

#### IV.

NOTICE OF URNS IN WIGTOWNSHIRE, WITH NOTES ON IMPLEMENTS. BY THE REV. GEORGE WILSON, FREE CHURCH, GLENLUCE, CORRESPONDING MEMBER S.A.S.

I have much pleasure in reporting an addition of eight hand-made clay urns to the very large and valuable collection already in the Museum. There are also fragments of many others, chiefly from Glenluce, marked with various patterns. I add an account of two urns already in the Museum, hitherto undescribed, and of another figured in the *Collections* of the Ayrshire and Galloway Archæological Association, with a note of others found in the district, but not preserved or described.

My description includes the following particulars:—Material, form, dimensions, style of ornament, position and circumstances, contents, and accompaniments. This method may facilitate comparison with urns from other districts.

*No.* 1. A large and well-preserved cinerary urn of brownish clay, mixed with angular fragments of stone which are covered. With projecting ledge at shoulder. Greatest diameter and height,  $14 \times 11$  inches. Diameter at brim,  $10\frac{1}{2}$  and  $11\frac{1}{4}$  inches, not being truly circular, and at the flat base only 4 inches. A collar  $4\frac{1}{2}$  inches broad projects in a sharp ledge  $\frac{3}{8}$  or  $\frac{5}{8}$  of an inch, where the diameter is greatest, and is ornamented with oval indentations, about  $\frac{3}{8}$  of an inch long and  $\frac{1}{8}$

broad, arranged in five encircling rows, and slanted alternately, so that the effect is chevron-like. The brim is bevelled from the inside to a sharp edge, with one row of the same indentation. A low ridge encircles the body of the urn  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches below the shoulder, from which it slopes rapidly inward to the base. Shown to a scale of  $\frac{1}{5}$  in fig. 1.

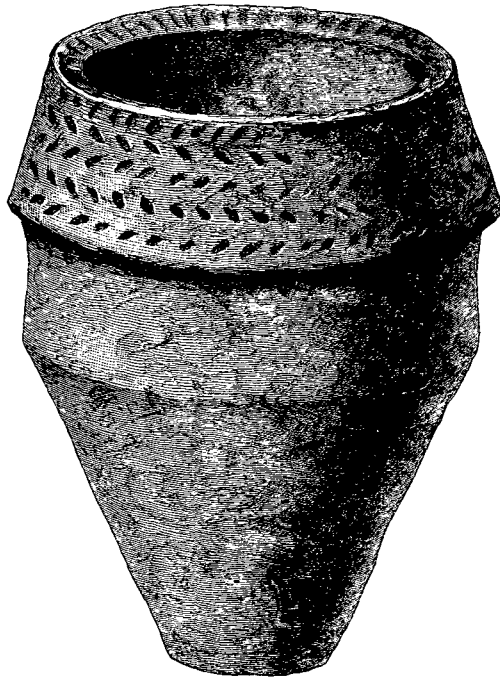


Fig. 1. Urn found at Mid Torrs, Glenluce (14 inches in height).

Found buried in the sand, inverted, covering ashes and fragments of bone, including the upper jaws and two teeth. Locality, the sand-hills at Mid Torrs, Glenluce. Purchased for the Museum, 1886.

*No. 2.* Cinerary urn of brownish clay mixed with stones mostly covered. Outline ovoid. Dimensions,  $10\frac{5}{8} \times 12\frac{1}{8}$  inches. Diameter at the rounded brim,  $9\frac{3}{8}$  inches. The flat base broken. 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.

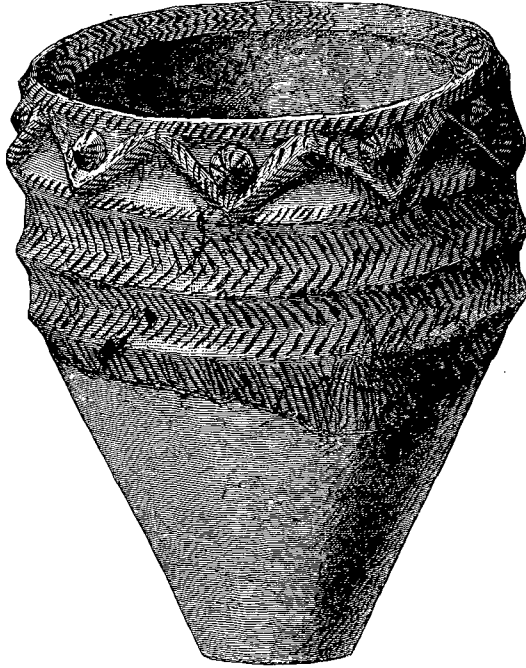
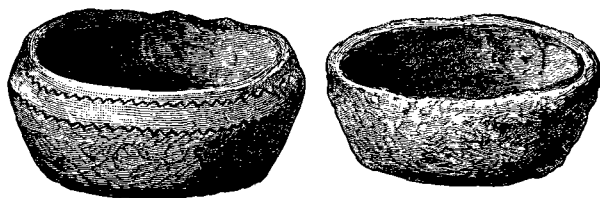


