

HIGHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL



FIELD MONUMENTS

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD

1 SITE CODE H N M 6 7 S E 0 0 1 A

2 NGR NM 6 6 2 1 7 2 4 3 3 QUAL CE

6 SITE NAME C A S T L E T I O R A M

10 GENERIC TYPE CASTLE

14 PERIOD/DATE EM=LM/13th-18thc. 15 DATING METHOD DOC + TYP

18 SHAPE

19 THREAT AND DATE

4 DISTR:CT LOCHABER

5 PARISH ARISAIG AND MOIDART

7 AREA STATUS 8 SITE STATUS SCHEDULED + 'A' LISTED

9 REGIONAL STATUS

11 CONCORDANCE os NM 67 SE 1 12 FORM STANDING STRUCTURE

13 DIMENSIONS

16 RELATIONSHIP OF ELEMENTS

17 CONDITION RUINED

20 LAND USE BACKSHORE = ROUGH PASTURE

21 GEOLOGY

22 SOILS

23 VEGETATION

24 HYDROLOGY/DRAINAGE

25 RELIEF TIDAL ISLAND

26 ASPECT NW

27 ALTITUDE 5 = 10m O.D.

28 EXCAVATION (EXCAVATOR: DATE: EXTENT: QUALITY)

29 BIBLIOGRAPHY (AUTHOR: DATE: TITLE: JOURNAL OR PUBLISHER: VOLUME: DETAIL)

1. ORDNANCE SURVEY: 1901: 6" MAP
2. SIMPSON, W DOUGLAS: 1954: TRANS GLASGOW AS AND NS: :VOL.13: pp70-79 PLAN PHOTO
3. DONALDSON, M.E.M.: 1920: THE WESTERN HIGHLANDS AND ISLANDS: :35: PLAN
4. HBM (SDD): 1985: LIST OF SCHEDULED MONUMENTS
5. TRANTER, N.: 1970: THE FORTIFIED HOUSE IN SCOTLAND: W & R CHAMBERS: VOL. 5:
6. ORDNANCE SURVEY: 1974: 1/10,000 MAP
7. HBM(SDD): 1985: BSAHI LIST, LOCHABER

30 GROUND PLAN NO.

31 GROUND PHOTO NO.

32 SLIDES NO.

33 HR. AP. NO.

34 NMR. AP. NO.

35 OTHER AP. NO.: SOURCE

36 ARCHIVE AND LOCATION

37 GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY

38 SAMPLES

39 PALYNOLOGY

40 NUMERICAL DATES: RANGE: LAB NO.

41 SMALL FINDS

42 MUSEUM/LOCATION

43 OTHER

44 NAME & ADDRESS OF OWNER

45 ATTITUDE OF OWNER

46 NAME & ADDRESS OF TENANT

47 ATTITUDE OF TENANT

48 ACCESS & RESTRICTIONS

49 NAME & ADDRESS OF FINDER/RECORDER: DATE

50 RECORDER: DATE AR: 25.8.1986

51 CHECK: DATE SS: 1.9.1986

52 TEXT

"NM 6621 7243 Castle Tioram (in ruins)" (1)
 "NM 6621 7243 Castle Tioram (remains of)" (6)
 "NM 661 724 Castle Tioram & Eilean Tirim" (4)
 "Castle of Eilean Tioram, Loch Moidart." (7)
 "See continuation cards for further text and plans."

(1) [115]

