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A Catalogue of Known Irish Y-pieces of the Late Iron Age

1st Century AD – 4th Century AD

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NB. This catalogue is as yet incomplete, as subsequently to the completion of the manuscript for the Emania 22 article a number of pieces from the Drumanagh region were identified which need to be added, with further updates from ongoing research since the original catalogue was compiled.

References

Eogan, G.


Raftery, B.


Raftery, B. and Ryan, M.


Warner, R. B.

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Please note that all illustrations are at a scale of 1:2, apart from fragmentary specimens such as finials, shafts or terminals, where detail would be lost if reproduced at half their original size.
Catalogue of Irish Y-pieces

Type 1a

*Characteristics: This variation of Y-piece usually has matching terminal buds and shaft styles, reminiscent in shape of acorns in their cups.*

Cat. No: Y1A:001

Length: 136mm

Breadth of shaft: 6mm

Terminal: 49mm

Width of fork: 124mm

Weight: 69g

**Description:** Deep bronze in colour. Fragment. Shaft, terminal and inverted V-moulding of forked junction, with small indentation at centre of junction. Damage evident to terminal, revealing it to be hollow. Shaft circular. Terminal waisted and capped with small protrusion. Actual provenance unknown, but donor (Rev F. Gervais) resided in Portnelligan, Armagh. It is likely the object was found within or at least very close to Gervais’s own property like the rest of his collection which was donated to Armagh Museum.

Raftery 1983, 52, No. 140.

Armagh County Museum: 205.1935

*Plate 1.*

Cat. No: Y1A:002

Length: 43mm

Breadth at widest point: 14mm

Weight: 12g

**Description:** Fragment of forked terminal retainer. Rich deep bronze in colour. Rounded petal shaped waisted bud. Perforation at bottom of fragment where connection to pronged fork of Y-piece would have been. Perforation of inner bud measuring 1mm. Found in a lower pasture at the foot of Navan fort mound. Recorded details of find in *Emania* (Warner, 2002).

Armagh County Museum: 170:1998

*Plate 2*
**Cat. No: Y1A:003**

Length: 298mm
Shaft breadth: 7mm
Length of shaft:
Terminal length: 48mm
Terminal diameter: 22mm
Width of fork: 91mm

**Description:** Almost blackened smooth patina. Complete and showing no obvious signs of wear or repairs. Forked terminal retainers and butt terminal matching in shape, comprising of waisted droplet shape. Evidence of zigzag pattern on butt terminal. Inverted V moulding at junction of fork and shaft. While the Armagh County Museum holds no details about this piece further than its donor, Dorothy Gervais Rhodes of Tyrone, the NMI records that this piece was found at Knockmany passage tomb, known in the 19th century as the Druids Alter. Ms Rhodes’s relative, Rev Francis Gervais had found the piece in 1883.

Raftery, 1983, 55, No. 150
Armagh County Museum: 137.1956

*Plate 3*

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**Cat. No: Y1A:004**

Total length: 328mm
Width of fork: 169mm


Raftery, 1983, 54, No. 146.
British Museum: 54.7-14.294

*Plate 4.*
Cat. No: Y1A:005

Total length: 304mm
Width of fork: 106mm

“No Provenance. Portion of one prong missing. Members circular in section. Separately cast terminals resemble those of No. 150, Fig 47. Each composed of two elements a more-or-less biconical portion into which the members of the ‘pendant’ fit, and a roughly hemispherical expansion, the surface of which is decorated with a band of zigzag leaf ornament cast in low relief. A tiny rounded nipple projects from the tip of each terminal. Narrow inverted V-moulding at junction of fork and stem.” (Raftery 1983, 59).

Raftery, 1983, 59, No. 163
British Museum

Plate 5

Cat. No: Y1A:006

Total length: 303mm
Width of fork: 138mm

Raftery, 1983, 53, No. 142
Hunt Museum, Limerick. HCA 463

Plate 6

Cat. No: Y1A:007

Total length: 308mm
Width of fork: 150mm

“County Limerick. Pair, similar but not identical. Members circular to oval in section. Separately-cast, acorn shaped terminals. Ends somewhat pointed. Prong-terminals hollow along inner surfaces. Incised inverted V-motif occurs at junction of fork and stem, on both faces of 143 (Spec. 3) but detectable on one face only of 142 (Spec. 2). Casting seams visible on stem and prong of 143 (Spec. 3)” (Raftery 1983, 53).

Raftery, 1983, 53, No. 143
Hunt Museum, Limerick. HCA 464

Plate 7
Cat. No: Y1A:008

Total length: 330mm

“Spur shaped object, possibly a bridle pendant. The base of the stem terminal is bulbous, separated by a constriction from the upper portion which is mushroom-head-shaped. Each prong has been broken across, apparently after discovery. The upper part of each terminal is spoon shaped. The lower portion is convex externally and on its inside there is a perforated projection. All members have a rounded cross section” (Eogan, 1991, 159).

NationalMuseet, Copenhagen, Denmark. No. 13040.1

Plate 8

Cat. No: Y1A:009

Length: 312mm
Shaft length (incl terminal) 118mm
Shaft breadth: 6mm
Terminal length: 39mm
Terminal diameter: 14mm
Width of fork: 149mm
Weight: 200g

Description: Deep bronze, described on the museum card as being made of copper alloy. Intact. Retainer buds oval shaped and hollow inner surface. Cast separately from main body of piece. Inverted V casting seam at junction. Found in Aughrim, in bogland, with a horsebit (Raftery and Ryan, 1972; 196-197).

Raftery, 1983, 53, No. 141

Plate 9

Cat. No: Y1A:010

Length: 243mm
Shaft length (incl terminal):62mm
Shaft breadth: 53mm
Width of fork: 138mm
Weight: 104g

Rich bronze patina. Wear apparent on inner perforations at prong finials. Zigzag pattern worn on outer surface. Bending of frame from junction. Butt terminal missing. Refined construction. Currently on loan to Louth County Museum in Dundalk, Ireland. Stated as having been found in Ardee, with a bronze spear-head.

Raftery, 1983, 53, No. 144
Louth County Museum, on loan from NMI: 1929: 1357

Plate 10

Cat. No: Y1A:011
Total length: 302mm
Width of fork: 119mm

“Complete. Members circular in section. Terminals separately cast; each one possesses a cylindrical socket into which ends of “pendant” have been fitted. A tiny transverse rivet secures each in place. Prong-terminals end in solid, diminutive sub-circular elements, flat on the inside and of D-shaped section. Narrow series of worn, transverse lines engraved around prongs at junction with terminals. Stem terminal ends in small, flattened-spherical boss. Fine engraved lines occur on socket close to boss, and also on stem, near junction with terminal” (Raftery 1983, 58).

Raftery, 1983, 58, No. 162.
National Museum of Ireland. 1920:33. Lost specimen

Plate 11

Cat. No: Y1A:012
Length: 273mm
Shaft length (incl terminal):114mm
Shaft breadth: 5mm
Terminal length: 28mm
Terminal diameter: 16mm
Width of fork: 72mm
Weight: 82g

Raftery, 1983, 55, No. 149

National Museum of Ireland; 1880:53/Habitat D16:6

*Plate 12*

**Cat. No: Y1A:013**

Length: 327mm

Shaft length (incl terminal): 125mm

Shaft breadth: 4mm

Terminal length: 47mm

Terminal diameter: 11mm

Width of fork: 106mm

Weight: 140g

**Description:** Dark bronze with patches of scraping on otherwise smooth patina. Very lightweight and slender arms of fork. Retainer buds of forked terminals rounded on outside and with shallow indentation on the inner surface. Perforations facing each other and very narrow – approximately 2-3mm. Traces of some sort of pattern on outer surface of buds. One terminal bud damaged. Indications of wear and pressure on central shaft, and bending at connecting junction of shaft and fork. Acorn or droplet styled butt terminal with corrosive damage of small holes. Found in Ballina Costello, Mayo with a snaffle bit.

Raftery, 1983,54, No. 145

National Museum of Ireland. 1879:1

*Plate 13*

**Cat. No: Y1A:014**

Length: 321mm

Shaft length (incl terminal): 129mm

Shaft breadth: 6mm
Terminal length: 41mm
Terminal diameter: 18mm
Width of fork: 146mm
Weight: 182g

**Description:** Almost black in colour. Smooth patina except where damage and/or repairs have occurred. No visible casting seams. Elongated acorn shape matching on prong terminal buds and butt terminal. Considerable wear and repair at shaft/fork junction, and just below the junction at top of shaft. Cut marks on one arm of fork where damage had already occurred in the past. Inner surface of terminal retainer buds shallowly hollow. Perforations in inner sides delta shaped, approximately 4-5mm. Surrounding metal squared and sturdy although worn smooth. Butt terminal has an oblique slice cut into the side. Provenance unknown.