Fig. 2. Urn found at Mid Torrs, Glenluce ( $12\frac{1}{2}$  inches diameter).

Buried in the sand, inverted over many small fragments of bone and charred wood. Locality, Mid Torrs, Glenluce. Purchased for the Museum, 12th June 1886.

*No. 3.* Cinerary urn (fig. 2) of brownish clay, with stones carefully covered. Broken. Diameter at brim,  $12\frac{1}{2}$  inches; height unknown, the lower part and nearly 3 inches of the brim having been totally destroyed by cart wheels. Ornamented with chevrons all over the surface. Three strong encircling ridges divide the upper part into three

bands, each 2 inches broad. The upper band or collar has a strong ridged chevron, with a large boss, with excised lines radiating from apex to base, in each of the ten upper triangular spaces, and a rude star-shaped pattern of excised lines in one of the lower spaces. I accidentally detached one boss, and found that it had been shaped separately, and then attached to the urn. The two lower bands are slightly concave, each 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, that of the collar chevron, and the lip of the brim have deeply incised chevron lines. The flat brim,  $1\frac{1}{4}$  inches broad, is filled by a double chevron of excised lines. The urn slopes out with a slight convexity to the lowest ridge. The lower part is covered with less sharply cut lines, some of them 3 or 4 inches long, less exactly arranged, yet preserving the general chevrony style. The whole ornamentation of this fine urn is bold, free, and effective. (See note on No. 7.) Shown to a scale of  $\frac{1}{5}$  in fig. 2.



Figs. 3, 4. Small Cup-Shaped Urns found at Glenluce.

Found buried in the sand, inverted over some handfuls of fine ashes and bones. Locality, Mid Torrs, Glenluce. Purchased for the Museum, 1st December 1886.

No. 4. Small urn of reddish clay. Cup-shaped. Dimensions,  $2\frac{7}{8} \times 1\frac{1}{2}$  inches. Diameter at brim,  $2\frac{5}{8}$ ; at flat base,  $1\frac{3}{4}$  inches. Ornamented with two waved encircling lines, which may have been impressed by the edge of a cockle shell—the first  $\frac{1}{8}$  of an inch below the brim, the second  $\frac{1}{8}$  to  $\frac{1}{4}$  of an inch lower. The height at one side is only  $1\frac{1}{4}$  inches, and the work is rude. I obtained it while correcting these Notes for the press. Shown to a scale of  $\frac{1}{2}$  in fig. 3.

Found lying on the sand beside two fragments of the common "drinking-cup" type of urn and a fragment of a large coarse urn of coarse clay and stones, black on the inside. Perhaps all belonged to one interment. It is the first of the kind found here.

Position and contents unknown. Locality, Low Torrs, Glenluce. Presented to the Museum by the Rev. George Wilson, June 1887.

No. 5. Cinerary urn of reddish-brown clay, mixed with covered stones. Outline ovoid. Dimensions, 11 × 10 inches. Brim not truly circular, diameter 10 × 9 inches. Base flat, diameter 6½ inches. Ornamented by two low encircling ridges, 2¼ inches apart, and a collar 2¼ inches broad, filled with an irregular lozenge pattern of impressed corded lines, and a similar encircling line close to the rounded brim. The greatest diameter is at the lower ridge, that at the upper being nearly as great.



Fig. 5. Urn found at Bankfield, Glenluce (11 inches in height).

A ploughshare in cutting a furrow one foot deep smashed the base. It was left undisturbed, and next day, 2nd October 1886, it was excavated under my direction. It was buried in the drift under the soil in a hole 29 inches deep, inverted on a rough stone 9 × 8 × 1½ inches. The base

was 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. About a yard off lay another  $28 \times 16 \times 2\frac{1}{2}$ , which I think had formerly covered the others, and been moved aside by the plough or grubber. The stones are Silurian sandstone.

