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T H E K I S T

The Magazine of
The Natural History & Antiquarian Society
of Mid-Argyll

President: Miss Campbell of Kilberry, FSA, FSAScot.

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CONTENTS

Editorial	I
Obituary	2
<u>St Columba's Cave</u>	
M.Campbell, FSA and C.J.Young, MA	3
<u>Cossack Street, Lochgilphead & The Cossack Inn</u>	
Alexander Fraser, MA, BD, FSAScot.	13
<u>A Knapdale Swordfish</u>	
Editorial Note	14
<u>Archaeology in 1842</u>	
from Lord Cockburn's <u>Journal</u>	14
<u>Gunpowder Manufacture at Furnace</u>	
E.M.Patterson, D.Sc., F.R.S.E.	15
<u>Forestry Commission Discoveries</u>	
George Iveson	19
<u>Fraoch Eilean, Loch Awe</u>	
Ian M. Campbell, W.S.	22
<u>The Sabbath Breaker</u>	
Mrs Campbell of Glenfeochan	24
<u>Clay Pipes Found in Argyll</u>	
John Carmichael	25
Book Review	27

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Hon. Sec.

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EDITORIAL

We have suffered a grievous loss by the tragic death of our Hon. Secretary. The tribute from our President which follows expresses most eloquently our feelings. Fortunately we have found a successor in Mr George Fraser - for the office must continue to be filled - and we look forward to a happy and mutually agreeable association for a long time to come.

Once more we offer a variety of papers, headed by the Interim Report on the work done last spring at St Columba's Cave. We all share in the disappointment at the doubt which has been thrown on the genuineness of the 'weights' which we had hoped might prove to be the major recovery of the season. It was a great pleasure and encouragement to have so many of our neighbouring Societies represented at the 'dig', and most valiant work they did!

On the darker side, what could have been an important scientific record has unhappily been lost by mishandling. This was the stranding of a swordfish on our shores. The event, shorn of irrelevant matter, is reduced to a bare note of the occurrence.

Our Tombstone recording still goes on, but slowly; perhaps autumn and winter weather, with the blissful absence of bracken and midges, will see the completion of the undertaking.

We have enjoyed our Summer programme; perhaps most of all the visit to Ormaig to search for cupmarks and carvings. This venture was highly successful; indeed such a profusion were uncovered that everyone thought there must be many yet to find. Oddly enough, a subsequent all-day search by our President, accompanied by Miss Sandeman and your Editor added not a single fresh item to those already found.

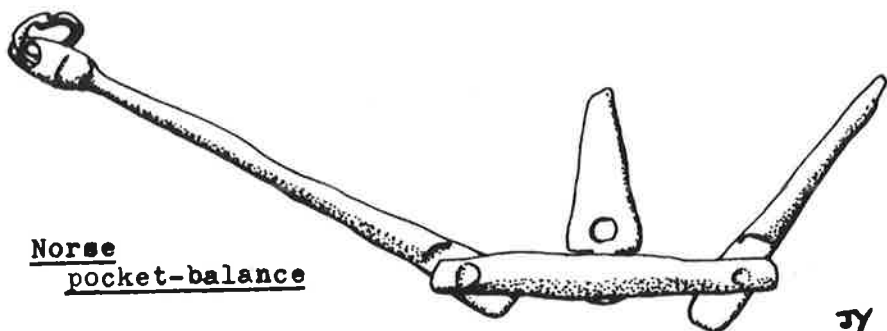
We are glad to be able to report that the Ministry of the Environment has made good progress at Keills, where the stones, both known and newly-found, will be protected from deterioration as at Kilberry, Kilmory and Kilmartin.

G O R D O N D A V I S

The 1973 summer programme of the Society has been overshadowed for us all by the death of our Honorary Secretary. Gordon was an enthusiastic amateur archaeologist, with a bent towards Industrial Archaeology, (a subject rather neglected in our activities before his time) and a cheerful, hardworking and competent organiser. His was the inspiration behind this magazine, his the detailed planning that conveyed us on so many delightful and unusual expeditions. We who knew him, however slightly, must always be glad that his work for the Forestry Commission brought him to Argyll, in which he so quickly felt at home. We knew that he was about to return to his native Wales, and that was sad for us all; but when we learned that he had been lost at sea while on holiday, the shock was felt by all who knew him at work or from shared interests. On the eve of his last journey he told me how delighted he was to have one more chance of sailing through the Isles aboard a Puffer - typically, this was his favourite holiday - but nobody could have imagined any possible danger then, or on the still summer night when his chosen craft left Troon.

Our deepest sympathy remains with his family; his stepson, his daughters, and above all with Mrs Davis. A tall shadow with a brisk Cairn terrier at heel will long haunt our summer walks, and many a stone of memory will rest on the cairn of our thoughts.

Marion Campbell.



Norse
pocket-balance

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ST COLUMBA'S CAVE

An Interim Report by M.Campbell, F.S.A., F.S.A.Scot
and C.J.Young, M.A.

On the northern shore of Loch Caolisport, overlooking a little bay protected by an islet, a ruined chapel stands outside two caves (NR 747767). There are numerous other caves nearby in the soft schistose cliffs, some probably inhabited in the past, but these two are of special interest.

A chance discovery in 1959 led to a fortnight's emergency work, itself leading to intermittent examination until 1963; in 1972 and 1973 excavations were conducted by the writers, who hope to continue them in 1974. We now offer a preliminary account of our findings.

We are grateful to the Revd. Henry and Mrs Rogers of Ellary and Mr Duncan Rogers for permission to excavate and continued encouragement; to the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland and the Mid-Argyll Society for grants; to Mrs C.J.Young, B.Sc., Mr K.J. Bradley, M.A.; to members of the Cowal, Kintyre, Mid-Argyll and North Lorne Archaeological Societies and many other volunteers for their work; and to Mrs R.M.

Cammoack, M.D., R.I.B.A., F.S.A.Scot. for drawing the finds. (The head-piece is by Mrs C.J.Young.) Mr R.B.K.Stevenson, M.A., F.S.A., F.S.A.Scot. has given us great personal help and arranged for examination and conservation of finds by the National Museum of Antiquities, of which he is the Keeper; Dr A.S.Clarke Ph.D., B.Sc., of the Royal Scottish Museum, has very kindly examined the bone material.

TOPOGRAPHY

The bay faces south and is floored by a low raised-beach on which the chapel stands. The glen rises slowly between wooded cliffs, and an old path leads up it to the main track linking Lochhead and Kilmory Knap through the hills. The western side of the bay is rocky; a small grave-enclosure overlooks the caves, and below it runs a stream which has been diverted by an embankment to form a waterfall, possibly for a mill. Below the fall lies a boulder with a small artificial basin, allegedly a "font", of the kind often found in association with Early Christian sites in this area. Between the stream, chapel and caves there are the grass-grown foundations of buildings. In front of the caves lies a large sloping bank of earth and stone.

The western cave is narrow and dark, with bar-holes at the entrance and stone steps leading downwards to the muddy floor paved with sea-rolled stones. At the rear a quartzite boulder rises through the floor and is grooved by use as a whetstone; on the cave-wall behind it is a lightly incised cross. This cave has not yet been investigated; it may perhaps have been a dwelling.

