

IX.

NOTICE OF URNS IN THE MUSEUM THAT HAVE BEEN FOUND WITH ARTICLES OF USE OR ORNAMENT. BY JOSEPH ANDERSON, LL.D., ASSIST.-SEC. AND KEEPER OF THE MUSEUM.

The object of this paper is to gather together some of those instances in which articles of use or ornament have been found associated with urns in the sepulchral deposits of Scotland, so far as the urns themselves, and the objects associated with them, are preserved in the Museum.

On the 22nd June 1828, there was communicated to the Society by

E. W. A. Drummond Hay a notice of a sepulchral urn discovered on the estate of the Earl of Fife, in Banffshire. The original notice has not been preserved, but it appears that when the urn was discovered, there were found in it two penannular rings or bracelets of gold, and three smaller penannular rings of the same metal.¹ The urn and the gold ornaments are still in the Museum. Although thus found associated with one of the richest deposits of a sepulchral nature ever discovered in Scotland, the urn itself (fig. 1) is perhaps the plainest and rudest in the collection.



Fig. 1. Urn found with Gold Ornaments in Banffshire (6 inches in height).

It measures $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches diameter across the mouth and 6 inches high, is coarsely made of ill-burned clay, and totally destitute of ornament. Its form is that which is usually associated with burials after cremation, although the gold ornaments exhibit no sign of having passed through the fire. The two larger penannular rings or armlets (one of which

¹ *Archæologia Scotica*, vol. iv. p. 298.

is shown in fig. 2) are formed of hammered rods of gold, about $\frac{1}{8}$ th of an inch in thickness, bent to a slightly elliptical oval $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches diameter.

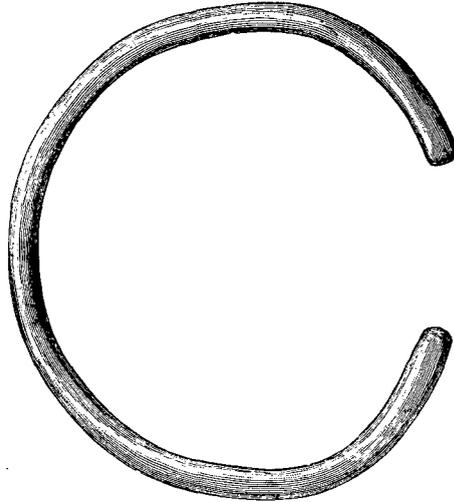


Fig. 2. Gold Armlet (one of a pair) found in the Urn ($2\frac{3}{4}$ inches diameter).

The other three rings (fig. 3) are smaller. The largest of the three is a rod about $\frac{1}{10}$ th of an inch in thickness, bent to an oval of about $\frac{7}{8}$ inch by $\frac{1}{2}$ inch. The other two are circlelets of less than $\frac{1}{2}$ an inch diameter. With them there were also found two much-corroded fragments of thin bronze, in one of which there was a portion of a rivet hole, indicating the remains



Fig. 3. Three small Gold Rings found in the Urn (actual size).

of one of the thin triangular bronze blades which are the most frequently occurring objects of bronze associated with interments.

There is another pair of gold armlets in the Museum, which were found in association with an interment of an unburnt body in connection with a group of burials at Alloa, of which the larger number were burials

after cremation. The discovery is thus referred to in a letter by Mr Jamieson to Mr Bald, dated March 10, 1828 :—"On Thursday or Friday last, as some labourers were breaking up the old road leading from the Tontine to the Academy, in order to repair it, they found (1) two earthen urns containing burnt bones, and (2) a large flat stone, under which was an entire skeleton. Upon the top of the stone they found two things resembling the handles of a drawer, or of a coffin, of an oval form, and evidently of very fine gold, though of rude workmanship, for they evidently bore the marks of the hammer." One of these armlets is shown of the actual size in fig. 4. In an investigation of the group of graves