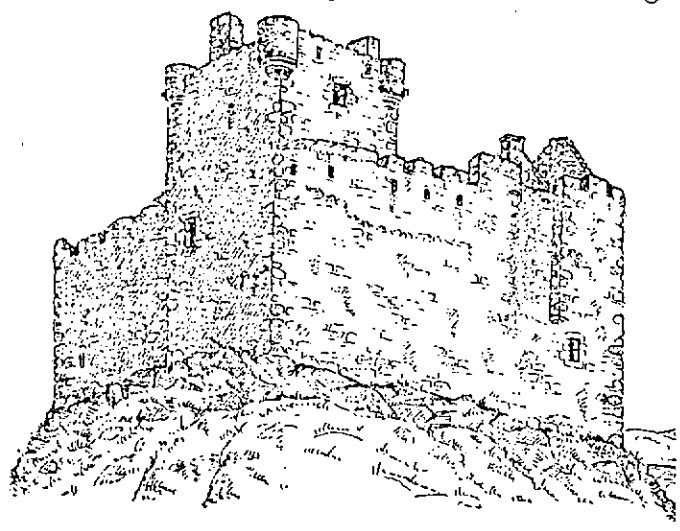
Few examples so splendidly fulfil all the story-book ideals of a Highland chief's castle as does this, the former main seat of Clanranald, in Moidart. Set on a tidal island in the narrow mouth of Loch Moidart, about three miles north of Acharacle, amidst wooded hills and scattered islets, it crowns the summit of a rocky mound in spectacular fashion, dominating all. Like so many other West Highland castles, this belongs to two main periods, the early and typical 13th- and 14th-century wall-of-enceinte fortress, which consisted mainly of a lofty and blank-walled enclosure of irregular form, crenellated and seeming to rise out of the natural rock, with a keep and lesser lean-to buildings within, as at Mingarry, Kisimul, Duart and others; and 16th-century interior building, with a heightening and elaboration of the keep, the addition of open rounds and corbelling, and enlargement of windows. The irregular and uneven site dictates varying heights and faces in the five-sided curtain-walling, and means that the courtyard within is here on three different levels.

(6)

The entrance is in the north wall, with a machicolated projection above, for defence. The north-east portion of the walling is thinner, having been rebuilt. An outside stair against the wall to the north west, within the courtyard, leads up to the battlement walk, contrived by lessening the wall thickness. This is drained by gargoyle spouts. Subsidiary building has been added on three sides, to the south, with the keep rising high in the north-west angle. The basements are vaulted, at varying levels necessarily, but the upper floors are now inaccessible. The range to the south-east has contained the kitchen premises, with well and oven. The Hall was probably to the north of this, at the higher level.

Amy MacRuari, the wife of John, 7th Lord of the Isles, divorced in order that he might wed King Robert the Second's daughter

[116]



Margaret, came here with her dispossessed family; from her second son, Ranald, sprang the great Clanranald division of the house of MacDonald. The wronged lady built the keep and other work of the 14th century, within an existing rude 13th-century castle, and resided here. Thereafter Castle Tioram was the centre of continual turmoil, battle and feud, over the centuries, as was inevitable as the chief seat of that warlike branch clan. It did not escape involvement in more national upsets either. In 1554 the Regent, Mary of Guise, commanded Huntly and Argyll to assault it by sea and land, using artillery, and when the fabric was repaired in 1888, several cannon-balls were found lodged in the masonry, probably as a result of this action. No doubt it was after this battering that the 16th-century rebuilding took place. The chief then was John of Moidart, the first to be styled Captain of Clanranald. Again, a century later Cromwell's troops attacked and occupied the stronghold. During the Jacobite Rising of 1715, Castle Tioram was finally burned, but by its owner, the last Clanranald to reside here, to prevent it falling to the hands of the government troops. Today, although a roofless ruin, it is kept in good order and is a favourite objective of visitors.

