

III.

FURTHER DISCOVERIES OF BRONZE AGE URNS IN HUT-CIRCLES IN THE PARISH OF MUIRKIRK, AYRSHIRE. BY ARCHIBALD FAIRBAIRN, WELLWOOD, MUIRKIRK.

The fragments of pottery which are described in this note were discovered during further excavations of hut-circles on the estate of Wellwood, Muirkirk, carried out in the summer of 1919, under the direction of Miss Baird, the proprietrix.

About half a mile south-east of Wellwood House, on the edge of the moor, and 115 yards east of No. 2 hut-circle described by Mr Baird in the *Proceedings*, vol. xlviii. p. 375, is an oval ring formed of stones and earth. It is situated on a low flat knoll, and is enclosed by a circle of small cairn-sized stones. The mound rises in the centre to a height of 2 feet, and the interior measures 34 feet east and west, and 24 feet north and south.

Excavation was begun in the centre after removal of turf, loose earth, and stones. At a depth of 18 inches, charcoal and a small sprinkling of burnt bone were met with on what resembles a trodden clay floor. Over an area of 6 feet, the floor level near the centre is much stained with charcoal; and one stone pushed into the ground end-ways suggests the remains of the kerb of a hearth. The coarser urn fragments were found south of the charcoal-stained area, and immediately west of this, in a crevice between two stones, the remains of the finer urn were discovered crushed together. There were no signs of burnt bone near the pottery. The latter fragments lay near the foundation of what may have been a rude wall, probably of secondary date.

The potsherds which have been recovered are, as a rule, of small size, and their edges are so much crumbled that it was impossible to restore as much of either vessel as would indicate its size or shape. However, by examining the texture of the clay and the style of ornamentation displayed, and by comparing the sherds with the pottery previously found in one of the hut-circles in the same locality which was formerly described, it will be seen that the urns bear a strong resemblance to the beaker type.

The first-mentioned example is of a rather coarse clay of a dark drab colour, tinged on the exterior and interior with a shade of pink. There are indications that the greater part of the wall has been decorated by pinching a small part of the surface between the nails of the forefinger and thumb, so as to make a series of semi-circular hollows with a slight ridge between. Though the sherds suggest a kind of globular pot of a texture resembling a food-vessel type of urn, the thinness of the wall, $\frac{3}{8}$ inch, and of three small pieces of the flat rim which is even thinner than the rest of the wall, would seem to indicate that the vessel had rather resembled the beaker type.

There is a distinct difference in the character of the second vessel. It is lighter in colour, but it also shows a pinkish tinge; the ware is harder and of closer texture, with a smoother surface, and the ornamentation is similar to that seen on many beakers. The greater part of the base has survived, and measures about $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter, while the wall is $\frac{3}{8}$ inch thick. The upper part of the vessel has been encircled with horizontal lines, between two of which there is a band of short vertical impressions; the lower part is decorated with long upright zigzag lines, carried close to the base and possibly unbroken by plain transverse bands such as are usually seen on the sepulchral beaker. All the designs have been impressed on the clay with the toothed comb-like implement which was used so much by Bronze Age potters. It may be recalled that an urn¹ found in 1913 in another hut-circle on the same hillside had no plain bands.

East of this area there are two small circular pits—one 22 inches, and the other 28 inches, in diameter,—both with a kerb or margin of 12 to 14 stones, well arranged in a circle. They are situated close together, and the more northerly one has a flat stone bottom at a depth of 12 inches. The pits have been deepened below the natural level, but nothing was found in them, and both remain intact.

South-east of, and attached to, the main circle is a small circular arrangement of stones enclosing a space, 8 feet in diameter, covered with cairn-sized stones with three large flat stones in line on the south margin. This area, which was filled with dark-coloured forced earth and

¹ *Proc.*, xlvi. p. 376, fig. 2.

small stones, with a sprinkling of charcoal, was cleared out to a depth of 3 feet. Nothing was found down to the sandstone rock floor, but the place now contains much water, even in fairly dry weather.

The outer stone and earth margin of this pit is 2 feet 6 inches wide, and the inner wall 3 feet 6 inches thick and 1 foot high. They are rudely constructed, with smaller stones, clay, and earth tightly packed into the interstices.

So far as the excavation has gone, no relics have been found except the urn fragments, three or four rough flint or chert chippings, charcoal, and a small quantity of burnt bone.

Around the fire-marked area, the floor level clears up smooth, while the other parts are more soft and rough. The whole seems to have been much robbed for the stones it contained; but for the presence of the superior floor and the absence of a circle of heavy boulders, the general appearance is that of No. 2 hut-circle on a smaller scale.

Another low mound, 80 yards to the south of this, has been discovered, and is now cleared of turf and ready for exploration.

MONDAY, 10th May 1920.