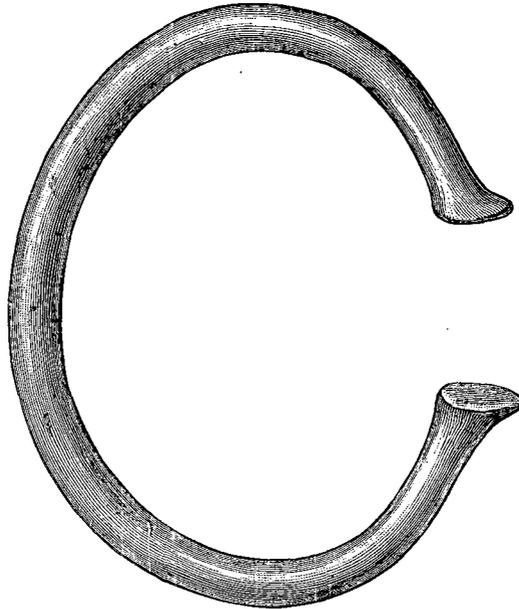


Fig. 4. Gold Armlet (one of a pair) found with a Burial at Allôa (actual size).

thus discovered, which was made shortly thereafter, no fewer than twenty-two urns were found. No record of the investigation now exists,

so far as I am aware ; but in a letter of Mr Bald's, dated May 31, 1828, there is a statement that it was made at the instance of the Earl of Mar, and that it resulted in the finding of twenty-two urns in all. Of these, only one (shown in fig. 5) is now known to exist. It was sent to the Museum

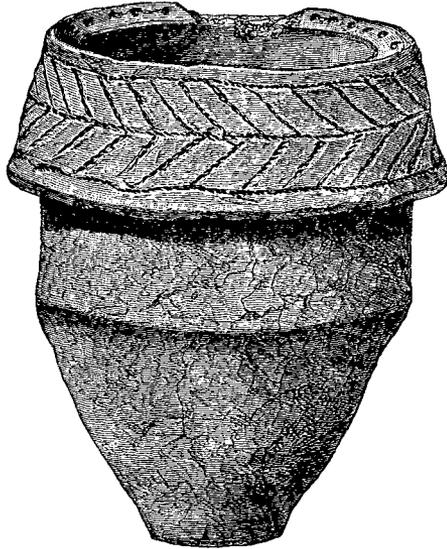


Fig. 5. Urn, being one of a group of twenty-two found at Alloa in 1828 (12½ inches high).

by Mr Bald, and has thus been preserved. The gold armlets were sold by the workmen to a pedlar, but after a great deal of trouble they were ultimately recovered by the Exchequer, and presented to the Museum.

In 1831, in trenching ground near the Castle of Kinneff, in Kincardineshire, an urn was found, associated, it is said, with two bronze rings and a spear-head of bronze, all of which were presented to the Museum by Rev. Alan Stewart in 1834. The urn (fig. 6) is somewhat bowl-shaped, is 5½ inches high, and the same in diameter at the mouth, and highly ornamented. The bronze rings which were found with it (one of which is

shown in fig. 7) are slightly unequal in size, but similar in form. They are formed of rods of bronze, slightly flattened on the inner sides, bent



Fig. 6. Uru found with a pair of Bronze Rings at Kinneff (5½ inches high).

into a circular form, with the ends close together, but unjoined. The

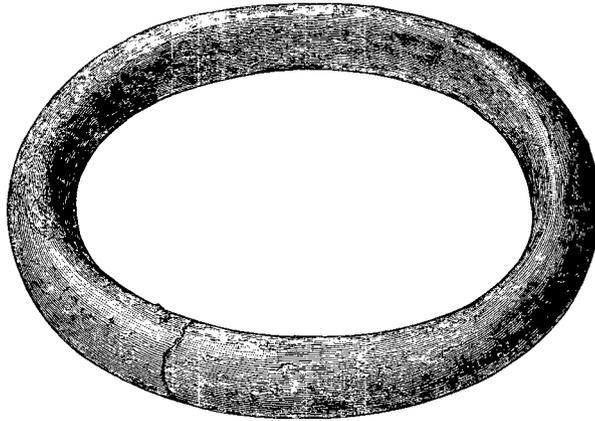


Fig. 7. Bronze Ring (one of a pair) found with the Uru at Kinneff (3 inches in diameter).