The other cave is larger. Along its eastern side runs a rock-shelf on which stands a roughly-mortared altar with three crosses carved on the rock above it. One is a Latin cross in false relief, perhaps 11th century; the second is formed by five shallow pits; the third, a pecked equal-armed cross with pits between the arms, is seen only in certain lights. Another shallow pecked carving is now indecipherable. Numerous beam-holes in the walls

suggest some form of lean-to roof to protect the altar from drips. A deep basin cut in the floor of the shelf might be another font, or a pre-historic bait-pounding basin; near it stone steps lead to the high front rock, which has the remains of a low wall across it, traditionally the preaching station. A second basin, close to the entrance at a lower level is of unknown purpose. At the rear of the cave the rock roof is low and the floor narrows to a cleft.

HISTORY

Local tradition asserts that St Columba visited the site in 563 A.D., on his way to Iona. No other traditions survive. The only published references are the Second Statistical Account (1846) Argyll vol. p.263; Captain T.P.White's Stones of Knapdale (1872) pp.56-7 and pls.xlii & xv(1); and Argyll County Council's List of Ancient Monuments (1915).

Captain White found the cave in use as a fishermen's store, with nets heaped on the altar. He was told that the dressed facings of the chapel windows had "recently" been torn out for use in some local building, and that the landlord had just averted the destruction of the walls for road construction. At the time of his visit (1868) the cave floor was within 2ft 3ins of the altar shelf, and a "wall two or three feet high" closed the entrance.

Probably as a result of Captain White's book, the landlord soon afterwards forbade the fishermen to occupy the site, and sent workmen to "tidy it up". This they did with unfortunate zeal, excavating about 4ft of accumulated rubbish and tipping it outside on the bank. Some "expert" is said to have been present; as Dean Mapleton was then active in the area he may have been the "expert", but his field-notes have never been traced. Local tradition speaks of a "bone knitting-needle and something else" being noticed, and of a "stone coffin in the floor" from which a skeleton was removed and the skull presented to some anatomical collection. A stone basin with squared sides was also found and presented to the Parish Church, where it is still in use as the font. When the clearance was

complete a fence was erected across the cave mouth and a wooden stepladder gave access to the altar-shelf.

The National Museum has a small ring-handled jar of buff-grey coarse fabric, probably early mediaeval, acquired from Lady Louisa Scott's collection and labelled as from this site (Cat.no.ME479).

EVENTS OF 1959

Early in 1959 Mr and Mrs Rogers resolved to improve the site by removing the fence, planting shrubs nearby, and replacing the tipped material so as to obviate the need for the unsightly wooden ladder. Before they started work, Dr J.M.Coles (then of Edinburgh University) visited the site and made a small trial cutting in the cave floor (where quantities of shells were visible among beach-pebbles). Some bone fragments were found, but no tools; accordingly Mr and Mrs Rogers began replacing the tip, cutting into the face nearest the cave. (The tip, overgrown with bracken and bushes, then covered an area roughly 45ft long by 30ft wide, rising to some 10ft above the ground level at the foot of the slope.) A low stone dyke was built across the narrow inner end of the cave, so as to leave a part of the beach-pebble flooring visible. The pre-clearance level of the infill was (and is) visible as a stain along the cave walls.

On 30th August 1959 a visiting archaeologist, Mr J.B.Sidebotham, C.M.G., noticed an antler needle protruding from the cut face of the tip (fig.3,1). Until then the possibility of finds from the tip had not been realised. Mr Rogers consented to halt the replacement of material, and for seventeen days in early September a group of volunteers sifted through the material already replaced and as much of the tip as time allowed. The method used was to trowel the earth and sort it over a $\frac{1}{4}$ in riddle, returning the sorted soil to the cave and cleaning the finds later at home. It was immediately apparent that a mass of finds awaited discovery.

A small trial-trench at the cave-mouth demonstrated a depth of nearly 4ft of occupation material

in situ, including hearths and probably at least one human interment. A further trial-trench at the foot of the tip yielded two extended burials with crania to the eastward, inside a low wall of large drystone construction.

In the tip itself all stratification had of course been lost. It became clear that the workmen had cut down vertically in barrow-loads, probably removing two successive levels so that the earlier material was tipped over late pottery and assorted fishermen's rubbish such as clay pipes.

The most sensational find was made from among the material already replaced in the cave. This was a small crumpled brass object, which on preliminary cleaning was recognised as a pair of folding scales. Mr R.B.K. Stevenson identified this as a Norse pocket-balance of 8th-10th century date (see Headpiece). Two others are known from the western seaboard; one from a Viking grave in Colonsay, the other (PSAS XLVII, 436) from Gigha. (A third, from a grave on Ensay in the Outer isles, was recorded by Martin Martin but has not been seen for nearly 300 years.) These scales were used by merchants to weigh precious metals; they date from before the conversion of Norway to Christianity, so their presence at Cove is all the more surprising.

PROGRESS SINCE 1959

Work was continued from 1960-63 as other commitments allowed (in 1962 a grant from the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland greatly facilitated the work), and finds continued to be made. In 1963 the site had reluctantly to be abandoned. In 1971 Mr and Mrs Young offered help with any local excavation and plans were laid for a new attempt to clear the tip and investigate the site. Finds by then ranged from some possible microliths, sherds of hand-made prehistoric pottery and a wealth of bone and antler tools, a fragment of rotary quern and a quantity of stone tools, through medieval glazed sherds and evidence of bronze- and iron-working, to recent pottery, clay pipes and fish-hooks. All these were unstratified, and although it had become clear that the

Site had great potential, any attempt to establish the main phases could only be made if undisturbed strata could be located.

1972-73

It was decided to have a fortnight's excavation at Easter 1972 and again at Easter 1973. Work was concentrated on an area 10m square on the 19th cent. tip. A 2m baulk has been left and almost all the remainder of the tip has been removed, sifted and replaced inside the cave (where the floor-level begins to attain the pre-19th cent. height in places.

Immediately under the central area of the tip is a layer of brown earth containing large quantities of fragments of burnt clay, burnt stones and charcoal. The central part of this feature is level, except where disturbed by the tipping or by roots. Its eastern edge underlies the baulk, but the cleared area measures 3.80m north-south and 3.0m east-west. At its western and southern edges the layer slopes steeply downward and disappears. Careful trowelling revealed many traces of laid layers of fired clay, possibly hearths, and a more definite hearth was found on a lower ledge to westward of the main feature. The purpose and date of the brown-earth level is uncertain, but a concentration of burnt stone with some slagging near its centre suggests possible metal-working. (Iron slag and slaggy clay are present at the base of the bank.)

Where the burnt-clay and brown-earth layer did not exist, the tip lay over a mass of stones. While some of this might derive from Captain White's "wall at the cave-mouth", most of it is the remains of an area of paving crossed by at least one east-west drystone wall. Again the purpose is uncertain but a possible historic context might be the use of the site for religious purposes in the middle ages. (Such use is of course attested by the erection of the chapel.)

The two seasons' work has shown clearly that the potential assumed from the 1959-63 work really

does exist. It is also clear that the 19th-century tip was spread over a pre-existing mound of material thrown out of the caves during their long use as religious or secular sites, and one may therefore hope that further work may lead to the identification of strata in the mound from which the material already recovered can be placed in its historical context. At least one more season, at Easter 1974, is planned, but it is probable that several seasons will be needed before the whole site can be fully understood.

Any future work on the mound underlying the tip must be most carefully executed. We shall no longer be dealing with disturbed material; indeed the mound must now be reserved for expert excavators. However there is still much else to be done; the chapel itself is still a mass of fallen masonry among which we may yet discover some of the missing window- and door-facings; there are the hut foundations to be cleared and planned; it would be desirable to section other areas of the site to determine the range of activities which have taken place, and a search must be made for other graves besides those already found by accident, to ensure that these are protected from any future disturbance.

