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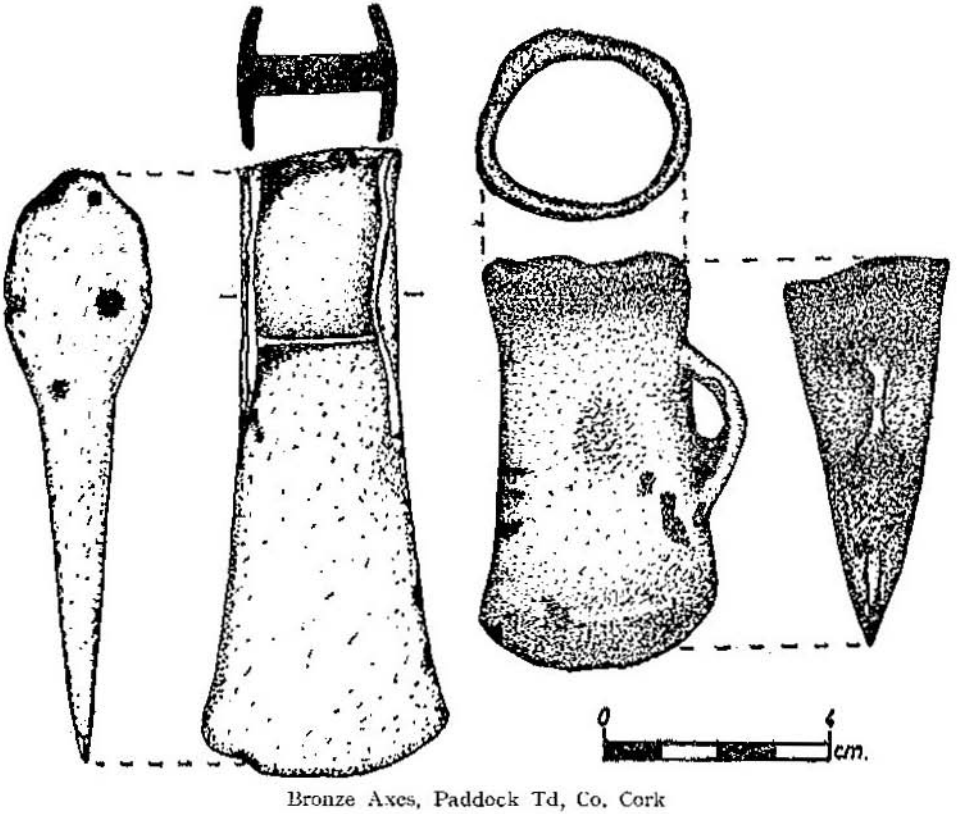
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The Aghadown Bronze Axes, Paddock Td, Co. Cork

By J. P. McCARTHY

A brief account of the two axes to be described and illustrated here was published by Power[1] 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.[2] A



Bronze Axes, Paddock Td, Co. Cork

[1] Power, P. *Find of Bronze Celts at Aghadown, Co. Cork*, *J.R.S.A.I.*, Vol. 56, 1926, 57-8.
[2] 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.