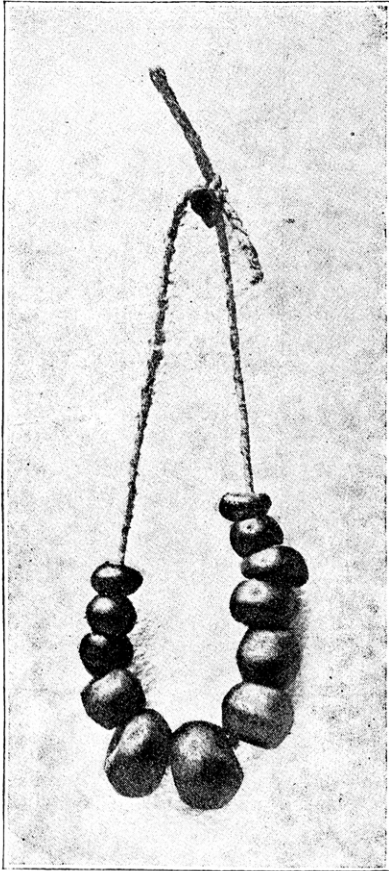
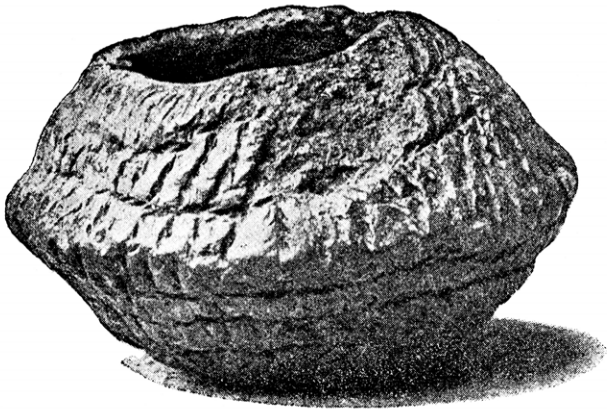


PLATE I.



TUMULUS AT OLD PARKS.—BEADS.



TUMULUS AT OLD PARKS.—INCENSE CUP,

ART. XXVIII.—*On a Tunulus at Old Parks, Kirkoswald: with some Remarks on One at Aspatria, and also on Cup, Ring, and other Rock Markings in Cumberland and Westmorland.* By the President, CHANCELLOR FERGUSON, F.S.A.

Communicated at Lake Side, Windermere, June 13th, 1894.

ON the 21st of September, 1892,* I exhibited to this Society at Seascale, by the kindness of Mr. W. Potter of Old Parks, Kirkoswald, a small vessel of coarse earthenware of the kind known as “incense cups,” (see Plate II.) which had been found in a large mound of stones close to Mr. Potter’s farm in a field called, significantly, “Low Field,”—a name which was taken by the few who knew it to refer to the position of the field itself, and not to any mound or burial place in it †: the mound, indeed, was by many supposed to be a mere clearance heap, and as such it was sold to the County Council of Cumberland for road metal. In course of removing the stones, the incense cup exhibited at Seascale was found, and shortly afterwards was brought to my notice by Mr. Potter. In consequence of this I visited the mound in 1892 in company with the Rev. H. A. Macpherson and Mr. Potter: about 30 cartloads of stones had then been removed from the extreme circumference of the mound on the north side: during the removal, the incense cup already mentioned as having been exhibited at Seascale was found; also some fragments of a large urn, and some bits of calcined bone. On the occasion of this visit, we

* These Transactions, vol. xii, p. 275.

† *Hlæw*, *hlāw*, what covers, a grave, heap, a small hill. A tract of ground gently rising, a low.—Bosworth’s *Anglo-Saxon Dictionary*.

dug

dug into the centre of the mound, where some large slabs of stone were lying about, and partially exposed a large earthfast stone, which we took to be part of a ruined cist.* On it we observed a curious artificial mark or grooving. Near it we found two or three vertebra and a fragment of a skull, none of which were human. We found also a very little charcoal, and some stones that had been subject to the action of fire.

At the time of our visit in 1892 the work of leading away the stones had been suspended, and it was not resumed until after a very considerable interval. Towards the end of last year Mr. Potter informed me that a second incense cup (see Plate III.) had been found, with twelve small beads inside † of it (see Plate I.) and also urged me to pay another visit to the place: this I was very eager to do, though prevented by various circumstances, until July of the present year [1894], when I went, accompanied by Mr. Potter, and by the Rev. Canon Thornley, the vicar of Kirkoswald. At a much earlier period, I had, however, sent out a photographer, whose pictures are reproduced with this paper. (Plates I. to VIII.)