The whole area, not at present scheduled as an Ancient Monument, should ideally be placed in the guardianship of the Department of the Environment. It is rare to find a cave in this district which so clearly shows a long history of human activity - still rarer to find so much worked bone preserved in excellent condition in the soil - rarest of all to find prehistoric, Early Christian, Norse, medieval and post-medieval material in close association. As Mr Stevenson said when he first saw the balance:

"Could'nt you find the scale-pans and weights as well?" There was a moment in 1973 when we hoped that Mrs Kay, of the North Lorne Society, had indeed found one of the weights, but unfortunately it has proved to be a cube of iron pyrites (although its use as a weight cannot be quite ruled out); but where so much has been found, one may perhaps be forgiven if one hopes for still more to appear.

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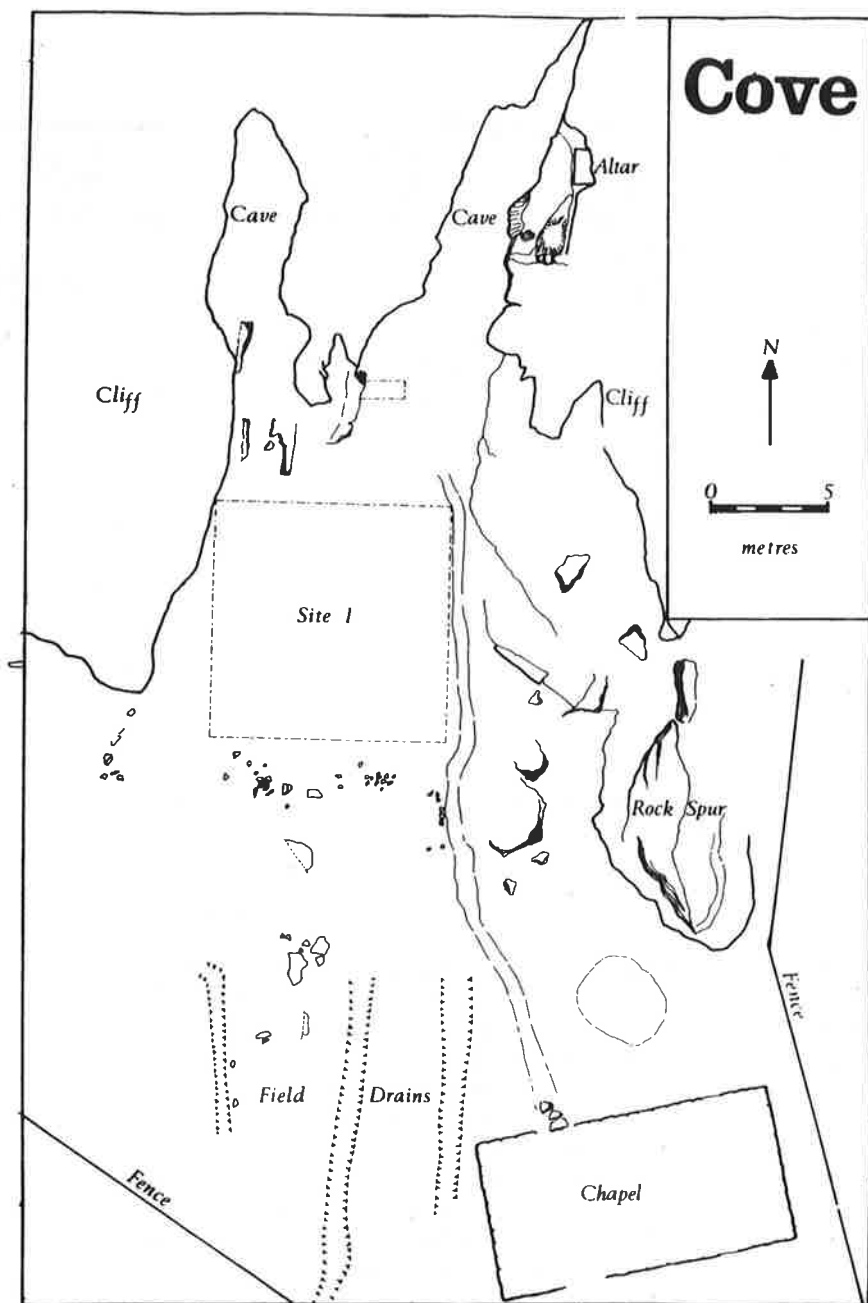


Fig. I

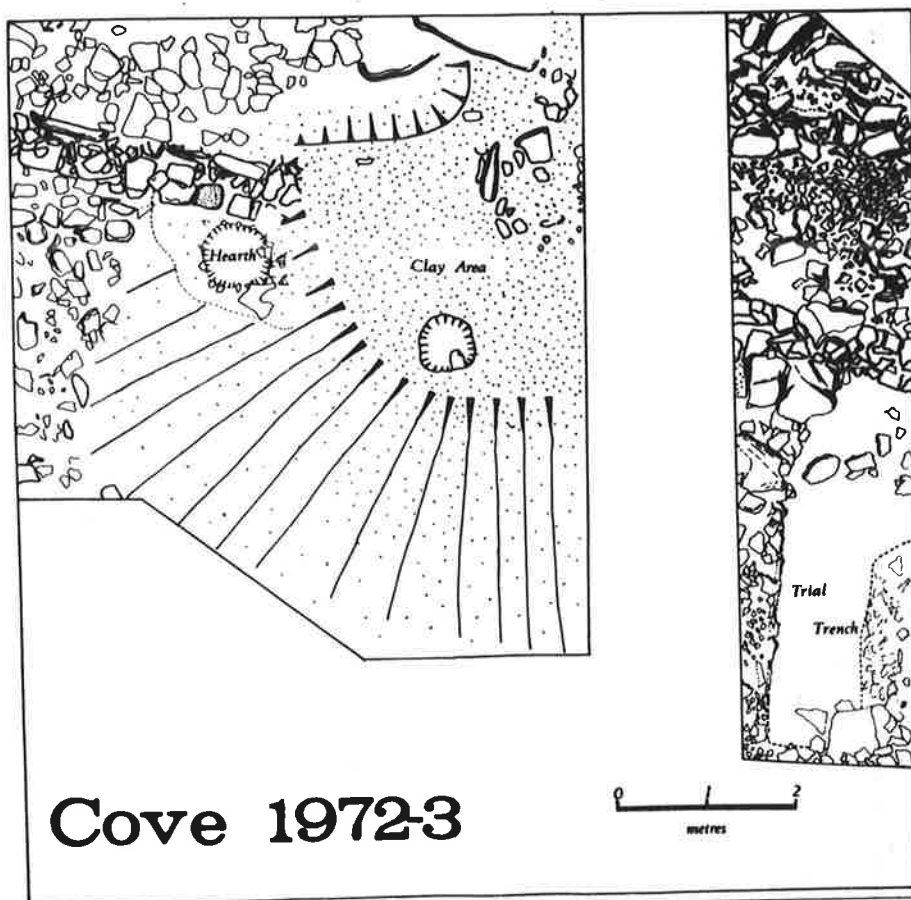
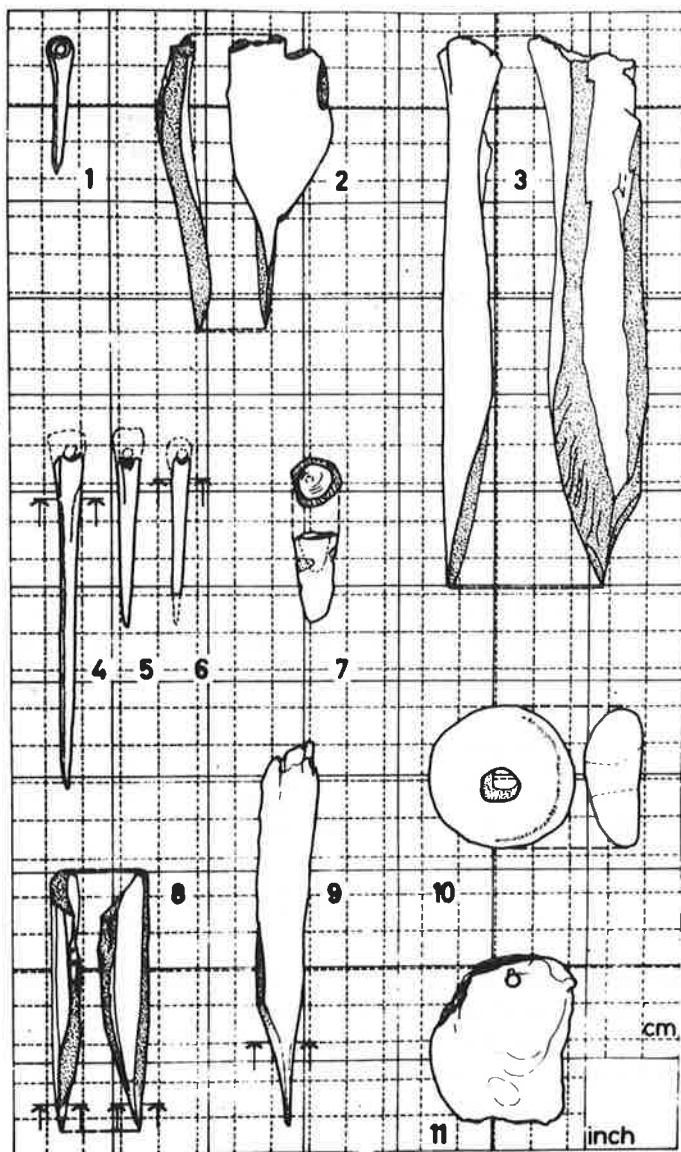


