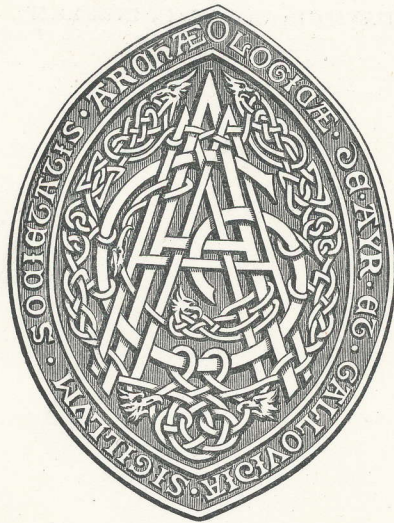


ARCHÆOLOGICAL  
AND  
HISTORICAL COLLECTIONS  
RELATING TO  
AYRSHIRE & GALLOWAY

VOL. VI.



EDINBURGH  
PRINTED FOR THE AYRSHIRE AND GALLOWAY ARCHÆOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

MDCCCLXXXIX

1889

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## IX.

### NOTES ON CLAY URNS FOUND IN WIGTOWNSHIRE.

ALL the urns described in this article are of clay, and are hand-made, bearing no mark of the potter's wheel. The large specimens have many angular fragments of stone mixed with the clay, some of them as large as a horse bean, and these stones are usually concealed by a coating of clay which has been rubbed over the surface of the urn. In some cases the surface of the inside bears the impress of the stalks of fine herbage, as if the urn had been closely filled with it before being baked in the fire. The small urns are made of fine clay without stones, but in some cases with much sand, and have a kind of polish on the surface, due to rubbing with a smooth stone. On none of them is any glaze to be seen. Sometimes a piece is found vitrified on the inside by the fusion due to intense heat; and I have observed lumps which showed that an urn had been spoiled in the fire. Among and near the sandhills of Glenluce a fine white clay is found below the peat moss, and I have been shown some lumps of a pinkish clay found buried in wet sand, as if stored for use by the potter; but I have not seen them *in situ*.

Most of the urns described in this article are now in the National Museum of Antiquities in Edinburgh, which has one of the richest collections in the world of such prehistoric urns. I believe that all the urns I am about to describe belong to the Bronze Age.

Hitherto the only urn reported from Wigtownshire in our *Collections* is one from Kirkmaiden in the Rhinns, described and figured in Vol. V. p. 45, by Sir Herbert E. Maxwell, Bart., of Monreith. I have now the pleasure of describing fifteen, of various types, besides referring to three others yet to be described, and noticing the fragments of many more. Through the kindness of the Council of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland this

article is illustrated by several woodcuts made for a notice of some of these urns, in the *Proc. Soc. Ant. Scot.*, new series, vol. ix. pp. 182-192. In January 1888 some additional notes on the same subject were communicated by me to the Society of Antiquaries. The materials of both of these papers are used in the present article, which enters into more full detail.

These urns are in various states of preservation, some being perfect, and others much broken and wasted. Their state of preservation is affected by original difference of material and workmanship, by the nature of the soil or structure in which they have been deposited, the degree in which they have been exposed to moisture or the action of the weather, and the accidents which have befallen them when found or afterwards.

The urns found in Ayrshire and Galloway should be carefully compared with those in our National Museum from other parts of the country. Such a comparison may bring out facts, as to general resemblance or local peculiarities, suggestive of identity or difference of race, religion, and art, after due allowance has been made for individual difference of taste and skill in the potters. The appearance of these hand-made clay vessels is very quaint and archaic, yet several of them have considerable artistic merit. It is perhaps safe to assume that they are all older than any of the fragments of wheel-made pottery from the same district. But we must take account of that conservative principle which seems to be naturally so strong in connection with funereal customs and rites, and which may have made it be thought right and religious to gather the cremated relics of the dead into a hand-made urn even after the potter's wheel was in use.

I am not aware that we have any indubitable specimens of the earthenware used for ordinary domestic purposes during the Bronze Age. But I shall follow the usual classification and describe first the *cinerary* urns, used for holding or covering the cremated relics of the dead, and then the so-called *food-vessel* and *drinking-cup* urns. In my description I shall note the following particulars. First, the *material*; whether pure clay, or clay mixed with small angular stones, either covered with clay or exposed at the surface. Second, the *dimensions* and general *form*, and the special form of the brim and base. Third, the *style*; whether plain or adorned. The ornamentation may be either raised or hollowed, or both combined, and the markings may be impressed, incised or excised, irregular or in rows, chevrons, etc. Fourth, the *position* when found; whether upright, inverted, or on the side. Fifth, the *circumstances* in which the urn was

found; whether simply interred, or with flat stones below and above, or in built cists or cairns, and whether singly or associated with other urns. Sixth, the *contents*; such as bones and ashes, smaller urns, ornaments, implements, or small pebbles. Seventh, the *accompaniments*; such as skeletons, ornaments, etc. This method may facilitate comparison with other urns and interments.

It will be seen that several of the urns I describe were not found in their original position. But some of them have been found in connection with contents and accompaniments which are very interesting, because they are rare and throw some light on the habits and ideas of the men of the Bronze Age in this country.

