

AND A SUGGESTED ABSOLUTE CHRONOLOGY FOR
BRITISH HANGING-BOWLS. BY H. E. KILBRIDE-JONES,
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In England, bronze hanging-bowls, or parts (usually escutcheons) of such bowls, have been found on nearly fifty sites. Many have been found in Saxon interments; but there is now little doubt that they were acquired as loot by the Saxons, to whom the art of enamelling was as a closed book. And but for the fact that the bowls were actually interred along with the remains of those who had stolen them, it is possible that we might have had to-day very few specimens with which to adorn our museums. Had the bowls remained with their original (Celtic) owners, they would, in all probability, have been melted down, or merely cast out into the open, where decay would have been rapid. It is as well to emphasise these points, as it was apparently not a Celtic custom to preserve curiosities of a former age, when once those objects had ceased to be useful, or to bury enamel-work in the same way as did the Saxons. (1)

Since Saxon burials are unknown in Scotland, it is obvious that we need not be too hopeful of finding many hanging-bowls in this country. Any bowl thrown on to a midden would have a poor chance of survival; whilst burials of the period under discussion are noticeably rare. Hitherto we only knew of the existence of a single hanging-bowl in Scotland—the much-battered and rather fragmentary remains of a specimen from Tummel Bridge, Perthshire¹ (fig. 2, 3), a bowl which had been buried along with silver penannular brooches of a fifth-century type, and perhaps by someone who wished to hide his small hoard from marauders. The presence of this bowl in Perthshire has been ascribed to a raid of the Picts south of the Border.² It is therefore very gratifying to be able to record the discovery of yet another hanging-bowl, this time in a locality well removed from the area of Pictish incursions. It was found sometime prior to

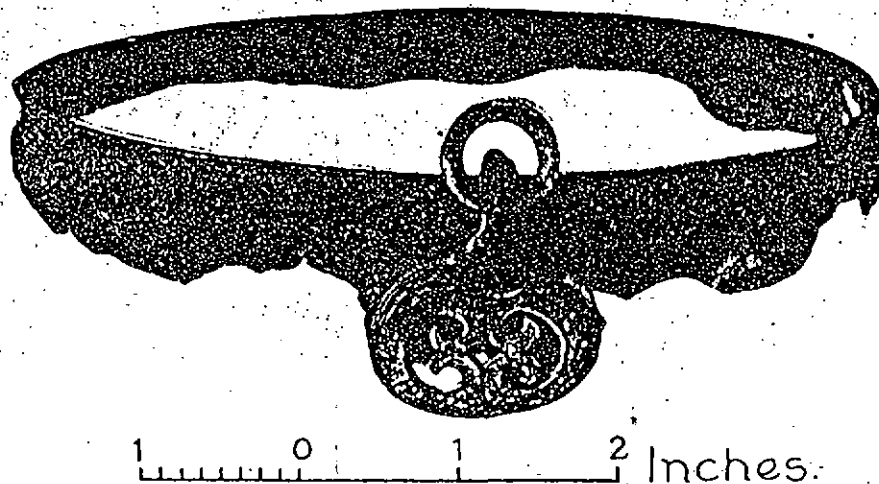


Fig. 1. Remains of Bronze Hanging-bowl from Castle Tioram, Moidart.

1928 in a kitchen-midden (along with other objects, the nature of which is unknown) at Castle Tioram, in Moidart. During a visit to Fort William last year, it was seen by Dr Alex. O. Curle in the West Highland Museum, and to him the present author is under a deep obligation for the present opportunity of describing the find.

The new bowl is in a very fragmentary condition: nothing remains apart from the rim and shoulder, and one escutcheon, together with a ring for suspension (fig. 1 and fig. 2, 1). The bowl is only $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter. It has been spun from a single piece of bronze (a difficult process, and achieved by the continued application of heat) and the walls are less than 1 mm. in thickness. The metal thickens above the shoulder, the neck is slightly hollow, whilst the rim has been hammered down

¹ *Proc. Soc. Ant. Scot.*, vol. xxii. p. 268.

² *Leeds, Celtic Ornament*, p. 145.