The urn was lifted on the under stone, and exposed to the sun and breeze for a few minutes before I ventured to remove it. It covered many fragments of burnt bones mixed with black ashes. My friend, Dr M'Cormack, examined the bones, and said that the left part of the pelvis showed it to be that of quite a young man. Three small pebbles, two of them of quartz, may have been accidentally mixed with the bones; but I record their presence, because small pebbles are still worshipped in India and the Fiji Islands, and appear to have been worshipped in Palestine long ago.<sup>1</sup> Shown on a scale of  $\frac{1}{5}$  in fig. 5. By far the most interesting of the contents was the very small urn next to be described.

No. 6. Small urn of fine reddish-brown clay, without stones. Saucer-shaped. Dimensions,  $2\frac{7}{8} \times 1\frac{1}{8}$  inches. Diameter inside of rounded brim,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches, and at flat base 2 inches. Depth inside,  $\frac{7}{8}$  of an inch. Inverted under No. 5, containing black ashes. Shown on a scale of  $\frac{1}{2}$  in fig. 4.

This interesting interment was on the edge of a raised sea-beach, where it forms the left bank of the river Luce, near high-water mark. Another urn was destroyed at a similar place not far off in 1847.

This small urn enclosed in the larger one took me quite by surprise, being of rare occurrence. One at Carphin, Fifeshire, is described in vol. vii. p. 405; another, pierced with holes, found at Buchlyvie, Fifeshire, in vol. ix. p. 190. One in Yorkshire is mentioned in Greenwell's *Brit. Barrows*, p. 337, footnote, and in Anglesea, p. 399, note; see also p. 364.

Locality, Bankfield, Glenluce. I have the honour of presenting these two urns to the Museum in the name of the Earl of Stair, on whose property they were found.

No. 7. Cinerary urn of clay blackened by peat smoke. Fragments of a very fine urn, with a collar like No. 3. The diameter seems to have been about  $5\frac{3}{4}$  inches. The collar is 3 inches broad, with a ridged

<sup>1</sup> Isaiah lvii. 6.

chevron, open towards the brim, with a circular boss like a large nail head in each upper triangle, and the lower triangles filled with eight or nine incised lines slanting from left to right. Below the collar is a slight contraction, with a row of perpendicular sparrow-bill indentations, the points downward, and about half an inch apart. Between and below them the surface is covered with fine slightly waved lines made with the edge of a comb. When found it went to pieces, and the fragments gradually crumbled away. See the description of the next urn. Shown on a scale of  $\frac{1}{3}$  in fig. 6.

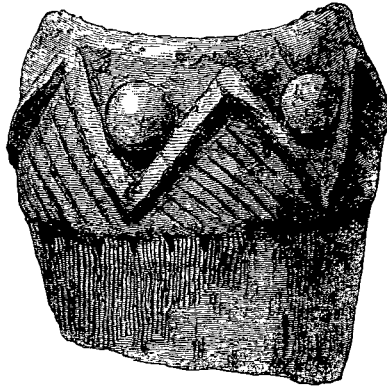


Fig. 6. Portion of Urn found near Torhousekie, Wigtown.

I think there are three other urns in the Museum with raised chevrons like this one and No. 3, one of which has bosses on each side of the ridge. One from Dunion Hill, Jedburgh, is figured in vol. xx. p. 99.

No. 8. Small urn of lightish red clay mixed with sand, and well burnt. Flower-pot shaped. Massive,  $3\frac{3}{4} \times 3\frac{1}{4}$  inches. Diameter and height inside,  $2\frac{5}{8} \times 2$  inches. Base flat with rounded edge, diameter  $1\frac{7}{8}$  inches.

This peculiar-looking urn was got from the relations of a deceased labourer, who found it in the year 1852 or 1856, along with No. 7. The only facts now known about these two urns are that they were

got together, in one of the two years named, on the moor between Torhousekie and Balnab, Wigtown.<sup>1</sup>

I have much pleasure in presenting both urns to the Museum.

I insert here a description of two urns from this district already in the Museum.

*No. 9.* Urn of brownish clay mixed with stones, mostly covered. Of the "food-vessel" type;  $4\frac{1}{4} \times 3\frac{3}{4}$  inches. Base flat, concave inside, diameter  $2\frac{1}{8}$ . Collar  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches broad, ornamented with an irregular lozenge pattern between two encircling lines. Under it is a slight encircling ridge, from which it slopes rapidly to the base. At one part there are four lozenges in a row. A spot where a slight repair has been made bore the impress of the potter's finger tip.