#### I.—CINERARY URNS.

No. 1. This is a large and well-preserved urn, of brownish clay, mixed with angular fragments of stone, which are covered at the surface. The form is somewhat bulging, with a narrow base, and a projecting ledge at the shoulder. The height is 14 inches, and the greatest diameter 11 inches. The brim, as frequently happens in hand-made urns, is not truly circular, having a diameter of  $10\frac{1}{2}$  inches one way and  $11\frac{1}{4}$  inches another. The diameter at the base, which is flat, is only 4 inches. The brim is bevelled from the inside to a sharp edge with a single row of oval indentations. A collar,  $4\frac{1}{2}$  inches broad, projects with a sharp-edged ledge from  $\frac{2}{8}$  to  $\frac{5}{8}$  of an inch, where the diameter is greatest, and is adorned with an oval indentation about  $\frac{2}{8}$  of an inch long and  $\frac{1}{8}$  broad, arranged in five encircling rows, and slanted alternately, so as to produce a chevron-like effect. A slight ridge encircles the body of the urn  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches below the collar, from the ridge it slopes rapidly inward to the base. It is shown to a scale of  $\frac{1}{8}$  in Fig. 1.

It was found buried in the sand in an *inverted* position, covering a mass of black ashes and fragments of calcined bone, including the upper jaws and two teeth. No other contents were found. It was found in 1886, and is now in the National Museum at Edinburgh. Locality, the sandhills at Mid-Torr, Glenluce.

No. 2. A cinerary urn of brownish clay, mixed with stones, which are mostly covered. The outline is ovoid. The height is  $12\frac{1}{8}$  inches, the greatest diameter  $10\frac{5}{8}$ , and at the rounded brim  $9\frac{3}{8}$  inches. The flat base

is broken. This urn is ornamented with two encircling ridges; the first,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches below the brim, where the diameter is greatest, is sharp, and nearly  $\frac{3}{8}$  of an inch high; the second, where the diameter is  $10\frac{1}{4}$  inches, is 3 inches lower down, and is flatter.

It was found in June 1886, partially exposed by the wind, buried in the sand, *inverted* over black ashes and many small fragments of calcined bone and charred wood. I do not know the kind of wood used. It is now in the National Museum. Locality, Mid-Torr, Glenluce.

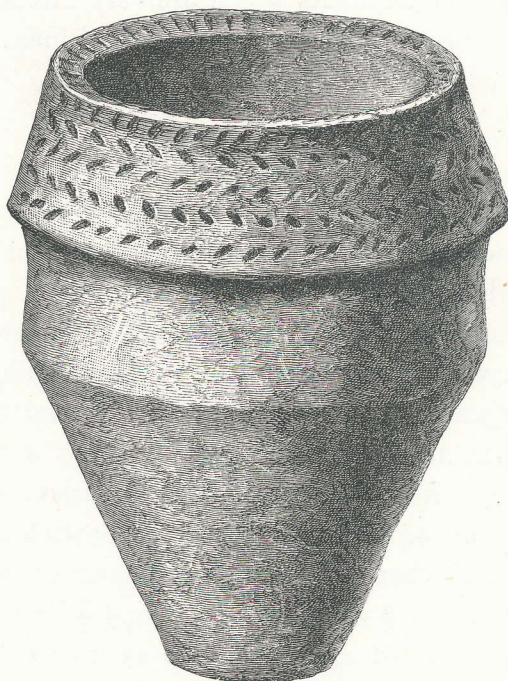


FIG. 1.—Urn found at Mid-Torr, Glenluce, (14 inches in height).

No. 3. A cinerary urn of brownish clay, with the small angular stones carefully concealed at the surface. The lower part has been of a flower-pot shape, the upper has ridges and hollows. The exact height is unknown, the lower part, and nearly three inches of the brim, having been quite destroyed by cart wheels, when a new track was made to reach High Torr over the shifting sandhills. The plain part of the woodcut shows what has been restored by an expert in repairing the urn at the Museum. It also shows the propriety of sending such fragments to the Museum, carefully packed in a box with cotton wadding. The restoration is made from a comparison with similar urns, the new part being easily dis-

tinguished by the difference of colour. The diameter at the brim is  $12\frac{1}{2}$  inches. The upper part is divided by strong encircling ridges into three bands, each 2 inches broad. The upper band, or collar, is adorned by a strong ridged chevron, and in each of the ten upper triangular spaces there is a large circular boss, on which excised lines radiate from the apex to the base. I accidentally detached one of these bosses, and found that it had been shaped separately by the potter and then attached to the body of the urn. In one of the lower triangular spaces there is a rude star-shaped pattern of excised lines.



FIG. 2.—Urn found at Mid-Torr, Glenluce ( $12\frac{1}{2}$  inches diameter).

The two bands below the collar are slightly concave, and each is filled by a chevron of excised lines about 1 inch long, and from  $\frac{1}{8}$  to  $\frac{1}{4}$  of an inch apart. The encircling ridges, the ridge of the collar chevron, and the lip of the brim, have deeply incised chevron lines. The flat brim is  $1\frac{1}{4}$  inch broad, and is filled by a double chevron of excised lines. The urn slopes out with a slight convexity to the lowest ridge. The lower part, so far as it is preserved, is covered by lines, some of them 3 or 4 inches long, and not so exactly arranged, yet preserving the general chevron style characteristic of the whole ornamentation. The entire ornamentation of this fine urn is bold, free, and effective. It is shown to a scale of  $\frac{1}{5}$  in Fig. 2.

It was found in November 1886. It had been buried in the sand, *inverted* over a quantity of fine black ashes and fragments of calcined bones. It is now in the National Museum. Locality, Mid-Torrs, Glenluce.