Between my first and second visit about 600 cartloads of stones had been removed, and the site was virtually cleared, though a considerable heap was still remaining

* Transactions, vol. xii, p. 276, where I erroneously stated we had found a ruined cist: it will be seen we were in error.

† The question has been asked me by a distinguished antiquary "Is the finding of those beads *in* the incense cup strictly authenticated?" I wrote to Mr. Potter. The following is his reply:

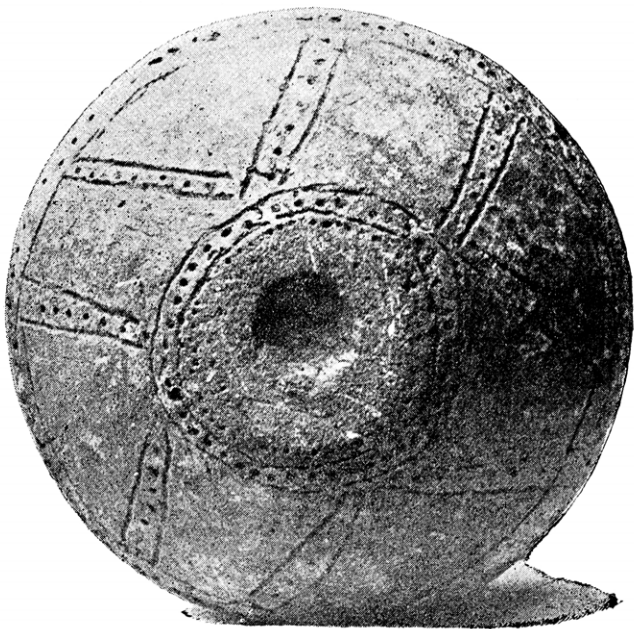
The Parks, Kirkoswald,
October 15th, 1894.

Dear Mr. Ferguson,—

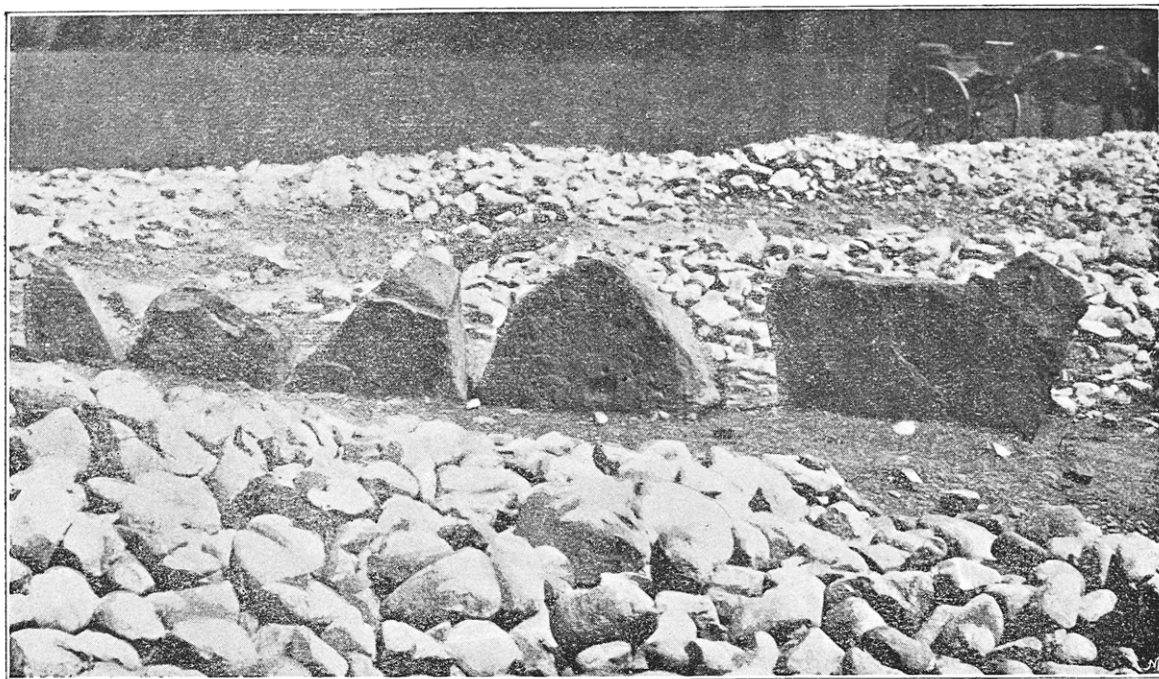
There is *no doubt whatever* about the 12 beads being found *inside* the larger incense cup. I found the cup myself, and it was never out of my sight, and scarcely out of my hands until I took it home. It was my intention to send it on to you with its contents undisturbed, but Mrs. Potter, with the curiosity of the sex, got to poking in it with a hairpin and discovered some of the beads, and I then emptied it out and found the remainder.