Raftery, 1983, 58, No. 159
National Museum of Ireland: P506/Habitat D16:7

**Plate 14**

**Cat. No:** Y1A:015

Length: 325mm
Shaft length (incl terminal): 145mm
Shaft breadth: 4mm
Terminal length: 25mm
Terminal diameter: 22mm
(Projected approximate width of fork: 142mm)
Weight: 124g

**Description:** Deep bronze colour, with blackened shaft. Smooth patina. Partial retainer bud on one fork arm, suggesting a rounded retainer bud. Casting seam visible at junction of shaft and fork, but not on arms. Butt terminal intact and undamaged, with base of terminal perforated by small hole. Butt terminal shaped like slightly elongated hazelnut. No indication of use wear. Provenance unknown.

Raftery, 1983, 58, No. 160
National Museum of Ireland: P508/Habitat D15:6

**Plate 15**
Cat. No: Y1A:016

Length: 229mm
Shaft length: 89mm
Shaft breadth: 5mm
Width of fork: 114mm
Weight: 60g

Description: Almost black in colour. Smooth surface. Terminal prongs and retainer buds broken, apart from the inner surface perforation at the base of one prong. Perforation rounded and large in comparison with size of artefact, at apx 4mm. This inward facing hoop of metal would suggest the retainer buds were curved. Casting seam of shaft beaten almost flat. Damage and wear to junction of shaft and fork. Cuts made at top of prongs. Butt terminal missing, but connecting rivet hole still there although damaged. Provenance unknown.


National Museum of Ireland: P508.1/Habitat D16:5

Plate 16

Cat. No: Y1A:017

Length – including shaft and fork: 291mm
Width of fork: 115mm

“One prong-end and part of stem-terminal missing. Members circular in section. Surviving terminal, which has been cast with prong more or less almond shaped with rounded tip. Four fine, transverse mouldings mark junction with prong. Inner surface of terminal hollow; in place of projecting loop, inner edges of terminal hammered together at lower end so that they almost touch. Stem-terminal is separate casting” (Raftery 1983, 56).

Raftery, 1983, 56, No. 152

National Museum of Ireland: W156

Plate 17

Cat. No: Y1A:018

Length: 314mm
Shaft length (incl terminal): 124mm
Shaft breadth: 5mm
Terminal length: 31mm
Terminal diameter: 19mm
Weight: 174g


National Museum of Ireland: W162/Habitat D16:5

*Plate 18*

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**Cat. No:** Y1A:019

Length: 337mm
Shaft length (incl terminal): 141mm
Shaft breadth: 6mm
Terminal length: 44mm
Terminal diameter: 16mm
Width of fork: 148mm
Weight: 230g

**Description:** Rich bronze colour with greenish colouration at central seam on junction. Prong terminals bent slightly with scrapes. Retainer buds intact but showing some wear at inner perforations. Visible casting seam inverted V shaped at junction. Wear and damage apparent at junction and shaft. Butt terminal shows signs of melting and modifications, perhaps to fill in past holes, due to the presence of small indentations. Found at Moyfin, Co Meath in the River Boyne.

Raftery, 1983, 54, No. 147

National Museum of Ireland: W163/Habitat D16:8

*Plate 19*
Cat. No: Y1A:020

Length: 327mm
Shaft length (incl terminal): 124mm
Shaft breadth: 5mm
Terminal length: 38mm
Terminal diameter: 17mm
Width of fork: 117mm
Weight: 169g


Raftery, 1983, 56, No. 154

National Museum of Ireland: W164/Habitat D 16:9

*Plate 20*

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Cat. No: Y1A:021

Length: 301mm
Shaft length (incl terminal): 124mm
Shaft breadth: 6mm
Terminal length: 36mm
Terminal diameter: 22mm
Width of fork: 135mm
Weight: 177g

**Description:** Rich golden bronze colour. Well finished but damage evident at prong terminals. Retainer buds intact but large hole in one bud. Rounded berry shape. Considerable wear on inner perforation retainer on damaged side than non-damaged. Bending and wear on both arms of fork. Central casting seam at junction. Butt terminal hollow and cast separately, with shaft spike visible through hole. Provenance unknown.

Raftery, 1983, 56-7, No. 155

Cat. No: Y1A:022

Length: 286mm
Shaft length (incl terminal): 111mm
Shaft breadth: 4mm
Terminal length: 50mm
Terminal diameter: 16mm
Width of fork: 122mm
Weight: 174g

Description: Brownish bronze in colour. Intact. Smooth surface. Prong terminal retainer buds wide petal shaped with polished finish. Inner surface concave and shallow, with small perforations and metal worn thin at perforation points. Small holes are present in the outer surfaces of retainer buds. Arms of fork are cut and scratched and also bent. Inverted V casting seam on central junction, with pronounced raised seam on shaft and on arms of fork. Butt terminal is droplet shaped, with a break in the lower part showing the terminal to be hollow and cast separately from shaft. Provenance unknown.

Raftery, 1983, 57, No. 156
National Museum of Ireland: W168/Habitat D16:8

Plate 22

Cat. No: Y1A:023

Length: 268mm
Shaft length (incl terminal): 106mm
Shaft breadth: 5mm
Terminal length: 39mm
Terminal diameter: 12mm
Width of fork: 148mm
Weight: 149g

Description: Bronze colour, smooth surface. Intact though some damage to tips of retainer buds of prong terminals. Prong terminals cast separately. Small petal shaped buds with concave inner surface. Inner perforation small, rounded and worn thinner at projecting side. No casting seam visible on junction, fork or shaft. Butt terminal elongated acorn shape with an oblique cut showing a hollow interior and separate casting from shaft. Found in Creggan, Roscommon.
Raftery, 1983, 54, No. 148

National Museum of Ireland: W169/Habitat D16:5

**Plate 23**

Cat. No: Y1A:024

Length: 300mm

Shaft length (incl terminal): 121mm

Shaft breadth: 5mm

Terminal length: 34mm

Terminal diameter: 19mm

Width of fork: 152mm

Weight: 188g

**Description:** rich brownish bronze in colour with some tinge of green at terminals. Intact. Prong terminal retainer buds berry shaped with smooth inner surface, although signs of twisting and wear of perforation area. Some bending and evidence of scratches on arms of fork. Casting seam visible on one side of piece, but beaten flat on other side. Some wear and damage on lower arm of fork and along shaft. Butt terminal droplet shaped, cast separately and visibly hollow from a gash at the base of the butt. Provenance unknown. **Plate 33**

Raftery, 1983, 57, No. 157

National Museum of Ireland: W174/Habitat D16:6

**Plate 24**

Cat. No: Y1A:025

Length: 326mm

Shaft length (incl terminal): 123mm

Shaft breadth: 5mm

Terminal length: 43mm

Terminal diameter: 17mm

Width of fork: 159mm
Weight: 180g

**Description:** Rich deep bronze colour. Smooth polished patina. Made with considerable refinement and attention to small details. Intact. Prong terminals simple and symmetrical. Both arms of fork perfectly symmetrical. No bending. Deep concave inner surface highly polished outer surface of retainer buds which are petal shaped. No sign of wear. No visible seam on junction or shaft. Unusual cleft butt terminal, with both pieces perforated by a small rivet hole, which must have held some other decorative detail in place at the butt. Butt terminal elegant elongated acorn shape and cast separate from the shaft. No provenance.

Raftery, 1983, 57, No. 158

National Museum of Ireland: W175/Habitat D16:8

*Plate 25*

**Cat. No:** Y1A:026

Shaft length (incl terminal): 124mm

Shaft breadth: 23mm

Terminal length: 23mm

Terminal diameter: 21mm

Weight: 74g

**Description:** Bright gold colour, but with greenish copper alloy corrosion visible through the many cracks of the surface. Fractured and bumpy surface. Cut visible at top of shaft. Butt terminal nut-shaped with punctures and cracks along the base. Butt terminal cast separately from shaft. Provenance unknown.

