar maite leis féin agus a bfuigro sé as, ba cóir do an pasáitcas o'ac-friceal gan móill do tume de sna sárdaib, nó díreac don múseum, nó trío an maor má bíonn a leicéó ann.

Seo iad na trí rudaí ba ceart o'fear bainte móna do dhéanamh, má pasánn sé earraíde ársa :—

A haon—má caitear an t-earraíde o'aistiriú as an áit, i dtreó go raigáó an obair cun cinn, ba ceart do é o'aistiriúgáó in a iomláine, cóm haireac agus is féidir é, agus nóta do scríobáó i ttaob an spota in a bfuaraicas é, agus an fáo slige do bí sé pé dhroméla na talman. Ac dá mb'féidir é o'pásaint san áit in a bfuaraicas é ar fáo cúpla lá, go b'fáó oirpigeac ó'n múseum caoi ar é o'feicsint ann, do b'é a b'féarr ná a céile. Ba cóir cur den móin a bí in a timceall o'pásaint timceall air.

A dó—má is earraíde aomuro, nó leatair, nó éadais figte é, ba ceart é do coimeáó tais le móin fliic nó le caonac, in áit a slánata, go gcoirigro an leicteasairde é.

A trí—ba ceart do féin nó o'a maor innsint in a ttaob cóm luac agus is féidir, do sna sárdaib is neasa dóib, nó—scríobáó in a ttaob go “Caomnaíde Árs-seóó Éireann,” an Múseum Náisiúnta, Át Cliaic, a amm agus a seóla do tabairt do, agus amm an baile fearann in a bfuaraicas an t-earraíde. Ní sáó stampa ar an leicir.

Iocann an Múseum Náisiúnta an cúiteamh is mó is féidir a hearr-airíó a ceastuigeanh uair, agus fáoiparó luét pasála a beic deimh de go bfuigro síad a gceart.

picture of the life and times of the people before written records or the dim, early periods of history. The turf cutter is asked, therefore, not only to keep his eyes open for objects in the bog, but to note just where and at what depth he finds them.

Let him remember that a wooden or leather article will shrink and crack if left to dry in the sun or wind and should be kept moist ; that a pottery vessel is easily broken and most probably contains only some human ashes and perhaps a bit of bronze, but seldom or never gold, and should be treated very tenderly and not emptied. Of course gold objects have been found in bogs and other places and the fortunate finder should remember that they have, if genuinely ancient, a greater value to the Museum than that of their mere weight. He should not delay—for his own sake—in reporting his find at once to the Garda or the Museum directly or through the supervisor if there be one.

What then should the turf cutter do if he discovers some ancient object during his work? Three things not difficult to remember :—

First, if the object must be removed then and there to allow the work to go on, he should take it out whole as carefully as he can, making a note of where he found it and how far it was below the level of the bog. If he can leave it in its place for a few days, to give the Museum official a chance to see it there, so much the better. Some of the turf mould in which it actually lay should be kept with it.

Second, if the object is of wood, leather, or some woven material he should keep it damp in wet turf or moss in a safe place until it can be treated by the expert.

Third, he or his supervisor should tell the nearest Gardai about the find as soon as he possibly can, or write to the Keeper of Irish Antiquities, National Museum, Dublin, about it, giving his name and address and the name of the townland in which the find was made. The letter need not be stamped.

The National Museum pays the best possible compensation for the objects which it wishes to get and finders may be sure of the fairest treatment.

Ac cionnus is eól d'fásálaróe sur fíor-iarsma sean-aoise an t-earrao a gheibean sé? Níl sé oile ar na neitib seo, agus ní féadann sé a beic deimhín sur sean-earrao é, ac amáin so mothuigeann sé sur b'ead. Cum cabruisgte leis is ead a deimead na dearraróe agus na tuairiscí seo in ár n-oidiú. Léirígeann na pictiúirí a il-oiread d'earraoib de gac sórt, a tosaó a hiomaó aca a fuaračas san am éaiúte, agus sur éoir so gcaibrócaois leis éun tuillead aca d'aitint, cé nác mbeoís so cruinn ar don-tul.

EARRAIOE DE MITEAL LUACHMÁR

Is eól deallram na miteal luachmár, ór agus geal-airgead, com maic san ceana, ná siltear sur gáó iad do léiriúgáó sa leabairín seo. Cé sur annam a faigtear iad, do táinig a portacaib éireann il-iomaó earraróe óir, mar atá, pláitíní tanaróe nó for-greanta d'ór buailte, agus iad órnáiríste uaireanta; órnáirí tanaróe, corrán-érotaca ar a dtugtar "luanlaca," nó "réleaca"; muncí brásgaó agus failige dorn de méaduib éagsamla, so n-aitnígtear an fuirm oscailte díob ar an gcuma a leatann an ceann saor díob in a sórt cupám nó cuanóige; púiríní cruada nó folamha, nó liaéróiríní; páinní cluas, agus a lán aca casta; páinní munní, cosamail le failige dorn móra, cumhanga; páinní méar, tura, nó le fillíreaca nó órnáirí, 7c. Is ana-iomaóamail iad na foirmeaca in a bpaigiróe earraróe óir.

Baineann oingilíní, pe aca d'ór nó d'airgead, le ré atá i bpaó níos déannaige ná na hearraróe óir a luadad, ac baineann luac staireamail leó, agus is mó an luac san ná a meadacaint.

Is pánaiúe a geibtear earraróe geal-airgid ná earraróe óir péin, ac do noctad failige dorn agus deilgne brásgaó den miteal so ó am so ham, maille le munnlaí in a mbrúgáí séalaí céarac, gíó so mbamtear peiróm a húma éun na sprice céadna. Do geibtear geal-airgead, uaireanta, in a órnáirí m-shníte in earraróib úma agus iarann.

Ní ceart earrao d'áon tsórt miteal,—ór ná geal-airgead, copar, uíma ná iarann—do glanaó, do éuimilt, ná do scríobaó ar áon tsórt slíge, tar éis duit é a noctad; is luachmaire i bpaó iad an uair ná baintear leó.

FOCAL DON FEIRMEÓIR

Ní hin sna portacaib amáin a geibtear earraróe ársa; do fuaračas a lán aca ó am so ham, ar gñac-talam feirme. Ní has tagairt atáimíó do éaiúe eólaróeacá sur riactanaó ceadóinas oirpígeamail éuige, agus ná tugtar san ac do ádomib oile so mbionn seilt leicíteac aca; nocttar na hearraróe seo le linn gñac-oibre feirmeóireacá, so

But how can a finder know that the object he finds is a genuine relic of the past? He is not learned in these things and, except for a feeling he has that the thing is an old one he cannot be sure about it. It is to help him that the drawings and descriptions to be found in the following pages have been made and written; the pictures show a variety of objects of all kinds chosen out of the many which have been found in the past, and should help him to recognize others as well which may not be exactly similar.

OBJECTS OF PRECIOUS METAL

The precious metals, gold and silver, are so well known in appearance that it has not been thought necessary to illustrate them in this small booklet. Even though such finds are rare there have come from Irish bogs a variety of gold objects:—thin plates and embossed discs of beaten gold, sometimes ornamented; the thin, crescent, moon-shaped ornaments called lunulae; gorgets (neck ornaments) and bracelets of different sizes, the open forms of which may be recognized by the way in which their free ends are spread into a sort of cup or navel shape; solid or hollow beads or even balls; earrings, often of twisted form; neck-rings like very large thin bracelets; finger rings, plain, coiled or ornamented, etc. The forms which gold objects may take are very numerous indeed.