spear-head, although it is said to have been found with them, was not

probably associated with a burial. No instance of a spear-head indubitably associated with a burial is known in Scotland. In the present case, the probability is that the spear-head was found somewhere near the burial in the process of trenching the ground, but as its patina and state of keeping differ greatly from the patina and corroded condition of the rings, it is not probable that they lay together in the same circumstances of underground association. Other bronze rings, of precisely the same form and construction, have been found similarly associated with burials.

In the parish of Crawford, Lanarkshire, a cairn of stones, covering two cists, situated in a little corry immediately below the junction of the



Fig. 8. Urn found in a Cist in a Cairn in the Parish of Crawford, Lanarkshire (6 inches in height).

Glengonar burn with the Clyde, was opened by the late Mr Adam Sim of Coulter Mains. In one of the cists was found an urn (fig. 8) of the tall narrow form, with thin everted lip, and a bronze ring (fig. 9) of the same form as the rings found with the Kinneff urn. It measures externally 3 inches diameter, internally $2\frac{3}{8}$ inches, is flattish on the inside, and covered with a beautiful patina. The urn with which it was found is of the form known as the drinking-cup type. It stands 6 inches

high, is $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches diameter at the mouth, and $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches at the bottom. It is of graceful shape and finely ornamented. In the account of Mr Sim's collection by the late Mr George Vere Irving, in the *Journal* of the Archaeological Association, vol. xvi. p. 3, and also in the *Upper Ward of Lanarkshire*, vol. i. p. 39, a bronze spear-head, with loops in the base of the blade, is said to have been found with the urn and ring. The

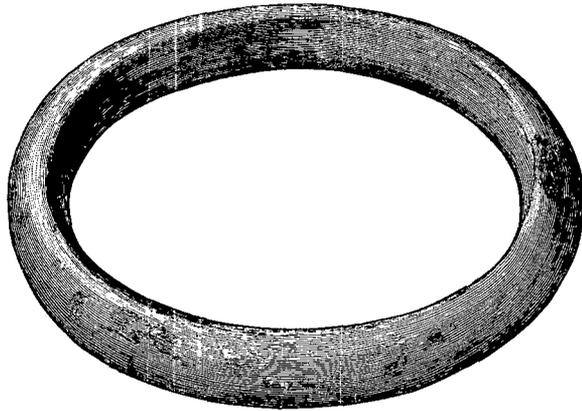


Fig. 9. Bronze Ring found with the Urn (3 inches in diameter).

spear-head, which is now in the Museum, differs much in appearance and condition from the ring. It has no patina, but preserves the yellow colour of the bronze, and it seems therefore unlikely that it could have been found under the same circumstances as the ring. There is, as I have already said, no properly authenticated instance of a spear-head of bronze having been found in true association with a burial in Scotland.

In 1873 there was presented to the Museum a small but finely-shaped urn (fig. 10), slightly bowl-shaped, $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches in height, which was found with a burial under a cairn on the farm of Glenhead, near Doune. The urn is well formed and highly ornamented. Along with it there was found a pretty little stone hammer (fig. 11) of veined quartzite, $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length

by $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches diameter, finely polished and rounded at both ends, with a perforation for the handle through the centre. Hammers of this form



Fig. 10. Urn found in a Cairn at Glenhead, near Doune ($4\frac{1}{4}$ inches high).



Fig. 11. Stone Hammer found with the Urn ($2\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length).

and of the same material have been found associated with interments in England.