Very truly yours,
WM. POTTER.

ON



TUMULUS AT OLD PARKS.—INCENSE CUP,



No. 1.

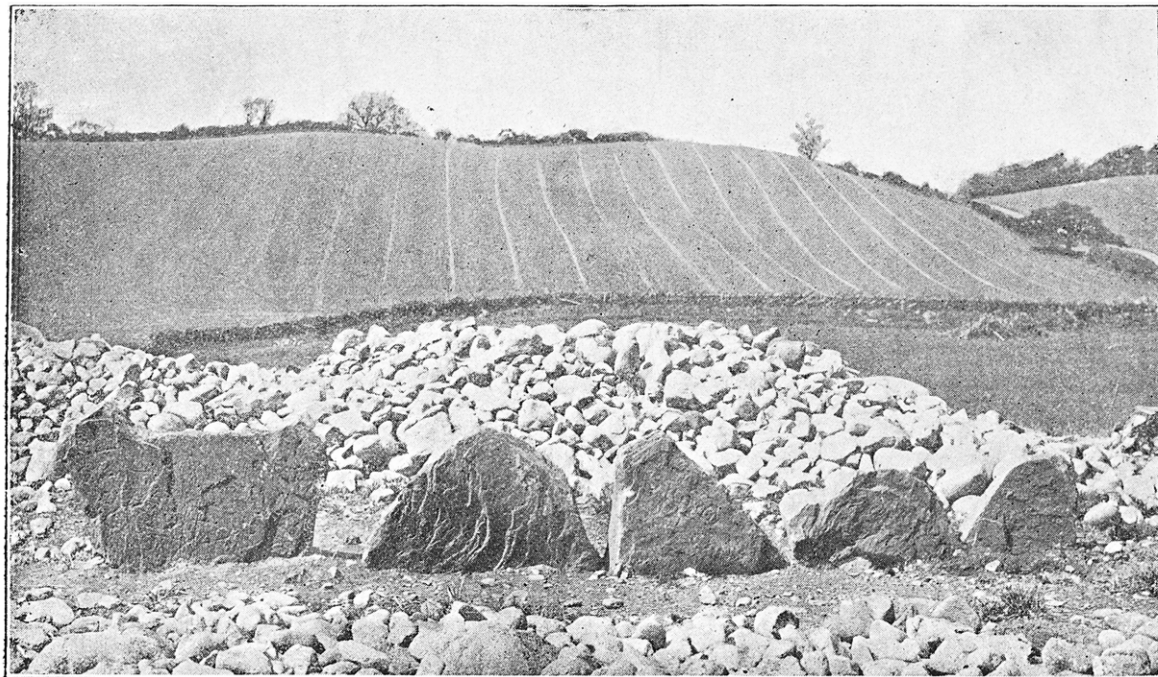
No. 2.

No. 3.

No. 4.

No. 5.

TUMULUS AT OLD PARKS, showing West Side of the dividing line of earthfast Stones.



No. 5.

No. 4.

No. 3.

No. 2.

No. 1.

TUMULUS AT OLD PARKS, showing East Side of dividing line of earthfast Stones.

on the west side, awaiting removal* The stones, it may here be remarked, were mainly of a local sandstone.

The cleared site was roughly oval with a longer diameter of 80 feet, and a shorter of 63 feet, † the longer diameter running east and west. It may be well to mention that before the mound was touched, its height was about four feet above the level of the adjacent ground, and that it was somewhat depressed in the centre. Mr. Potter is of opinion that the mound had in modern times been used as a clearance heap, which might account for the irregular outline. A large tree which grew a little within the circumference of the mound on the south side had been cut down and uprooted during the clearance.

Running in a straight line from north to south across the centre of the cleared area are five slabs of rough stone, set in the natural surface of the ground, but not very deep, forming a row 14 feet 9 inches long measured on the ground. (See Plates IV. and V.) The following are their dimensions, taking the most northerly stone to be No. 1 :

	Length along the ground.	Height.	Thickness.
No. 1.	1ft. 8in.	1ft. 1in.	4in.
No. 2.	2ft. 6in.	1ft. 5in.	6in.
No. 3.	2ft. 7in.	2ft.	8in.
No. 4.	3ft. 2in.	1ft. 9in.	7in.
No. 5.	3ft. 1in.	1ft. 10in.	5in.