*Ulster Museum: No. A5043

*Plate 26*

**Cat. No:** Y1A:027

Total length: 245mm

Width of fork: 136mm

“Mullingar, County Westmeath. Stem-end damaged and terminal missing. Members oval in section. Small solid separately cast prong-terminals. These are D-shaped in section roughly circular in shape with thin, transverse moulding at junction with prong. Inner surfaces flat. Inverted V-moulding at junction of stem and fork.” (Raftery 1983, 55) Found with now-lost specimen Y2A: 017.

*Raftery, 1983, 55, No. 151*
University of Cambridge Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology: 27.625.

Plate 27

Cat. No: Y1A:028

Unknown provenance.

Considered as being attached to the QUB Belfast teaching laboratories (Raftery 1983, 59) it is believed that this piece was borrowed briefly during the 1970s by Prof Jope, from an unknown private source. There has been doubt cast on whether it was a Y-piece (pers. comm., Dr. B Hartwell).
Type 1b

Characteristics: This typology is defined by moulded ribbed terminals, both at prongs and shaft. Similar in many ways to the structure of the 1a, it is relatively lightweight as a result of being cast as several components which were then welded together.

Cat. No: Y1B:001

No provenance. Stem of prong bent into a ‘u’ shape. Considerable blistering and corrosion of stem. Terminal ribbed and cast separately. Poor condition makes it hard to ascertain use-wear, although it would appear to have some pre-depositional wear at the inner perforations of the shaft. Raftery, 1983, 65, No. 184

Alnwick Castle: Accession number 1880-481.

Plate 28

Cat. No: Y1B:002

Length: 278mm
Shaft breadth: 5mm
Shaft length (inclusive of terminal): 118mm
Terminal length: 63mm
Terminal diameter: 12mm
Width of fork: 159mm

Description: Golden coloured. Square rather than curved in shape of fork. Central junction of fork showing signs of repair due to reinforcement by added metal of slightly deeper colour. Cheek retainers hollow moulded on inner surface. Butt terminal and cheek retainers both a series of curved, stacked beads to resemble alder tree seed pods. One cheek retainer bud damaged.

Raftery, 1983, 60, No. 168

Armagh County Museum: 223.1935

Plate 29
Cat. No: Y1B:003

Length: 315mm
Shaft length (incl terminal): 120mm
Shaft breadth: 5mm
Terminal length: 64mm
Terminal diameter: 15mm
Width of fork: 180mm approximation only due to breakage
Weight: 247g

Description: Bright bronze colour. Smooth surface. High polish on terminal. Broken in three pieces. Prong terminals intact with retainer buds. Well-formed curved berry shaped retainer buds, with hollow inner surface. Perforations of inner surface rounded, width of almost 4 mm. Inner surfaces of buds show signs of chaffing and wear at perforation area. No visible casting seam but considerable indications of repair. Junction broken at one repair, where metal alloy of similar colour has been wrapped around lower arm of fork closest to junction. Other fragment has a dark, soft metallic substance resembling lead soldered into it, with punctures which are rivet shaped. Greenish tinge of butt terminal, suggesting a different alloy than shaft. Butt terminal catkin shaped. Signs of pressure on butt terminal, resulting in bending of metal. Provenance unknown.

Raftery, 1983, 63, No. 177
National Museum of Ireland: 1882:224/Habitat D16:5

Plate 30

Cat. No: Y1B:004

Length: 291mm
Shaft length (incl terminal): 113mm
Shaft breadth: 4mm
Terminal length: 61mm
Terminal diameter: 8mm
(Projected width of fork, based on measurement of one arm to centre of junction: 150mm)
Weight: 120g

Description: Deep bronze in colour. Smooth surface. One arm missing. Terminal prong retainer bud of catkin style, with shallow concave inner surface. Inner perforation narrow, at 2mm. Shaft attached to fork via rounded casting seam. Butt terminal also catkin style with small cap on final bead. Wear and repairs on shaft, with smoothed areas and others bent from
pressure. Found in Kilbeg, in the parish of Horseleap. Found with the only known iron Y-piece and 3 shaft-hole iron axe heads in thick clayish soil at a depth of around 90cm.

Raftery, 1983, 63, No. 170


Plate 31

Cat. No: Y1B:005
Length: 294mm
Shaft length (incl terminal): 131mm
Shaft breadth: 4mm
Terminal length: 8mm
Terminal diameter: 8mm
(Projected width of fork: 97mm)
Weight: 80g


Raftery, 1983, 61, No. 172.

National Museum of Ireland: W154/Habitat D16:6

Plate 32

Cat. No: Y1B:006.
Length: 113mm
Breadth: 5mm
Weight: 83g

Description: Stem only. Roughly truncated. An enclosed note in NMI archives states “This # refers to a complete (sic) pendant; ie, to the one in 16:6”. Raftery identifies this as only a piece of stem, but to be certain, a process of elimination confirmed this fragment to be W159. Provenance unstated.
National Museum of Ireland: W159/Habitat D16:5

*Plate 33*

**Cat. No**: Y1B:007

Length: 66mm
Width: 5mm
Weight: 27g


Raftery, 1983, 61, No. 171
National Museum of Ireland: W160/Habitat D7:2

*Plate 34*

**Cat. No**: Y1B:008

Length: 126mm
Breadth: 6mm
Terminal length: 35mm
Terminal diameter: 20mm
Weight: 87g

**Description**: Fragment. Shaft only. Rich bronze colour. Damage at top of terminal. Found in River Shannon with W160. It may be they belong to the same Y-piece but it is almost impossible to confirm.

Raftery, 1983, 61, No. 171b.
National Museum of Ireland: W161/Habitat D7:2

*Plate 35*
Cat. No: Y1B:009

Length: 305mm
Shaft length (incl terminal): 127mm
Shaft breadth: 6mm
Terminal length: 38mm
Terminal diameter: 27mm (excluding jet of unworked material)
Width of fork: 99mm
Weight: 144g

Description: Rich dark bronze. Unpolished. No copper alloy corrosion apparent, but reddish rust like material visible on jet and butt terminal. Intact. Prong terminal retainer buds are small, rounded stacked berry design. Inner surface is concave and unworked, very raw in appearance. No wear to perforation area or buds. Arms of fork are symmetrical and unbent. Wide inverted V seam visible at junction of shaft and junction. Butt terminal alder seed shaped, with casting seam ridges as yet unpolished or worked. Casting jet still attached to side of butt terminal. Jet is circular in shape, with concentric circular indentations.
Provenance unknown.

National Museum of Ireland: W170
Plate 36

Cat. No: Y1B:010

Length: 219mm
Shaft length (incl terminal): 109mm
Shaft breadth: 4mm
Terminal length: 36mm
Terminal diameter: 14mm
Width of fork: 86mm
Weight: 98g

Description: Bronze in colour, with a darker, more polished metal added to one of the fork arms. Terminal prongs and retainer buds missing. No visible casting seams. Ragged rough surface at arms, along with small cuts and scrapes. Butt terminal elongated acorn shape, with small cracks and areas of corrosion. No known provenance

Raftery, 1983, 62, No. 175
Cat. No: Y1B:011

Length: 348mm
Shaft length (incl terminal): 136mm
Shaft breadth: 5mm
Terminal length: 46mm
Terminal diameter: 18mm
Width of fork: 79mm
Weight: 148g

Description: Golden bronze colour with no discolouration or corrosion. Smooth patina and well polished. Unique style of prong terminal and retainer buds in that the perforations face backwards, and not inwards facing each other as with every other known piece. Retainer buds are small catkin shape with partially concave inner surface. Perforations are squared and small at approximately 2mm. Arms of fork bent slightly from junction. Wear on one arm very obvious, with a cylindrical shaped piece of bronze wrapped round damage, with scraping either side of reinforcement. Damage and scarping also visible to top of shaft and junction. Small cut beside visible inverted V casting seam at junction. Butt terminal is hollow, cast separately and also catkin shaped with damage to bottom bead. Provenance unknown. Raftery, 1983, 62-3, No.176

National Museum of Ireland: W173/Habitat D

Plate 38

Cat. No: Y1B:012

Length: 356mm
Shaft length (incl terminal): 148mm
Shaft breadth: 6mm
Terminal length: 46mm
Terminal diameter: 10mm
Width of fork: 164mm
Weight: 280g
**Description:** bright bronze in colour. Shiny smooth patina. No sign of wear. Prong terminals and retainer buds intact. Elongated graduated ridge decoration, consisting of 12 rings. Inverted V casting seam on shaft, suggesting shaft was cast separately. Butt terminal also of stacked and graduated ring structure. High quality finish and highly polished. Provenance unknown.