Fig.2

Fig. 1 Cove, Ellary, Argyll: Site plan.
Fig. 2 Site I. 1972-73.
Fig. 3 Representative finds.

1. Antler needle (p.6)
2. Awl, on bone splinter
3. Awl, on long-bone
- 4-6. Polished bone needles
7. Tip of red-deer antler, hollowed out
8. Pricker on bone splinter
9. Strip of antler, cut and polished
10. Femur-head, perforated, possibly knife-
11. Oystershell pendant /pommel



(Arrows mark limits of polish, and stippling shows a cut surface.)

Fig. 3

COSSACK STREET, LOCHGILPHEAD and THE COSSACK INN*

.....
Alexander Fraser, MA., BD., FSAScot.

It is with a sense of incongruity one learns that the area between the Fyneside Service Station and the Free Church, Lochgilphead, is known as Cossack Street, and that one of the ruined buildings in the old township of Achnaba was the Cossack Inn.

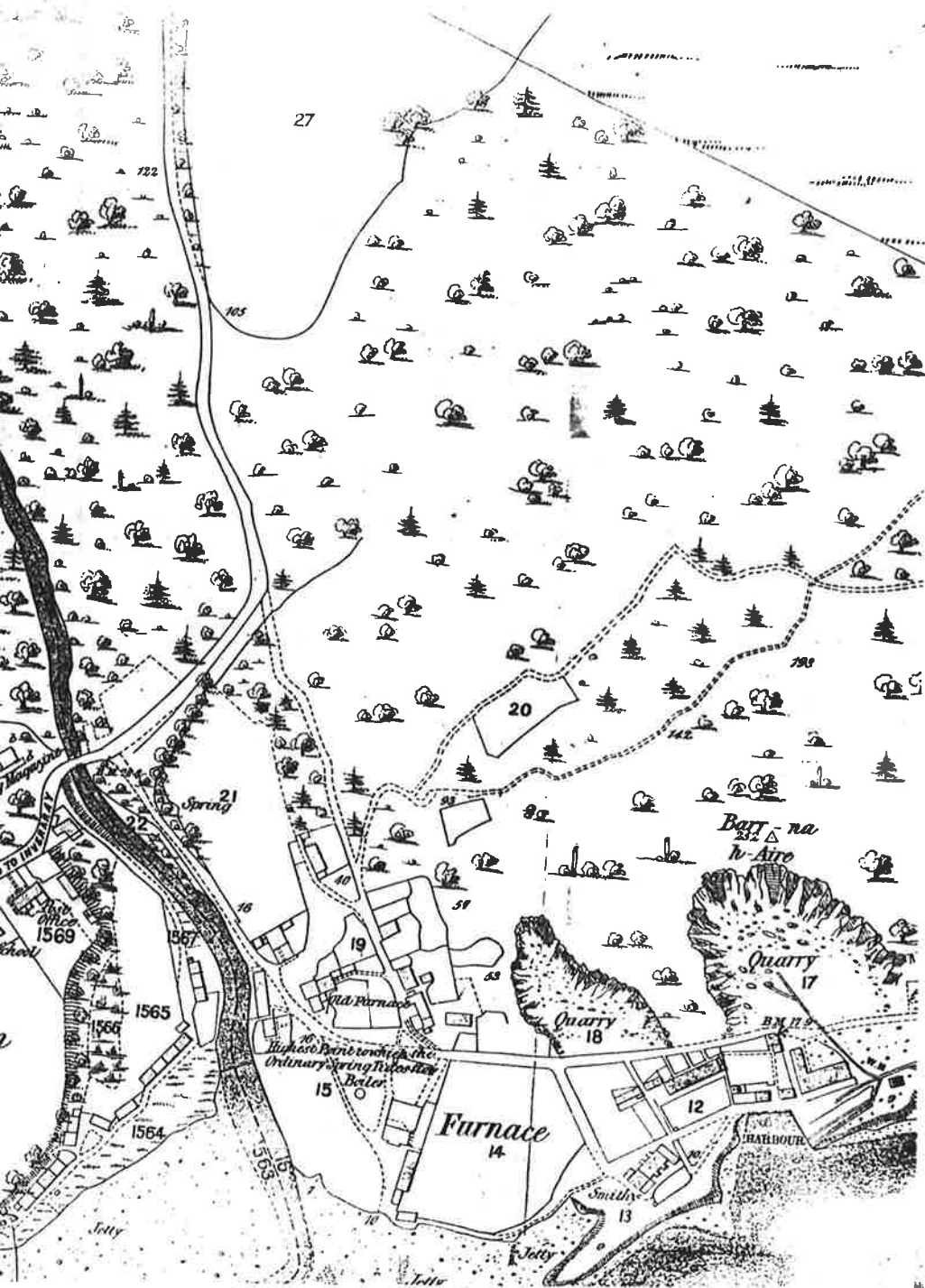
The name Cossack (Russian:Kajak, perhaps from the Turki, quzzäg, adventurer) seems unusual among such Scottish and west Highland names as Manse Brae, Argyll Street and Lochnell Street. There is however good historical reason for it, helping to date both the development of the market-town and of the township of Achnaba.