Coins whether of gold or silver, belong to much later times than the gold objects mentioned, but they too have an historical value rather greater than that of their mere weight.

Silver objects are even more rarely found than those of gold, but bracelets and brooches of the metal have come to light from time to time, besides matrices or moulds for impressing wax seals, a purpose for which bronze was also used. Silver is sometimes found inlaid into bronze and iron articles as a decoration.

No object of metal of any kind, gold, silver, copper, bronze or iron should be cleaned up in any way or filed, when found; it is of far more value when untouched.

A WORD TO THE FARMER

It is not only in the bogs that ancient objects are found; farm lands have also yielded many such from time to time. Apart from scientific excavations—which can only be carried out under licences granted for the purpose, and these only to specially skilled and trained persons—the ordinary operations of agriculture, particularly tillage and

mór-mór d'igearáil agus cuireadhóireacht. Do fhuaratas ar talamh feirme cómh maith agus a fhuaratas ar talamh portais, formór mór na n-earráide a taisbeántar in sna léaráidib, go háirithe na ceastaí aólactán agus na pot-ártaíse—ac san na clocha creasa garbha (leatánac a 11), ná earráide leatáir (leat. a 20), ná aómuio (leat. a 24), do cur san áireamh. Da ceart don feirmeoir beith ag súil le n-a leiteoidib, agus a innsmu do sna gárdaib nó don múseum náisiúnta láitreach, má fheibean sé ceann.

Is minic a theagmuisgeann soc céasta le lic nó le cloic éilárda, ó n-a sé go dtí n-a naoi n-órlac pé bárr an tailim. Tárluigeann, uaireanta, gur clúdaigh iad so ar ceastaib aólactán mar uimhir a 9 agus a 10 ar leatánac a 19. Ní ceart don treabhadóir iad do míleat, ac doul agus an scéal d'at-friteal láitreach, i dtreo go dtiocfaid fear oilte, ó'n múseum agus é d'inficiad. Is fíor-cábaictac an rud ná brispríde, ná folamuisctíde, ná ná bampíde in don cor leis an bpota criar, an soiteac nó an crúiscín a bhíonn in sna ceastaib seo go minic (féad arís ar uimhir a 9 agus a 10, leatánac a 19). In amhóem an tseana-scéil, ní bhíonn ór in sna prócaib seo.

EARRAIDE FÓ-LUCTA

Tá earráide eile seachas an cúro ársa a caitear aníos le linn oibre feirme nó gearradh móna, gur mian linn go gcuirpríde suim ionta; iad san a baineann leis an gcuiltiúr gaeólaic is déannaigh, agus ar a dtugtar earráide fó-lucta. Snát-earráide a baineann le cúrsaí an lae, iad so, a hoibrígead in aimsir ár dtuisimísteoir agus ár sean-ataireada; a gcuir áruistí teaghlais, a gcuir éadaigh, an trioscán, gúirléadaí feirme de gach sórt, gléas a hoibrígead cun snimh nó cun físte, cun soillsíste na dtíste nó cun oin a cur suas, cun iascair-eachta, cun bádhóireachta nó cun fíadaigh; úirlisí i gcómair céirde leatáir nó aómuio nó iaramn—don rud a soillsígeann an saogal ná fuil i bpáid mteighe, ac atá ag imeacht as ár gcumhne go ró-tapaid. Tar na neithe seo uile go fíor-luachmar, i gcómair staire, agus beir ádas i gcómairde ar luic stiúrta an múseum náisiúnta scéala do élos in a dtáob.

NA SEAN-AOISEANNA

Mar áis don léigheoir, roinnir scoláirí na sean-aoiseanna roimh-staróda, agus na doic-aoiseanna staróda a luaithear cómh minic sm in san leabairín seo, in a réannaib éagsaíla, d'éirínn, mar leanas, go hatcomair:—

An Doic-ré Uimh,	ó 1800 go 1400 Roimh Chríost.
An Meán-ré Uimh,	ó 1400 go 900 R.C.
An Iar-ré Uimh,	ó 900 go 250 R.C.
An Ré Iaramn,	ó 250 R.C. go 500 A.C.
An Doic-ré Chríostaróde,	ó 500 A.C. go 1050 A.C.

drainage, uncover similar things. Almost all of the objects illustrated—especially burial cists and pottery but excluding those of crudely shaped flint (page 11) leather (page 20), or wood (page 24)—have been found in farm land as well as in the bogs.

The farmer should look out for them and tell the Garda or the National Museum about them without delay.

It frequently happens that a plough strikes a flattish stone or flag at about six or nine inches below the surface of the ground. Such stones have often proved to be the covers of burial cists like 9 and 10 on page 19. The farmer should not destroy them but should report his find at once in order that the Museum expert should come and make an examination. It is particularly important that the earthenware pot, vessel or urn, which many of the cists contain (see again 9 and 10, page 19) should not be broken or emptied or, indeed, touched at all. Despite the old story *these pots do not contain gold*.

FOLK OBJECTS

As well as ancient objects which are dug up in agricultural work or turf cutting there are others to which attention is here drawn: the more recent representatives of Irish culture which are called folk objects. These are the everyday things used by our parents and grandparents; their domestic utensils, their dress, their furniture, farm implements of every kind, gear used in spinning and weaving, for lighting their houses and thatching their roofs, for fishing and boating and hunting, tools used for the crafts of leather, wood and iron working; in fact, everything which illustrates the life of times not very long past but now rapidly being forgotten. All these things are of value for historical reasons and the National Museum will always be glad to hear about them.

ANCIENT TIMES

The prehistoric and early historic times mentioned often in these pages are—for convenience—divided by scholars into different Ages or Periods, for Ireland, roughly as follows:—

The Early Bronze Age	from 1800 to 1400 B.C.
Middle	„ „ „ 1400 to 900 B.C.
Late	„ „ „ 900 to about 250 B.C.
Iron Age	„ „ 250 B.C. to 500 A.D.
Early Christian Period	500 A.D. to 1050 A.D.

earraiðe cloíce

úirlisí agus airm creasa

(Feic l. a 11)

Tá earraiðe cloíce ar na hearraiðib is aosta ann, iad den cloíce creasa cruaid, mín, bog-bán, buíde nó donn, nó de éarraíis éigim eile atá beagnac côm cruaid agus côm do-éiríte.

Na trí gearb-earraiðe is mó aca so a taisbeántar éall, is úirlisí cloíce-creasa iad de sórt fíor-ársa, agus bainto leis an ré cloíce. Taisbeánann a n-áirdeacht neam-ionannas láidir roir iad féin agus iad so atá umhíre ó a 1 go a 10, mar bainto seo le réannaib a bí níos mó cun cinn i míneadas,—bainto na trí cinn deirí, go cinnte, leis an Doic-ré Uimh. Táro go léir beag—níl a 8 ac órlac go leit ar fáro, ac tá an ceann is mó, umhí a 10, sé hórtaí go leit ar fáro. Ceann saíde is ead sae ceann aca, ac umhí a 9 agus a 10, agus lann-beara is ead iad san. Carrad ana-tanaíde, ana-mín, is ead umhí a 10, agus é scealbta go fíor-álunn, is minic a faigítear, côm maí, creas-cloca beaga cun seirí do scriobad, nó cun poll a véanam.

Aithnítear cloca creasa ó clocaib scáil, a bíonn ar báine na eallce agus iad spréacarnaac, agus ó'n deirt, cimead eile de clocaib scáil a bíonn túb, agus iad spréacarnaac côm maí, agus dá n-éancatde úirlisí gearba, uaireanta.