Raftery, 1983, 63, No. 178


*Plate 39*

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**Cat. No: Y1B:013**

Length: 195mm

Shaft length (incl terminal): 131mm

Terminal length: 74mm

Shaft breadth: 4mm

Weight: 84.8g


Raftery, 1983, 64, No. 181

Queens University Teaching Collection: QAD/6/5

*Plate 40*

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**Cat. No: Y1B: 014**

Total length: 270mm

Width of fork: 137mm

“MS drawing of complete specimen. Prong terminals decorated with close-set ribbing along outer surfaces, hollow along inner surfaces. Stem terminal is decorated with three prominent ribs separated from one another by pronounced concavities” (Raftery 1983, 60). Found in Glenbuck, Co Antrim with a ‘brass’ pin.

Raftery, 1983, 60, No. 167

Specimen Lost.

*Plate 41*
**Cat. No: Y1B:015**

Length: 203mm

‘Shaft’ length: 39mm

Shaft breadth: 4mm

Width of fork: 103mm

Weight: 78g

**Description:** Rich deep bronze colour. Twisted bumpy surface. Badly damaged, obviously deliberately. Arms of fork have been twisted back upon themselves from the junction, with the butt terminal turned into an arm of a fork. Remaining prong terminal has small modified hole drilled through metal. Reconstruction would suggest an original length of around 279mm, a fork width of 122mm and a shaft of around 133mm, inclusive of butt terminal. The butt terminal has been cast with the piece, and is not added on. Provenance unknown.

Raftery, 1983, 64, No. 180

Ulster Museum: A113.1.1906

*Plate 42*

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**Cat. No: Y1B:016**

Length: 254mm

Shaft length (incl terminal): 124mm

Shaft breadth: 7mm

Terminal length: 48mm

Terminal diameter: 16mm

Width of fork: 125mm

Weight: 97g

**Description:** Dark bronze colour. Smooth surface. Terminal prongs and retainers missing. Some bending evident on arms of fork. Trace of casting seam at junction of shaft and fork. Wear on junction and at top of shaft. Butt terminal lightly ridged on shaft, with berry shaped bottom. Join of terminal and shaft jagged and showing signs of modification. Bottom of butt terminal missing, showing sharp prong running up into shaft. Provenance unknown.

Raftery, 1983, 64, No. 183

Ulster Museum: A113.2.1906

*Plate 43*
Cat. No: Y1B: 017

Length: 335mm
Shaft length (incl terminal): 125mm
Shaft breadth: 5mm
Terminal length: 65mm
Terminal diameter: 14mm
Width of fork: 133mm
Weight: 221g

**Description:** Pale gold patina, smooth highly polished surface. Intact. Prong terminal retainer buds catkin shaped and highly polished outer surface. Inner surface unpolished, somewhat raw-looking and concave. Rounded perforation of some 35mm. No visible casting seam. Signs of wear and damage at upper part of shaft, close to junction. This wear has been repaired with a wrap of reinforcing metal of a paler golden colour, which has been easier corroded than the original material. There are several small corroded holes in repair metal. Damage exists underneath the additional metal, further down the shaft. Butt terminal is catkin shaped and intact, with highly polished surface.

Raftery, 1983, 63, No. 179

Ulster Museum: A5550

*Plate 44*

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Cat. No: Y1B: 018.

Total length: 312mm
Width of fork: 150mm

“Kishawanny, County Kildare. Complete; stem bent out of shape. Members circular in section. Separately-cast terminals decorated with series of prominent sub-spherical mouldings. Tiny cylindrical nipple at tip of each, that at stem being hollow. Prong-terminals hollow along inner surfaces. Inverted V-moulding at junction of fork and stem. Found with bronze hook, handbell of bronze and two bronze rings” (Raftery 1983, 61).

Raftery, 1983, 60, No. 169

University of Cambridge Museum of Archaeology and Ethnology : 99.248

*Plate 45*
Cat. No: Y1B:019

Lost specimen.

“MS drawing of ribbed prong-terminal shown wrapped around ring of bridle bit No. 5” (Raftery 1983, 64).

Raftery, 1983, 64, No. 182

National Library of Ireland

Plate 46
Type 1c

Characteristics: The 1c type has circular terminals, reminiscent of the modern day ‘Cladagh Ring’, minus any human imagery incorporated into the design. They are one of the less well represented categories of Y-piece.

Cat. No: Y1C: 001
Length: 338mm
Shaft length (incl terminal):139mm
Shaft breadth: 4mm
Terminal length: 49mm
Terminal width: 29mm
(Projected width of fork 150mm)
Weight: 151g

Raftery, 1983, 65, No. 187
National Museum of Ireland: W158/Habitat D16:9

Plate 47

Cat. No: Y1C:002
Length: 322mm
Shaft length (incl terminal): 115mm
Shaft breadth: 5mm
Terminal length: 42mm
Terminal width: 32mm
Width of fork: 136mm
Weight: 151g
Description: Deep bronze colour. Intact. Prong terminal retainer buds intact. Polished smooth on inner surface as well as outer. Small circular decoration top and bottom of hoop,
again reminiscent of the Claddagh ring. Inner perforations worn smooth and thin. One hoop has also been thinned. No visible casting seam. Butt terminal slightly bent from shaft. One of a pair with Y1C:003 (A668.2.1910). No provenance.

Raftery, 1983, 65, No. 185

Ulster Museum: A668.1.1910

*Plate 48*

**Cat. No: Y1C:003**

Length: 320mm

Shaft length (incl terminal): 114mm

Shaft breadth: 52mm

Terminal length: 41mm

Terminal width: 30mm

Width of fork: 134mm

Weight: 148g

**Description:** Dark bronze colour. Smooth surface. One prong terminal retainer bud intact, the other damaged and partially missing. Hoop shaped with small circle details at top and bottom of hoop, overall shape reminiscent of a Claddagh ring. Small inner surface perforation of 26mm in a deltoid metal ring. Smooth inner surface. Signs of wear on buds and perforation, one of which is worn quite thin. No visible casting seam, but signs of beating of metal at junction. Butt terminal cast separately. Similar ‘Claddagh’ style with hoop and circular pattern top and bottom of ring. Part of a pair. Provenance unknown.

Raftery, 1983, 65, No. 186

Ulster Museum: A668.2.1910

*Plate 49*
Type 1d

Characteristics: The most ornate of all Y-pieces, usually with a notably shorter shaft, and highly decorative La Tène-derivative ornamentation on terminals.

Cat. No: Y1D:001

Total length: 275mm
Width of fork: 154mm

“No provenance. Complete. Members circular in section. Each terminal is a complex, individual casting. Prong terminals make up of two separate units, mounted on ends of prongs with space between. The units on one face bear snail-shell scrolls; those on the other simpler, moulded curves. The design of the stem terminal repeated on both faces and on the base is that of an elaborate S-form combined with solid circular motifs. One prong is pierced along its lower curve by an opposed pair of teardrop-shaped openings, separated from one another by a transverse cylindrical bar. Both openings defined by a thin beaded line which continues centrally along the prong and along the stem. On the same side, on both prong and stem is a series of shallow rectangular facets. Near end of each prong, riveted to inner face is small moveable rectangular box shaped mount; tiny rivet-holes in sides of these ‘boxes’ suggest that a leather strap may once have been fastened inside each one” (Raftery 1983, 67).

Raftery, 1983, 67, No. 191
British Museum: Former Reg. Number 147

Plate 50

Cat. No: Y1D:002

Length: 257mm
Shaft length (incl terminal): 63mm
Shaft breadth: 8mm
Terminal length: 32mm
Terminal width: 38mm
Width of fork: 137mm
Weight: 224g

Description: Bright gold colour with some green copper alloy patches. Smooth patina. No sign of use or wear. Retainer buds of terminal prongs displaying two different patterns, one a
rounded arm cruciform pattern, with heavy base ridges, the other a monstrance shaped circle with crown-like protrusions on three sides. A few small flaws or air bubbles are visible in the terminals. Inner surface shows crude casting and is concave and unpolished. Inner surface perforation is circular, of about 4mm contained by a squared box of metal. Casting seams are visible on fork and shaft, with a deep inverted V casting seam at the junction of shaft and fork. Most of the terminal is missing, but would suggest a La Tène ornate circular design. Found in Ballykean bog, Ballyduff, Co. Offaly as part of a wetland deposition hoard with Y1D: 003/4/5.