The height given for No. 5 is taken at its middle, but its southern corner stands 2 feet 4 inches above the ground, and it was this stone that on our visit, in 1892, we took to be part of a ruined cist.

* Nothing like such a heap as is shown in the photographs, much carting having been done between the photographer's visit and mine.

† At Seascale I stated it to be roughly circular with diameter of 77 feet: the more recent measurements were made with a tape.

Of these stones Nos. 3 and 5 have artificial grooves and markings on their east sides (see Plates VI. and VIII.), and No. 3 on its west side (see Plate VII.): these markings continue into the ground, and show that they were upon the stones before the stones were set in their present positions. But the freshness of the pick or chisel marks in the grooves proves that these stones cannot have been long exposed to weather.

This row of stones, thus, divides the area of the mound or tumulus, roughly, into two halves, semi-circles, or rather semi-ovals

In the western half of the area no less than thirty-two deposits of burnt bones were discovered: they were in holes scooped out of the natural surface of the ground, and in some cases were accompanied by fragments of broken urns, and also by stones showing traces of fire. The first incense cup already mentioned (see Plate II.) was found near the north end of the line dividing the two semi-circles or ovals (the continuation of the line of five earthfast stones). A second and much superior incense cup (see Plate III.) was found a little westward of the first, and in it were twelve small beads (see Plate I.) which Mr. J. G. Goodchild, F.G.S., F.Z.S., pronounces to be made of cannel coal. Near to where the second incense cup was found, a flat stone covered one of the thirty-two interments, a protection that was not accorded to others of them. These interments were dotted about the area of the semi-oval, but mainly towards the circumference. Under the roots of the tree, stated to have been growing on the south side of the mound, a large burial urn was found, full of burnt bones. It is much distorted by pressure, but was got out perfect or nearly so: it stands 1 foot $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches high, with a diameter of five inches at the bottom, and of 1 foot 1 inch by $11\frac{1}{2}$ inches at the mouth, which has been distorted into an oval. The ornamentation on it is rude and much worn. Fragments of similar
urns



TUMULUS AT OLD PARKS: East Side of Stone No. 3.



TUMULUS AT OLD PARKS: showing West Side of Stone No. 4.



TUMULUS AT OLD PARKS: showing East Side of Stone No. 5.

urns were found among the bones in some of the interments, and also fragments of urns of smaller and thinner paste, being probably of the class known as drinking cups.

The eastern half of the area contained no interments, but two large excavations had been made into the original soil: both ran east and west, and much resembled modern graves. The larger was 8 feet 3 inches long by 4 feet 9 inches wide and 4 feet 3 inches deep: the other was smaller, about the dimensions of an ordinary grave of the present day, but had been filled up before my visit, partly by the workmen, but mostly by a violent thunderstorm. Both, when first discovered, were filled up with cobble stones, and in a corner of the larger, under a flagstone, were some burnt bones and ashes.

It would seem that the excavations in the eastern half of the mound must have contained burials by inhumation in an extended position, the bodies lying east and west, and having long ago wholly disappeared; while the bones and ashes found there under a flagstone must have been a secondary interment of later date. These two burials by inhumation, four feet deep below the original surface, must have been the original interments over which the *tumulus* or *low* was raised: the question arises, what is the date of the thirty-two interments by cremation in the western half of the mound, and what is the meaning of the wall of separation, and of the mysterious grooves and marks cut on the east side of two of the stones, and on the west side of one of them? One can hardly imagine the interments after cremation to have been simultaneous with the two by inhumation, unless there had been a wholesale slaughter of slaves and dependents at the time of the inhumation. It would be more probable that they were made subsequently and at different times. Dr. Thurnam (*Archæologia*, vol. xliii, pp. 328-331,) gives instances of central primary interments by inhumation with secondary interments after cremation lying on or towards the circumference

cumference of the barrows towards the south side, while the north is vacant, but in the instance before us they lie towards the west, and the east is vacant. Many instances of burial by inhumation, and of burial after cremation in the same *tumulus* are given in Greenwell and Rolleston's *British Barrows*. No pottery except what has been mentioned: no personal relics, except the twelve rude beads of cannel coal were found to our knowledge, but there might have been. The removal of the *tumulus* occupied, intermittently, over two years, and was effected at such chance times as the work of a large farm and the weather left men and horses otherwise free. Hence continuous scientific supervision was impossible: but archæologists are much indebted to Mr. Potter for the care he took to record, secure, and preserve everything.

A granite monolith stands in the next field 106 yards due west from the circumference of the *tumulus*: it stands 4 feet 7 inches high, and is 13 feet in circumference at the ground level: we did not detect any artificial markings upon it.