Nos. 4 and 5. I shall next describe two urns which were found together. Unfortunately no details can now be verified as to their exact position or their contents. They were found on the moor between Torhousekie and Balnab, in the year 1852 or 1856, and they were found together. The finder showed them to his fellow-ploughmen. No. 4 was broken to pieces in their hands, and each carried home a fragment. The finder kept No. 5, which is strong and still entire, and laid his fragment of No. 4 on the wall-

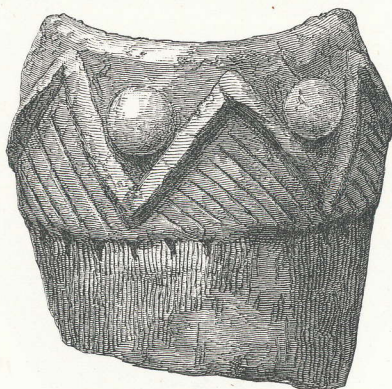


FIG. 3.—Portion of Urn found near Torhousekie, Wigtown.

head of his cottage, where it has got blackened by peat smoke. Long after his death it came into my hands in three pieces, which have been cemented together, and it is shown in Fig. 3, on a scale of  $\frac{1}{3}$ .

The diameter seems to have been nearly 6 inches; the height is unknown. The collar is 3 inches broad, with a ridged chevron open towards the brim. Each upper triangular space contains a circular boss like a large nail-head, and the lower triangles are filled with eight or nine incised parallel lines slanting from left to right. Below the collar there is a slight contraction, with a row of sparrow-bill indentations pointing downwards, and about half an inch apart. Between and below these the surface is covered with fine slightly waved lines which have been made with the edge of a comb.

I think there are three other urns in the National Museum at Edinburgh with ridged chevrons like this one and No. 2. One from Dunion Hill,



Jedburgh, is figured in the *Proc. Soc. Ant. Scot.*, vol. xx. p. 99. See also Greenwell's *British Barrows*, pp. 72 and 438.

No. 5. This peculiar-looking urn might be placed in the next class in this article, but it is described here because it was found along with No. 4. It is small, made of lightish red clay mixed with a good deal of sand, and well burnt. It is flower-pot shaped and massive. The height is  $3\frac{1}{4}$  inches, and the diameter at the rounded brim  $3\frac{3}{4}$  inches outside, and  $2\frac{5}{8}$  inside. The depth inside is 2 inches. The base is flat, with a rounded edge, and its diameter is  $1\frac{7}{8}$  inches. I have doubts about this urn.

I had the pleasure of presenting this urn and the fragment of No. 4 to our National Museum. Locality, the moor between Torhousekie and Balnab, Wigtown.

Nos. 6 and 7. These two urns fall to be described together, because the small one, which belongs to the next class, was found under the large one. No. 6 is a cinerary urn of reddish-brown clay, mixed with covered stones. The outline is ovoid. The height is 10 inches and the greatest diameter 11 inches. The brim is bevelled inside, and is not circular, the diameter being 10 and 9 inches. The flat base is  $6\frac{1}{2}$  inches in diameter. It is ornamented with a collar and two low encircling ridges. The collar is  $2\frac{1}{4}$  inches broad, and is filled by an irregular lozenge pattern of impressed corded lines between two similar encircling lines. The first ridge is just below the collar, where the diameter is greatest, and the two ridges are  $2\frac{1}{4}$  inches apart.

This urn was brought to light by a ploughshare in cutting a furrow one foot deep, when the base was smashed. It was left undisturbed, and next day, the 2d of October 1886, it was exhumed under my direction. It was interred in the drift, under the soil, in a hole 29 inches deep, and was *inverted* on a rough stone, measuring about  $9 \times 8 \times 1\frac{1}{2}$  inches. The base had been covered by a stone about  $12 \times 8 \times 1\frac{1}{2}$  inches, at the west end of which lay another a little larger, and a small one at the other end, as if to keep it from pressing on the urn. About a yard off lay another stone, measuring  $28 \times 16 \times 2\frac{1}{2}$ , which, I think, may formerly have covered the others and been moved aside by the plough or grubber. It is shown on a scale of  $\frac{1}{3}$  in Fig. 4.

The urn was lifted on the under stone and exposed to the sun and

breeze for a few minutes before I ventured to lift it off. It covered many fragments of calcined bones mixed with fine black ashes. My friend Dr. M'Cornack, on examining the bones, said that the left part of the pelvis, which was whole, showed the remains to be those of quite a young man. Three small pebbles, two of them of quartz, may have got accidentally mixed with the bones and ashes when they were gathered together; but I sent them to the Museum, and recorded their presence in my notes read before the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, because small pebbles are still worshipped in India and the Fiji Islands, and they appear to have been worshipped in Palestine long ago. In Isaiah lvii. 6 (R. V.), it is said to the



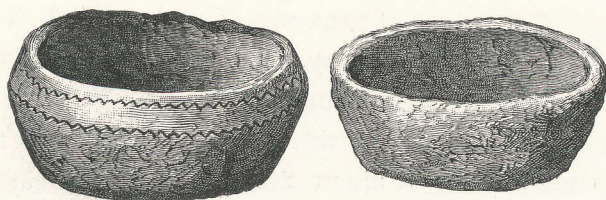
FIG. 4.—Urn found at Bankfield, Glenluce, (10 inches in height).

idolatrious people, "Among the smooth stones of the valley is thy portion; they, they are thy lot, even to them hast thou poured a drink offering, thou hast offered an oblation." Since I made that observation I have seen another interment where the presence of white quartz pebbles could not be accidental. This is described in connection with the next pair of urns.

But by far the most interesting of the contents of this urn was the very small *urn* next to be described.