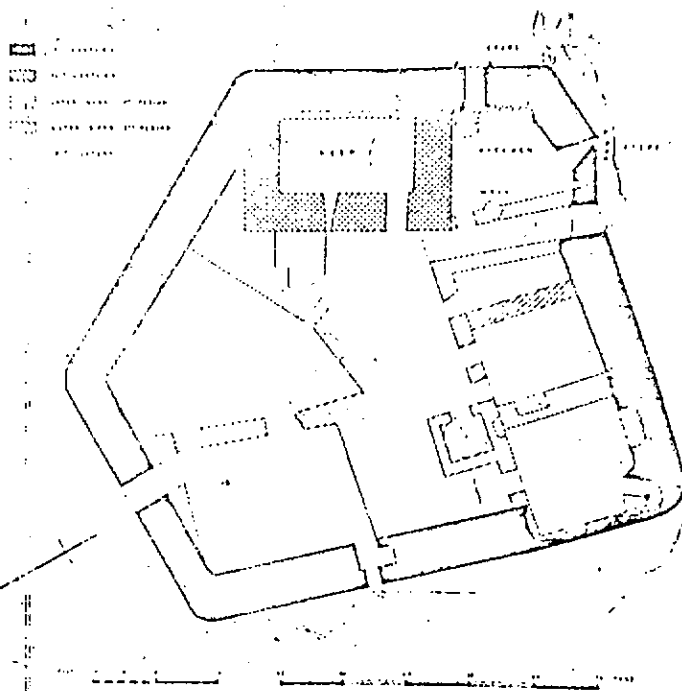
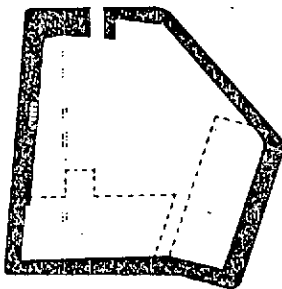


FIG. 2. GROUND PLAN OF CASTLE TIORAM.



"The castle on Eilean Tioram is first mentioned in a charter of 1472. It was garrisoned by the government in the E. 18th c. and burned down in 1715. It consists of a massive pentagonal curtain wall (see plan (2) on illust card) occupying the whole summit of the rock, within which is a range of stone buildings of which the earliest is the keep, 16th c; the South range was added about 1600 followed by later additions and modifications." (2)

"Castle Tioram, as described and planned by Simpson. About 8.0m NW of the N bable of the castle is a cleft in the rock which has almost certainly been used as a midden for the castle, otherwise no further information regarding the find spot of the hanging bowl which is still in the West Highland Museum." (OSFI:RL:3.6:1970)

HIGHLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL



ARTEFACTS

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND MONUMENTS RECORD

1 SITE CODE										
H	N	M	6	7	S	E	0	0	1	B

2 NGR		3 QUAL	
N	M	6	6
2	1	7	2
4	3	C	E

6 SITE NAME										
C	A	S	T	L	E	T	I	O	R	A
M										

7 GENERIC TYPE										
HANGING BOWL, BRONZE										

11 PERIOD/DATE						12 DATING METHOD				
EM (PIC)						TYP				

15 EXCAVATOR AND DATE										
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16 EXCAVATION RECORD NO.										
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17 LAND USE										
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18 GEOLOGY										
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19 SOILS										
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20 VEGETATION										
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21 HYDROLOGY/DRAINAGE				22 RELIEF				23 ASPECT			24 ALTITUDE	
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25 DETAILED DESCRIPTION/DIMENSIONS										
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6½" (165mm) IN DIAMETER AND SPUN FROM A SINGLE PIECE OF BRONZE
THE WALLS ARE LESS THAN 1mm IN THICKNESS

26 BIBLIOGRAPHY (AUTHOR: DATE: TITLE: JOURNAL OR PUBLISHER: VOLUME: DETAIL)										
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1. KILBRIDE-JONES, H.E: 1937-7: PROC. SOC. ANT. SCOT. VOL. 71: p207-9