DAVID MACRITCHIE, Vice-President, in the Chair.

Before proceeding to business, the Chairman referred to the lamented death of The Hon. Lord Guthrie, which had taken place on 28th April.

Lord Guthrie had joined the Society in 1884, and served as a Member of Council during the years 1895-1898, 1907-1910, and 1915-1918. During the years 1910-1914 he had acted as one of the Vice-Presidents.

In addition to his invaluable services as a Member of Council and as a Vice-President, Lord Guthrie had contributed several historical papers of much value and interest to the *Proceedings* of the Society. The last of these had been read at the December meeting of 1907, and dealt with "Mary Stuart and Roscoff." At that time the chapel at Roscoff, which was believed to have been erected by Mary Queen of Scots in 1548 as a thanksgiving for her safe arrival in France, and which was dedicated to St Ninian, had been in a ruinous state, and it had been mainly due to Lord Guthrie's efforts that it had been put into a decent state of repair. For his services in this respect, all Scotsmen owed him a debt of gratitude.

Lord Guthrie was a man of many interests and a member of many

Societies. In none of these would he be more genuinely mourned than in the Society of Antiquaries, where his genial presence would be much missed.

The Chairman then moved that the Society should record in their minutes a motion expressing their sincere sorrow at the loss which they had sustained through the death of Lord Guthrie, and their deep sympathy with his widow and family in their bereavement, and that the Secretary be instructed to send to Lady Guthrie an excerpt of that minute.

A Ballot having been taken, the following were elected Fellows:—

KENNETH CHARLES CORSAR of Rosely, Rosely, Arbroath.

Rev. A. A. MILNE, Oakfield, Doune, Perthshire.

WILLIAM ROBERT PLOWES, Appraiser and Dealer in Antiques, Chapel-Allerton, Leeds.

Professor S. P. VARMA, M.A., Robertson College, Jubbulpore, C.P., India.

There were exhibited by Major Ian C. Stewart of Fasnacloich, 3 Park Circus, Ayr, the following Jacobite relics, which are deposited on loan in the Museum:—

A gold and enamel lozenge-shaped Ring with crown and cypher "C.R."

A Razor with silver-mounted tortoiseshell handle—crest, a unicorn's head on a coronet.

A Razor-Strop made of leather, silver-mounted, with crest as above.

There was also exhibited by Mr William Crawford, 16 St Patrick Square, an enamelled bronze Fibula (fig. 1) found at Lochside, Spynie, Morayshire.

The following Donations were intimated and thanks voted to the donors:—

For the Museum—

(1) By Mr H. N. VEITCH, 7 Carlton Street, London.

Wax Bust of Prince Charlie, 4½ inches in height, showing the Prince dressed in a brown coat, tartan waistcoat and plaid, and a lace cravat. Two Orders are displayed on the left breast, and the plaid is fixed with a brooch in form of a shell. The brown hair is tied with a black bow, and there is a sword-belt over the right shoulder.

(2) By Miss M'INTYRE WILSON, 2 Danube Street.

Communion Token of Abercorn, 1832.

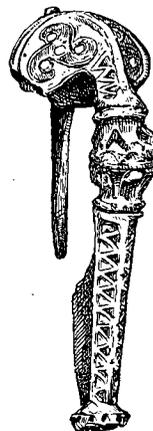


Fig. 1. Enamelled Bronze Fibula found at Lochside, Spynie, Morayshire.

(3) By the Rev. A. A. MILNE, Oakfield, Doune.

Three Communion Tokens—Barrhead Parish, 1841; Barrhead United Associate Congregation, 1822; Gourrock, 1832.

(4) By ROBERT B. ROBERTSON, F.S.A.Scot.
Edinburgh Groat of James II.

(5) By the Right Hon. A. J. BALFOUR, through the Excavation Committee.

Large collection of Relics obtained during excavations on Traprain Law in the summer of 1919.

For the Library—

(1) By GEORGE MACDONALD, C.B., F.B.A., LL.D., F.S.A.Scot.

The History of Scotland from the Union to the Abolition of the Heritable Jurisdictions in MDCCXLVIII. By John Struthers. 2 vols. Glasgow, 1827, 1828.

Ethnogénie Gauloise. By Roget B^{on} De Belloguet. Vols. i. to iv., in 2 vols. Paris, 1868, 1872.

Archäologie der Kunst. By Dr Karl Sittl. Munich, 1895.

Celtic Inscriptions of Gaul. Additions and Corrections. By Sir John Rhys, F.B.A. From *Proceedings of the British Academy*, vol. v.

Chaldean Magic: its Origin and Development. By François Lenormant.

(2) By THE ARCHÆOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA.

A Guide to the Observatories at Delhi, Jaipur, Ujjain, Benares. By G. R. Kaye, F.R.A.S. Calcutta, 1920.

