

IV.

A ROMAN "VOTIVE LANTERN" FROM NEWSTEAD.

By A. W. G. LOWTHER, F.S.A.

An interesting class of objects of the Roman period, about which much is still to be learnt, is represented among the material found by Mr Curle at Newstead, and which I had the pleasure of seeing during a recent visit to the National Museum. The Newstead example (fig. 2) is represented by a fragment, but sufficient remains to show its original form and that it conforms to type in every way.

These objects, best described perhaps as "Votive Lanterns," have a wide distribution, extending in fact from Budapest to Scotland.

I have discussed them in a brief note in the *Surrey Archaeological Collections* (vol. xlii.), since when a few more examples have come to light, including the present fragment.

In *Bonner Jahrbücher*, No. 118, Siegfried Loeschke has written on some Continental examples, one of which, found at Xanten in 1821, throws considerable light on their "votive" aspect.

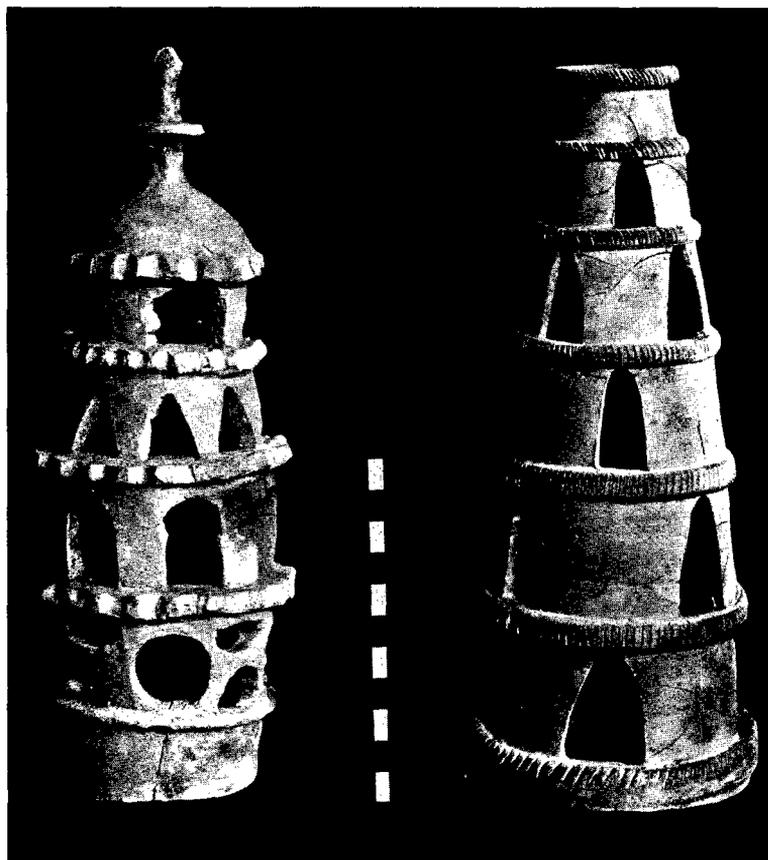
I shall begin by describing their general characteristics.

They are hollow, cylindrical¹ objects, made generally of red brick, but also, sometimes, of thick pottery. They average 2 feet in height, and have a basal diameter of about 9 inches. Usually, they have a domed top, ending in an ornamental spike (reminiscent of the modern spiked helmet), but they are also sometimes open at the top, as was one found at Verulamium in 1933. The outer surface is divided into horizontal zones by projecting bands, the latter being ordinarily about 3 inches apart, and are either plain or decorated. The ornament consists either of "frilling," done with thumb and forefinger, or else of diagonal slashing, formed with a knife.

The intervening zones are perforated with a series of openings which may vary considerably in shape, but are most often triangular or semi-elliptical.

¹ The three examples from Hungary are square, but similar in other respects.