No. 7 is a small urn of fine reddish-brown clay, without a mixture of stones. It is "cup-shaped," or, to be more exact, it is like a saucer for a flower-pot. The height is  $1\frac{1}{8}$  inch, and the diameter  $2\frac{7}{8}$  inches. The diameter inside of the rounded brim is  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches, and at the flat base 2 inches. The depth inside is  $\frac{7}{8}$  of an inch. The surface is smooth and without ornament.

It was found *inverted*, under No. 6, and contained fine black ashes. It is shown on a scale of  $\frac{1}{2}$ , along with another small urn, in Fig. 6.



FIGS. 5 and 6.—Small Cup-Shaped Urns, found at Glenluce.

The discovery of this small urn enclosed in the larger one took me quite by surprise. I find it is of rare occurrence. One found at Carphin, Fifeshire, is described by the Rev. Alex. Lawson, Corr. Mem. S. A. Scot., in the *Proc. Soc. Ant. Scot.*, vol. vii. 405; and another, pierced with holes, found at Bucklyvie, Fifeshire, is described by Dr. John Alexander Smith, F.S.A., in vol. ix. 190. Canon Greenwell, in his *British Barrows*, at page 337, mentions in a footnote the occurrence of one in Yorkshire, and in a note on page 399, of one in Anglesea; see also page 364.

This interesting interment was on the edge of a raised sea-beach, where it forms the left bank of the River Luce, not far from high-water mark, above the highway where it passes a fisher's cottage. Another urn was destroyed at a similar spot, about a quarter of a mile farther south, in 1847. These two urns were presented to the National Museum by the Right Honble. the Earl of Stair. Locality, Bankfield, Glenluce.

Nos. 8 and 9. On 23d January 1888, I laid before the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland a notice of some more urns from this district, including the pair now to be described. The remains of both are much broken, and those of No. 9 are very friable.

No. 8 is a cinerary urn of brownish clay, blackened inside, and mixed with covered stones. The height is unknown, as only the brim and part of the collar remain. The diameter at the brim is about 13 inches. The brim is rounded, and has some long incised lines on a broad bevel inside, below which there is a strengthening ridge. The collar is about 5 inches broad, and consists of two encircling corded lines, one of which is close to the brim, the space between them being filled with a V-shaped pattern of corded lines, the upper part being filled with parallel lines.

No. 9 is of clay mixed with covered stones, blackened on the inside. It is thick, but very friable. The fragments bear no trace of ornament. The brim has been rounded, the base flat, and the surface smooth.

The fragments of this pair of urns were found on 11th November 1887, and brought to me on the same day. On the 15th I visited the site of the double interment, of which I made a plan.

The site is a slight sandy knoll, which has been three or four feet above the level of a flat marshy moor, about 200 yards to the east of Knockencrunge, a large sandhill on Mid-Torrs, Glenluce. The heather and herbage have been gradually killed by the drifting sand, which has been moving much more since the great storms of wind in 1883, and the thin moory soil has been blown away till the upper part of these urns has been exposed to the weather. In such a wet situation the frost is very destructive to urns, so that the exposed parts have quite disappeared.

The two urns were interred in a circular space, which is enclosed by a ring or belt of gravel about 3 feet broad and 27 feet in diameter. I suppose this belt was originally narrower before the sand began to blow. The gravel consists chiefly of water-worn pebbles of gray Silurian sandstone, such as one finds covering the raised sea-beaches among the sandhills. But mixed with them are very many white quartz pebbles, and some reddish ones. The white pebbles must have been collected intentionally, to form a kind of ornament to this burying-ground, for they catch the eye at once, and there are more of them in this belt than one could find in a whole day's walk among the sands. Perhaps this belt of gravel represents a ring of larger stones, for no large stones are to be found within a distance of more than a mile, and that across the River Piltanton. At the north-east and south-east, the belt is at a lower level and partly buried in the sand, as if the surface had not been quite flat when it was formed.

The urn No. 9 was interred, in an upright position, about 3 feet from the inside of the belt of gravel, towards the south-east; and No. 8 about 6 feet to the west of it, and a little farther in from the belt.

The contents of both urns are very interesting. In No. 9 there was an unctuous mass of fine black ashes, mixed with comminuted calcined bone, adhering closely to the bottom and sides. Upon and in the mass there was lying close together a little heap of water-worn white quartz pebbles, about the size of a pigeon's egg. There were about two handfuls, or, as the finder expressed it, "a guid gowpen-fu." This part of the find seems to give a

little confirmation to the suggestion I have made in connection with my finding of three small pebbles under the Bankfield urn. Canon Greenwell, in his *British Barrows*, at pages 140, 165, and 206, mentions the occurrence of quartz pebbles in connection with interments.

The urn No. 8 was interred in an *inverted* position, and its contents were still more interesting. Besides a mass of fine black ashes and small fragments of calcined bone it covered a *whetstone* and a small implement of *bronze*.

The whetstone is of a close grain, is finely polished all over, and has a string-hole for suspension bored through one end. It measures  $3\frac{1}{2} \times \frac{7}{8} \times \frac{5}{16}$  inches. The string-hole is bored from both faces, with a diameter at the surfaces of  $\frac{1}{4}$  of an inch, and a little less at the centre. It seems to have borne the action of fire. One face has a greenish stain, where the bronze implement has lain across it.

The bronze implement is very much corroded and broken, the fragments having all turned green; but the heads of two small rivets and a hole remain to show where the tang has been fastened in the haft. I have no doubt it is one of the implements known as *pocket daggers*, one of which was found lying on the sand on the same farm, and has been figured and described by me in our *Collections*, Vol. II. 12, Fig. 9. About a dozen of these implements have been found in Scotland, and all of them, except the one just referred to, have been connected with interments. Perhaps when the remains of the dead were cremated these two implements were exposed to the fire, and then deposited with the ashes beneath the inverted urn, the dagger being laid across the whetstone.