27 GROUND PLAN NO.						28 GROUND PHOTO NO.				
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29 SLIDES NO.						30 HR. AP. NO.				
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31 NMR. AP. NO.						32 OTHER AP. NO.: SOURCE				
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33 ARCHIVE AND LOCATION										
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34 GEOPHYSICAL SURVEY						35 SAMPLES				
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36 PALYNOLOGY						37 NUMERICAL DATES: RANGE: LAB NO.				
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38 OTHER										
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39 NAME & ADDRESS OF OWNER										
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40 ATTITUDE OF OWNER										
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41 NAME & ADDRESS OF TENANT										
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42 ATTITUDE OF TENANT										
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43 ACCESS & RESTRICTIONS										
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44 NAME & ADDRESS OF FINDER/RECORDER: DATE						45 RECORDER: DATE			46 CHECK: DATE	
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						AR: 25.8.1986			SS: 1.9.1988	
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47 TEXT										
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"Before 1928 the remains of a 5th c. bronze hanging-bowl were recovered from a kitchen-midden at Castle Tioram. Now in the West Highland Museum" (1)
 "About 8.0m NW of the N gable of the castle is a cleft in the rock which has almost certainly been used as a midden for the castle, otherwise no further information regarding the find spot of the hanging bowl which is still in the West Highland Museum." (OSFI:RL:3.6.1970)
 "The hanging bowl dates within the 5th to 8th centuries but is late, perhaps 7th century."
 (Stevenson, R.B.K. Keeper R.M.S. (1988)
 (QUEEN ST...)

"See continuation card for text & illustration (1)"

A BRONZE HANGING-BOWL FROM CASTLE TIORAM, MOIDART: HNM 67 SE 001B
 AND A SUGGESTED ABSOLUTE CHRONOLOGY FOR
 BRITISH HANGING-BOWLS. BY H. E. KILBRIDE-JONES,
 F.S.A.Scot.

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

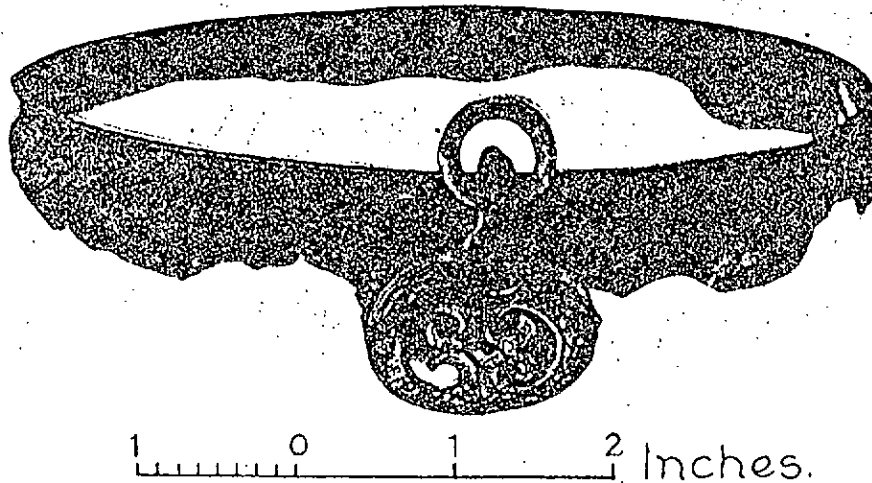


Fig. 1. Remains of Bronze Hanging-bowl from Castle Tioram, Moidart.

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. 208.

² *Leeds, Celtic Ornament*, p. 145.

from above, thereby producing a slight eversion and inversion, giving a width to the top of the rim of nearly 3 mm. The object of producing this T-girder form of rim was for the prevention of sagging, or buckling, which would otherwise have taken place at the points of suspension when the bowl was hung aloft.

The single remaining escutcheon, the obverse of which is slightly convex, has an openwork design of two laterally opposed *palmettes*. (Not every one will agree about this, so that later we propose to examine the design, which also appears on another bowl from England, in detail.¹) The hook has a zoomorphic form, both ears and eyes being clearly indicated. Along the top of the "head" runs a thin, raised moulding which terminates in a small raised oval panel (barely discernible) at the back of the head.² Below this, at the junction of hook and escutcheon, are other two small, oval panels; but decay is such that it is impossible to determine whether or not they bore ornamentation. The ring is encircled on the outside by ladder ornamentation.

There is no indication as to whether the bowl had originally three or four escutcheons; but, in view of its small size, it is probable that there were but three escutcheons. When complete, the bowl must have been more or less hemispherical in shape, and it doubtless possessed a wide kick in the base, which quite possibly bore a print both inside and outside.