The Newstead fragment retains part of two zones and the intervening raised band. The upper zone has the lower part of several triangular openings, while the lower zone retains only the upper angles of a row of



(By courtesy of the Surrey Archaeological Society.)

Fig. 1. Votive Lanterns.

similar openings. The intermediate raised band is ornamented with roughly executed diagonal slashing.

It is made of red brick, wheel turned, the bands being applied independently, and the openings cut, while the clay was still soft, before firing in a kiln.

Now as regards the evidence for a votive significance attaching to these objects and their probable date:

The Xanten example, a complete specimen (now, unfortunately, lost), was found standing upright over what was apparently a cremation burial (Loeschke, *op. cit.*). It had some forty small pots, with pointed bases, stuck in the ground and grouped in rings round its base. All these small pots had traces of burning inside them, suggesting that they had been used as lamps. The lantern itself bore no signs of smoke-blackening on its inner surface. Presumably the overlying soil in which the group was buried had originally been in the form of a raised mound or barrow.

The specimen found at Verulamium (fig. 1, right) was lying on the

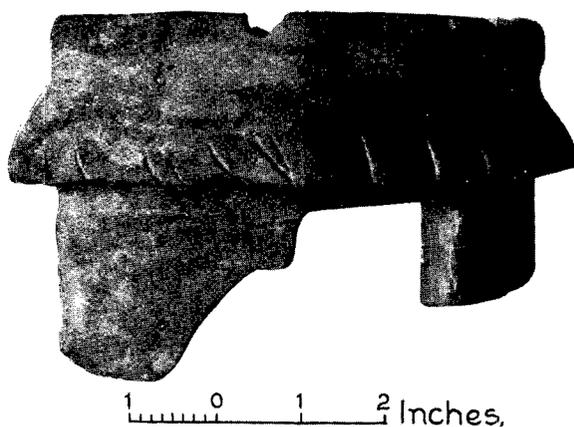


Fig. 2. Fragment of Votive Lantern from Newstead.

second-century gravel floor of the open inner courtyard of the Temple in INSULA VII. It was close beside the base of a brick-built altar of this period, and with it were fragments of several "incense-burners" of the usual tazza form.

It is made of pale buff-coloured pottery, carefully formed, the slashing on the raised bands being neatly executed.

At Ashted, in Surrey, buildings connected with a second-century brickworks, which I excavated during 1926-8, produced the fragments of several of these objects (*S.A.C.*, vols. xxxviii. and xlii.). They were all made of red brick, and the most elaborate had rosette- or cartwheel-shaped openings. The intervening bands were filled and the tops were furnished with spikes. A restored example is shown on fig. 1, left.

I have not ascertained whether the Newstead fragment was found in

any stratified level of a dated period, nor in which part of the site it was found. It would be interesting to know whether it can be linked definitely with any one of the superimposed forts, or was associated with any particular structure as, for instance, the Sacellum of the Principia.

A very interesting fragment of another votive lantern in the National Museum (fig. 3), has been identified, and brought to my notice, by Dr Callander. It was found in the Roman Fort at Camelon during the



Fig. 3. Fragment of Votive Lantern from Camelon. (†.)

excavation carried out there by the Society in 1900. This piece consists of part of the domed top and the upper frilled flange. It is made of light red brick ware and measures $\frac{5}{8}$ inch in thickness, the external diameter of the flange having been about 6 inches. In making the flange the clay has been folded back towards the inside, suggesting that (as appears to have been the case with the Ashtead examples) the top was made separately from the remainder of the object, and united, while the clay was still wet, before being dried or baked. It has the word 'FECIT' incised on the dome above the flange.

Votive Lanterns have been found in Britain at the following places:—

1. *Ashtead, Surrey*. Roman brickworks (*S.A.C., op. cit.*).
2. *Leigh Sinton, Worcestershire*. Roman brickworks (*Ant. Journ., vol. v. p. 287*).