**Plate 51**

**Cat. No: Y1D:003**

Length: 241mm  
Shaft length: 47mm  
Shaft breadth: 7mm  
Width of fork: 139mm  
Weight: 210g

**Description:** Smooth, highly polished and bright golden coloured patina. Some areas of greenish copper colour on arms of fork. Retainer buds ornate although different patterns. One a circle, surrounded by crown shaped protrusions, reminiscent of an Early Christian period monstrance. An unusual protruding lip creates the base of the retainer. The other is cruciform, with dish-like circular termination of arms, set on heavily patterned ridged base. Inner surface is hollow and shallow. Perforation on inner surface is squared and small, 3 mm. Casting seam visible at both junctions of shaft and fork and on the shaft itself. Butt terminal missing, with connecting stub where it once fitted undamaged. Ratchet ridges on stub very visible, but bent sideways, perhaps from either forced removal of terminal piece or pressure of bog. Found in Ballykean bog, Ballyduff, Co. Offaly with Y1D: 002/4/5.


**Plate 52**

**Cat. No: Y1D:004**

Length: 226mm  
Shaft length: 47mm  
Shaft breadth: 7mm  
Width of fork: 129mm
Weight: 226g

**Description:** Greenish coppery colour, with some areas of golden patina still visible. Heavy and ornately decorated. Butt terminal missing. Retainer buds of terminal prongs both different, one being a circle with floral crown shaped decoration, the other cruciform with circular terminations of the arms of the cross. Inner surface of bud retainers hollow and slightly crude. Perforation of inner surface squared and crude, measuring 4mm. Casting seams visible on both shaft and fork. Junction of shaft and fork has an inverted V casting. Butt terminal missing or deliberately destroyed before deposition in bog. No sign of wear or repair. Found with Y1D:002/3/5 in Ballykean Bog, Ballyduff, Co Offaly.


*Plate 53*

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**Cat. No:** Y1D:005

Length: 288mm

Shaft length (incl terminal) 86mm

Shaft breadth: 7mm

Terminal length: 56mm

Terminal width: 42mm

Width of fork: 138mm

Weight: 247g

**Description:** Golden patina, with coppery green patches on surface. Smooth surface. Heavy but beautifully made ornate decoration of La Tène style. Complete and undamaged, apart from twisting of fork prongs. Retainer buds of prong terminals both different – one serpentine in shape, the other cruciform. Inner surface of retainer buds shallow and showing more crudeness of mould than the rest of the artefact. Perforation of inner surface 4mm and rounded. Central casting seam. Butt terminal ornate serpentine pattern, with detail of floral raised edges round entire circumference. No sign of wear or repair. Found in Ballykean Bog, Ballyduff, Co Offaly as part of a wetland deposition hoard 2000:16/17/18.

National Museum of Ireland: 2000:19/Habitat Keepers Office

*Plate 54*
**Cat. No: Y1D:006**

Length: 302mm  
Shaft length (incl terminal): 93mm  
Shaft breadth: 7mm  
Terminal length: 61mm  
Terminal width: 45mm  
Width of fork: 183mm  
Weight: 189g  

**Description:** Dark bronze colour with greenish tinge at terminals. Prong terminals intact, but damage to one of the retainer buds. Both retainer buds are firmly cruciate in shape, with a heavier art style reminiscent of pre-Migration Jutland/Angle metalwork fused with crude La Tène-derivative elements. Inner surface is concave and rawly finished. Inner perforations are 4mm approximately, and showing some sign of thinning from wear. No visible seam on shaft, but a slight casting seam raised on junction. The shaft terminal is of La Tène style and more sophisticated in execution than the prong terminals, being almost identical to the Ballykeean bog finds of Offaly. It is serpentine in form, with edges of raised floral ‘crowns’. Terminals of both prongs and butt are cast separately, of different alloy. No provenance given.  

Raftery, 1983, 65-6, No. 188  
National Museum of Ireland: W176/Habitat D16:8  

*Plate 55*

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**Cat. No: Y1D:007**

Length: 263mm  
Shaft length (incl terminal): 86mm  
Shaft breadth: 7mm  
Terminal length: 58mm  
Terminal width: 49mm  
Width of fork: 153mm  
Weight; 304g  

**Description:** Dark brownish bronze. Reddish corrosion around the butt terminal and shaft. Strong smell of rust from piece. Intact. Prong terminal retainer buds heavy and crudely cast in
one piece. Retainer buds cruciate in shape. Inner surface concave and rough surfaced. Inner perforations approximately 3mm and set in worn, dense curves of metal. No visible seams. Some wear at middle of shaft, as surface is very smooth compared to the slightly grainy texture of rest of metal. Butt terminal cast with shaft, and is ornate and circular, consisting of concentric rings flanked by floral ‘crown’ raised motif. The overall effect is of an older, less skilful prototype of the exquisite Ballykean pieces. Reddish corrosion especially noticeable in ridges of terminal. Provenance unknown.

Raftery, 1983, 66, No. 189

National Museum of Ireland: W177/Habitat D16:8

Plate 56

Cat. No: Y1D:008

Length: 242mm

Shaft length: 63mm

Shaft breadth: 5mm

Width of fork: 144mm

Weight: 112g

Description: Golden bronze colour. Badly damaged with rough, bumpy surface. Terminal prongs broken, both retainer buds missing, although the remains of a connecting rivet hole for the terminal buds is apparent. Forks squared in shape. No casting seam visible. Repair and damage at junction of shaft/fork very visible, with darker metal wrapped around the junction and the shaft, then beaten crudely into place. A rivet is also visible in the darker metal. Arms of fork badly bent from the junction upwards. Butt terminal missing, although small scrolled detail would suggest it was of a well-made and ornate La Tène derivative style. Provenance unknown.

Raftery, 1983, 66-7, No. 190

National Museum of Ireland: P509/Habitat D16:6

Plate 57
Type 1e

*Characteristics: The most obviously insular-La Tène styled of the artefacts, connecting into a harness with hooks rather than perforations on the prong terminals. The terminals are cast with cells for champlevé inserts of enamel.*

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**Cat. No: Y1E:001**

Total length: 256mm  
Width of fork: 48mm  

“All terminals missing. Prongs converge noticeably but this is probably not an original feature. Members circular in section, apart from flattened oval prong-ends and rectangular-sectioned end of stem. Tip of stem slightly burred by hammering. Surface at junction of fork and stem flattened on both faces. File marks evident along inner surfaces of prongs” (Raftery 1983, 69).

Raftery, 1983, 69, No. 195  
Armagh Public Library: Beresford Collection  
*Plate 58*

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**Cat. No: Y1E:002**

Length: 306mm  
Shaft breadth: 5mm  
Shaft length (inclusive of terminal): 118mm  
Terminal length: 46mm  
Width of fork: 73mm  
Weight: 89g  

On loan from Ulster Museum. Central seam beaten flat. Butt terminal also beaten flat. Twisted out of shape very badly. Damage appears to be ancient as edges are same blackened patina as rest of frame. Considerable evidence of friction wear on prong finials and wear on junction. Zoomorphic hooks resembling bird heads, with slight discolouration inside one prong indicating enamel inlays.

Raftery, 1983, 68, No. 194  
Ulster Museum, currently Monaghan County Museum: 138-1956  
*Plate 59*
**Cat. No: Y1E:003**

Length: 289mm  
Shaft length (incl terminal): 143mm  
Shaft breadth: 6mm  
Terminal length: 28mm  
Terminal width: 15mm  
Width of fork: 126mm  
Weight: 126g

**Description:** Dark bronze colour with reddish tinge on arms of fork and greenish tinge on shaft and butt terminal. Prong terminals missing. One arm of fork broken off. Double inverted V casting seam at junction. Ornamental butt terminal in scrolled La Tène style. Rivet attaching terminal to shaft. Found in Lough Fea, in the Farney barony of Monaghan. Attached paper tag bears the letters LF, perhaps standing for Lough Fea.