Not very far distant on the estate of Messrs. Rowley in a field called Grazing Land, is another large *tumulus* of stones: standing on it, one can trace a stone circle or fence within its circumference* It would probably repay investigation, but such would be a very expensive piece of work.

The occurrence of cup, ring, and groove marked stones is not without precedent in Cumberland and Westmorland. Indeed the first discovery of them was made at Aspatria in Cumberland in the month of June, 1789, and is reported by Major Hayman Rooke in a letter dated 17th December in that year, and read before the Society of Antiquaries of London, February, 4th, 1790.† The

* See Greenwell and Rolleston, *British Barrows*, pp. 7-8.

† *Archæologia*, vol. x, pp. 105, 111, 113. See also Hutchinson's *History of Cumberland*, vol. ii. pp. 287-288, n.

following

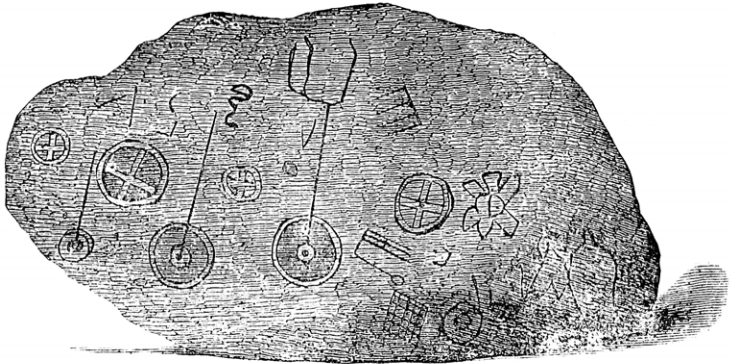
following is Major Rooke's account of the circumstances of the find, which, be it observed, is not from personal observation, but from information supplied to him by Mr. Rigg, the proprietor of the land on which stood the barrow or *tumulus*, during whose opening the discovery was made. The Major had an inspection of the objects found and sketched them.

About two hundred yards north of the village, and just behind his house (Mr. Rigg's) is a rising ground called *Beacon Hill*, on the summit of which the barrow was placed, commanding an extensive view every way, and of course a very proper situation for a beacon, which was probably erected on the barrow. In levelling this (the base of which I found to have been 90 feet in circumference) they removed six feet of earth to the natural soil, and about three feet below they found a vault formed with two large cobble stones at each side, and one at each side (*sic*). In it was the skeleton of a man which measured seven feet from the head to the ankle bone; the feet were decayed and rotted off. The bones at first appeared perfect, but when exposed to the air became very brittle. On the left side near the shoulder was a broad sword near five feet in length: the guard was elegantly ornamented with silver flowers. On the right side lay a dirk or dagger, one foot six inches and a quarter in length, the handle appeared to have been studded with gold. Near the dagger was found part of a gold fibula or buckle, and an ornament for the end of a belt, a piece of which adhered to it when first taken up. . . . Several pieces of a shield were picked up, but I did not see parts sufficient to make out the shape. There were also part of a battle axe, . . . a bit shaped like a modern snaffle, part of a spur. These were very much corroded with rust. H and I* are the two large cobble stones, which inclosed the west side of the kistvaen. H is two feet eight inches in length; I is three feet in length, and one foot eight inches high. On these stones are various emblematic figures in rude sculpture, though some of the circles are exactly formed, and the rims and crosses within them are *cut in relief*. †

* These letters refer to the plate of illustrations given in the *Archæologia*, and reproduced in Hutchinson's *History of Cumberland*. We have omitted the other references as immaterial to the subject of this paper.

† These last ten words have been a stumbling block to Sir James Y. Simpson (*On Ancient Sculpturings of Cups and Concentric Rings, &c.*, p. 120, n., Appendix Proceedings, S.A.S., 1st series vol vi.,) and to Dr. M. W. Taylor, F.S.A.,

We reproduce, from Fergusson's *Rude Stone Monuments*, one of the two side stones, so that their similarity to the stones at Old Parks is at once seen. Major Rooke takes the circles upon the Aspatria stones to be emblems of eternity, and from the circles and crosses he concludes the interment to be that of a person of rank



SIDE STONE, ASPATRIA CIST.

after the year A.D. 596, when Augustine the monk brought Christianity to Britain. We need not linger to argue the question with the Major's shade; his theory will hardly find a supporter at the present day.* The relics,