3. *Caerleon, Monmouthshire*. Inside the fortress (*Report on Excavations*, vol. ii., fig. 14).
4. *Cirencester, Gloucestershire*. Unpublished example in a private collection.
5. *York*. Two examples in the Museum.
6. *Verulamium, Hertfordshire*. Temple, INSULA VII (*Report on Excavations*, pp. 119, 190-1, and pl. lviii.).
7. *London*. Part of the spike, with frilled ornamentation, from one example in the collection at the Guildhall Museum (*Ant. Journ.*, vol. xvi., p. 204).
8. *Newstead*, and 9. *Camelon*. The fragments, described here, now in the National Museum of Antiquities.

Loeschcke draws a distinction between the square, tower-like objects of this group, which are found in the eastern frontier provinces of the Roman Empire, and the cylindrical type of its western counterpart. For the former, he attempts to find a source of origin in the terracotta lamps (generally shaped to represent buildings) which have been found in Romano-Egyptian tombs. The latter, the cylindrical type of the west, he derives from an early Roman cylindrical form of lantern. He also suggests an earlier dating for the cylindrical, as against the square, type.

So far, the evidence of the British finds shows that the cylindrical form prevailed over here; that Loeschcke was probably correct in attributing a "votive" significance to them, and that they were being manufactured and used here during the first half of the second century and possibly earlier.

There may be other examples of these objects remaining unnoticed among collections from Roman sites throughout the country; possibly, also, from Continental sites. It is hoped that this note may assist in their identification, and cause them to be brought to light.

MONDAY, 11th May 1936.

SIR GEORGE MACDONALD, K.C.B., President,
in the Chair.

The Chairman intimated that M. F. A. Schaeffer had agreed to deliver the course of Rhind Lectures for 1938, his subject being the Excavations at Ras Shamra, Syria.

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

KENNETH CAIRNIE FERGUSON, 2 Clarendon Crescent, Edinburgh 4.
LANGTON HALDANE-ROBERTSON, Consul of Brazil, Kingston, Jamaica,
British West Indies.

The following Donations to the Museum were intimated, and thanks voted to the Donors:—

(1) By Rev. R. S. G. ANDERSON, B.D., F.S.A.Scot.

Pair of Wafering Irons from an old mill north of Drumore, Wigtownshire.

(2) By W. DOUGLAS SIMPSON, M.A., D.Litt., F.S.A.Scot.

Small Stone Axe, measuring $1\frac{1}{16}$ inch in length, $1\frac{5}{8}$ inch across the cutting edge, and $\frac{3}{32}$ inch in thickness, from Parkhill, Lumphanan, Aberdeenshire.

(3) By WALTER G. GRANT, F.S.A.Scot.

Flint Implements consisting of eight Scrapers, the largest measuring $1\frac{1}{4}$ inch by $\frac{1}{16}$ inch, and the others from $\frac{1}{16}$ inch by $\frac{3}{4}$ inch to $\frac{9}{16}$ inch by $\frac{7}{16}$ inch, from Westness, Rousay, Orkney; fourteen Scrapers, measuring from $1\frac{1}{4}$ inch by $1\frac{5}{16}$ inch to $\frac{5}{8}$ inch by $\frac{5}{8}$ inch; and a side Scraper, measuring $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch long, from Nearhouse, Rousay; twenty-two Scrapers and three worked pieces, measuring from $1\frac{1}{4}$ inch by $1\frac{1}{8}$ inch to $\frac{9}{10}$ inch by $\frac{1}{2}$ inch, and part of an Object of light coloured Quartz, highly polished near one edge, found near the Cairn of Rinyo, Bigland, Rousay.