This find is instructive, because such accessories are seldom found with interments of Bronze Age urns. They give us a glimpse of the habits of the men of that age, and of their ideas regarding man's state after death. They seem to have thought that the state of the dead was a faint image of that of the living, and that the spirit of the dead man would use the spirit or shade of his favourite tools and weapons in the hunt or warfare in the world of shades.

About 100 feet to the west of this burying-ground there is another small sandy knoll, with stones on the surface, many of them broken, where there is a space about 60 inches long, 36 broad, and 18 deep, with the sand full of fine black ashes and comminuted calcined bones, but with no fragment of urn, so far as I could observe. Possibly this may be

the spot where the remains interred in the pair of urns just described were cremated.

These relics are now in our National Museum. Locality, Mid-Torrns, Glenluce.

I have presented to the Museum fragments of several large urns of coarse material, variously shaped and marked, the clay mixed with angular fragments of stone, some of which are as large as a horse-bean. In some of them the brim is flat and projecting, with incised lines, or indented as if with the crenulated edge of a cockle shell. In the *Proc. Soc. Ant. Scot.*, vol. xi. 582, I have mentioned one of which I found the remains held upright in the sand by a circle of water-worn pebbles, about the size and shape of one's open hand, stuck endwise, and slanting outwards in the sand. In front of it a pebble of Silurian sandstone about 6 inches long was set firmly on end in the moor-pan, and kept in its place by stones rammed about its base. Before it lay a heap of flint chips, which had apparently been broken over its upper end, which was splintered and hammer-marked. A little to one side was a circular floor of flat gravel stones about 3 feet in diameter. In 1886 I observed another held in position in exactly the same way, in a sandhill in Clachsiant, Stoneykirk, near Lodnagapple. The stones mixed with the clay appear much on the surface, yet it is finely ornamented with close-set encircling rows of triangular indentations, each containing a very small figure-8 pattern, with a circular dot or boss standing up in the centre of each loop. The tool used for this must have been very neat and hard. Beside it lay a fragment with chevrons incised lines, like those on the lower part of Fig. 2 of this article, and two hammer stones, one of which was very long. In both of these urns the lower part was quite destroyed by the weather, probably through having retained the rain water percolating through the sand; but both contained fine black ashes without any trace of bone. As many trimmed flints and other stone implements have been found near them they may have been part of the apparatus of a workman rather than funereal urns; but they belong, in my opinion, to the Bronze Age.

In 1884 I received two fragments of an urn about 1 foot high, which contained ashes and calcined human bones, which was smashed by the plough in a field in Crouse, near the highway to Portwilliam. It had an encircling line under the rounded brim, and a collar of zigzag lines, all the lines being corded

Many cinerary urns have been found in Glenluce during the last fifty years, of which no fragment or exact record has been preserved. Some were simply interred; others were enclosed in cairns, with or without built cists. Several of these cists may still be seen in the ruined cairns. One of them, which contained a large urn, is to be seen in a circular cairn in the wood at the east end of Machermore Loch, with the large covering stone lying beside it. Another, which contained a large urn, is in the ruins of a large circular cairn at the west side of the old Portwilliam road, above the farm-steading of Mull of Sinniness. Another was found above thirty years ago in removing a large circular cairn, called the White Cairn of Gillespie, in the field to the west of the farm-steading. The cist was covered by a very large flagstone, which now lies at the barn door, and it contained an urn about a foot high, standing upright, with a piece of slate covering the mouth, and containing fine red dust. According to local tradition a great battle was fought here. A warrior, whose name was *Kemp*, stood on the large glacial boulder which still lies on the edge of a raised sea beach, to encourage his men. He was slain and buried in this cairn.

Mr. Limond, farmer at Broompark, told me that in removing a heap of stones in the corner of a field near the ruined manor-house of Auchenmalg, which he did not know to have been a cairn, he came upon a large urn, which crumbled to pieces on exposure to the air. No cist was observed. About fifty years ago two urns containing fragments of bones were observed in two gravel pits at the entrance of the road to the farm of Dunraget Orchard. There are large ruined cairns containing several large cists at Gillespie in Old Luce, and at Gleniron and the Coves of Kilhern in Newluce, which I hope to describe and figure. No urns have been heard of in connection with them.

About the year 1846, a labourer named M'Tier was employed by the tenant of Torhousekie, Wigtown, to remove cairns from a field called the *Cairn Park*, and found in one of them an urn about a foot high. A cairn on that farm was opened many years ago, and a coffin-shaped stone, which covered a cist in it, was carried away to cover a water conduit at the steading. Six different persons have told a correspondent of mine in Kirkcowan, that they repeatedly saw, after nightfall, a light move from the cairn, follow the track by which the stone was carried, and settle on the top of it for a short time. These people are afraid to open any more cairns!

In the parish of Penninghame, on a low range of glacial knolls, on the

farms of Old Hall, Barnkirk, and Corsbie, there are cairns containing cists. In one of these a correspondent observed only a few ashes ; but a boy afterwards lifted a large stone and saw a fine urn, which he smashed by letting the stone fall. It was of coarse hard-burnt clay ornamented with corded lines. It contained a small flake of flint. This correspondent has sent me some clay, like fuller's earth, mixed with stones, which he found in this cist. Another correspondent, in Kirkcowan, reports the presence of such earth in cists.