(these Transactions, vol. vi, p. 112,) who incline to consider the Aspatria stones as apocryphal, or at any rate of a different class to such as were found at Old Parks. But Sir James says the Aspatria find was "casually described" by the Major, and I think the Major has been rather more casual than usual, and that these last words are an error either of observation or of memory. Under this belief, we have no hesitation in putting the Aspatria stones into the same class as the Old Park ones. Mr. James Fergusson in his *Rude Stone Monuments*, p. 157, reproduces Rooke's sketch of one of the side stones: he has no doubt that it belongs to the class under discussion, and asserts from it that the class may be of the Viking Age. There is a rude flower-like figure on one of these stones: a similar figure is to be seen on a stone in County Meath. See Proc: S.A.S., 3rd series, vol. iii, fig: 27, and p. 309. By kind permission of John Murray, 50, Albemarle Street, through Mr. A. H. Hallam Murray, we reproduce Fergusson's illustration of one of the Aspatria cobbles.

*The compiler of Hutchinson's *History of Cumberland*, vol. ii, p. 288, n., goes one beyond the Major, and asserts the marks on the Aspatria stones to be "magical numbers and figures, the work of ignorant sorcerers and wicked wretches," who inserted these things in the graves of bye-gone races in order to secure the obedience of the evil spirits that dwelt therein. He classifies the

other

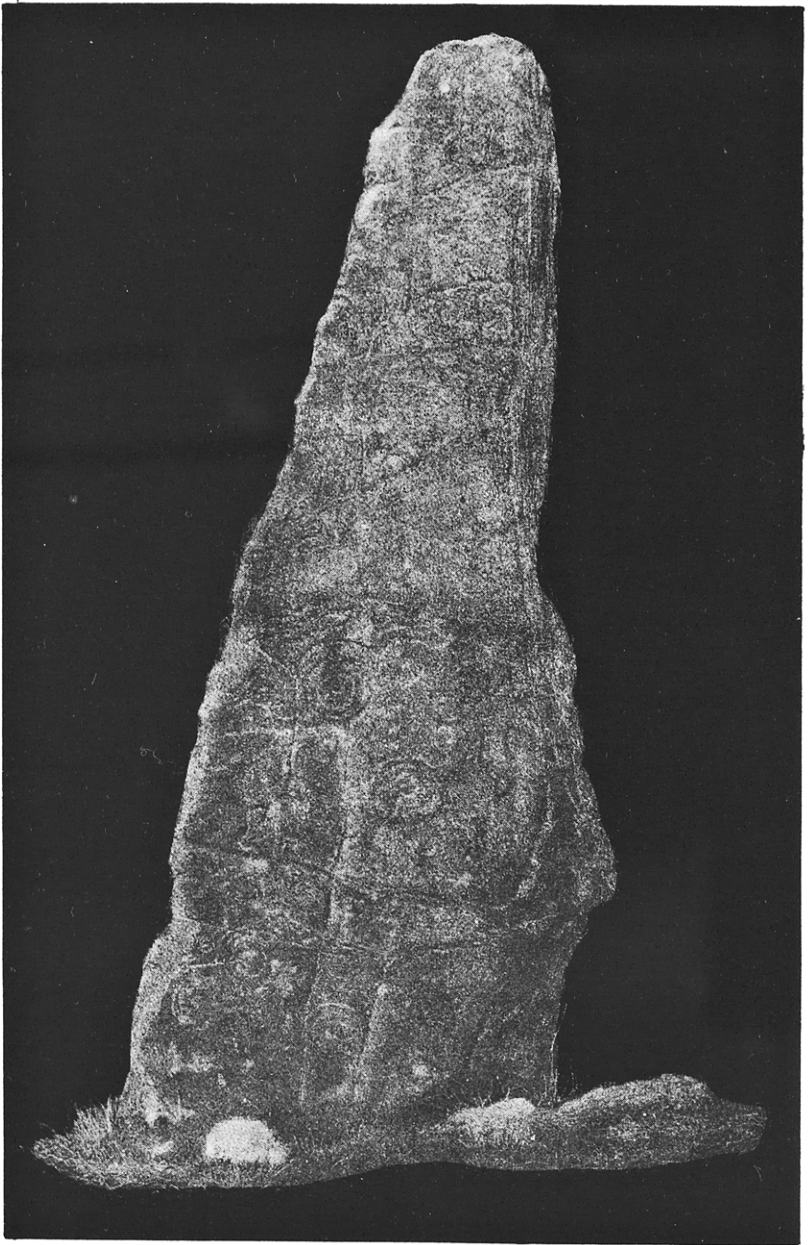


PLATE IX.

LONG MEG.