After the disasters of Napoleon's Russian campaign in 1812 and the visit of the Czar Alexander to London in June 1814 with almost hysterical enthusiasm, the defeat of Napoleon was entirely attributed to Russia. One of the chief heroes was the famous Hetman Platoff of the Don Cossacks, who nearly captured Napoleon at Malo-Yaroslavets. The first Cossack to appear in London was followed by cheering thousands and given three-times-three by the Lord Mayor on the steps of the Royal Exchange (Arthur Bryant: The Age of Elegance, 1812-22). Byron, by no means in sympathy, wrote :-"The papers have told you, no doubt, of the fusses, the fetes and the gapings to get at those Russes."

In view of the fact that the Russians were everybody's heroes, it is not surprising that we have a Cossack Street in Lochgilphead and a Cossack Inn at Upper Achnaba.

A similar wave of feeling swept London after the 1945 victory, and especially during the visit of Bulganin and Krushchev. We are fortunate not to have a Bulganin Boulevard and a Krushchev Quadrant, but that the new streets bear the names of citizens who have given years of service to the burgh.

*I am indebted to our President for counsel on this subject. A.F.



A KNAPDALE SWORDFISH

..... Editor's Note

On 13th August 1973 a family on holiday from Lancashire found a swordfish on the shore at Loch-head, Loch Caolisport. It was considerably decomposed and had been the subject of attack by predators. The length was estimated at 9 feet. The size and condition of the body made removal complete by the finders impossible, so it was decided to hack off the head in order to take it home at the end of their holiday. Pending this the head was kept in brine at Mr Forsyth Hamilton's kippering factory, where it became an object of considerable interest and attention.

It was extremely unfortunate that this notable discovery was not correctly dealt with. It must be emphasised that the finding of any strange marine object should be reported to the Fishery Officer, Campbeltown (tel.2251), who will communicate with the Dept. of Agriculture & Fisheries in Aberdeen and arrange for expert examination. Only in this way can scientific records be preserved and important finds prevented from mutilation and destruction as in the present case. A swordfish was stranded at Dunderave in 1903.

Our attractive cover has been designed by our President with these unusual events in mind.

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ARCHAEOLOGY IN 1842

.....
(From Lord Cockburn's Journal, 31st Oct. 1842, writing of the unusually dry summer in Edinburgh.)

"The disappearance of the water.....restored to light the few scarcely discernible fragments of the wall of the old chapel of St Catherine's (long since united to Glencorse) and the large flat solitary tombstone of a St Clair, who was carried up that glen to his long home in 1623. In its old

sequestered turf and silent hills this was a relic which every passenger mused on and respected; but no sooner was it exposed after its twenty years' submersion, than it had the misfortune to become a curiosity, and the crowds who went out to walk over the bottom of the lake attested the interest they took in it by chipping it away. In particular, whenever a letter was detected, it was sure to be hit by a hammer or a stone. Sometimes it was the possession of a bit of the stone that was wanted, but oftener it was the mere pleasure of hitting. Yet, as usual, nobody interfered, no Vandal was knocked down and then hanged, and the sacrilege was committed day after day under the very eye of the [water] Company's well-paid superintendent. Yet they took considerable credit to themselves because after the tombstone was destroyed, they protected it by covering it with earth."

....oOo....

GUNPOWDER MANUFACTURE AT FURNACE

.....
E.M.Patterson, D.Sc., F.R.S.E.

During the first half of the 19th century four factories were established in Argyll to manufacture gunpowder. They were in Glen Lean(1832), at Melfort(1838), Kames(1839) and Furnace(1841). The ruins of the Furnace factory, which had an active existence of only 42 years, are seen between Goatfield and the River Leacan, a short way to the north of the village.

Under the terms of a Gunpowder Act of 1772, the Justices in Quarter Sessions at Inveraray granted a licence for the manufacture of gunpowder to the Sheriffs, father and son, who had operated the Glen Lean factory until 1840. Thereafter the Furnace works changed hands on three occasions, first to one Carl Hauser of Glasgow, next in 1877 to the trustees of Robert Robin of Glasgow, then in 1879 to John Hall & Co Ltd. who had a large gunpowder factory at Faversham in Kent.

Until the passing of the comprehensive Explosives Act, 1875 (38 Vict.c.17) the layout of a factory and the way that it was operated, were largely left to the discretion of the owners, previous Acts of Parliament being rather vague. The 1875 Act placed factories under stricter Government surveillance than hitherto, and ensured that the accumulated experience of Inspectors would, if necessary, be brought to bear on individual establishments. New factories were licenced only if they conformed to certain requirements such as distances between working buildings and to limits in the weight of explosive and in the numbers of persons in each building. Distances to dwelling houses, roads etc were also defined. Factories that were already in existence...as were all four factories in Argyll... had to apply for what was termed a "Continuing Certificate", and though they might not conform to the new standards they were allowed to continue in existence, though any alterations would immediately come under the terms of the 1875 legislation.

Details of the various stages in the manufacture of gunpowder are available to members in Lochfyneside: A History of the District in Recent Times by Rev. Alexander Fraser, M.A., B.D., F.S.A.Scot. and need not be repeated here.

The Furnace factory was typical of those constructed prior to the requirements of the 1875 Act and of the Gunpowder Act, 1860. The buildings were enormously strong, with thick granite walls, the stones of which would have been converted to massive projectiles in the event of an internal explosion. Surrounding mounds, or blast walls, were practically non-existent. After an official inspection on 24th October 1876, the owners were notified that the stove was unduly near the dusting house; the heading-up house was unduly near to one of the expense magazines; the glazing house to both the press and the corning house; while one of the expense magazines and the heading-up house were unduly near to certain cottages and to the high road. This proscription meant that the manufacturers could not reconstruct

more than one of these buildings except with the permission of the Secretary of State. There is no doubt that H.M. Inspectorate regarded the factory site as cramped and thoroughly unsafe, both from the aspects of internal safety and that of the neighbouring public.

The greatest concentration of gunpowder was in the factory magazine, which had been built on the far side of the main road in 1867, apparently without any formal permission. There was originally no limit to the quantity of finished gunpowder that could be stored in it; this was then "certificated" to the enormous quantity of 80 tons. Main road traffic passed within feet of it, and it was within 100 yards of the village school, the post office and three dwelling houses. In its situation and in its weight of contents, it constituted a frightful menace to the entire neighbourhood. A half-hearted attempt to safeguard the village in the event of explosion had been the erection of a thick stone blast-wall a few feet from the gable-end of the magazine. Under the terms of the 1874 Act, the magazine would have had to be sited three miles away.

Water power was derived from a mill-lade that was taken off the Leacan Water about a mile above the works, and which fed a mill-dam on the rising ground north of the buildings. To power the range of six incorporating mills a large water-wheel was sited at the sawmills close to the road, and a long shaft extended uphill to the mill range, its location now seen as a stone-built trough. A second head-race went behind the press, corning and glazing houses, which had small individual waterwheels. Steam power, which Kames works used to turn some of their mills, was not used at the Furnace site.