STONE OBJECTS

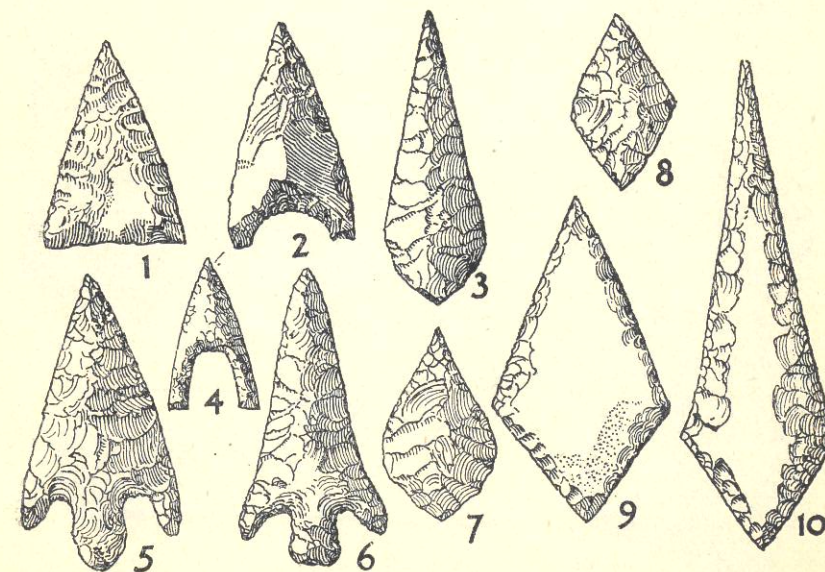
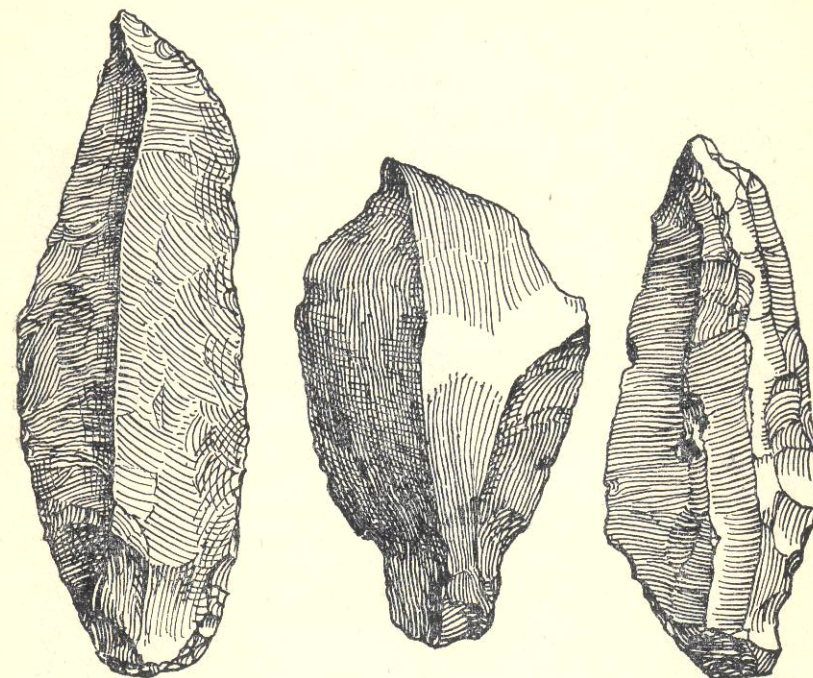
FLINT TOOLS AND WEAPONS

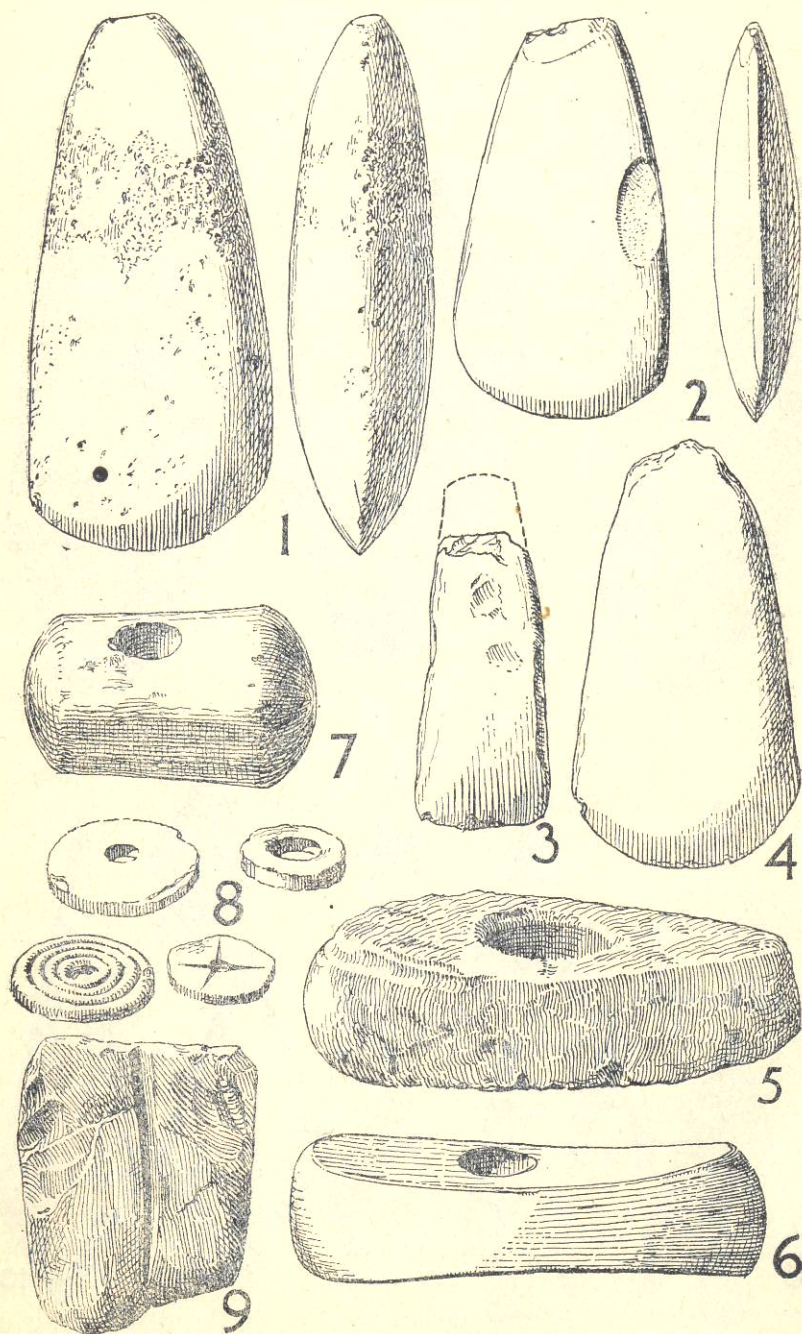
(See p. 11)

Amongst the most ancient objects are those of stone, either of the hard, smooth, creamy, yellow or brownish material flint or of some other rock nearly as hard and durable.