Doubled-edged small-toothed Comb of Bone, incomplete, now measuring $2\frac{1}{8}$ inches by $1\frac{3}{8}$ inch, and three fragments of hand-made pottery, two being rim portions, from a site on the Muckle Skerry, Pentland

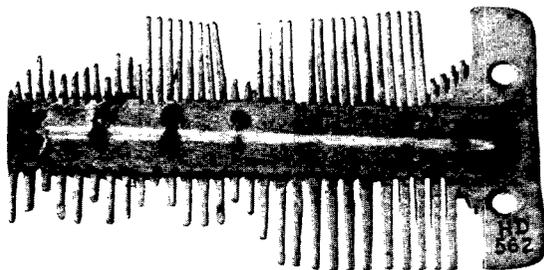


Fig. 1. Hair-comb of Bone from the Pentland Skerries. (4).

Firth. The comb is formed of thin narrow plates clasped together by a long narrow plate on each side fixed by bronze rivets set in pairs (fig. 1).

(4) By the Most Hon. THE MARQUESS OF AILSA, F.S.A.Scot.

Cinerary Urn found on the farm of Kirklands, Kirkoswald, Ayrshire. (See previous Communication by A. J. H. Edwards, F.S.A.Scot.)

(5) By THOMAS YULE, F.S.A.Scot., Vice-President.

Double Cup of Silver; the bowls, connected with a baluster-shaped stem, are of a size suitable to contain a hen's and a duck's egg; height 4 inches, weight 5 oz. 4 dwt., maker's mark T. & Co., Inverness, c. 1790. Both bowls are engraved, and turned to represent staves with wooden hoops.

(6) By GEORGE VEITCH, F.S.A.Scot.

Silver Spoon with trifid stem and a long rat-tail on the back of the bowl, bearing the initials C. T. C., and the maker's mark J B. (J. Borthwick), Edinburgh, c. 1690.

(7) By ALEXANDER GIBSON, 17 Belgrave Crescent, Edinburgh.

Five Clacktonian Flint Flakes, four from Barnham, East Anglia, and one from Three Hills Camp, from glacial old wash.

(8) By CHARLES E. WHITELOW, F.R.I.A.S., F.S.A.Scot.

Four Sailmaker's Tools: (1) Bone pin-like Object called a "Fid," measuring 7 inches long, principally used for opening the strands of a rope for splicing (fig. 2, No. 1); (2) a "Serving Board" or hammer-shaped Object of Cetacean Bone, the head being convex on one face and

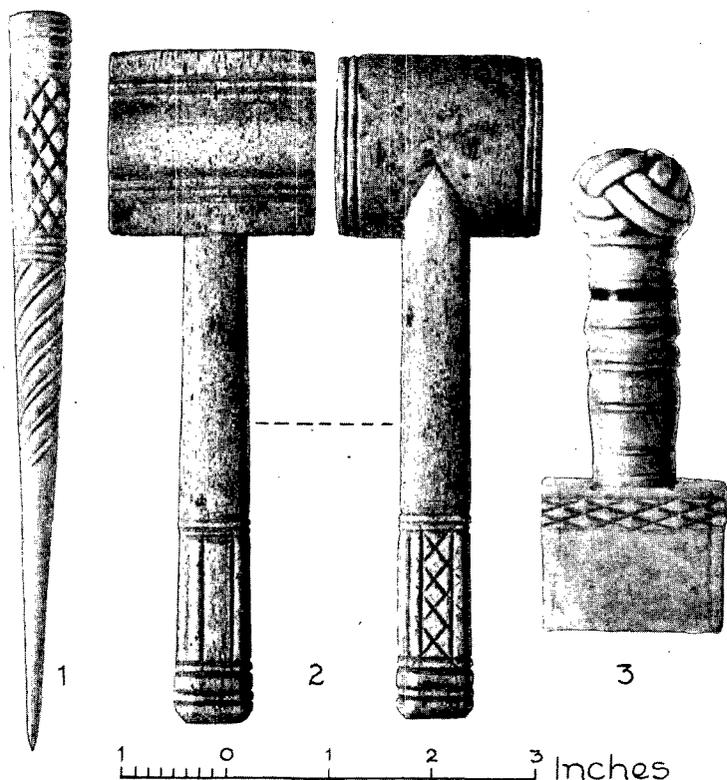


Fig. 2. Sailmaker's Tools of Bone.