Raftery, 1983, 67, No. 192

National Museum of Ireland: 1965:179/Habitat D17:7

*Plate 60*

**Cat. No: Y1E:004**

Length: 354mm  
Shaft length (incl terminal): 147mm  
Shaft breadth: 5mm  
Terminal length: 44mm  
Terminal width: 29mm  
Width of fork: 158mm  
Weight: 250g

**Description:** Dark bronze patina. Highly polished. Retainer buds of prongs of fork intact and ornate La Tène style scroll, with small amounts of red enamel still visible in casting seam of pattern. Wear on inner perforation retainers. Inner surface worn and scraped. Damage to arms of fork, with cuts, scrapes and holes as well as gentle bending. Central casting seam. Butt terminal similar to retainer buds. Small hole in top. Cast separately from body of piece. Provenance unknown.

Raftery, 1983, 68, No. 193

National Museum of Ireland: W167/Habitat D16:8

*Plate 61*
Type 2a

*Characteristics:* The most robust of Y-pieces, with a single cast frame, circular holes in the pronged terminals, often decorated with La Tène derivative styled relief around the holes, strikingly similar to the Turoe Stone decorations and also those on the Bann and Monasterevan discs. Only on some exceptional specimens, such as the Attymon pieces, is there any evidence of the shaft terminal being decorated.

**Cat. No: Y2A:001**

Total length: 158mm


Raftery, 1983, 70, No. 197

British Museum: 1921.12-6.36

*Plate 62*

**Cat. No: Y2A:002**

Total length: 264mm

Part of a pair with Y2A:003 and missing horse bit.

Raftery, 1983, 71, No. 203

British Museum: 53.5-28.4

*Plate 63*

**Cat.No: Y2A:003**

Total length: 268mm

“Near Galway. Pair. Prong-ends missing. Members circular-to-pointed-oval in section heavily corroded. Stem-terminals well preserved. These are hemispherical knobs with short, concave sided sockets into which each stem fits. Stem-ends, circular and rectangular sectioned respectively, visible on each base of each terminal” (Raftery 1983, 71). Found with horse bit as part of hoard.

Raftery, 1983, 71, No. 204
Cat. No: Y2A:004
Length: 339mm
Shaft length (incl terminal): 165mm
Shaft breadth: 4mm
Width of fork: 162mm
Weight: 184g

**Description:** Dark bronze in colour. Smooth surface. Prong terminals damaged. La Tène style pattern on terminals. Inner surface would suggest the terminals were worked using a repoussé technique. Upper part of circle missing from terminal prongs. Visible casting seam on shaft, junction and either side of fork arms. Junction shows sign of being worn smooth. Arms and shaft both bent. Butt terminal missing. End of shaft badly damaged, with ragged cut marks and scraping. End of shaft ripped and twisted as if considerable force used upon it. Provenance unknown but was donated to NMI by the RDS antiquarian Mr J Perry.

Raftery, 1983, 74, No. 213

National Museum of Ireland: 1881:311/Habitat D16:8

**Plate 64**

Cat.No: Y2A:005
Length: 308mm
Shaft length (incl terminal): 139mm
Shaft breadth: 7mm
Terminal length: 22mm
Terminal diameter: 20mm
Width of fork: 173mm
Weight: 288g

**Description:** Dark blackish bronze in colour. Smooth patina. Well worked although simple in shape. Intact, with prong terminals displaying finely worked repoussé detail in La Tène style. Possible bovine motif at perforation making a circle over the head. Large perforations of some 5mm diameter. Some bending of arms of fork, and cuts visible on junction. No visible
casting seams. Butt terminal alder seed shaped and cast separately. A piece of considerable sophistication despite simplicity. Found in Roscommon along with a snaffle bit (Raftery 1983, 73).

Raftery, 1983, 72-3, No. 209

Plate 65

Cat. No: Y2A:006
Total length: 351mm
Width of fork: 150mm

Part of Attymon hoard with Y2A:007 and pair of bridle bits with matching insular La Tene-style decoration cast relief. Currently on display in ‘Kingship and Sacrifice’ exhibition of the National Museum of Ireland, Kildare St, Dublin. No use-wear visible on Y-pieces, suggesting perhaps either seldom or never used.

Raftery, 1983, 71, No. 200

Plate 66

Cat. No: Y2A:007
Total length: 356mm
Width of fork: 156mm

The Attymon hoard. Currently in secure display case as part of the NMI’s ‘Kingship and Sacrifice’ exhibition. “Pair. Complete. Members oval to pointed-oval in section. Fine curvilinear ornament on prong-ends and stem terminal, cast but finished off by tooling. End of stem visible on each terminal base and the design has been completed across it in each instance by chiselling. Traces of casting seams detectable on stems and prongs. Fine golden patina throughout. Found with a pair of bridle bits on hard turf bottom of a bog at a depth of 24ft about 1.5 miles from Attymon station” (Raftery 1983, 71). No obvious signs of use-wear. Design on prongs most similar to Monasterevin disc

Raftery, 1983, 71, No. 201
National Museum of Ireland: 1891:10a Display cabinet Kingship and Sacrifice Exhibition

Plate 67
Cat. No: Y2A:008

Total length: 334mm

Width of fork: 179mm

Currently in Clare County Museum. “Ballyalla, County Clare. Prong ends and stem terminal badly damaged. Traces of cast, curvilinear decoration survive at prong-ends. Stem terminal pear-shaped; square sectioned stem-end visible through break. It pierces the terminal and is held in place by burring of the tip. Traces of casting seam detectable on the stem” (Raftery 1983, 70).

Raftery, 1983, 70, No. 198.

National Museum of Ireland: 1931:313 / Currently in Co Clare Museum

Plate 68

Cat. No: Y2A:009

Length: 326mm

Shaft length (incl terminal): 143mm

Shaft breadth: 10mm

Terminal length: 28mm

Terminal diameter: 22mm

Width of fork: 148mm

Weight: 186g

Description: Brownish green coloured smooth surface. Missing prong terminals. Arms of fork slightly bent. No apparent signs of wear or repair. Heavy central casting seam running from junction down shaft. Cast in one piece. Alder seed shaped butt terminal, small puncture in side of terminal, where greenish colour is very visible. Solid terminal. Donated to the NMI from Mr Knowles of Ballymena, Antrim. Only given location for find is Inishowen Barony, Co Donegal.

Raftery, 1983, 70, No. 199

National Museum of Ireland: 1934:10279/Habitat C26:2

Plate 69
Cat. No: Y2A:010

Length: 337mm
Shaft length (incl terminal): 147mm
Shaft breadth: 9mm
Terminal length: 24mm
Terminal diameter: 28mm
Width of fork: 156mm
Weight: 332g

Description: Light bronze colour. Patina worn off. Smooth even surface. Well-made although basic. Prong terminals large and circular. Perforations also large at 7mm. Terminal prongs must once have been decorated, as two sets of small holes on outer surface suggest rivets. Two of these small holes perforate through to the inner surface; the other two merely puncture the outer surface. Signs of wear on arms of fork and at prong terminals. Deep double inverted V seam present at junction. Nut shaped butt terminal which has rounded base, perforated by a central rivet and three small punctures. Found at Durk Island, on Lough Allen, Cormongan, Leitrim, on a shore of pebbles. Find included a snaffle bit.

Raftery, 1983, 71-2, No. 205

Plate 70

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Cat. No: Y2A:011

Length: 314mm
Shaft length (incl terminal): 154mm
Shaft breadth: 9mm
Terminal length: 19mm
Terminal diameter: 26mm
Width of fork: 150mm
Weight: 380g

Description: Dark bronze in colour, smooth patina. Flat terminals at prongs of fork with 7mm holes in centres. Flattened seams on arms of fork. Heavy, basic yet well made. Visible central casting seam. Butt terminal cast separately from the shaft. Butt terminal base is hazelnut shaped. It has a tiny raised area, which has corroded, showing terminal to be hollow. Cracks also radiate from the butt terminal. Part of the Petrie collection of the NMI, this piece
was found at Drumanone portal tomb, recorded in the NMI’s records as the cromlech of Diarmud and Grainne, near Boyle, Roscommon, in 1867.

Raftery, 1983, 73, No. 209

National Museum of Ireland: P504/Habitat D 16:9

Plate 71

Cat. No: Y2A:012

Length: 335mm
Shaft length (incl terminal): 150mm
Shaft breadth: 5mm
Terminal length: 25mm
Terminal diameter: 23mm
Width of fork: 159mm
Weight: 280g

Description: Rich golden bronze in colour, but with evidence of considerable deliberate scraping and filing of surface. Heavy but well made and refined in structure. Visible casting seam at shaft/fork junction. Cast in one piece. Terminal prongs of fork show signs of filing, scraping and beating flat from the original slightly concave inner surface. Striations of filing over entire surface of piece. Bending and wear at shaft, just below junction. Terminal refined, slightly elongated hazelnut shape. Provenance unknown.