The three larger, roughly shaped objects shown opposite are flint tools of a very ancient kind, belonging to the Stone Age. Their crudity is in strong contrast to those numbered 1 to 10 which belong to more advanced stages in civilization, the last three certainly to the Early Bronze Age. All of them are small; 8 is but one and a half inches long and 10, the largest, is six and a half inches in length. All, except 9 and 10 which are spear or lance points, are arrow-heads. 10 is a very thin, fine and beautifully chipped object. Little flints made for scraping hides or boring holes are also often found.

Flint should not be confused with quartz which is a chalky white, glistening material or with chert, a black material which also glistens and is sometimes used for crude tools.





AIRM AGUS GIÚRLÉADAI CLOC

(Feic t. a 12)

Marbair le sna samplaib seo tál, Cloch-tuagiste ó'n Ré Cloiche agus ó'n Ré Uíma is ead a haon (1) go a ceathair (4); crot fao-obac ortá, iad ag caolú go cúl, agus faobair gear gearratta ortá. Is é is dóicéige gur tuagiste cogair ó'n Doic-ré Uíma, uimireada a cúig (5) agus a 6. Sampla snasta, deas-déanta is ead umir a sé. Casúr cloiche ó'n ré céana is ead a 7; tromám pearsaíde is ead a 8, agus cloch faobair go bfuil roc, nó clas, ann, is ead a 9. Dáimeann a hoct agus a naoi le ré na Críostaróeada.

Ad is minic a geibtear giúrléadaí eile cloch seadas iad san, mar atá:—cotáí, iad cosamail le sna tuagistib, ad gur mó iad, gur leithne agus gur clárda; cloch-lócrann, is é sin, cloch cruinne, agus cuan ionta i gcómar íle; meadócamtí agus tumairí i gcómar líon agus saigean; bróinte cruinne cun meileadta, nó an bró "iallaite" a bíonn clárda, spair-cuanta, gur cosamail le dá adairt coolladta a cloch cuimilte. Do fuaicéas pailíge dorn de spair-ghail (lignite), sórt suat-cloiche gur ab ar éigean a bí suat déanta den tséan-admuro gur de iad—agus do b'féidir go b'pailíge pós íomáigste a bead snoróte go garb, simplíde.

páiríní

Faigítear páiríní de gloine daite (ná fuil léaráio díob annso), agus a lán crot éagsamla ortá, agus páiríní de ómar (ómra), adair luacmar a hallmuirígead. Dá meala dorca a bíonn air.

STONE WEAPONS AND IMPLEMENTS

(See p. 12)

Among those shown opposite 1 to 4 are Stone and Bronze Age polished stone axes, of a tapering, long-oval shape brought to a quite sharp cutting edge. 5 and 6 are—probably—battle-axes of the Early Bronze Age, 6 being a well-formed, polished example. 7 is a stone hammer of the same period, while 8 and 9 belong to early Christian times, the former being spindle whorls and the latter a whetstone with a groove.

Besides those shown other stone tools are often found:—choppers like the axes but broader, flatter and bigger; stone lamps, rather rounded stones with a hollow for oil; weights and sinkers for nets; the round hand-mills called querns or the flat but slightly hollowed 'saddle' querns with their bolster-like rubbing stones. Bracelets of lignite, a dark, almost coal-black stone, come to light and carved figures of crude and simple form may yet be found.

Beads

Coloured glass beads (not illustrated) are found in many forms as also are beads of amber, a precious imported material of the colour of dark honey.

TUAIĞTE 7C. D'UÍMA AGUS D'IARANN

(Feic L. 15)

Is minic a fheictear tuaiğte, agus neite d'a sórt, a baint leis an Ré Uíma nó leis an Ré Iarann. Déanann cláróir, beagnac, a baint leis an gcuid ba táisce, mar atá ar a haon (1) annso, ac, mar a b'ionann agus é sin, ní hi gcóinnaróir a b'ionn órnáir ortá. Sağas ba deireannaiğe is ead uimhir a 2. Taisbeántar a taob agus a fadbar. Tá forfabra ar a bárr agus ar a bun cun greama seasamác d'fagáil ar foirceann fadbar na sámtaige admuir. Feabhasuğad air sin is ead uimhir a 3, mar tá "stop-iomairi" trasna ag a lár, cun foircinn na fadbar admuir do taect in a gcóinnib. Do eadbruig na hionairi seo cun na sámtaige do comead fad scoltad. Sağas is deireannaiğe pös a taisbeántar in uimhir a 4. Tuag cúl-collta é, agus é ionlán, so n-a sámtaige admuir.

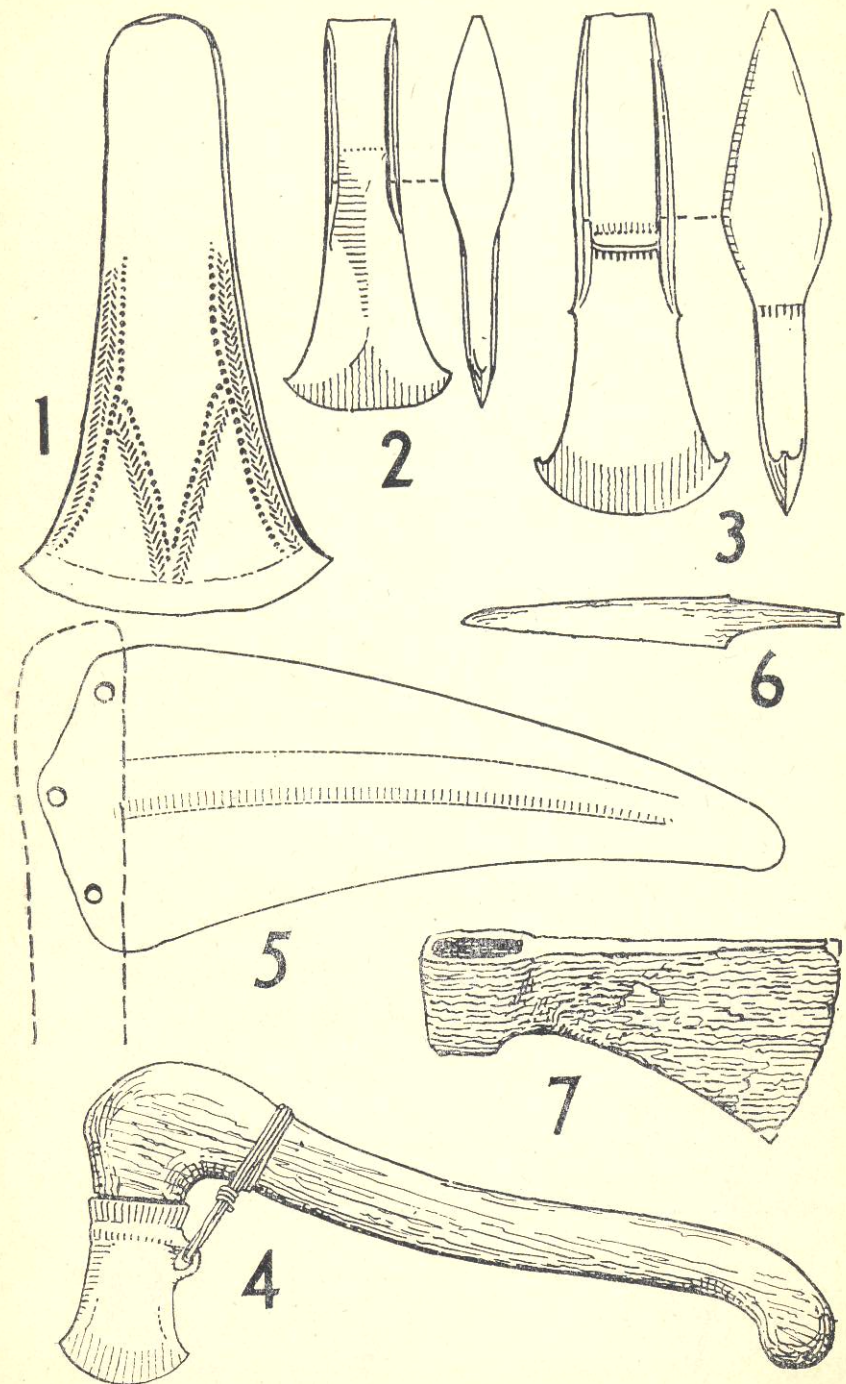
Ğnác-arm a baint leis an Doic-ré Uíma do b'ead an t-uletuağ, uimhir a 5. Do fastuğti é mar a deánaróir le piocóir, ar ceann sámtaige fadbar. Scian iarann is ead uimhir a 6; agus tuag iarann uimhir a 7.