The factory came under the critical eye of H.M. Inspector on two occasions, following fatal accidents. First of these was on 11th May 1877 and points to careless and haphazard working. According to the official report, it involved "a quantity of powder which was being conveyed in a cart between the charge-house and press-house.....it appeared

that the cart had a large hole in the bottom, from which the powder and powder-dust would necessarily escape, and as the cart traversed the same road several times in the day the result would be that the horse would be treading with his iron shoes on a road sprinkled with powder dust which a spark from those shoes would readily explode, and the explosion would readily extend to the powder in the cart, either through its own natural force, or by means of the train of powder-dust which at the moment was probably trickling through the bottom of the cart." The driver of the cart and his horse were both killed. The manager of the works was prosecuted for contravention of the section of the Act of 1875 "whereby the powder was not properly secured against accident in course of conveyance". The fine was £20.

The second fatal accident occurred at 3.10 p.m. on Saturday 29th September 1883. Two and a half tons of gunpowder which was in the drying house or stove exploded. Nobody was in the stove at the time, and although there were ten employees in various parts of the factory they escaped injury. The stones from the heavy walls of the stove were thrown to great distances; one weighing 250 lb. carried 300 yards. The manager, Mr William Robinson, standing near his house, was struck by a heavy stone which inflicted such severe injuries that he died two hours later. Colonel Ford, H.M. Inspector, made the official investigation and attributed the explosion to ignition of the wooden ventilator of the stove by a spark from the chimney of the adjacent boiler house. The details of the explosion are given in Special Report LVI of H.M. Inspector of Explosives (C.-3860) and elsewhere by the writer in The Scots Magazine (Oct. 1968), and by Mr Fraser in Lochfyneside, pp.35-38.

The absence of duplication of the buildings, coupled with the valid restrictions on new buildings imposed by the 1875 Act, meant that the owners found it practically impossible to renew manufacture at Furnace. The works became officially extinct in 1888 though according to the Valuation Rolls land and buildings remained with Messrs Hall and with their successors Messrs Curtis & Harvey until the early 1920's.

.....oOo.....

Forestry Commission Discoveries.

.....
Fig.1 Complete Millstone, Daltote.(O.S.=NR749832)

Lying 9 yards above the forest fence, Daltote Plantation. 10 yards to the south is a ring of chips or stones where it may have been carved. First noticed some years ago by two forest workers when erecting the forest fence.

Fig.2 Carved Stone, Dunans.(O.S.= NR 804903)

Originally found in 1967 by a forest worker in a small stone-built ruin near Dunans; now lodged in the Forest Information Centre.

Fig.3 Incomplete Millstone, Coille Bharr.

(O.S.= NR 778900)

Noticed by a forest worker in 1972; 380 yards from the carved stone by the well at Kilmory Oib, in a south-westerly direction. It is only partly carved and has been abandoned when a large crack has developed across it. The rock from which it was being carved has been chocked up to make it level.

Rock Basin, Coille Bharr.(O.S.= NR 777896)

Found early in 1972 by a forest worker. It exactly fits White's description; the block about 2½ft x 1½ft and the basin 9" across and 6" deep, "in a field adjoining Kilmory Mill and close to the edge of Loch Coill a'Bharra.....close to a small circular building". It was removed to the Forest Office before realisation that it is listed in Miss Campbell's Survey (P.S.A.S. xcv. p.104). It is now in the Forest Information Centre. The circular ruin was about 5 yards distant from the find-site.

(Notes and measured drawings from
Mr G. Iveson of the Forestry Commission.)

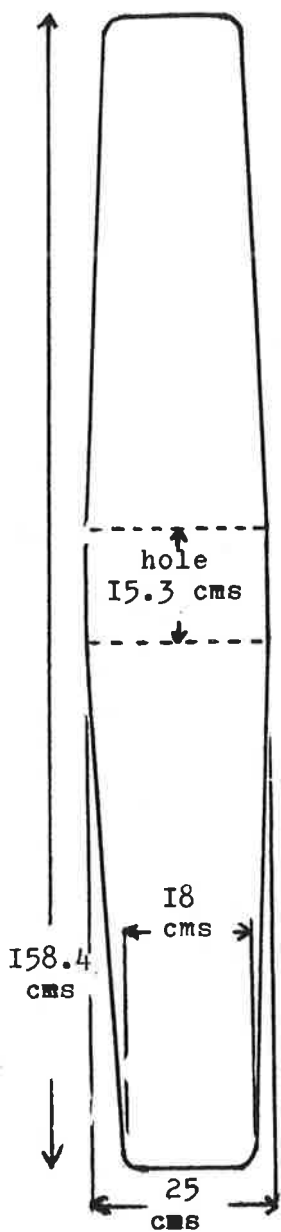


Fig. I

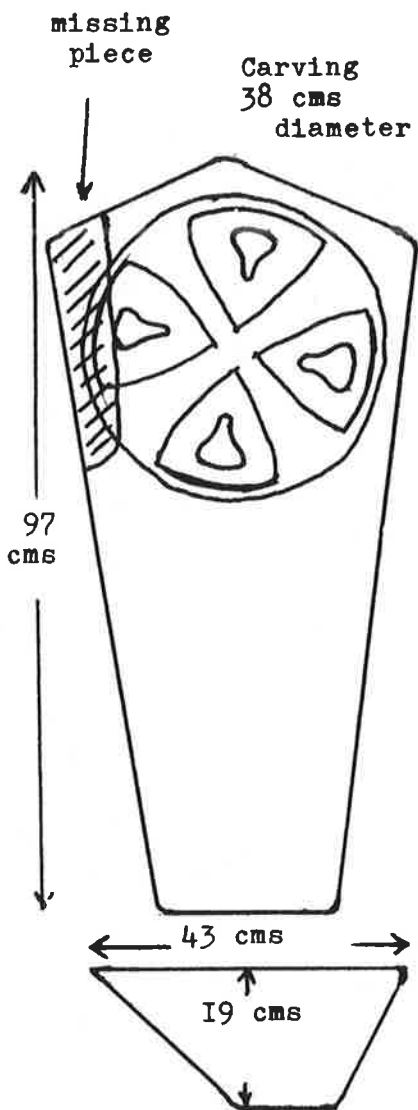


Fig. 2

Basic rock = 370 cms X 215 cms
Millstone = 148 cms diameter
X 28 cms deep.