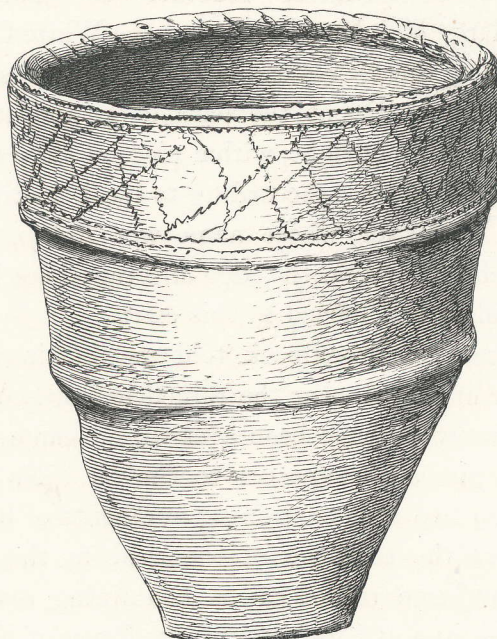


FIG. 7.—Urn found at High Torrs, Glenluce ( $13\frac{3}{4}$  inches in height).

No. 10. James M'Douall, Esq., of Logan, has kindly sent me a sketch and exact measurements of a large cinerary urn found on the Torrs, on his estate of Gennoch, Glenluce, and now in his possession.

It is of a flower-pot shape, slightly convex in its lower outline. Height  $13\frac{3}{4}$  inches, diameter at brim  $12\frac{1}{4}$  inches one way and  $11\frac{1}{2}$  another, and at the flat base  $4\frac{3}{8}$  inches. The collar is  $3\frac{3}{4}$  inches broad, with an ornament of the usual impressed corded lines. There are two encircling lines on each side, and the space,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches broad between the inner ones, is filled with an irregular pattern made by parallel slanting lines which cross each other from less than  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch to 1 inch apart. The next band is plain,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches broad,



with a contraction of the urn both above and below it, and a ridge at the lower side. The brim has "a flange all round the inside." It is  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch broad, with an ornamental band in the middle of two encircling lines,  $\frac{5}{16}$  of an inch apart, united by slanting parallel lines from  $\frac{3}{8}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch apart. All these lines are corded.

Mr. M'Douall remarks that the urn is in perfect preservation, "with the exception of being a little weather-worn where the bottom has evidently been more exposed to the air." From this I infer that it was buried in the sand in an *inverted* position. I believe it covered ashes and fragments of bone. Locality, Torrs, Glenluce.

One, about a foot high, which was full of bones, was found many years ago in Mid-Torrs, but was broken to pieces on the way to the factor's office at Stranraer.

No. 11. In April 1888 I obtained above forty fragments of a large cinerary urn from the Sand Minnicks at Mid-Torrs. It is of brownish clay mixed with a few stones. The dimensions are unknown, but it was probably about 14 inches in height and 12 in diameter. About 24 inches of the brim remain, one fragment being 8 inches in depth and showing the whole ornamentation. It is ornamented by two encircling ridges, the first of which is above  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches below the brim, where the diameter is greatest, and the second  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches lower. Between the first ridge and the brim there is a collar 3 inches broad of two encircling lines, with the space between them filled by parallel lines disposed in sets, which are alternately horizontal and perpendicular. All these lines are corded. The band between the two ridges is filled by a kind of finger-nail indentation in irregular rows, slanting downward from right to left. These marks are not made by the potter's finger-nail for there is no imprint of the finger-tip. The lower part of the urn seems to have been without ornament. The brim is bevelled on the inside  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an inch, and adorned by a corded line in waves nearly 2 inches long. The base is flat.

This urn was found among black ashes and many fragments of charred wood and calcined bone. It appears to have been blown bare, smashed, buried again by the wind, and more recently exposed a second time. It is now in the National Museum. Locality, Mid-Torrs, Glenluce.

No. 12. In April 1888 I received a fragment of a fine urn of brown

clay mixed with stones. It has been ornamented with at least three encircling rows of indentations of different patterns, and one row on the flattish brim. The rest of this urn was quite reduced to powder by the action of the weather, but enough remains to show that it belongs to the Bronze Age. The fragment measures only  $2 \times 1\frac{7}{8} \times 1\frac{3}{4}$  inches, and is  $\frac{3}{8}$  of an inch in thickness. But it is worth describing on account of its interesting accessories. It lay among black ashes and comminuted calcined bone, and beside it lay three stone implements, over which it had probably been inverted. One is a small ovoid hammer-stone, a water-worn pebble of gray granite, used at both ends, and cracked as if by the action of fire. The other two implements are of the kind called by the Danish archaeologists *tilhuggersteen*, of which I have formerly described several specimens. They are marked 16 and 17 of the examples sent by me to the National Museum. Both are pebbles of gray Silurian Sandstone. No. 16 measures  $1\frac{7}{8} \times 3\frac{1}{4}$  inches, and the circular hollow worked in each end is  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inch in diameter. Instead of having the usual cylindrical form it has five irregular sides, on each of which there is a circular worked hollow. It is hammer-marked by use. No. 17 is of the same kind, but more irregular in form. It measures  $3\frac{1}{2} \times 4\frac{1}{4}$  inches, and the circular hollows worked on the ends are  $1\frac{3}{4}$  and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inch in diameter. There are circular worked hollows on three of the five sides, and it is much hammer-marked. Round one of the end hollows it is slightly polished. It is interesting to find these implements associated with an urn of the Bronze Age. There are small fragments of many Bronze Age urns near the spot where they were found, and the remains of a small circular floor of flat water-worn stones. Locality, Knock Slide, Mid-Torrns, Glenluce.