Raftery, 1983, 73-4, No. 212

National Museum of Ireland: P505/Habitat 16:7

Plate 72

Cat. No: Y2A: 013

Length: 366mm
Shaft length (incl terminal): 163mm
Shaft breadth: 8mm
Terminal length: 35mm
Terminal diameter: 26mm
Width of fork: 174mm
Weight: 329g

**Description:** Bright coppery bronze patina. Smooth surface. Refined, high quality detail throughout. Prong terminals worked with La Tène style design. Inner surface hollow and scraped. Central casting seam visible, extending down shaft and along axis of arms and junction. Butt terminal embossed with design reminiscent of the Turoe stone, and seen on Attymon Y-piece as well. Provenance unknown.

Raftery, 1983, 73, No. 211

National Museum of Ireland: W166/Habitat D16:6

*Plate 73*

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**Cat. No:** Y2A:0014

Total length: 330mm
Width of fork: 110mm

Tara/Skryn, County Meath. Found with a horse bit and another lost Y-piece specimen.” Complete. Members circular to oval in section. Simple cast curvilinear ornament on prong-ends. Flattened spherical knob with short concave-sided socket into which stem fits. Slightly raised, roughly circular area on base of knob. Large circular hole in one side, through which a square sectioned tang, can be seen. Faint transverse moulding marks junction of stem and fork” (Raftery 1983, 72).

Raftery, 1983, 72, No. 207

National Museum of Ireland: W 171. Habitat currently unknown

*Plate 74*

**Cat. No:** Y2A:015

Total length: 344mm

“Ballybrown, Clarina, County Limerick. Portion of one prong missing. Surviving prong-terminal defective. Members circular-to-flattened oval in section. Spherical knob at stem end with short cylindrical socket into which stem fits. End of stem visible on base of knob. There appears to be wear on lower concavity of fork” (Raftery 1983, 72).

Raftery, 1983, 72, No. 206

National Museum of Ireland: E92:444/Lost specimen.

*Plate 75*
Cat. No: Y2A: 016

Length: 247mm
Shaft length: 77mm
Shaft breadth: 8mm
Width of fork: 172mm
Weight: 194g

**Description:** Deep golden bronze colour with greenish tinge to worn areas of metal. Smooth surface. Very simple design, but made with some refinement. Circular prong terminals with wide perforation of some 67mm. Inner surface of prong terminals concave and polished as much as the outer surface. Wear on sides of prong terminals from worn smooth areas and also some small jagged parts where it appears something had chaffed and dented the metal. Visible casting seams at junction and on shaft. Shaft bent double on itself. Found in Glenatrace, Ballymena, and donated by Mr Knowles of Ballymena.

Raftery, 1983, 70, No. 196
Ulster Museum: A532.1924

*Plate 76*

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Cat. No: Y2A:017

Sourced to Mullingar, County Westmeath. Found with Y1A:027, and another lost specimen.

Raftery, 1983, 73, No. 210

University of Cambridge Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology. Lost.

*Plate 77*

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Cat. No: Y2A:018

Found close to St Clerans, County Galway. Described by Haworth (1971, 45) but current whereabouts unknown.

Raftery 1983, 73, No. 201.

*Plate 78 text only.*
Cat. No: Y2A:019

Length: 322mm
Shaft length (incl terminal): 145mm
Shaft breadth: 7mm
Terminal length: 36mm
Terminal diameter: 23mm
Width of fork: 164mm
Weight: 312g

Description: Dark almost blackened colour with dark greenish tinge at butt terminal. Smooth surface. Crudely made. Terminal prongs circular and basic, about 7mm wide. Shallow concave surface on inner surface of terminal prongs. Scratch marks and filing visible on outer surface of terminals. Visible casting seam on central junction and shaft, as well as on edges of fork arms. Terminal butt alder seed shaped, cast separately from rest of piece as connecting seam very visible. Dark green coppery rivet visible at base of butt terminal. Only known provenance is Northern Ireland.

National Museum of Ireland: 1939:82/Habitat C24:5

Plate 79
Type 2b

*Characteristics: The circular holes are mostly replaced with delicate D-shaped, or peltate, prong terminals which are cast on, meaning that few are intact. This category are considerably lighter than the unitary cast 2a.*

**Cat. No: Y2B: 001**

Total Length: 275mm  
Width of fork: 102mm  
No provenance. Very poor condition. Prong terminals are missing. Obvious pressure bend on shaft. Entire specimen badly corroded. Asymmetrically-spherical stem-knob. Inverted V-moulding at junction of fork and stem, although this is hard to discern from the badly pitted surface.

Raftery, 1983, 78, No 229  
Alnwick Castle: Accession No. 1880: 479

*Plate 80*

**Cat. No: Y2B:002**

Total length: 261mm  
Width of fork: 141mm  
“No provenance. Complete. Extensively corroded. Members oval in section, D-shaped in section at prong-ends. Prongs of uneven length; one end rounded, the other flat. Two semicircular notches cut into opposing edges near each tip. Each prong-end pierced by tiny, more or less cylindrical perforation. On one prong the perforation is between the notches, on the other prong it is above them. On the latter a shallow, circular depression has been bored just below the notches. Flattened-spherical stem-knob. Faint incised inverted V-moulding at junction of stem and fork on one face, absent on the other face where there is a flattened sub-triangular facet. Traces of filed-down casting on seam of stem.” (Raftery 1983, 78).

Raftery, 1983, 78, No. 230  
Hunt Museum, Limerick: HCA 465

*Plate 81*
**Cat. No: Y2B: 003**

Length: 320mm

Shaft breadth: 6mm

Shaft length (inclusive of terminal): 118mm

Terminal length: 134mm

Width of fork: 140mm

Weight: 184g


Raftery, 1983, 74, No. 215

Ulster Museum: 3-1947 / currently on display in Monaghan County Museum

**Plate 82**

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**Cat. No: Y2B:004**

Length: 332mm

Shaft length (incl terminal): 149mm

Shaft breadth: 8mm

Terminal length: 15mm

Terminal diameter: 19mm

Width of fork: 136mm

Weight: 281g

**Description:** Brownish dull bronze in colour. Smooth, well polished patina on shaft. Prong terminals are delta shaped with large crescent shaped perforations of some 10mm in length and 8mm in height. Below the crescent perforations is an unusual decoration of a triple concentric circle made of minute pricks in the metal, with two vertical tiny perforations which penetrate to the inner surface. This gives the impression some more ornate decoration may have clipped on to the outer surface. Inner surface shows signs of modifications and filing. Inner surface of arms of fork beaten flat rather crudely. Inner surface of crescent perforations worn smooth and thin at top. Visible double inverted V seam at junction. Butt terminal berry shaped, with ornate base of triple curved lines around a small central protrubance. Minute airholes or bubbles visible. Unknown provenance.
Raftery, 1983, 77, No. 225
National Museum of Ireland: 1880:54/Habitat D16:7

Plate 83

Cat. No: Y2B:005

Length: 305mm
Shaft length (incl terminal): 130mm
Shaft breadth: 5mm
Terminal length: 9mm
Terminal diameter: 14mm
Width of fork: 103mm
Weight: 163g

Description: Bronze in colour. Rough surface with the appearance of much scraping, especially at the junction of the shaft and fork. Flat prong terminals missing. Trace of finely etched chevron pattern still remaining on what is left of the prong terminals. No visible casting seam. Junction of shaft and fork has been beaten and modified to a flat surface. Junction also damaged and scraped. Fork shows signs of pressure with bending from junction to arms of fork. Butt terminal small and undecorated, with a slightly curved base. Part of the 1881 Perry Collection, formerly of the RDS. Provenance unknown.

Raftery, 1983, 77, No. 226
National Museum of Ireland: 1881:312/Habitat D16:7

Plate 84

Cat. No: Y2B:006

Length: 262mm
Shaft length: 124mm
Shaft breadth: 4mm
Width of fork: 82mm
Weight: 87g

Description: Bright golden bronze colour. Uneven and cracked surface. Prong terminals missing. Casting seam visible on shaft, commencing from a central point of junction.
Scratches and striations on metal at junction of shaft and fork. Multiple cuts, hacks and scratches up one arm of fork. Terminal missing. Shaft visibly hollow when viewed from bottom. End of terminal has several deep cuts visible in the metal. Provenance unknown.