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LOCHABER

CANNA HOUSE. Georgian-survival of c. 1865. Shallowly pedimented front with canted bay windows and a parapeted porch. COROGHAN CASTLE. On the top of a rock stack, reached by a very steep path. Rubbly remains of a roughly rectangular small tower, probably of the c 17. CROSS, A'Chill. Worn shaft and one arm of a cross, perhaps of the c 8 or c 9, the w face carved with intertwined figures and a panel of key pattern, the e more robustly with figures including animals, a horseman and perhaps the Holy Family.

CAOL *see* CORPACH, BANAVIE AND CAOL

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CASTLE TIORAM

4.3km. N of Acharacle

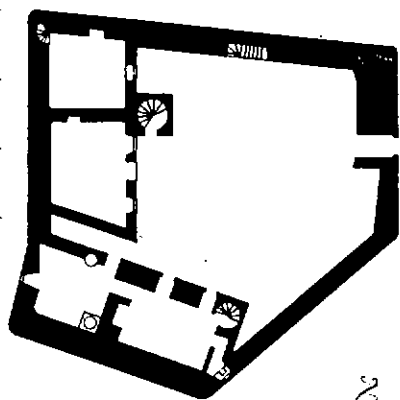
63 Lonely ruin of the c 13 castle built for the Lords of the Isles, from whom it passed to the Macdonalds of Clanranald in 1493. The site is a rocky island in Loch Moidart joined to the shore by a sand spit at low tide. The castle on this island-promontory's highest point is an enclosure whose curtain walls, c. 2.4m. thick and now 9.1m. high, form an irregular heptagon with rounded external corners. The masonry is of random rubble brought to courses by flat pinning. Under the bartlement, holes with projecting spouts to drain the wall-walk. The parapets themselves have slit-like crenelles like those in the c 16 bartlement at Mingary Castle (*see* p. 257) and pullock holes for a wooden hoarding; presumably they were reconstructed in the early c 16, although they are innocent of gun- or musket-loops. The main entrance is a crude arch in the N wall. Above it, the remains of a corbelled stone bretasche. Near the E wall's s end, a postern gate (built up), originally reached by a wooden stair whose landing is represented by the stumps of beams in the wall. Patched masonry above may indicate the former position of a bretasche. A second postern (also now blocked) in the S wall may be the E gate's later replacement.

The courtyard inside the enclosure rises irregularly from N to S. In the long W wall, a stone stair which returns to the N to give access to the wall-walk.

Built against the N two-thirds of the courtyard's SE wall is a keep, perhaps of the c 14. It is a plain rubble-built rectangle, probably originally of three storeys, the jettied third floor and attic possibly added in the c 16. Ground-floor door from the courtyard into a vaulted cellar. The segmental-arched main door is on the first floor, formerly reached by a wooden stair and defended by a stone bretasche. On the first floor, a hall with a fireplace in the S gable; in the thickness of the N wall, a garderobe whose E end is hollowed out of the curtain wall. At the NW corner and also in the wall-thickness, a turnpike stair to the floors above. One room on each of the two upper floors,

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Castle Tioram. Plan.

(Redrawn from MacGibbon and Ross, *The Castellated and Domestic Architecture of Scotland*, II, 1887)

both with fireplaces, the second-floor room having also a garderobe in the N wall.

The S range may also have been begun in the c 14. It seems originally to have been of two storeys with an attic. At its E end, a tunnel-vaulted passage to the S postern. In the W ground-floor room, a slop sink; so this may have been a kitchen when the range was first built. At the SW corner, a tight turnpike stair, probably a c 13 access to the wall-walk but converted to a service stair for this building. This range's W end was given a further two floors, c. 1600; corbelled round turrets with cannon-spouts at the SE, SW and NE corners, a gabled stairtower at the NE. The big segmental-arched windows in the tower's S front and in the range to its E probably all date from the remodelling of c. 1600. In the castle's SE corner between the E and S ranges, a two-storey building. Its ground-floor room has a well in the W wall and an oven in the NE corner.

CILLE CHOIRILL *see* ROY BRIDGE

CLOVULLIN *see* CORRAN AND CLOVULLIN

CORPACH, BANAVIE AND CAOL

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Just a few buildings beside the Caledonian Canal until the late c 20, when Caol was developed as a suburb of Fort William and a pulp and paper mill was built at the W end of Corpach.