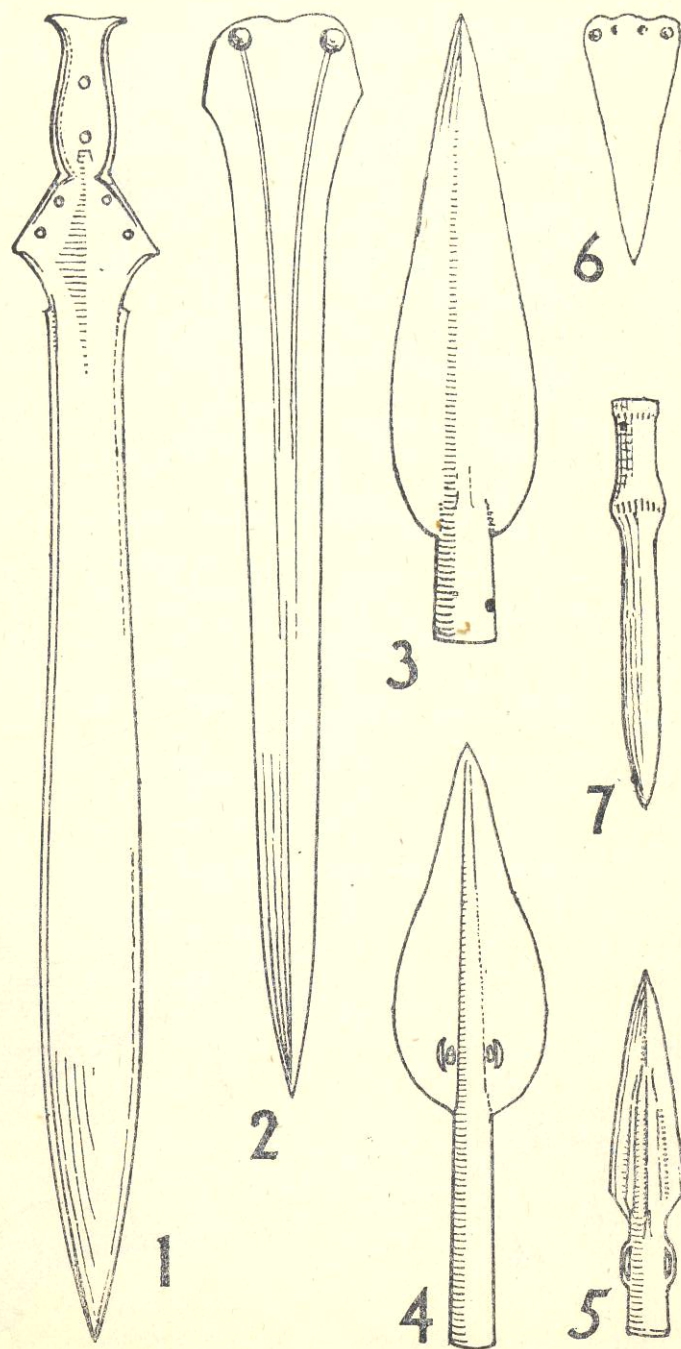
BRONZE AND IRON AXES, ETC.

(See p. 15)

Axes and the like of the Bronze and Iron Ages are fairly often found. The earliest, which were first of copper but later of bronze, are of the almost flat form shown at 1 but (unlike it) are not always decorated. At 2 a later type is shown. It has top and bottom flanges intended to grip securely the forked top end of the wooden handle, and 3 is a further improvement, with cross or 'stop' ridges about midway in its length against which came the ends of the wood fork. The ridges thus helped to prevent the handle being split. The still later socketed type of axe is shown at 4, complete with its wooden handle.

A common weapon of the Early Bronze Age was the halbert, 5, which was fixed after the same manner as a pick at the end of a long staff. An iron knife, 6, and an axe of the same material, 7, are also shown.





AIRM O'UÍNA

(Feic L. 16)

AR AIRM NA RÉ UÍNA, IS IAD NA CLAIOMHTE, NA MEADÓGA (DUIRE), AGUS NA BEARA CRAOISIÚGE, IS ÁILNE CROT. CEANN CINEÁLACH IS EADH AN CLAIÓEAMH DUILLÉ-CROTACH—UÍMIR 1. SAMPLA DE ÉRUÍ EILE IS EADH AN ROPDÉIR, (CLAIÓEAMH ROPDÉIR), NÓ AN MEADÓG FADA, UÍMIR 2. UO BÍ DORNÓLA, O'AR NÓDÍG, AR SACH CEANN ADA, DÉANTA O'ADOMHO, DE CHNÁM NÓ O'ADAIRC, AGUS IAD FASTUIÚGHE LE SEAMAIÚ UÍNA.

DAMEANN NA BEARA CRAOISIÚGE, 3, 4 AGUS 5, LEIS AN IAR-RÉ UÍNA. TABDAIR FÉ NÓEARA NA POILL BEAGA AR LAINN 4, AGUS NA LÚB-CLUASA AR SÓCARO UÍMIR 5.

CEANN ÁRSA IS EADH AN MEADÓG CLÁRÓA TRIANTÁNACH, UÍMIR 6; AC DAMEANN 7, AN MEADÓG (NÓ SCIAN) CÚL-TOLLCHA, LEIS AN IAR-RÉ UÍNA.

BRONZE WEAPONS

(See p. 16)

Bronze swords, daggers and spear heads are amongst the most beautifully formed weapons of the Bronze Age. The leaf-shaped sword 1, is typical. Another form is the rapier (thrusting sword), or long dagger, 2. Both, of course, had hilts, probably of bone, horn, or wood, fixed to the bronze by rivets.

Spear heads 3, 4, and 5 are of the Late Bronze Age. Note the openings in the blade of 4 and the loops on the socket of 5.

The flat triangular dagger 6 is an early form but the socketed knife, or dagger, 7, belongs to the Late Bronze Age.

POC-ÁRÉAIGE AGUS CEASTAÍ AÓLACÁN

(feic t. a 19)

1 gcaiteam na Ré Uíma—ó 1800 R.C. go 250 R.C. nó mar sm—i bhfarrao gada aólacan gail leis, do chuiríde istead ártaige nó prócaí de il-íomao crot agus méao. Is féidir go bhfuigíde curo de sna potaib seo in sna portacaib, ac is gnátaige gur sa talam póanta, nó i bportán gairbéil a geibtear iao féin agus na ceastaí cloo.