Raftery, 1983, 77-8, No. 227

National Museum of Ireland: 1897:105/Habitat D16:6

Plate 85

Cat. No: Y2B:007

Length: 200mm
Shaft length: 19mm
Shaft breadth: 8mm
Width of fork: 101mm
Weight: 186g


Raftery, 1983, 78, No. 228

Ulster Museum: Accession No. A5549

Plate 86

Cat. No: Y2B:008

Length: 236mm
Shaft length (incl terminal): 114mm
Shaft breadth: 5mm
Terminal length: 17mm
Terminal breadth: 18mm
Width of fork: 82mm
Weight: 191g
**Description:** Brownish bronze in colour. Smooth patina. Terminal prongs missing. Clean cut marks at top of fork arms. No visible casting seams. No signs of wear, but much modification. Butt terminal has been cut on two sides, presumably in modern times. These oblique cuts show the butt terminal to be solid. Considerable filing and scratches on shaft. Butt terminal has been cut to resemble a modern blunt spur.

Raftery, 1983, 76, No. 221
National Museum of Ireland: 1939:83/Habitat C24:5

*Plate 87*

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**Cat. No:** Y2B:009

Length: 323mm
Shaft length (incl terminal): 144mm
Shaft breadth: 8mm
Terminal length: 12mm
Terminal diameter: 14mm
Width of fork: 132mm
Weight: 221g

**Description:** Rich deep bronze colour. Smooth patina. Well made. Broken prong terminals on both arms. La Tène style decoration on outer surface of prong terminals. Small hole beneath the main perforation would suggest added decoration. No sign of wear on arms. Central casting seam, which has been partially flattened. Slight pressure twist on arms of fork and on lower part of shaft. Butt terminal undecorated and basic, with slight curved base. Found in Derlangan, Co Meath in a pasture known locally as the Pony Field, despite no ponies or horses having been known to graze there in living memory. *Plate 72*

Raftery, 1983, 75, No. 218

*Plate 88*

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**Cat. No:** Y2B:010

Length: 334mm
Shaft length (incl terminal): 147mm
Shaft breadth: 7mm
Terminal length: 19mm
Terminal diameter: 16mm
Width of fork: 124mm
Weight: 243g

**Description:** Dark bronze in colour. Smooth patina. Prong terminals are small and delta shaped, with crescent shaped perforations in them. Deep V shaped pattern etched into metal below the crescents, tracing down the arm of each fork. Scrapping and small cuts around the perforations, rendering their surface rough. Definite signs of repair and modification to junction of shaft and fork. One side of casting seam on fork is visible; the other has been beaten flat, giving a bumpy appearance to the junction. Butt terminal berry shaped. Air holes and cracks at the bottom of the terminal. Found in a ploughed field in Clongill, Co Meath, with a snaffle bit.

Raftery, 1983, 75, No.217

National Museum of Ireland: 1963:102/Habitat D16:1

*Plate 89*

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**Cat. No: Y2B:011**

Length: 286mm
Shaft length (incl terminal): 135mm
Shaft breadth: 6mm
Terminal length: 10mm
Terminal diameter: 12mm
Width of fork: 147mm
Weight: 215g

**Description:** Rich reddish bronze in colour. Smooth patina, with considerable evidence of beating and flattening of arms of fork. Terminal prongs both missing. Visible casting seam on shaft and also on flattened arms of fork. Considerable bolstering of shaft/fork junction, due to beaten appearance of area, as if metal has been added at some time in the past. Terminal small and rounded, with a slightly rounded base. Three small deliberate holes perforate the base. Provenance unknown.

Raftery, 1983, 77, No. 224

National Museum of Ireland: P507/Habitat D16:8

*Plate 90*
Cat. No: Y2B:012
Length: 294mm
Shaft length (incl terminal): 137mm
Shaft breadth: 6mm
Terminal length: 7mm
Terminal diameter: 12mm
Width of fork: 121mm
Weight: 122g
Description: Mottled bronze patina. Prong terminals missing. Cracks and scrapes, with some indication of having been coated in black paint in the past. Casting seam has been a central inverted V at junction but has been modified many times. Badly scratched and rasped. Found in Coolgreany, Co Kilkenny.
Raftery, 1983, 75, No. 216
National Museum of Ireland: RSAI 6/ Habitat D16:6
Plate 91

Cat. No: Y2B:013
Length: 309mm
Shaft length (incl terminal): 136mm
Shaft breadth: 7mm
Terminal length: 7mm
Terminal diameter: 16mm
Width of fork: 138mm
Weight: 212g
Description: Deep bronze colour. Prong terminals delta shaped and basic with no pattern or detail remaining on outer or inner surface. Evidence of modification on inside surface with scrapes and filing marks. Deep scratches and file marks on both arms. Deep cut on junction, with lesser cuts on inverted V shaped casting seam. Provenance unknown.
Raftery, 1983, 76-77, No. 223
National Museum of Ireland: W152/Habitat D16:9
Plate 92
Cat. No: Y2B:014
Length: 299mm
Shaft length (incl terminal): 134mm
Shaft breadth: 6mm
Terminal length: 9mm
Terminal diameter: 16mm
Width of fork: 149mm
Weight: 216g

Description: Deep bronze colour with greenish tinge at terminal and on shaft. Prong terminals engraved with crude triple circular pattern. Damaged prong terminals with missing an enclosing top. Considerable wear on inner surface. Raised centre casting seam at junction. Found at Cloonconra, Co Roscommon.

Raftery, 1983, 75, No. 219
National Museum of Ireland: W153/Habitat D16:9

Plate 93

Cat. No: Y2B:015
Length: 265mm
Shaft length: 112mm
Shaft breadth: 7mm
Width of fork: 158mm
Weight: 150g

Description: Rich golden bronze in colour. Beautifully decorated deltoid shaped La Tène style prong terminals. Upper enclosing metal missing. Much scraping and wear on arms of fork and junction. No visible seam. Butt terminal missing, but highly decorated band of bright alloy where butt would have connected to shaft. Some bending from shaft. Two sets of recorded details conflicted with the circumstances of this specimen. After further research, it can be said with some certainty that the abbey it was found in, within a mound, was Emlagh Abbey, Tipperary.

Raftery, 1983, 76, No. 220
National Museum of Ireland: W155/Habitat D16:7

Plate 94
**Cat. No: Y2B:016**

Length: 290mm  
Shaft length (incl terminal): 123mm  
Shaft breadth: 8mm  
Terminal length: 10mm  
Terminal diameter: 12mm  
Width of fork: 127mm  
Weight: 227g  


Raftery, 1983, 76, No. 222.


*Plate 95*
Uncategorised Specimens

Cat. No: YUC:001
Prongs only intact.
Raftery, 1983, 79, 234
Armagh Public Library: Beresford Collection

Plate 96

Cat. No: YUC:002
“Spur shaped object. Only the round-sectioned stem and a small portion of the prong on each side survive. At the top of the stem is a low V-shaped ridge. The fractured face of one prong has a dark patination like that on the surface so the break may be ancient. On the other side most of the surface break is fresh” (Eogan, 1991, 160).
Museum of Copenhagen: No. 13040.2

Plate 97

Cat. No: YUC:003
Length: 102mm
Shaft length: 47mm
Shaft breadth: 7mm
Weight: 68g
Raftery, 1983, 79, No. 233
National Museum of Ireland: W157/Habitat D16:5

Plate 98
Cat. No: YUC: 004

Total length: 201mm


Raftery, 1983, 79, No. 232

National Museum of Ireland: 1935:405/ Collins Barracks, not on display

Plate 99

Cat. No: YUC: 005

Length: 24mm
Breadth: 21mm
Weight: 19g

Description: Butt terminal. Cut away from shaft cleanly at top, solid. Rivet up base of terminal. Found in Drombo, Co Monaghan in a Mr Kelly’s field in 1864. Donated to NMI by G Morant.


Plate 100

Cat. No: YUC: 006

Details unavailable, as unseen specimen. Found in Liliput, County Westmeath during field drainage.


Cat. No: YUC: 007

Detailed as part of the 1868 Brackstone Collection by Haworth (1971, 47), provenance Claremorris, Co Mayo, but no other details exist of this lost specimen.

Raftery, 1983, 79, No. 231
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