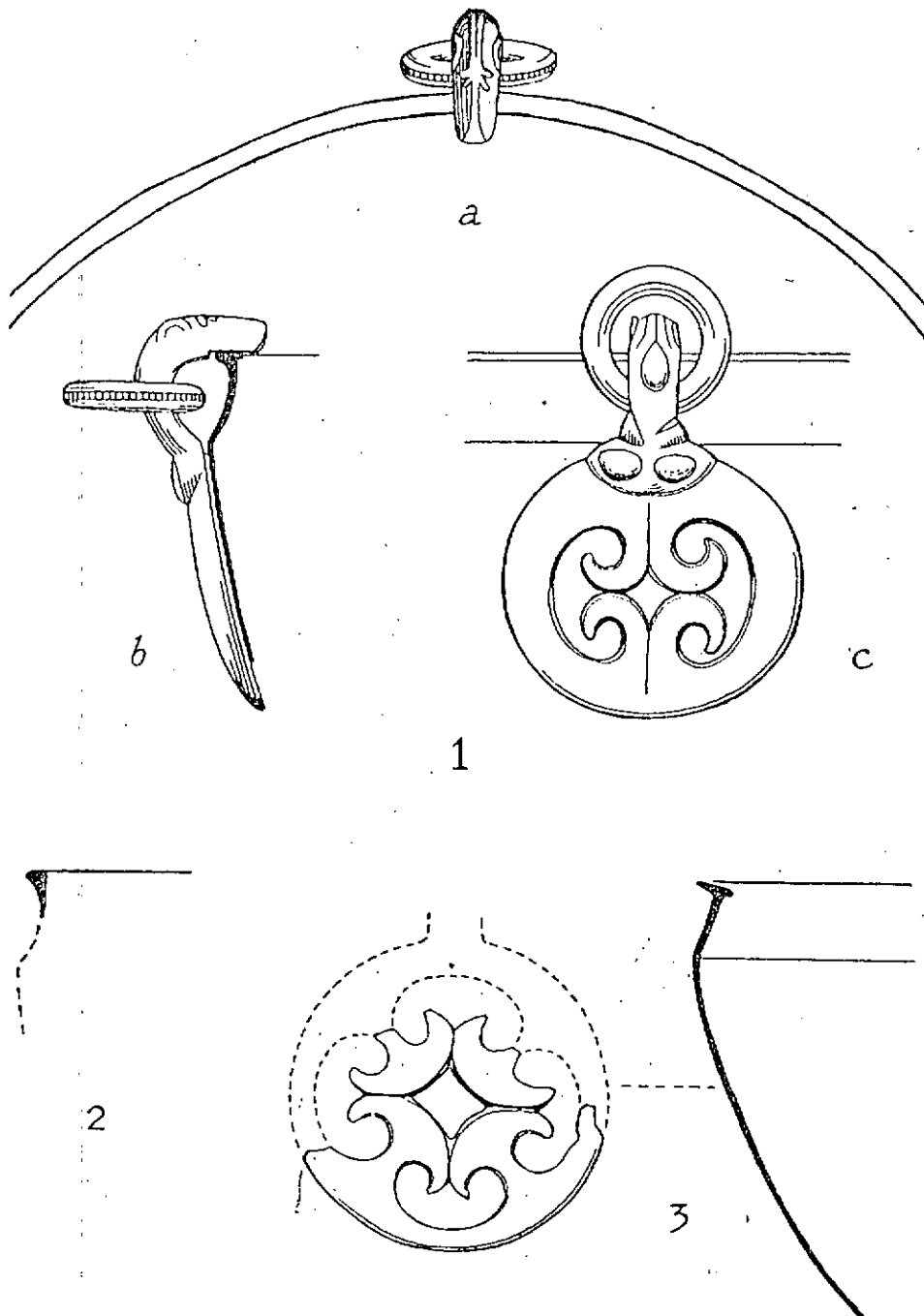


Fig. 2. Scots Hanging-bowls: (1) Castle Tioran, Moidart; (c) escutcheon, with (b) side-view and section of bowl, and (a) top elevation. (2) Fragmentary Rim from Tummel Bridge, Perthshire. (3) Section of Bronze Hanging-bowl, and Escutcheon (restored) from Tummel Bridge, Perthshire. (4.)