Ásta so sa léaráio tall, “soitíge bíó” is eao a 1, a 2, a 3 agus a 4, agus bainro leis an Meán-ré Uíma. Cineál mór is eao umir a 3, agus áisiútear a leitéio cun cnáma creimte (dóigte) daonna do coimeao in aólacam. Ua cun na háise céaoa umir a 5. Prócaí aólacán is eao a 6 agus a 7 cóm maic, ac bainro leis an Iar-ré Uíma. Tugtar prócaí “crústuigte” ar cineál a 6, de bñis go gceangaltar an órnáio leis an otaob amuic den pota.

Ceast beag aólacán de clocaib is eao umir a 8, in a bfuil próca ionntuigte ós eionn cnám dóigte; agus ceast iarraet cosamail leis, ac gur mó é, is eao umir a 9, in a bfuil soitíge bíó le hais cnám-tairte nó séaclóir daonna, ar a éomara. Uí leaca, nó cloca clárda, as cúmrao na gceastaí so.

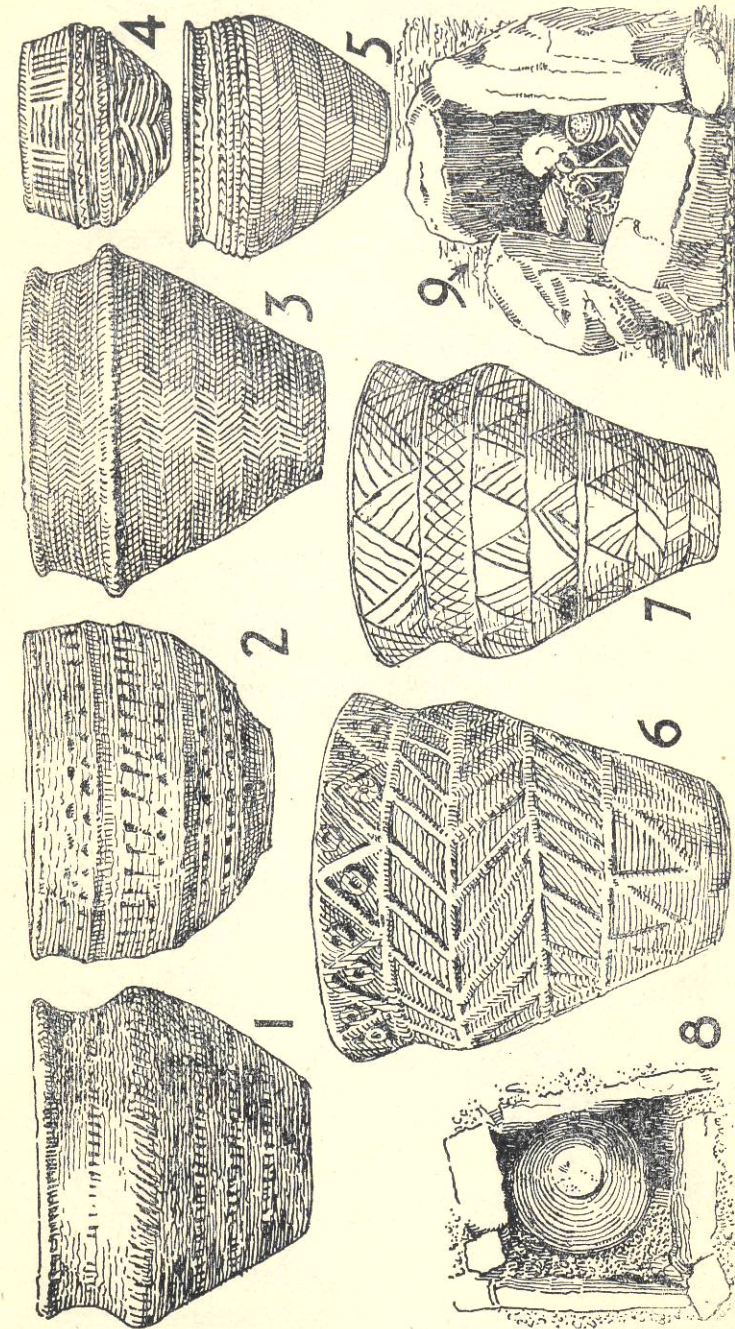
POTTERY AND BURIAL CISTS

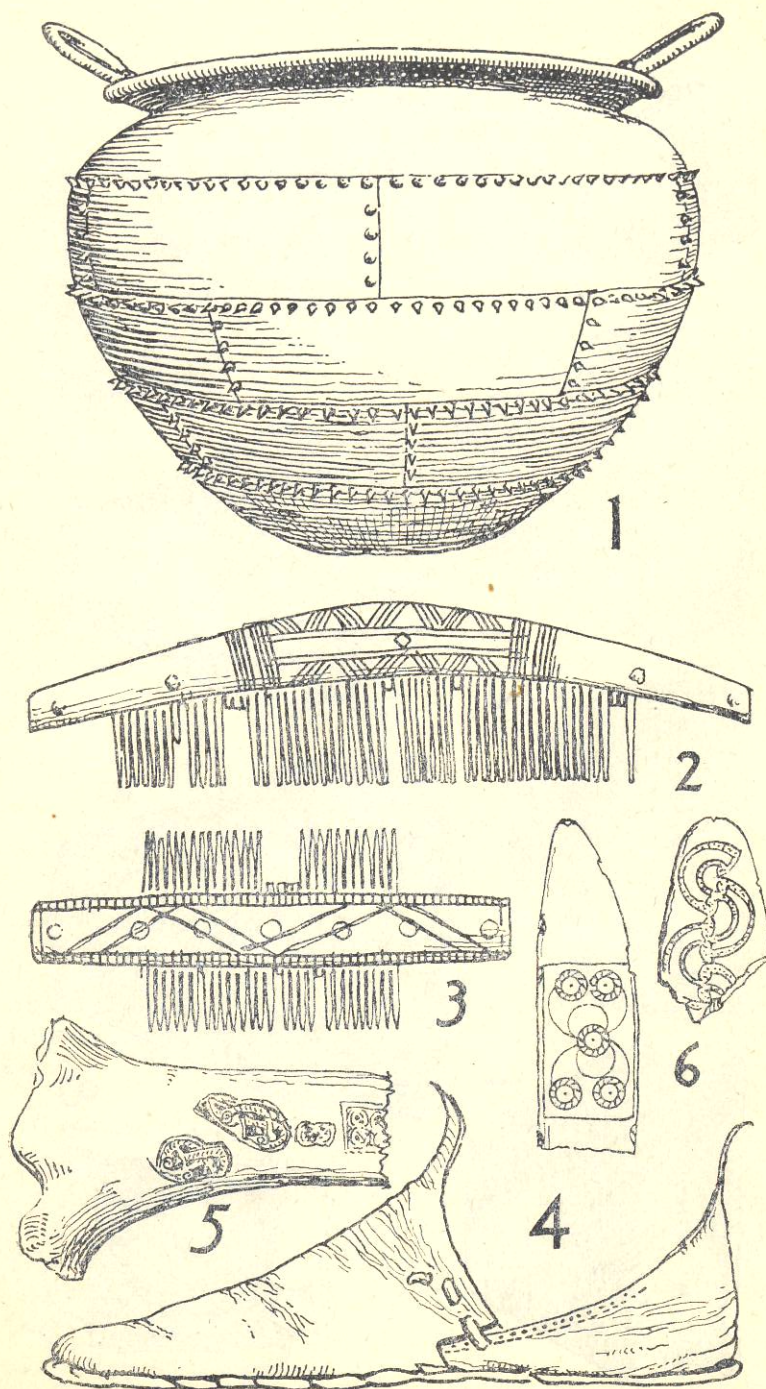
(See p. 19)

Throughout the Bronze Age—from about 1800 B.C. to about 250 B.C.—most burials are accompanied by pots or urns of various shapes and sizes. Some of these pots may be found in the bogs but they, and the stone cists, are more usually found in better land, or in gravel banks.