## II.—URNS OF THE “FOOD-VESSEL” OR “CUP-SHAPED” TYPE.

Several urns of this class have been sent from this district to the National Museum of Antiquities in Edinburgh. I have already described two small urns which may belong to this class; one of them, Fig. 6, enclosed under a cinerary urn at Bankfield, Glenluce, the other, of a flower-pot shape, associated with a cinerary urn found near Torhousekie, Wigtown. See class I. No. 5.

No. 13. This pretty urn is of brownish clay, through which no stones appear. It is cup-shaped,  $4\frac{1}{2}$  inches in height and  $6\frac{1}{4}$  in diameter. The

base is flat,  $3\frac{1}{4}$  inches in diameter outside and 2 inside. There are two encircling ridges, the lower one is 3 inches from the base; the other divides the upper part into two bands  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inch broad. It is ornamented all over by encircling rows of impressed oblong dots. The dots on the ridges and on the edge of the rounded brim are of a larger size. Of the smaller dots there are six rows on the collar band, five on the next, and fourteen on the lower part—twenty-five in all. The bevelled inside of the brim has slanting rows of the smaller dots, arranged five or six in a row.

In the *Proc. Soc. Ant. Scot.*, vol. xiii. 172, there is a record of the presentation of this urn to the National Museum by the Right Honble. the Earl of Stair, our President, and it is said to have been "found many years ago in the neighbourhood of Loch Inch, Galloway." Perhaps it is the urn mentioned by Dr. Arthur Mitchell, F.S.A., C.B., in the *Proc. Soc. Ant. Scot.*, vol. ix. 571, where he quotes from a MS. of my esteemed friend the late Mr. William Todd, Schoolmaster, Kirkmaiden, as follows: "*Clendrie*, a farm in the parish of Inch. There was a round mound of stones, commonly called a cairn, on this farm, and as some people were removing stones for building in the year 1818, they came to a place in it formed like a *chist*, with large flat stones, which they raised, and found in it a human skull and a Roman urn, with some ashes in it. The Rev. James Ferguson, who was present, got the urn from the workmen, and the late Earl of Stair got it from him." The style of the urn is that of the Bronze Age; and Canon Greenwell, in his *British Barrows*, has shown that the men of that age buried in circular barrows. Locality, *Clendrie* (?), Inch.

No. 14. A cup-shaped urn of brownish clay, mixed with stones which are mostly covered. The height is  $3\frac{3}{4}$  inches and the diameter  $4\frac{1}{4}$ . The base is flat,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches in diameter, and concave inside. A slight encircling ridge divides off a collar band  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inch broad, which is filled by an irregular lozenge pattern of incised lines between two encircling lines, in the style of Fig. 4. At one part there are four lozenges in a row. Below the ridge the urn slopes rapidly to the base. A spot on the inside, where a slight repair has been made for the Museum, bore the impress of the fine lines on the finger tip of the ancient potter.

The exact position in which this urn was interred is unknown, for it was found lying in a mass of gravel newly fallen from the edge of a gravel pit near Glenluce Abbey. Nothing was observed beside it. It was found in

1879, put into a hole in a drystone wall, where it remained for about a year, and given to me in 1880. I presented it to the National Museum, but did not describe it at the time. See *Proc. Soc. Ant. Scot.*, vol. xiv. 142. Locality, Craighenhollie, Glenluce.

No. 15. A small cup-shaped urn of reddish clay. It is one of the least in the National Museum. The height is  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inch, the diameter below the collar  $2\frac{7}{8}$ , at the rounded brim  $2\frac{5}{8}$ , and at the flat base  $1\frac{3}{4}$  inch. The collar is ornamented with two encircling waved lines, which may have been impressed by the edge of a small cockle shell. The height at one side is  $\frac{1}{4}$  of an inch less than at the other, and the workmanship is rude. It is the first of this type found in this district. It is shown on a scale of  $\frac{1}{2}$  an inch in Fig. 5, along with another.

The original position and contents are unknown. It was found lying on the sand, not far from the top of the sandhole, beside two fragments of the common "drinking-cup" type of urn, and a fragment of a large coarse urn, of clay mixed with stones, blackened on the inside. Perhaps all three urns belonged to the same interment. I obtained these relics and presented them to the Museum in June 1887. Locality, High Torrs, Glenluce.

I have sent to the Museum the remains of a small cup-shaped vessel, which I regret to hear cannot be restored, for I am told that many of the same kind have been seen in former years containing bones and ashes, but left to crumble away under the influence of the weather. I found it at a sandhill on High Torrs, called Knockdoon, standing upright, and containing black ashes. The flat bottom and part of the side up to the brim was entire. It is of coarse fabric, containing many stones, contracted to a slight neck below the brim, and ornamented with corded lines. It is to be hoped that an entire specimen may yet be found. They seem to be cinerary urns, differing chiefly in size from those described in class I.

Sir Herbert E. Maxwell informs me that he has two small urns of the "food-vessel" type, which are entire. One is from the Torrs, Glenluce, and is similar to one of those I have sent to the Museum from that locality; the other is from Wigtown, and is of a somewhat unusual type. It has been out of my power to go to Monreith to see them; and their accomplished owner's official duties at the Treasury leave him no time for writing on such subjects at present.

I believe Captain Clarke Kennedy has a small blackened urn from this county, imperfect, adorned with small circular impressions. All of these must be left for future description.

