

Title: The Aghadown bronze axes, Paddock Td, Co. Cork

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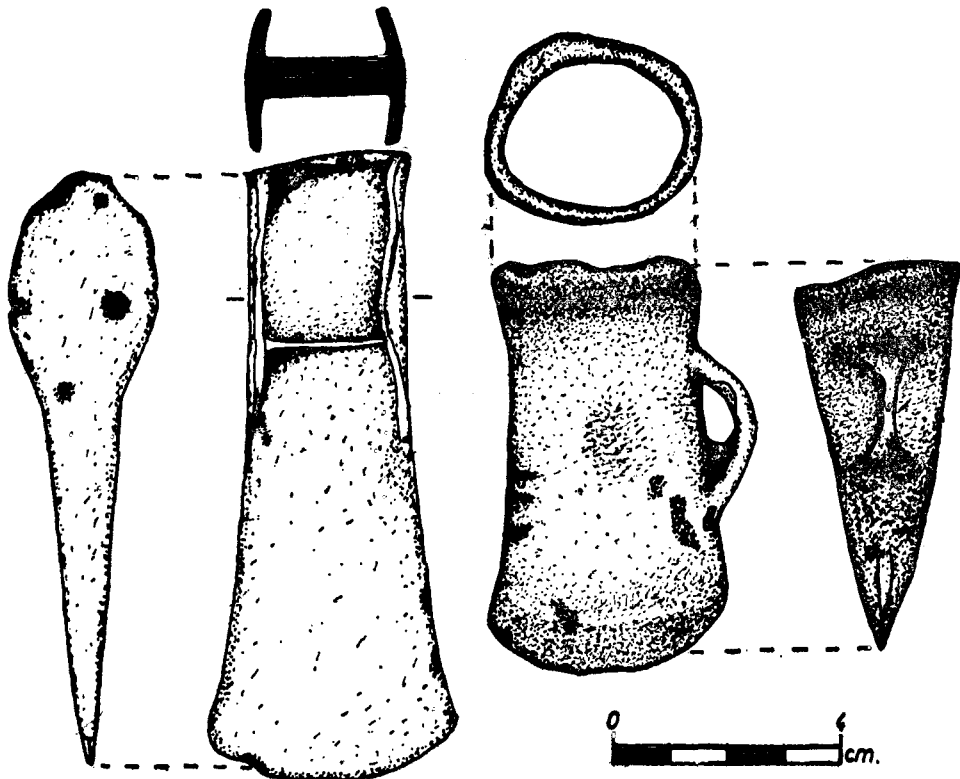
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# The Aghadown Bronze Axes, Paddock Td, Co. Cork

By J. P. McCARTHY

A brief account of the two axes to be described and illustrated here was published by Power<sup>1</sup> in 1926. He states that they were discovered at Aghadown near Baltimore, in a souterrain locally known as *Poll-a-Talmhain*. They were found lying "on a projecting stone within the passage." They were deposited in the National Museum and their tickets there record them as having come from Paddock townland.<sup>2</sup> A



Bronze Axes, Paddock Td, Co. Cork

<sup>1</sup> Power, P. *Find of Bronze Celts at Aghadown, Co. Cork, J.R.S.A.I.*, Vol. 56, 1926, 57-8.

<sup>2</sup> Td, Paddock; Ph: Aghadown; By: West Carbery. O.S. 6" map, Cork sheet nos. 140/141.

short description of them was given by Power in his account. However, they were not illustrated. One of the axes is socketed, the other is palstave.

### **Socketed Axe**

External bevel on rim, oval loop, slightly splayed convex cutting-edge. Mouth of socket roughly circular, hammered surface on rim. At the centre of each face internally is a narrow rib each 2.8cm. long. Both meet at the bottom of the socket. Outer surfaces are rough and show signs of wear which developed in use. These surfaces have a green patina. Length 7.3cm; width at cutting-edge 4.2cm. External diams at mouth 3.8cm and 3.3cm.

### **Palstave**

Battered butt giving lip on either face of septum. Outer aspects of flanges oval. Edges of flanges slightly twisted and bent inward. Flanges continue beyond stop-ridge merging with the blade below it. The septum is thinner than that part of the blade immediately below the stop-ridge. The stop-ridge is straight and prominent. Cutting-edge convex and not markedly splayed. Dents occur on the edges of all surfaces showing evidence of damage while in use. Length 11.1cm; width at butt 2.9cm, at cutting-edge 4.4cm; width across flanges 2.5cm; thickness of septum 7mm.

### *Acknowledgements*

I wish to express my thanks here to the Director of the National Museum for permission to examine and illustrate the axes.