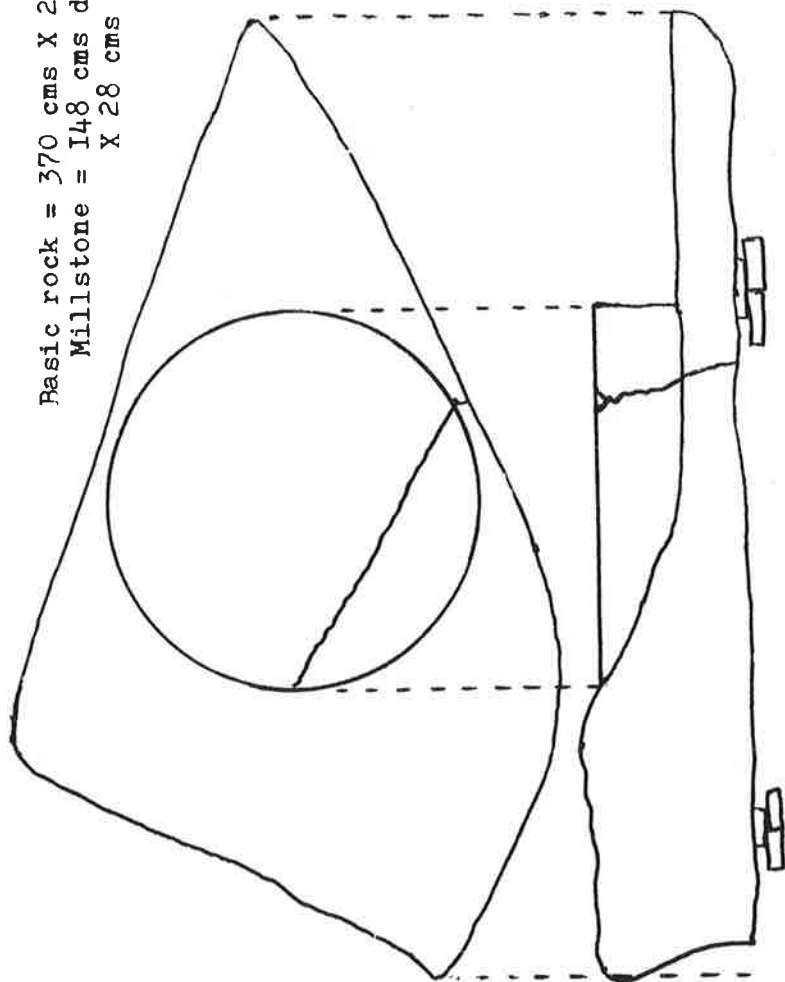


Fig. 3

FRAOCH EILEAN (FRECHELAN), LOCH AWE

Ian M. Campbell, W.S.

In April 1964 the late Dr Douglas Simpson came to this island, and later sent me his observations, written with that enthusiasm which added warmth to his fine archaeological scholarship. Colonel Rob Cross and Hugo Millar have also supplied valuable accounts of the castle, while the most detailed survey has been made by a team led by John Dunbar of the Royal Commission on Ancient Monuments. This last will appear in the Royal Commission's volume on Lorne, which it is hoped will be published by the end of 1974. McGibbon & Ross refer to the castle but Dr Simpson told me that they did not visit it, and certainly their brief reference to the castle is not supported by the evidence.

A 13th century date is now accepted for this hall-house castle, which measures 70x41ft overall and has walls standing to a height of 18ft except at the east end where a four-storey 17th century tower-house was built, one gable wall of which still remains to its original height. Interesting features include an intra-mural stairway to the wall-walk on the north wall, a pit with stairway down to it at the east end of the north wall, and a shallow buttress of Norman aspect to strengthen the wall in which the pit is constructed.

I was glad to welcome twenty members of the Natural History & Antiquarian Society of Mid-Argyll to the island on 20th June 1964, and the Society's members might now be interested to hear of the preservation work and digs which have been carried out since their visit. The Ministry of Works' Architect reported on the very extensive work that he felt was necessary at Frechelan. Work on a more restricted scale has now been successfully completed by James Cameron, Dalmailly, who had the benefit of advice from the Ministry's architects. I was helped by grants from the generous Dalrymple Archaeological Fund and from the Ministry. As a result the steps to the wall-walk, the pit and its garderobe, the

west end of the south wall, a substantial part of the curtain wall and various other features have been made safe. Cameron's workmanship has been very good.

March 1969 saw the first arrival on the island of Dr Francis Celoria, Lecturer in Archaeology at Keele University. He led a party of fifteen who came for a fortnight; six were sociology students from Keele and six were Borstal boys from Stoke Newington. They all worked well and at an early stage found a 13th cent. voussoir with excellent dog-tooth carving on two sides, very like that in Dunstaffnage Chapel, only slightly larger.

In August 1969 Dr Celoria came back with a second party, some of whom were Edinburgh Academy boys. On this occasion was found a 2" long stone carving of a running hare. This cannot be dated, but since it was found nearly five feet below the surface it is probably quite old. Also found were a pre-17th century key and 17th century pottery fragments.

April 1970 had another party of diggers, most of them from Edinburgh Academy. A coin from this dig was identified by the Keeper of the Scottish Museum of Antiquities as a Henry III long cross silver penny, type B the moneyer being probably Willem at Canterbury, and the date between 1251 and 1255. Apparently before David I foreign coins, mostly English, served Scotland's needs and continued to do so; so it is not surprising to find this English coin at Frechelan. What perhaps was unexpected was the 1672 Louis XIV coin which was found on the island in 1971!

It was, moreover, this year of 1971 which produced our most remarkable find....a section of 1st century glass bangle or armlet, cobalt blue with white spots and faint hatching. The interior diameter when completed would have been $2\frac{1}{2}$ ". When I showed it to Robert Stevenson, Keeper of the Museum of Antiquities, I found that he had already published two papers on these glass bangles, only five specimens of which have hitherto been found in Scotland. He considers that the glass was made by a Celtic craftsman from Central Europe who came to

Scotland with the Romans about the end of the 1st century A.D. I found this section of glass bangle in the roots of a tree, and the 64,000 dollar question is how did it get there and when?

Another find which could be even earlier is a D-shaped cross-section of a jet bangle found well down in a dig, but of course no date can be claimed for this. There have been quite a number of other finds, each with its own interest, but I have only described what appear to be the highlights.

By adding together the days spent on the island by each digger one gets a total of not less than 600 'digger-days'. The work can be arduous, messy and unproductive, yet they like it, and for this I am grateful to each one, but particularly to Dr Celoria.

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"THE SABBATH BREAKER"

Mrs Campbell of Glenfeochan

After Mr Richard N.W.Smith's lecture on "The Passenger Steamers of Loch Fyne" (April 3rd 1973) he showed me a photograph of the old paddle steamer Edinburgh Castle, with its black hull and black funnel with white bands round its top. He was interested in my story about her, so I thought perhaps some of our members might like to hear it too.

In the early years after 1900, when the Clyde steamers of the North British, Caledonian, and South Western Companies were all tucked away at their berths on Sundays, the old Edinburgh Castle, during the summer months, would emerge from the Broomielaw with passengers out to enjoy the fresh air and beautiful scenery, and wend her way down the Clyde. From Heathfield House, on the hill above the pier at Kilcreggan, we used as children to delight in watching her paddle serenely, in solitary state, over to Loch Long and up Loch Goil, where she would turn round to start her homeward cruise in the evening. Locally she was always known as The Sabbath Breaker.

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CLAY PIPES FOUND IN ARGYLL

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John Carmichael

When I look round my collection of clay pipes I see many different local place-names printed on the wee labels which are stuck on every tiniest fragment of pipe to show where they were found. These include Ford Pier, Crinan Canal, Tayinloan, Kilmory and many other places round Argyll.

The pipes, too, are very varied. There are many Irish examples, ranging from one which has embossed on one side of the bowl Home Rule in large letters and on the other a shamrock and And Liberty (this was found by me in about 7 feet of water near the wreck of an old pre-first world war coal barge. One can imagine an old Irishman sitting on the hatch smoking and spitting contentedly), to some with bowls embossed with shamrocks and others with harps, and one with a harp and Cork on the back of the bowl, and yet another with Belfast Cutty in the same place.