Found in 1879 among gravel newly fallen from the edge of a pit, so that the position and depth of interment are unknown. Nothing was observed beside it. After being hidden in a dry stone wall for about a year, it came into my hands and was sent to the Museum. See vol. xiv. 142.

Locality, Craigenhollie, Glenluce. Presented by me to the Museum in 1880.

*No. 10.* Urn of the same type as the last described. No stones appear through the clay. Cup-shaped. Dimensions,  $6\frac{1}{2} \times 4\frac{1}{2}$  inches. Ornamented all over by encircling rows of impressed oblong dots, and two ridges. Base flat, diameter outside  $3\frac{1}{4}$ , inside 2 inches. The lower ridge is 3 inches from the base, and the upper one divides the remainder into two bands  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches broad. The dots on the ridges and on the edge of the brim and base are of larger size. Of the smaller dots there are 6 rows on the collar band, 5 on the next, and 14 on the basal one,—25 in all. The bevelled inside of the brim has slanting rows of the smaller dots arranged 5 or 6 in a row.

<sup>1</sup> A cairn on Torhousekie was opened many years ago, and a coffin-shaped stone, which covered a built grave in it, was carried away to cover a water trough. Six different persons have told my friend Mr Armstrong that they repeatedly saw, after dark, 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.



Found long ago near Lochinch. See vol. i. New Series, 172. Perhaps this is the urn mentioned by the late Mr Todd, of Kirkmaiden, as quoted by Dr Arthur Mitchell, vol. xiii. 172. It was found in 1818 with a skull, at Clendrie, Inch.

Locality, Inch. Presented to the Museum by the Earl of Stair in 1879.

No. 11. By the kind permission of the Council of the Ayrshire and Galloway Archæological Association and of Sir Herbert Maxwell, Bart. of Monreith, I show an engraving from their *Collections*, vol. v. 45, of a fine "food" urn,  $5 \times 4\frac{7}{8}$  inches, diameter of flat base  $2\frac{3}{4}$  inches. Body flower-pot shaped, contracted sharply at a narrow shoulder to a broad concave collar, widening to the brim. Ornamented nearly all over with encised lines in lozenge and chevron patterns, or encircling corded lines.



Fig. 7. Urn found at Cairngaun, Kirkmaiden (5 inches in height).

Found in levelling down the top of a steep sandy knoll in which a sand pit had been excavated. About 4 feet beneath the surface some large stones were found, measuring about  $54 \times 30 \times 8$  inches, resting on five granite boulders, about as large as a man could lift, which enclosed

an elliptic grave about 36 × 30 inches. The intelligent tenant of Cairngaan, Mr Jamieson, as quoted by Sir Herbert, says—"Inside were several urns. This was the only one that could be preserved; the others, having been made of differently prepared clay, could not be lifted without going to crumbs. . . . The bones of the thighs, with the loin joints, and arm bones with the elbow, were quite plain. . . . Of the labour of getting the occupant into his last resting-place there can be no doubt, as the flagstones must have been brought at least half a mile." The labourer who opened this grave thought the skeleton was sitting with the face to the north. Of course it was lying doubled up, with several urns placed beside it.

Locality, Cairngaan, Kirkmaiden in the Rhinns.

I may here refer to a note by me in vol. ix. 517, of a contracted sepulture at Carsecreugh, Glenluce, in the boulder clay, on a small glacial knoll. The stone cist was quadrangular, narrower at one end, and contained the bones of a woman and child, and an urn at the south-west corner, which crumbled on exposure to the air. The thigh bones of the woman were broken across the middle. The cist lay east and west, and a shorter one lying above it at right angles was afterwards observed.

In connection with No. 11, I may refer to other occurrences of several small urns together. In vol. xii. 625, I describe the finding of ten lignite beads, some of which are in the Museum, in a railway cutting near Stranraer. They were under one of several small urns inverted in a cist. Some of them had the herring-bone pattern. In the Old Statistical Account of Old Luce, five small urns are said to have been found in a cist, in a cutting for a new road. Probably this was at the foot of the Mote-Hill at the west end of Glenluce village. I have placed in the Museum, along with a large number of similar fragments, a tray containing many fragments of apparently three small "drinking cup" urns. They were found at Clachsiant, Stoneykirk, buried in the sand beside a broken whetstone, in the hollow of which lay a small stone axe, figured in my paper, vol. xv. 263. The fragments of "drinking-cup" urns are numerous in our sandhills. The specimens I have sent to the Museum are variously marked, one with a herring-bone pattern. Some of a

thicker sort are marked by the edge of a comb. A bronze dagger I presented to the Museum was no doubt connected with an interment.