Memoirs of the Archæological Survey of India. No. 2. Varieties of the Vishnu Image. By Pandit R. B. Bidyabinod. Calcutta, 1920.

(3) By A. S. CARNEGIE, 6 Abercromby Place.

Diploma of the "Beggar's Bennison," on parchment, with seal attached, in name of Thomas Renny, Writer in Edinburgh, dated 8th March 1773.

Diploma of the "Beggar's Bennison," on parchment, with seal in tin case attached, in name of Alexander Strachan of Tarrie, dated 15th November 1784.

It was announced that the following purchases had been made for the Museum:—

Penannular Brooch of bronze, $3\frac{3}{8}$ inches in greater diameter, with

expanding ends, ornamented with a sunk panel on each terminal and another in the centre of the ring. The first two sunk spaces are ornamented with three rows of lines set obliquely so as to form a zigzag, and the third with two rows forming a herring-bone pattern. On either side, at the junction of the ring and its expanded ends, are two sockets for stones. The brooch was found while digging a hole for a march stone between Abergeldie and Birkhall, Aberdeenshire.

Bronze Swords, part of the hoard found in 1869 in the foundations of Nos. 6 and 7 Grosvenor Crescent, Edinburgh, described in *Proceedings*, Vol. XIII. p. 320:—(a) $23\frac{5}{8}$ inches in length, $1\frac{1}{3}\frac{5}{8}$ inch at widest part of blade, about a $\frac{1}{4}$ inch of the tip wanting, with three rivet holes in the centre of the hilt and three in each wing—two on one side being closed owing to imperfect casting; (b) $24\frac{1}{4}$ inches in length, $1\frac{3}{8}$ inch wide at broadest part of the blade, $\frac{1}{4}$ inch of point wanting, with three rivet holes in the centre of the hilt and two on each wing; the sword has a good green patina.

Collection of Fifty-four Communion Tokens (Secession)—

Alloa Assoc. Con., 1810; Annan Relief C.; Auchtergaven Secession C., 1793; Broughty Ferry Sec. Con., 1839; Crail Assoc. Con., 1804; Crieff—Assoc. Con., 1767, Relief Con., U.P., 1870; Carronhall, 1832; Dumfries Assoc. Con., 1810; Dunbar Assoc. Con., 1818; Dundee—Assoc. Con., 1st Utd. Assoc. Con., 1830, Overgate Utd. Assoc. Con.; Earlston—Assoc. Con., 1752, Relief Con., 1781; Edinburgh—Free St John's Assoc. Con., 1794, 1st Assoc. Con., 1797, 1st Utd. Assoc. Con., 1741, Broughton Place U.P., 1829, Cowgate Utd. Assoc. Con., 1828, Potterow U.P. 1851, Rose Street U.P., 1822, Rose Street Utd. Assoc. C., 1822, College Street Relief C., 1766; Galashiels Assoc. Con., 1806; Greenock, Sir Michael Street U.P.; Hamilton—Relief C., 1772, Brandon Street Relief C., 1831; Horndean Assoc. Con., 1787 and 1807; Kilmarnock, Prince's Street U.P., 1843; Kinclaven Assoc. Con., 1749; Kinross, West U.P.; Largo U.P., 1852; Lauder Assoc. Con., 1797; Leith Assoc. Con., 1823; Limekilns Assoc. Con., 1798; Methven Utd. Sec. Con., 1846; Newburgh (Fife) Assoc. Con.; Newlands (Peeblesshire) Relief C.; Pitcairn (Perthshire) U.P., 1851; Port William Relief C., 1833; Rathillet U.P., 1782; Rattray Utd. Sec., 1762; Scone U.P. 1755; Selkirk—Assoc. Con., 1767, Utd. Assoc. Con., 1838, West U.P.; Stirling, Erskine U.P., 1742; Urr Assoc. Con., 1752; Waterbeck (Craigs and Waterbeck), Dumfriesshire, Relief C. and U.P.

Collection of 22 Trade Tokens—

Aberdeen farthing, William Gray, 1838; Dundee farthing, 1797; Edinburgh farthing, Atkins, No. 66; Glasgow farthing; Culross half-

penny; Dundee halfpennies, Atkins, Nos. 8, 13, 15, and 33; Edinburgh halfpenny, Atkins, No. 5; Glasgow halfpennies, Atkins, Nos. 3 and 4, also Clyde Ferries; Inverness halfpennies, Atkins, Nos. 1a and 2; Leith halfpenny, Atkins, No. 51; Montrose halfpennies, Atkins, Nos. 20 and 21, and variety of No. 22; Two Brechin halfpennies, Atkins, No. 6; Burntisland halfpenny, Atkins, No. 2.

The following Communications were read :—