### III.—DRINKING-CUP URNS.

These urns have something of the shape of drinking-cups. They have the brim rounded, are not very thick, often not more than  $\frac{1}{8}$  of an inch, and have the outer surface more or less covered by encircling corded lines, dividing it into narrow and flat ridges. The surface looks as if it had been pressed and rubbed with a smooth stone, so as to give it a polished appearance, but there is no real glaze on it.

I daresay I have picked up fragments of two or three dozen of these urns on different parts of the sandhills, but I have never seen or heard of one being found entire. They seem to break when the sand in which they were buried falls from the edge of the sandholes. There seem to have been two varieties, one a good deal thicker than the other, and with broader ridges between the corded lines. I have placed many of these fragments in the Museum. Only one shows an encircling chevron. The largest fragment is about  $3 \times 2\frac{1}{2}$  inches, and shows the curve of the neck of the urn.

In the *Proc. Soc. Ant. Scot.*, vol. ix. 517, I have described an interment which contained one of these vessels. The site was the summit of a knoll of glacial drift a little way to the south-west of the ruins of Carsecreugh Castle, near what I suppose to be the bed of a drained loch, beside which a gold torque is said to have been found. In 1870, some workmen in digging gravel laid bare and partially destroyed the end of a stone cist or grave, without observing it. A few days after, John Forsyth, the shepherd, observed an opening, saw a human rib on looking in; and on thrusting in his staff drew out a human skull, which was lying about the centre of the cist. On visiting the spot I found a cist lying south-west and north-east, and 38 inches long, 28 wide at the south-west end, 14 at the other end, and about 15 inches deep inside. The depth from the surface to the bottom of the grave was about 60 inches. The bottom was covered with rough stones, on the right or south-east side there were two stones set on edge, on the left three, and at the foot two on edge, capped by one laid flat. The cover was a single rough flagstone. All the stones were gray Silurian

sandstone. In the winter of 1871-2 the earth above this cist slipped into the gravel pit and exposed an *upper cist* lying across the other at right angles. It measured 30 × 10 inches, and the cover 36 × 24 inches, and contained nothing but fine dark-brown or reddish mould. There were traces of a small cairn having once covered these graves.

The shepherd told me that on examining the lower grave he saw, at the south-west or open end, an earthen pot, horizontally ribbed, about 6 inches high, and which he estimated to hold about three chopins. It fell to pieces on being touched, and contained only fine dark-brown or reddish mould. Near it lay the skull of a young child. The adult skull and bones were those of a woman about thirty years of age. The skull was brachycephalic. My friend, Dr. William M'Cornack, observed a well-preserved femur. The teeth were sound and unworn, one upper incisor being wanting. Portions of the ribs and vertebral column were preserved. Both of the thigh bones were broken exactly across the middle. It seems likely that in this contracted sepulture, the body, when doubled up with the knees towards the breast, had been laid on the left side with the face toward the north, and the urn behind the head. The fragments of the urn, including a piece of the rounded brim, showed that it was of the drinking-cup type.

In connection with the position of the skeleton in this interment, I may add to the interesting description of the urn from Cairngaan in Kirkmaiden, by Sir Herbert E. Maxwell, Bart., of Monreith, the following entry from my own note-book: "The labourer who opened this cist thought the skeleton was sitting with the face to the north. Of course it was lying doubled up, with the face to the north."

Sir Herbert E. Maxwell, Bart., of Monreith, has described in our *Collections*, Vol. V. 45, the occurrence of several small urns, with a contracted sepulture, at Cairngaan, Kirkmaiden. I shall here refer to some other instances in which several small urns have been found together. In the old *Statistical Account* of Old Luce Parish, five small urns are said to have been found in a cist, in a cutting for a new road. All my attempts to find any further record of this *find* have failed. Probably the site was at the foot of the Mote Hill, at the west end of Glenluce village.

I have placed in the Museum a tray containing very many fragments which seem to have belonged to *three* small urns of the "drinking-cup" type. They were found at Clachsiant, Stoneykirk, buried in the sand, beside a broken whetstone measuring  $4\frac{1}{2} \times 5 \times 1\frac{1}{4}$  inches, in the hollow

of which lay a small stone axe, measuring  $2\frac{1}{4} \times 1\frac{5}{8} \times \frac{1}{2}$  inches. It is the only instance in which a stone celt has been found in such a position. It is figured in a paper by me in the *Proc. Soc. Ant. Scot.*, new series, vol. iii. 263; but the celt ought to be shown lying lower down in the hollow.

In the *Proc. Soc. Ant. Scot.*, vol. xii. 625, I have given a notice of some lignite beads found in an urn near Stranraer, making a railway cutting in 1859-60. In a letter dated December 4, 1877, my friend the late Rev. Daniel Conway of St. John's Chapel, Port-Glasgow, wrote to me as follows:—"Some navvies came upon a number of clay urns about the size of coffee cups, and having the herring-bone design marked upon them near the rim on the outside. I had one of them in my hands, in which were found a small number of lignite beads. The urns were placed with mouths downwards, on a slate-like slab." The labourer to whom he referred me described the locality where they were found. It is a little to the east of the signal box at Stranraer railway station, where a cutting runs through the march fence of Little Airs farm. Father Conway kindly promised to trace the beads for me, and on January 31, 1878, wrote to me: "My dear Sir—I herewith send you the beads; and I give you every assurance that they are the very articles found at the railway cutting. I have not any doubt about them. There were ten; but they have got broken, excepting one or so." The urns had crumbled to pieces. I gave the beads to the National Museum.

I may remark, for the information of members of our Association, that there are sham urns, as well as other spurious articles, in this as well as in other parts of the country, so that collectors require to be on their guard.

GEORGE WILSON.