1, A Fid. 2, A Serving Board. 3, A Rubber.

concave on the other, for winding marline on ropes, measuring $6\frac{5}{16}$ inches long, the head being 2 inches broad and $1\frac{3}{4}$ inch deep (fig. 2, No. 2); (3) a "Rubber" or tool, with the lower end wedge-shaped for flattening out seams and hems on sails, of Morse Ivory, measuring $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length (fig. 2, No. 3); (4) and one of Wood, measuring $4\frac{7}{16}$ inches in length.

Pair of Spurs for cock-fighting, of Leather and Horn.

Small Leather Tinder-pouch containing a fleerish, a piece of flint, and two pieces of soft leather with which to grasp the flint when striking it.

Lady's Keeking-glass, of flat, oval shape, measuring $3\frac{3}{8}$ inches by $2\frac{3}{16}$ inches by $\frac{9}{16}$ inch. The case is covered with red morocco leather.

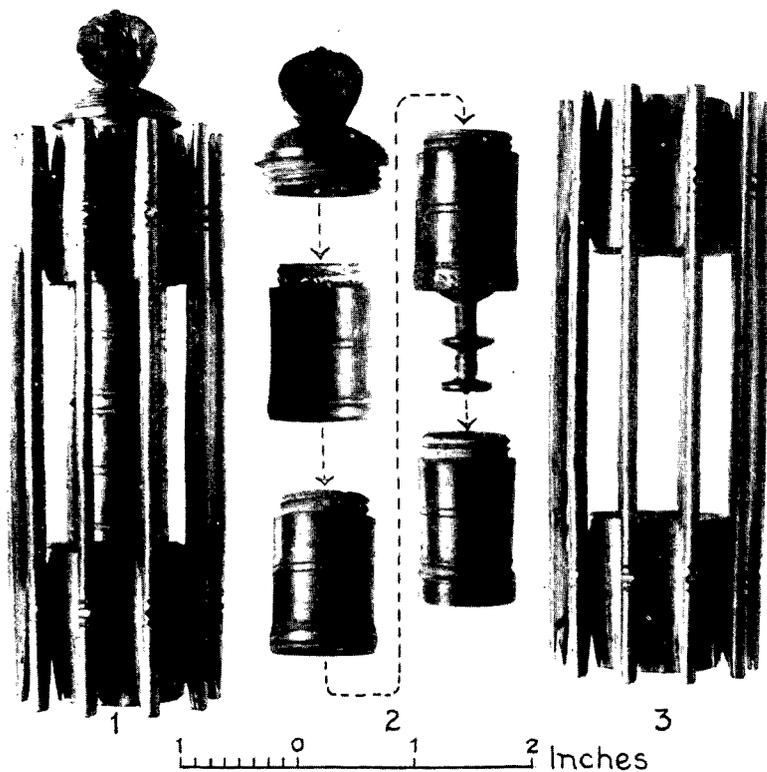


Fig. 3. Silk Container and Winder:
(1) Pieces screwed together, (2) Separate parts.

It is hinged in the centre of one side, and has a hook and loop catch on the other. The glass is sunk within one half, and in the opposite one is a pad covered with flowered blue silk. Probably early eighteenth century.

Silk-container and Winder of box-wood (fig. 3), with its leather case.

Two Perpetual Calendars in wooden frames: One oblong with cut corners and the other circular, each with three tables printed on paper; invented by John Gillespie, and made by Gavin & Son, Engravers, 13 Parliament Square, Edinburgh, about 1820.

All from Kirkcaldy.

(9) By J. C. MOWAT, Eshaness, Shetland.

