

13. A CINERARY URN FROM MILNGAVIE, DUNBARTONSHIRE.

In 1946, the cinerary urn illustrated in fig. 4 was brought to the Art Gallery and Museum, Kelvingrove, Glasgow, for repair. The urn, which is of moderately hard, unrefined yellow clay, tinged orange or almost red in places in its upper half, with the outer surface smoothed down, stands $13\frac{3}{4}$ inches high. At the mouth the diameter is $10\frac{1}{4}$ inches; the overhanging rim is decorated with a neat though irregular diamond pattern, obtained by applying a twisted cord in intersecting

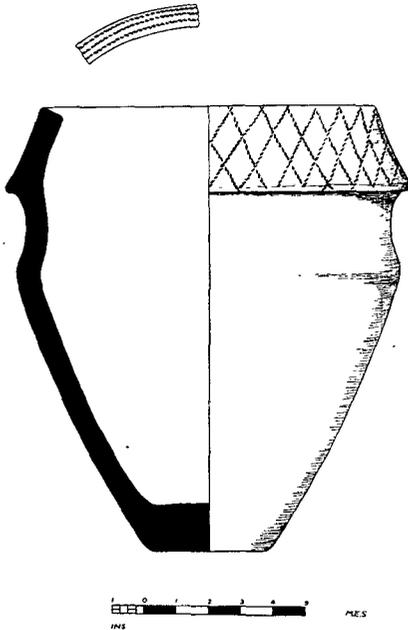


Fig. 4. Cinerary urn from Milngavie.

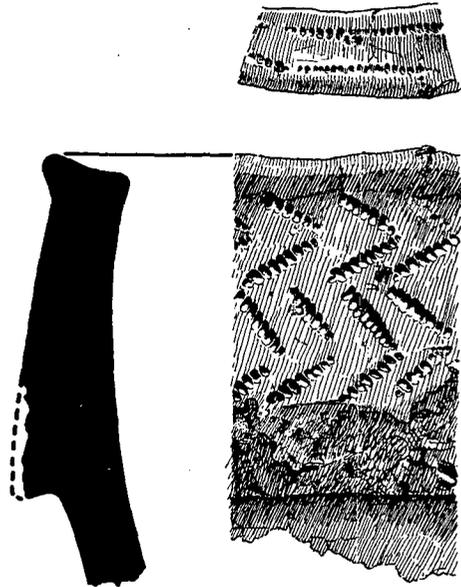


Fig. 5. Rim and section of cinerary urn, Milngavie ($\frac{1}{2}$).

lines; the internal bevel is decorated with three concentric rows of applied twisted-cord impressions. Below the rim the neck contracts sharply before swelling out to the shoulder, from which the body falls evenly away in a slightly convex curve to a base $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter. There are no calcined bones or other relics now associated with the urn.

The urn is the property of the Milngavie Golf Club, and was found, probably in the early years of the present century, at Mount Zion, a knoll just over 400 feet above sea-level, about a mile and a half north-west of Milngavie (Nat. Grid ref. 26/536766). When the summit of this natural eminence was levelled to construct the fourth and eleventh greens of the course, two "ancient vases," of which this urn is one, were discovered, but it is not recorded whether they were originally buried in the natural soil or in an artificial mound; the artificial mound now visible may well be a result of the levelling.

Mr W. Scott Cochran, of the Milngavie Golf Club, has been kind enough to scan the club records for references. There appears to be no mention of the

original discovery, but the following is an excerpt from the Minute of Meeting of Committee of Milngavie Golf Club, held on Saturday, 11th April 1908:—

"*Ancient Vases.*—A letter was read from W. Watson Murray, Esq., with reference to the condition of the Ancient Vases found on Mount Zion some years ago. Accompanying Mr Murray's letter was one from Mr Ludovic McL. Mann, requesting the loan of one of the Ancient Vases for exhibition purposes, and suggesting that they should be put into a proper state of repair. The secretary was instructed to explain to Mr Murray that in the course of some excavations on Mount Zion some time ago two vases were found. The first was completely shattered by the workmen's picks and, as many parts were missing, the remaining portions were not preserved. The second was taken out with only trifling damage, and was still in the same condition as when taken out of the ground. This vase was placed in a well-made glass case, which was fixed on the wall of one of the rooms of the Club House."

I was struck by the resemblance, as well in appearance as in circumstances of discovery, of the Milngavie urn to that described by Dr J. Graham Callander in the *Proceedings* of 1907-8, vol. xlii. pp. 218-9. Dr Callander says: "In one of the urns discovered in a cairn in the parish of New Kilpatrick, Dunbartonshire, which has not been recorded before, four hollow cylindrical objects of bone and five arrow-heads of flint were found among the burnt human bones contained in the vessel. The urn containing these relics was a large, handsome example of the cinerary type. It had a heavy overhanging rim, with a deep contracted neck between the rim and the body of the vessel, and the latter part contracted to a narrow base, in a fine, regular, convex curve. When discovered, the urn was inverted over a large quantity of burnt bones, which nearly filled the vessel when replaced in it."

Mr Ludovic McL. Mann is of the opinion that the Milngavie Golf Club urn is the same as that described by Dr Callander. Mr Mann was unable to examine the urn at the time of its discovery, as he had to leave Glasgow on business, but he requested Dr Callander to follow up the discovery, as it is clear he did.

The four hollow cylindrical objects of bone and five arrow-heads of flint are now in the National Museum. Mr R. B. K. Stevenson informs me that they were presented by Dr Callander in 1907, along with two pieces of a cinerary urn,¹ which could well be the urn "shattered by the workmen's picks." Moreover, the catalogue entry states that the bone objects, arrow-heads and pieces of pottery were found at Milngavie, and not simply in the parish of New Kilpatrick, as stated in the *Proceedings*.

In the absence of actual eye-witness testimony absolute certainty is impossible, but the balance of probabilities must be held to favour the identification of the urn belonging to the Milngavie Golf Club with that described by Dr Callander in the *Proceedings* of 1907-8.

This note is published with the permission of the Committee of the Milngavie Golf Club, and I am indebted to Mr W. Scott Cochran of that club, as well as to Mr Ludovic McL. Mann and Mr R. B. K. Stevenson, for information and assistance.

J. G. SCOTT.

¹ Mr Stevenson states that the pieces of cinerary urn are a fragment of rim, originally about 11 inches in diameter, decorated with whipped-cord impressions (fig. 5), and most of a base $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches across.