

### 3. CISTS ON THE FARM OF WOODFIELD, NEAR STUARTFIELD, OLD DEER, ABERDEENSHIRE.

On May 11th 1943, in company with Emeritus Professor Alexander Low, I visited the farm of Woodfield, near Stuartfield, Parish of Old Deer. The owner of the farm, Mr James Slessor, while tilling a rising mound in a field situated about 300 feet above sea-level, came upon sand, and proceeding to excavate some for road-making, unearthed flat stones, the covers of two cists. It is to be noted that this is the usual site for stone cists, and the usual cause of their discovery.

The long axis of the smaller cist was directed from south-east to north-west. Its inside measurements were as follows: Length  $23\frac{1}{2}$  inches, breadth  $6\frac{1}{2}$  inches, depth 8 inches, depth from surface of ground to cist 12 inches. The side stones were from 4 inches to  $7\frac{1}{2}$  inches thick, the end stones 3 inches to 4 inches thick. The covering stones were  $22\frac{3}{4}$  inches  $\times$   $20\frac{1}{2}$  inches  $\times$   $2\frac{3}{4}$  inches thick.

This small cist had contained a small urn, only the base of which,  $2\frac{3}{4}$  inches in diameter, was in the possession of the farmer. It had five horizontal lines impressed within  $1\frac{1}{4}$  inch of the base, and some impressed markings between the lines. The clay on the inside of the urn was black, and on the outside the usual pale-brown colour.

The long axis of the larger cist was directed due east and west, and had these inside measurements: Length  $42\frac{1}{2}$  inches, breadth  $23\frac{1}{2}$  inches, depth of cist 18 inches from the covering stones. Depth of cist from the surface of the ground was 3 feet to  $3\frac{1}{4}$  feet. The side stones were 3 inches to 6 inches

thick, the end stones 4 inches thick. The four' covering stones were approximately:

Width	27 $\frac{1}{2}$	inches,	length	32	inches,	5	inches	to	5 $\frac{1}{2}$	inches	thick.
„	18	„	„	23	„	4	„	„	thick.		
„	20	„	„	18	„	3	„	„	„		
„	6	„	„	17	„	14	„	„	„		

The larger cist, according to the reports of the farm workers, had no contents.

The attention of the University was drawn to this discovery through the kindness and interest of Mr Stuart, of Ingleueuk, Stuartfield.

I should like to emphasise the importance of the discovery of these cists being reported before there is the possibility of their contents being damaged by casual visitors. Already this department possesses, probably, the finest collection of short stone cist skeletal remains in this or any other country, and we hope that, through the kindness of proprietors, either the collection may be increased or that, at least, the sites and remains may be carefully investigated and preserved.

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