H-shaped Implement of Bone, measuring $4\frac{5}{16}$ inches in length. It is of flattened oval shape and tubular; a deep hollow is cut in both ends so as to leave two sharp points in each. Found in Braewick Loch, Eshaness, Shetland, when it was drained by a storm bursting the shingly dam between it and the sea.

(10) By THE HONOURABLE COMPANY OF EDINBURGH GOLFERS, Muirfield, Gullane, through H. J. YOUNGER, F.S.A.Scot.

Objects found in a kitchen-midden at Muirfield, Gullane, East Lothian. (See previous Communication by H. J. Younger, F.S.A.Scot.)

(11) By Colonel F. R. T. T. GASCOIGNE of Craignish.

Food-vessel Urn, Stone Axe, and a quantity of human Hair, found in a short Cist near Craignish Castle, Argyll, and part of another Food-vessel found in an adjoining cist.

Professor V. G. Childe, F.S.A.Scot., has furnished the following note on the discovery of these relics:—

Mr Colin Kennedy, an employee of Craignish estate, was digging gravel, when he came upon three cists. This gravel pit has been dug in the shingle of the 25-foot beach, just above the road on the south shore of a small cove opening into Loch Craignish, at Bàgh Dùn Mhuilig (O.S. Map, Argyll 138).

The first two cists had been destroyed, but the third was still *in situ* on the face of the excavation when I arrived on 9th April, but one of the side stones had fallen out and was lying at the foot of the working face (fig. 4). In shape it is a parallelogram, measuring 4 feet 8 inches by 2 feet 4 inches by 3 inches, but too heavy to move. There was no sign of a cairn above the cist, the capstone of which lies about 2 feet 6 inches below the present ground level. A band of grey clay is visible along the quarry face at the level of the capstone. The cist was composed of six slabs. The end slabs measure on the inside 2 feet by 1 foot 8 inches by 3 inches and 2 feet 3 inches by 1 foot 5 inches by 4 inches, but small horizontal slabs have been placed under both the uprights as wedgers. The rear slab measures 4 feet by 1 foot 8 inches on the inside. The floor of the cist is formed by a rough slab fitting closely against the lateral uprights and the wedgers under the end stones. It measures 4 feet by 1 foot 8 inches by 8 inches. The capstone resting upon the uprights projects beyond them in all directions. Its width is uncertain, but it is at least 4 feet 11 inches long and 6 inches thick, and projects 2 feet 10 inches from the rear lateral slab and some way under the gravel beyond its upper edges. I observed no carvings on the exposed surfaces.

The cist contained a food-vessel (fig. 5) and a stone axe (fig. 6).