Antiquity No.

NM 67 SE 1

County

Parish

Illustration.

NM 67 SE 0001(A)

- Outer Wall
- Inner Wall
- Outer Wall of Tower
- Inner Wall of Tower
- Gate

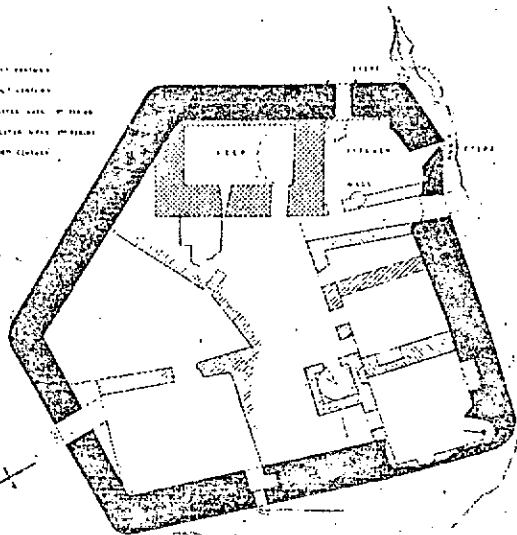
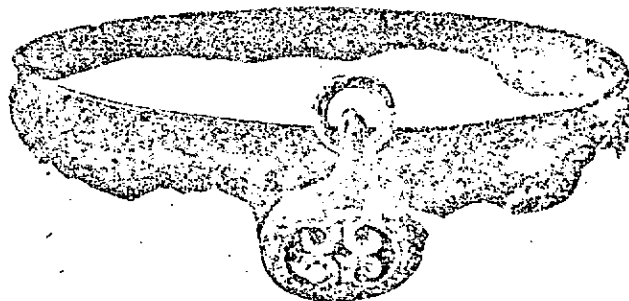


FIG. 2. GROUND PLAN OF CASTLE TIORAM.



1 0 1 2 Inches.

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

Authy 3

O.S. 495 · Authy 3

(6907) D. 634650 24M 4/69 P.L. Gp. 872

(contd)

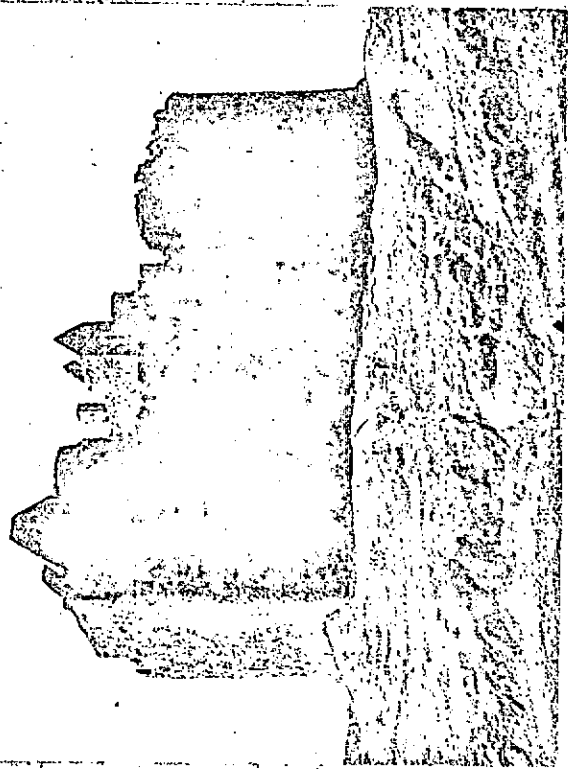
NM 67 SE 0001(A)

Antiquity No.

County

Parish

NM 67 SE 1



Antiquity F. 1