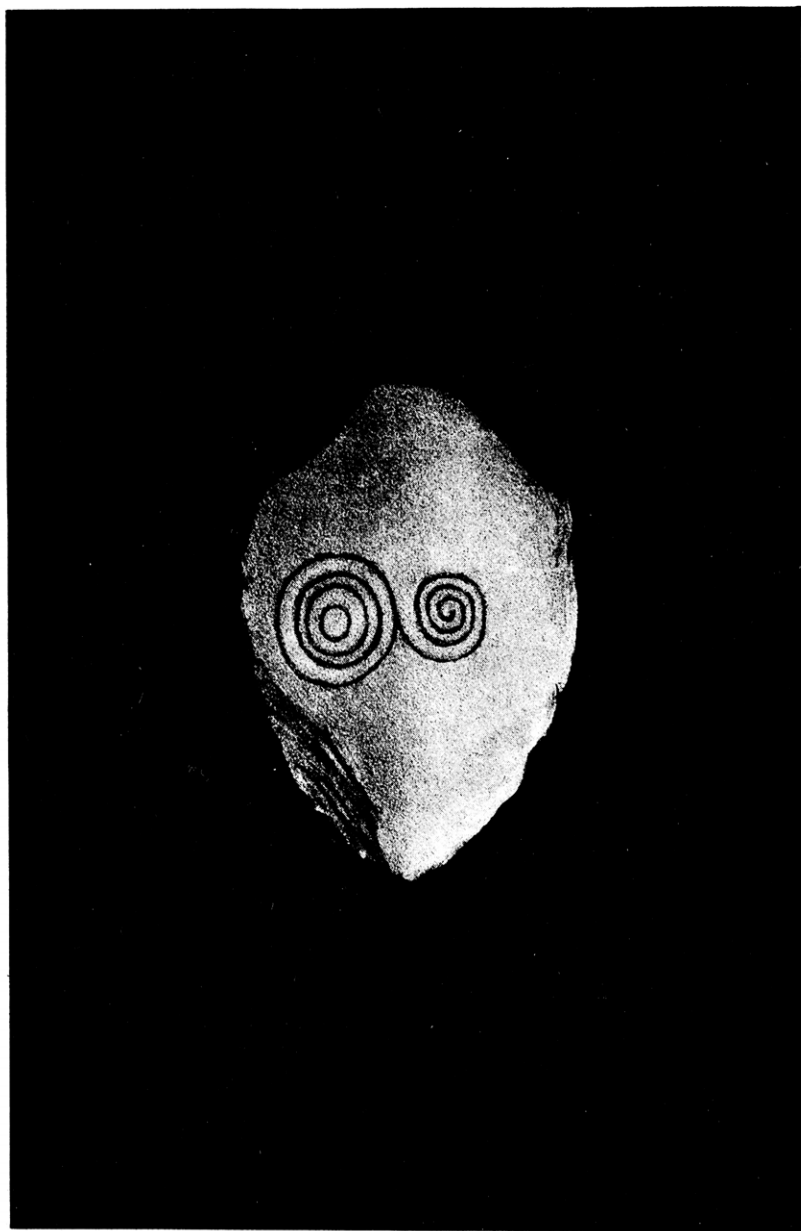


PLATE X.

THE MAUGHANBY STONE.

other than the cobble stones, found at Aspatria, are such as one would expect to find in a Northman's grave, and probably mark the interment as a result of the settlement of Cumberland by the Northmen. *

The next recorded discovery of these cup and ring and other rock markings in Cumberland was made by Sir J. Gardner Wilkinson in 1835 on the well-known monolith Long Meg, where he found a concentric circle with four rings around a cupped centre. † At a later date Sir J. Y. Simpson and Dr. Taylor visited Long Meg and found not one, but several concentric circles carved thereon. ‡ The stone circle so well known as "Long Meg and her daughters" is situate in the parish of Addingham, which is immediately to the south of Kirkoswald: Long Meg, as the crow flies, can only be distant from the Old Parks *tumulus* about a mile and a half. §

About the same time that Sir James Simpson discovered the circles on Long Meg, the Rev. Canon Simpson, formerly president of this Society, found some ring cuttings on two boulders forming part of a circle of eleven stones around a cist, situated a few hundred yards to the east of Long Meg. ||

Aspatria stones with two brass plates found in a *tumulus* at Gilling in Yorkshire; on one side of each these brass plates is a magic square, and on the other a curse on some people named Philip, of the date, by the handwriting, of James I.

* Ferguson's *Northmen in Cumberland and Westmorland*. See also Sir J. Y. Simpson and Dr. Taylor cited *ut ante*.

† *British Archaeological Journal*, vol. xvi, pp. 101-118, with illustration.

‡ *On Ancient Sculpturings, &c.*, *ut ante*, pp. 17-18, with illustration. These *Transactions*, vol. vi, p. 111.