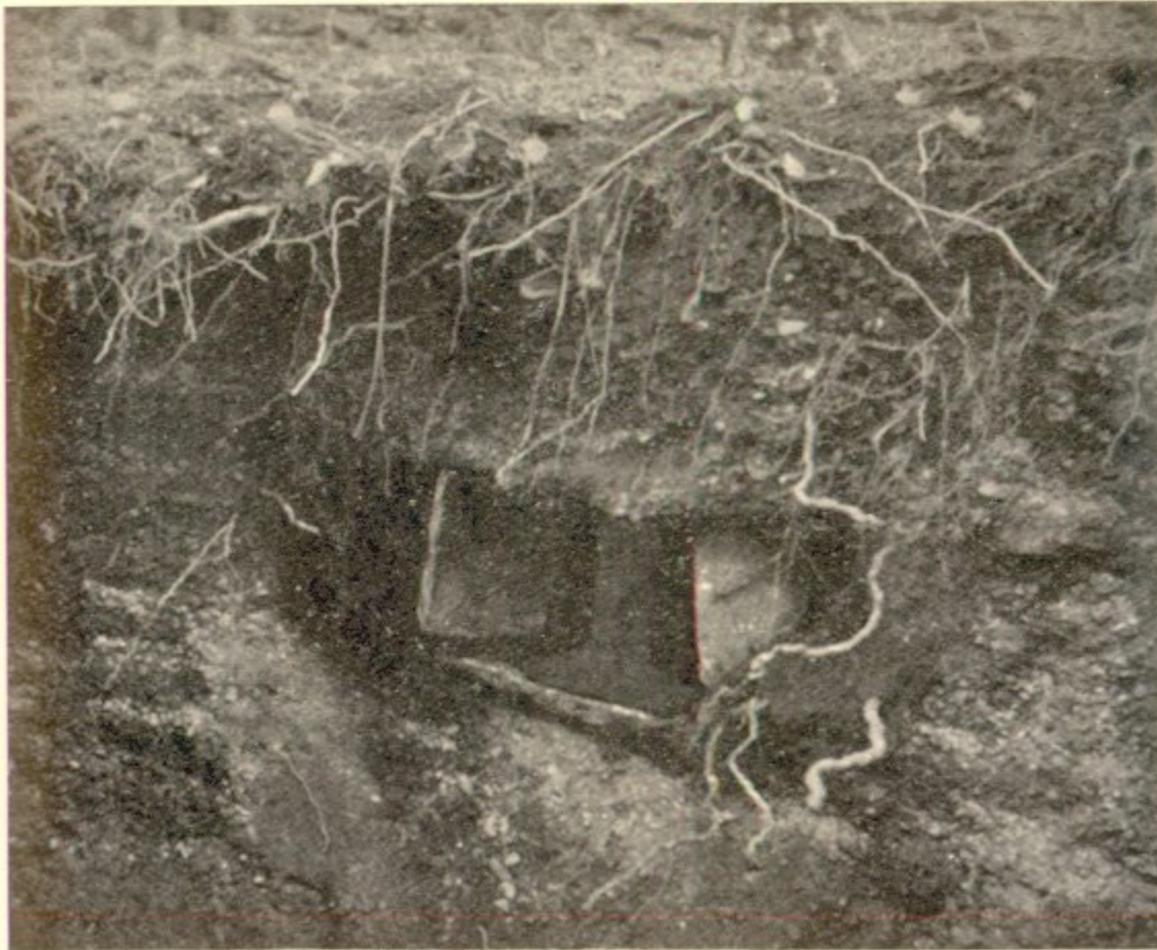


Fig. 4. Short Cist at Craignish, Argyll.



Fig. 5. Food-vessel from Craignish, Argyll.



Fig. 6. Stone Axe found in Cist at Craignish. (†.)

The urn is of dark brown ware and measures $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches in height, $6\frac{1}{8}$ inches in diameter at the mouth, $6\frac{3}{8}$ inches at the shoulder, and 3 inches across the base. It is constricted just under the rim and has two slight cordons below. The upper part of the wall is decorated by transverse lines, and the lower part by reversed hatched triangles, formed by the impressions of a twisted cord. The top of the rim, which is bevelled sharply towards the interior, is decorated by similar markings. Round the outer edge of the lip is a row of triangular impressions.

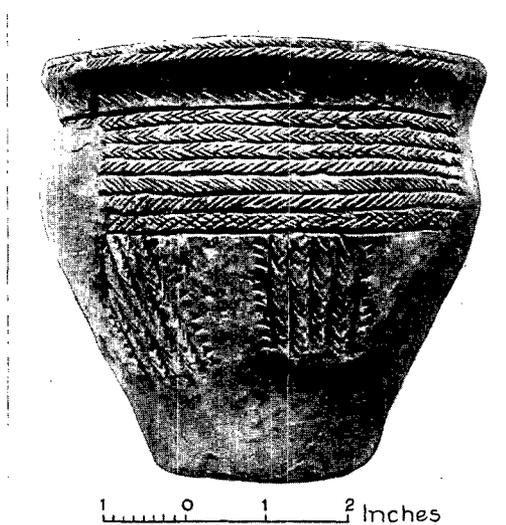


Fig. 7. Food-vessel from Craignish.

