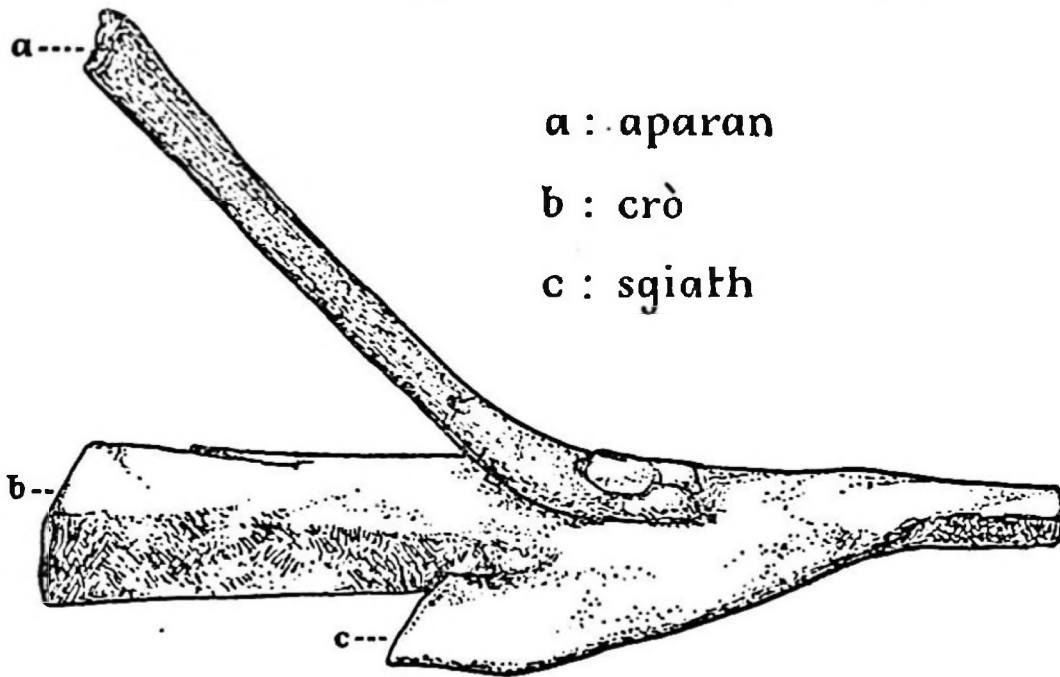


A PLOUGH FROM SOUTH UIST

There is an illustration of a plough-sock from South Uist, now in the Hamburgisches Museum, in *Scottish Studies* 1 (1957), Plate 2, Fig. 5. In a note on page 88 it is described as a "sock with coulter attached", and the authors state "we are unable to explain this unusual implement". If I may be permitted to do so I should like to offer an explanation.

What is described as the "coulter attached" is not really a coulter at all. It is what is commonly known in South Uist as the *aparan an t-suic* (apron of the sock). This apron is fixed



to the top of the sock with an iron bolt which goes right through the entire sock. The bolt is clinched at the bottom end.

The sock is fitted on to the iron *bonn* (bottom) of the plough by inserting the tapered end of the *bonn* into the *crò* (socket); it is a push-fit, and the sock stays put by the pressure of the soil as the plough moves forward. The apron then fits up against that part of the plough known as the *geadha*.

This is the common South Uist sock, and several of the kind are still in use. I had a good specimen of the type in my own possession, now in the Highland Folk Museum.*

DONALD JOHN MACDONALD.

* Mr. Donald John Macdonald has presented the South Uist plough sock to the Highland Folk Museum. A scale drawing of this is appended.

Overall length	: 10½ ins.
Max. width across wing	: 4½ ins.
Height of aparan off crò	: 4½ ins.
Height of aparan off howi	: 6 ins.