There are many Scots pipes too, of course, including one with the profile of Robert Burns on one side of the bowl and 26 Janry 1885 enclosed within a laurel wreath on the other. Another has the face of a small boy in a toorie and scarf on one side and Wee Mac on the other. There are pipes that were given away by the local tradesmen, inscribed on the back of the bowl with J. West Lochawe or D. Black Tobacco Manu. Oban. There are other pipes with patterns only, such as one which gives the impression of having rope wound round the bowl. This probably continued right down the stem, but as it is unfortunately broken I cannot tell. (I found this pipe a piece at a time over a period of years and glued the tiny pieces together as I found them, until at present I have almost the whole bowl and a little of the stem.) There are others with oak leaves on either side of the bowl and an acorn on the front, also one with a basketwork effect round the bowl. There are several with different shapes

(stars, shamrocks, diamonds etc.) which have been divided into tiny diamond-shaped cells by thin ridges of clay. These patterns were used to strike matches on. There are of course many plain pipes and fragments of pipes and stems, all labelled.

Most of my pipes come from the mud beneath Ford Pier, where they were thrown by the stokers and passengers on the Loch Awe steamers which plied from there to the railway station at Loch Awe village in Victorian days and before.

You must remember that clay pipes in those days cost nothing in pubs and most grocers' shops; if the mouthpiece broke off the smoker probably had plenty of spares in his pocket and could just throw it away. In the case of the stokers they could throw them into the furnace, and I often find pipes in the mud embedded in lumps of clinker from the ship.

The pipes were made in the factories by the worker taking a ball of clay and squeezing and rolling it into the rough shape of a pipe. This was called a 'blank'. When completed these blanks were placed in batches on a 'dozening board' in the hot-air room to dry. Next, while still fairly pliable (this was judged by experience only) the ends of the stems were trimmed off with a knife, and a flat-ended steel needle was rotated and pushed most of the way up the stem to form the beginning of the bore. With this in position the blank was placed in the mould (this was open at the mouthpiece and the top of the bowl) and tightened by a vice. Any lettering or design was inscribed on the inside of the mould. A metal 'stopper' was forced down into the roughly-shaped bowl, making it the right size and shape. The needle was then forced right through to complete the bore, the stopper was removed and the top of the bowl trimmed to a level with the top of the mould. The complete but still-moist pipe was then taken from the mould. Next the 'Finisher', using a finisher's knife trimmed off all mould lines etc. and trimmed the mouthpiece. He also poked a smooth 'finisher's wire' up the bore to ensure that it was clear. All trimmings etc. were dropped through a

hole in the floor to be mixed with new clay for more pipes.

The pipes were packed in round fireclay saggars (pronounced 'seggars' by the workmen) and placed in the kiln. They remained there for the better part of a week, usually being placed there on a Tuesday evening, with the fire being lit at 5 or 6 o'clock on Wednesday morning. The required temperature of 940°C being usually reached about noon. The kiln was allowed to cool naturally from about 3 o'clock that afternoon, and the pipes were removed on Friday. They were then packed in wood shavings and despatched.

Amongst the best-known Glasgow pipe-makers were J.Scroggie, Christie, White, Coghill, and McDougall & Co.(who were the last of the Glasgow manufacturers and closed in 1967).

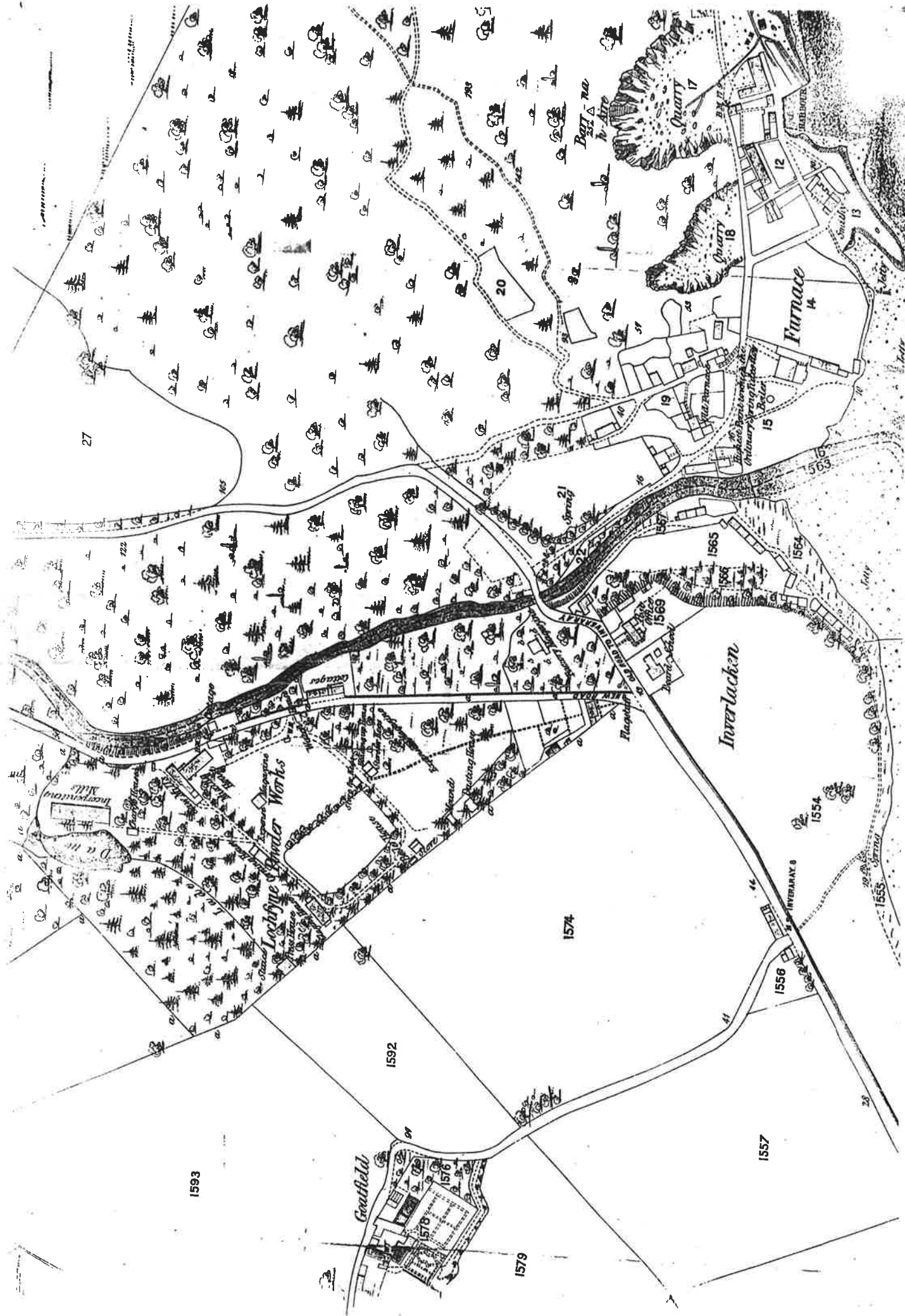
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REVIEW

Scottish Handwriting. 1150-1650. Dr Grant G. Simpson has created a book which will certainly be of great interest and use to antiquarians, who have had nothing comparable to refer to in the past apart from a study published in 1739. Before giving an exhaustive analysis of 30 texts, reproduced in facsimile and transcribed and annotated in detail, there is a very interesting section on the historical origins of Scottish writing, with notes on the methods to be followed in making one's own transcripts from original documents. We most confidently recommend this volume to everyone interested in our national past for the light it throws in general on the 500-year period it covers, quite apart from its more specialised intent.

Grant G. Simpson, Ph.D., F.S.A. Scottish Handwriting, 1150-1650. (Bratton Publishing Ltd. 17 Rutland Street, Edinburgh. £2.60)

F.S.M.



SUGGARLY REDUCED (BY 20%) FROM 1:2500 SCALE