§ For an account of Long Meg and her daughters," with survey by Mr. C. W. Dymond, F.S.A., see these *Transactions*, vol. v, p. 40; *British Archaeological Journal*, vol. xxxiv, pp. 31-36. Long Meg is sometimes stated to be in the parish of Great Salkeld, an error which arises from its being near to Little Salkeld, in the Parish of Addingham.

|| *Proc: S.A.*, 2nd series, vol. iii, pp. 211-213. Also *On Ancient Sculpturing, &c.*, *ut ante*, pp. 18-19. This cairn is in a field called Whins, in the township of Maughanby, in the parish of Addingham, and is often spoken of as at Maughanby. By the kind permission of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, we reproduce, from Sir James Simpson's paper, the illustrations of Long Meg and of the Maughanby Stone, showing the markings.

Ring

Ring cuttings have been observed on two of the stones at Shap, one of which is a stone in a field called Asper's Field, and the other is the "Goggleby Stone": these are recorded by Sir James Simpson* One, a cup, was found by Dr. Taylor on a stone at Hugill, near Staveley. †

The most remarkable cup-marked stone ever discovered in Cumberland or Westmorland was found in 1881 by Dr. Taylor at Redlands, in the township of Stainton, in Cumberland, about two miles from Penrith. It is a large slab of freestone, 5 feet 4 inches in length by 3 feet 6 inches in width in the centre, and it varies from eight inches to thirteen inches in thickness. It is fully described in these Transactions by Dr. Taylor, who gives an illustration. ‡ It formed the cover of a cist, which had contained an interment after cremation. The markings upon it display four types—(1). Cup-shaped hollows of various sizes and depths: (2). Central hollowed cones surrounded by two concentric circles, each bisected by a radial groove: (3). Hollowed channels like gutters running in various directions: (4). Little pits or small pick marks in the stone.

One of the two monoliths known as the Giant's Grave, at Lacra, in south-west Cumberland, has on it a well-defined cup mark. § Some cup and ring marked stones were found at Maryport, in 1887, by Mr. J. B. Bailey. ||

We have thus brought together all the known instances of cup, ring, and groove markings in Cumberland and Westmorland. Two questions arise upon them: What do they mean? What is their date? They are not peculiar to these two counties. "They are," says Dr. Anderson, "not confined to Scotland, or even to Britain. They are found in Scandinavia, in France, in Germany,

* *On Ancient Sculpturing, &c., ut ante*, p. 20, plate xvii.

† These Transactions, vol. vi, pp. 90-111.

‡ These Transactions, vol. vi, pp. 110-118: Proc. S.A.S., vol. xvi, p. 438.

§ These Transactions, vol. i, pp. 278-280.

|| These Transactions, vol. ix, pp. 435-438, where an illustration is given.

and

and Switzerland. They appear on the Continent in associations which refer them to the Bronze Age at least, but they also occur in associations which show that the custom survived to the late Iron Age, and even in a modified form to Christian times."* Sir James Simpson and Dr. Taylor would refer their commencement at least to the late stone age.

As to what they are, Dr. Anderson says "they are one of the enigmas of archæology." Canon Greenwell says :

In many cases these markings occur upon rocks, but they have been very frequently found upon detached stones of greater or less size, and in a large number of instances, . . . they are connected with burials after cremation; sometimes covering the deposit of bones, sometimes placed beneath it, and sometimes forming the side or cover of a cist within which the bones were deposited. This connection with burial, always a sacred rite, seems to bring them within the class of symbolic representations; in other words, suggests the notion that they are or may have been figures after a very rude and conventional manner, of some object embodying an idea that involved the deepest and most esoteric principle of the religion held by these people. The tau symbol of Egypt, the pine-cone of Assyria, the triangular-shaped stone of India, the cross of Christianity, outward expressions of that which has been in almost every religion its most sacred belief, may well have been, however different in form, yet the same in essence with these mysterious pits and circles. †

APPENDIX.

For the general bibliography of this subject the reader should consult "Notes on some Stones with Cup-markings in Scotland," by J. Romilly Allen, F.S.A., Scot., in Proc: S.A.S., vol. xvi, pp. 79-143. Also a paper by W. Jolly, F.A.S., Scot., in the same volume, "On Cup-marked Stones in the Neighbourhood of Inverness," pp. 300-401. See also "The Sculptured Rocks of Northumberland," by Geo. Tate, Alnwick, 1865.

* *Scotland in Pagan Times. The Iron Age*, p. 299.

† *British Barrows*, Greenwell and Rolleston, p. 343.