Of those illustrated opposite 1, 2, 3, and 4 are what are known as “food-vessels” and belongs to the Middle Bronze Age, 3 being of a large type and used to contain the cremated (burnt) bones of a human burial. 5 served the same purpose. 6 and 7 are also burial urns but of Late Bronze Age date, the former being what is called an “encrusted” urn because the decoration is added to the outside surface of the pot.

A small stone burial cist is shown at 8, containing an urn inverted over burnt bones, while at 9 is a somewhat similar cist, but larger, with a food-vessel beside a crouched human skeleton. These cists had flat stones covering them in.





EARRAÍDE D'UIMA, DE CHÁM AGUS DE LEATHAR

(Feic l. a 20)

Is minic a fuaratas in sna portaíib, coirí ana-móra, ana-breásta den Uima, agus iad déanta de stráicib a bíonn seamuisíte le a céile go dlúit, mar a cítear in uimhir a 1. EARRAÍDE SÁR-TÁBÁCTAÇA IS EAD IAD, AGUS DAMTO LE DEIRE NA HÍAR-RÉ UIMA.

Is féidir go bfuigfirde earráide chám, cíortá de shnáit, amail a 2 agus a 3, agus iad déanta de iomaí blúirí a ceangaltar le a céile le bioránaib, agus an t-iomlán maisiúite le hórnaíob ingeárra. Déantar amlaí, leis, le blúirib chám amail a 5, gur éiríil oibrithe milt a éirí órnáirí ar shíota de. Agus do tárlócaí go bfuigfirde smutáí éadroma chám agus iad maisiúite le hórnaídeáit den Ré Iaraimh, a dearaí le compás, mar uimhir a 6. Ar na hearráirib eile den adbar céanna a táinig a portaíib, atá, spíunóga, biorám, siogaírlíní,—púiríní, doláí cruite, agus fiú baill píctíle agus táplise.

Comeádaí leathar go hiongnátaí slán i bportaí, agus is féidir go bfuigfirde seana-bróga de sórt uimhir a 4. Is pánaíge a paistear bail éadaí de seite, ac cuirtear sum pé leit ionta, agus in éadaíib oina cóm maí, nó in aon tsórt éadaíge físte.

BRONZE, BONE AND LEATHER OBJECTS

(See p. 20)

Very fine and often large cauldrons of bronze, made of sheets closely riveted together as in 1, have been found in bogs. They belong to the end of the Late Bronze Age and are very important articles.

Bone objects, of which perhaps the commonest are combs similar to 2 and 3, made up of several pieces pinned together and decorated with incised ornaments, are likely to be found. So also are pieces of bone like 5, a fragment upon which a metal worker has tried out his decorations. The slighter slips of bone decorated with Iron Age ornament, drawn with a compass as in 6, may appear. Other objects of the same material which have come from bogs include spoons, pins, pendants, beads, harp pegs, even chessmen and draughts pieces.

Leather is remarkably well preserved in the bogs, and shoes, of which 4 is one example, will probably be dug up. The rarer garments of skin have been discovered in the past and would be specially interesting, as would those of woollen or other woven materials.

bioráin agus deilgne brásga

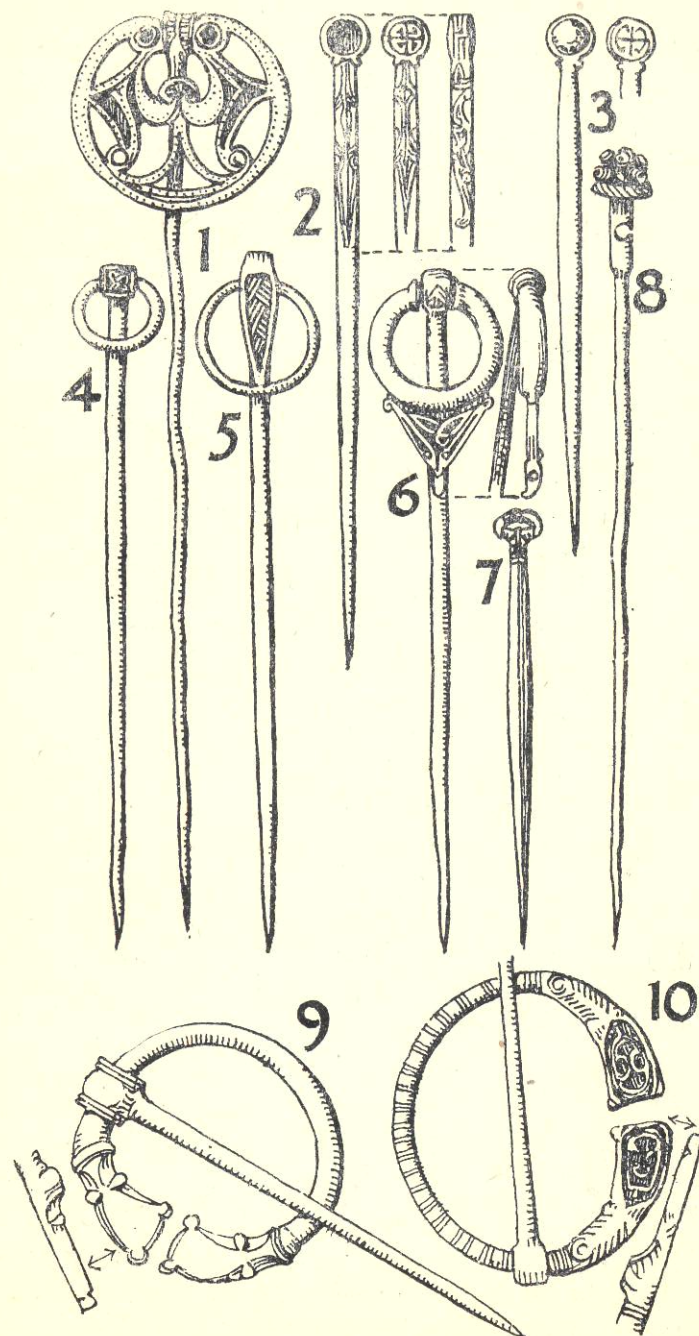
(Feic l. a 23)

Is den uimha na bioráin ceann-fáinneacha a 1 go a 8, a taisbeántar
tall, ac bainro leis an Doic-ré Críostairde. Daineann an dá deilg
brásga ceanncruinne, a 9 agus a 10, leis an ré céanna. Samplaí is
eas iad de éineál iomadaimail in a bfuil roinnt atá tur, agus roinnt
eile órnáidíste go maisemáil, mar atá an Dealg-brásga Teamrac
is so-aiéir. Cinn ainmíróte ac iad tur, simplíde, is eas porcinn an
fáinne de uimhir a 9, ac táro porcinn uimire a 10 maisíste, agus
iad tuillte de éruantaib il-daiéte.

PINS AND BROOCHES

(See p. 23)

The ring-headed pins, 1 to 8, shown opposite, are of bronze but
belong to the Early Christian Period, as do the two penannular
brooches, 9 and 10, examples of a large class, which includes some
that are quite plain and others as highly ornamented as is the well-
known Tara brooch. The ends of the ring of 9 are simplified animal
heads, while those of 10 are decorated and were filled with coloured
enamels.