I sent to the Museum a small cup or bowl-shaped urn of clay mixed with stones, which showed the outline from base to brim; but it is past repair. I found it at Knockdoon, High Torrs, buried erect in the sand, and containing black ashes. Similar urns have often been observed, but not preserved.

I send fragments of several large urns of coarse material, variously formed and marked. Two of them were held upright in the sand by a circle of water-worn pebbles, about the size and shape of one's open hand, stuck slantwise in the sand. One of them is described in vol. xi. 582. Both contained black ashes. The stones with which the clay is mixed appear much on the surface. Yet it is firmly ornamented with close-set encircling rows of triangular indentations, each containing a very small figure 8 pattern, with a circular dot in each loop. The tool used for this must have been neat and hard. Close beside it lay a fragment with chevrons incised lines like those in No. 3, and two hammer stones, of which one, No. 89, is sent. These may have been part of the apparatus of workshops, as many articles have been found near them. They belong, in my opinion, to the Bronze Age.

Many sepulchral urns have been found in Glenluce within the last fifty years, of which no fragment or exact record has been preserved. Some were interred, others in cairns with or without built cists. Some of these cists still remain.

When the "White Cairn" near Gillespie farm-house was removed, a cist was found covered by a very large flagstone, and containing an upright urn about 12 inches high, with a piece of slate on the mouth, and containing fine clay.

At Gillespie, and at Gleniron and Kilhern in New Luce, are large cairns containing several cists.

All the urns described in this paper seem to me to belong to the workers in bronze.

In May 1877 I saw the remains of a very curious wooden box, found in cutting a drain through a slight hump on the edge of a peat bog which had never been tilled, at Challockmun, Glenluce. It was 6 feet

long, of some soft wood, apparently willow, which crumbled away. It was joined, without nails or pegs, by grooves 1 inch wide and  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an inch deep, those in the two ends catching the bottom and side planks; an oak lid, with a groove all round, catching the whole, and held in its place by large stones. On the surface was a circular patch of broken stones much marked by fire.

#### NOTE ON IMPLEMENTS OF STONE, BRONZE, &C.

During the recess of 1886 I gave the Museum many hundreds of trimmed flints, with other articles, to be incorporated with the previous collections from Glenluce, which were being rearranged. There are about forty arrow-heads, some very rude. There is a small bronze chisel,  $1\frac{1}{4}$  inches, which I acquired for the Museum, which seems to be very old. I also present two bronze needles and two linked wires from Glenluce, and a tool made of a pig's tusk from Kirkcowan. There is a melon bead from Penninghame.

I call attention to a donation of twelve flint arrow-heads from Glenluce, which I present in the name of my friend Dr John Thomson, 14 Coates Crescent, Edinburgh, whose late father was long a member of this Society.

I have much pleasure in presenting to the Museum a pendant of black shale or cannel coal (fig. 8), found in excavating materials to mend a road

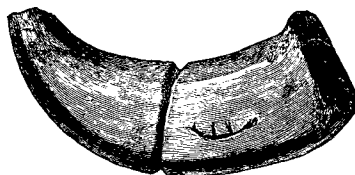


Fig. 8. Pendant of Jet found at Skirling, Peeblesshire  
( $2\frac{1}{4}$  inches in length).

on the farm of Broughton Knowe, Skirling, Peeblesshire. It is curved like a horn snuff-mull; the base and sides are flattened and polished, and a notch is cut round the middle for the suspending cord. On one side, between this notch and the base, there is cut a small figure of a

boat with two persons in it. The boat is  $\frac{7}{16}$  of an inch long and not much more than  $\frac{1}{16}$  broad. Each figure in it holds up a hand, and the tallest is about  $\frac{3}{8}$  high. At one end of the boat there seems to be an attempt to show a serpent or dragon mouth. I was at once reminded of the boats or ships on the topstone of a dolmen at Horrestrup, in Zealand, as figured by Sir James Simpson in vol. vi., appendix, plate xxxi., and by Mr James Fergusson in vol. xii. 665. This seems to be a Scandinavian ornament, and is, I think, unique in this country.

My friend Mr Armstrong, of Kirkcowan, allows me to exhibit a bronze celt from Isle of Whithorn, and some spindle whorls, one of iron with a notch to attach it to the spindle, got from a family who have been weavers for generations.