The axe measures $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length, $2\frac{1}{16}$ inches across the cutting edge, and $\frac{3}{4}$ inch in thickness. Kennedy stated that he found the urn inverted. There were also several much decayed adult human bones, probably male, including teeth, femurs, and a small fragment of skull, as well as a considerable quantity of human hair.

The urn from one of the lost cists is also a food-vessel, but it is incomplete, less than one-third having been recovered. It has, however, been possible to restore it in the Museum (fig. 7). It is of fine hard brown ware and has measured about $5\frac{1}{4}$ inches in height, $5\frac{3}{4}$ inches across the mouth, and $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches across the base. The exterior of the rim, the neck, and upper part of the body bear eight narrow bands of incised ornamentation in the form of oblique lines, herring-bone and lattice designs. Below there have been six or seven vertical panels divided into four and five ribs by deeply incised lines, and bordered on both sides by impressed triangles; the ribs bear incised chevrons. The rim is 1 inch broad. It curves convexly downwards towards the inside and bears five rows of triangular punctuations between single marginal lines.

(12) By ADAM S. DAGG, Newmills, Lauder, Berwickshire.

Small Bronze Spear-head with small, protected loops on the socket, measuring $4\frac{7}{16}$ inches in length, found on the farm of Newmills.

The following Purchases for the Museum were intimated:—

Six Scottish Coins from the Cochran-Patrick Sale:

- (1) Alexander II. Sterling. Sale, No. 138.
- (2) Alexander III. Penny, presumably Lanark. (*See Burns*, p. 154, and fig. 110c.) Sale, No. 151.
- (3) Alexander III. Penny of Roxburgh Mint. (Not in Burns.) Sale, No. 152.
- (4) Alexander III. Penny of Berwick. (*See Burns*, p. 125, 9b, fig. 84b.) Sale, No. 163.
- (5) John Balliol Halfpenny. Obv. Sale, No. 175.
- (6) James I. Penny of Aberdeen. (*Burns*, 1a, fig. 422a, p. 48.) Sale, No. 207.

The following Donations to the Library were intimated, and thanks voted to the Donors:—

(1) By HIS MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT.

Calendar of State Papers. Elizabeth. Vol. xxii. July–December 1588. London, 1936.

(2) By THE FIRST COMMISSIONER OF HIS MAJESTY'S WORKS.

Ancient Monuments of Great Britain. List of Monuments prepared by the Commissioners of Works. (To 31st December 1935.) London, 1936.

(3) By CHARLES E. WHITELAW, F.S.A.Scot., the Author.

Notes on Swords with Signed Basket Hilts by Glasgow and Stirling Makers. (Published in *Transactions of the Glasgow Archæological Society*, New Series, vol. viii., part iv. Supplement, 1934.)

(4) By THE BRITISH BROADCASTING CORPORATION.

B.B.C. Annual. 1936.

(5) By T. HARVEY THOMSON, M.D., D.P.H., Drumore House, Campbeltown.

The Ancient Churches and Chapels of Kintyre. (Reprinted from *The Campbeltown Courier*.)

(6) By THE CURATOR.

Bulletin of the Russell-Cotes Art Gallery and Museum, Bournemouth.
Vol. xv. No. 1. March 1936.

(7) By THE CLAN MACLEOD SOCIETY.

The MacLeods: Their History and Traditions. By Rev. Canon
R. C. MacLeod of MacLeod. Edinburgh, 1929.

The Clan MacLeod Magazine. First Number. 1st February 1935.

The following Purchases for the Library were intimated:—

The Ancient Burial-Mounds of England. By L. V. Grinsell. London,
1936.

Story of the Bagpipe. By W. H. Grattan Flood, Mus.Doc. London,
n.d.

The following Communications were read:—