EARRAIDĒ AOMUIO

(Feic 1. a 24)

Aithníteann gach duine an t-air portais agus an siúis a fághtar in sna portaisib; coimeádtar iad ar cúm iongantach sa móin tais. Coimeádtar a lán earraíde aomuiro de sean-déantús ar an gcuma gcéanna.

Taisbeántar dam-cuing eall—uimhir 1—agus i cúmta go slácthar cun beir oireamhach anuas ar muneál na ndam. Sampla sár-breásh den tseana-mórnán aomuiro is ead uimhir 2. Ní fuaratas faiste fíaró riann in Éirinn, ac do tairlócaó go bfuigfirde fós. Bead deall-rann aige le faiste do dor-cun (nó mada uisce), uimhir 3, a snapan ar cois an amuirde. Do déanad é de bloc trom aomuiro atá tollta in a lár le scáine atá oireamhach don cómlann uis a hoibriúgear le “hasbruinn” aomuiro.

Ártach bainne is ead uimhir 4, agus é déanta a bloc donair aomuiro, ac amán an cómla beag, agus an bun do hoireamhuigeadó do a bloc eile.

Do b'féidir go bfuigfirde na hearraíde aomuiro seo:—scéite, spínóga, barailí déanta a stabnaitib, agus boscaí a gearrad a blocuib aomuiro; boscaí móra a dmead de clárauib; cómraí adlactan a homnaib crann, agus iad, b'féidir, pé carn beag cloch sa portach. Do b'fíor-tábaéatá an fágaltas a leitéro sin. Agus b'féidir go bfuigfirde uacaisi omna (corracám), gan tráct ar na maruib ráma a gcódaó leo.

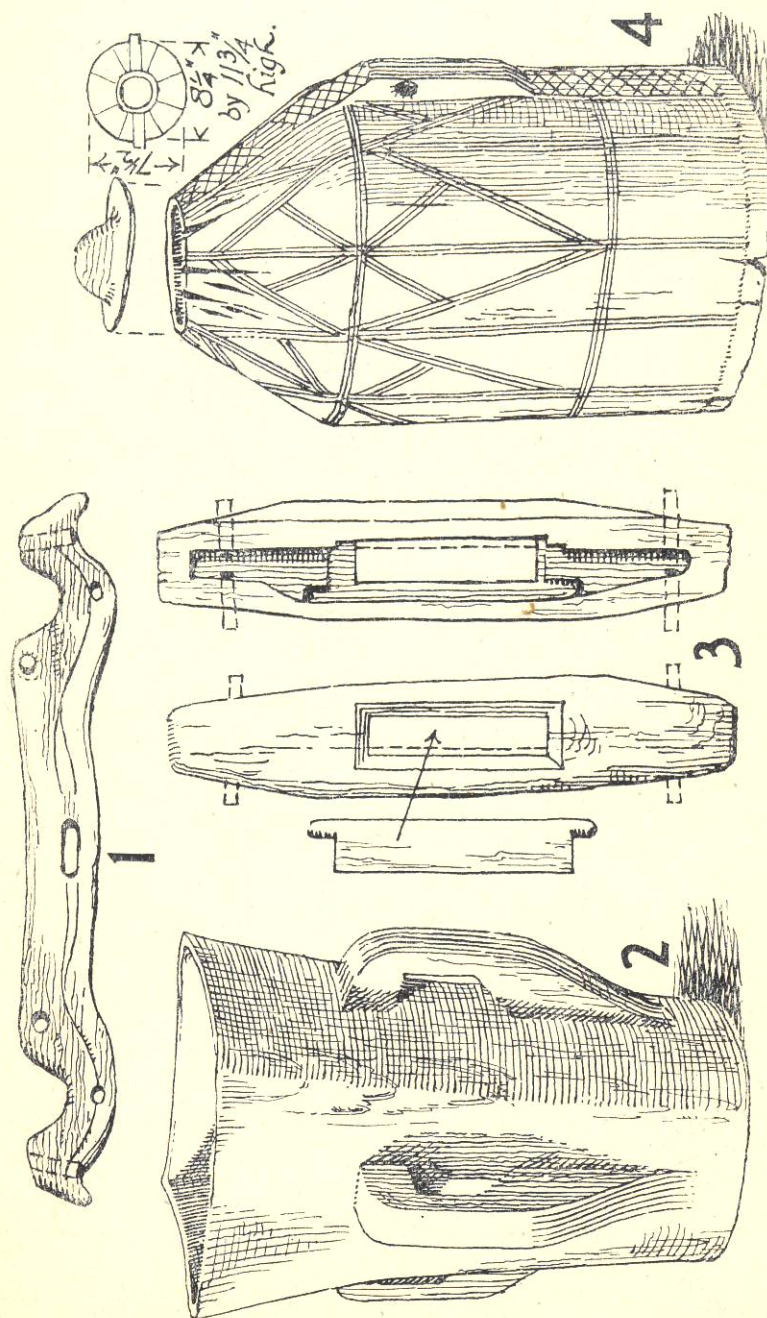
Do noéatá “tócár,” i. bótar portais de saileannaib aomuiro, in a lán áit, agus crannóga cóm maí—i.e. sin, oileám cun cómhuigete a dmead i lár portais, agus bead sraitheanna de stacuib bearruigete fágta fós ann, nó maroi figte in a scléit. Agus b'féidir go bfuigfirde tócar cloch. Ca b'fíor? Beirís sin go léir árd-tábaéatá, agus ba éad iad do'at-friteal láitread, i dtreó go b'féidir leitleasairde an múseum iad do feicsint sul a gcorruigti iad, má caitear iad do'aisiriuigad. Ac má is féidir in don cor é, do b'féidir gan baint leo go n-impíúctar go hiomlán iad.

Ba cóir earraíde aomuiro do coimead tais go leasuiigeadó an leitleasairde iad, mar a duhártas éanna.

WOODEN OBJECTS

(See p. 24)

Everybody is familiar with the bog-oak and pine found in most bogs; it is preserved in the moist peat in a wonderful way. So also are many wooden objects of ancient manufacture.



An ox-yoke, well shaped to fit over the animals' necks, is shown at 1, page 24. 2 is a specially fine example of the wooden methen or drinking cup. No trap for deer has yet been found in Ireland but it is not unlikely that one will come to light. Such might be similar to 3 which is a sketch of an otter trap, meant to snap on the leg of the animal. It is made of a heavy log of wood pierced in the centre by a long slot into which fits a small flap worked by a 'spring' of wood.

4 is a milk vessel made out of one piece of wood except for the bottom, which is separately fitted in, and a small lid.

Among other wooden things which will probably be found are :— shields, spoons, barrels built up of staves and boxes cut out of blocks of wood. Larger boxes, tree-trunk coffins, covered, perhaps, by a small heap of stones in the bog may yet be found. Such a find would be very important indeed. Dug-outs or canoes, to say nothing of the oars belonging to them will probably appear.

In more than one bog roadways of logs or planks—toggles—have been uncovered, as also have the much larger erections, the Crannógs or artificial island dwellings, marked by rows of pointed stakes or piles and layers of woven brushwood. Flagstone causeways may also be found. All these are very important and should be reported at once, so that the Museum expert may see them before they are removed, if this must be done ; if it is at all possible it would be better to leave them alone altogether until they can be thoroughly examined.

As has been said already, *every effort should be made to keep wooden objects moist until the expert can handle and treat them.*

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