A stone hammer of similar type, but larger in size, was found in one of a number of urns discovered together in what must have been a cremation cemetery at Cambusbarron, in Stirlingshire, in 1864. The urns were of the large cinerary variety, always found with burnt interments. Of the four which are preserved in the Museum, the largest is 15 inches high and 13 inches diameter at the mouth, and the smallest 7 inches high and $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter. The hammer is 5 inches in length, 3 inches in breadth, and $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches in thickness. With one of the urns there were also found portions of a thin bronze dagger blade. The urns are all of the same form, and the inference is that the bronze and stone implements thus found with them belonged to the same community and to the same condition of culture and civilisation.

In 1865 an urn of different form (fig. 12), presented to the Museum by Mr William Walker, was found in a cist on the farm of Fyrish, near

Evantoun, Ross-shire. It measures 6 inches in height by 6 inches in diameter at the mouth, and is gracefully ornamented. Along with it



Fig. 12. Urn found at Fyrish, Evantoun, Ross-shire (6 inches in height).

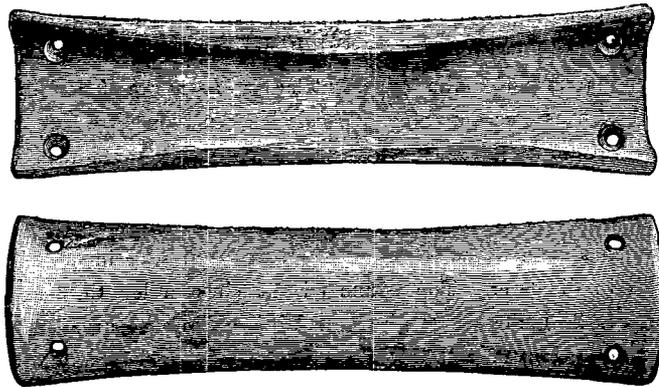


Fig. 13. Polished Bracer of Felstone found with the Urn at Fyrish
($4\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length).

there was found a polished bracer of felstone (fig. 13), $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length by $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches in breadth, the under side concave, the upper convex, the

convexity greatest in the median line of its length, the sides not straight, but slightly contracted in the middle, and having a small hole pierced in each of its corners, and countersunk on the reverse side.

In 1872 there was presented to the Museum by Col. Greenhill Gardyne of Glenforsa, in Mull, two urns of drinking-cup type, of which one (fig. 14) is tolerably entire. It measures $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches in height and 6 inches diameter. They were found with one or more burials in a tumulus on the farm of Callachally, Glenforsa, along with the fragments of a thin



Fig. 14. Urn found at Glenforsa, Mull.

bronze blade, with rivet holes, and a polished bracer of stone, which differs from the one found in Fyrish, in being shorter and narrower, and pierced by two holes only, one in the middle of each end.

At Broomend, Inverurie, in 1866, a group of graves were discovered in the course of making a new road to the Inverurie paper-mills. In one of these, enclosed in a cist of slabs 4 feet 2 inches long by 2 feet 3 inches wide at one end and 1 foot 10 inches at the other, there were found two interments of unburnt bodies, one being an adult male (?) and the other an infant female. Behind the adult skeleton, which lay in a flexed posi-

tion on the left side, there was an urn of the tall narrow form (fig. 15), $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches high by $5\frac{3}{4}$ inches wide at the mouth, with bulging sides and thin



Fig. 15. Urn and Spoon of Horn found in a Cist at Broomend, Inverurie
($6\frac{1}{2}$ inches high).

everted lip. Hanging over the side of the urn there was a spoon of horn, bent apparently by decay of the material and its own weight. Behind the

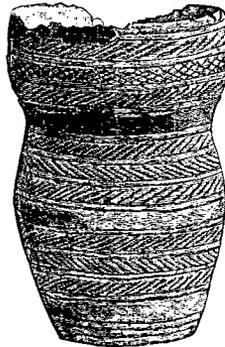


Fig. 16. Urn from the same Cist as fig. 15 ($5\frac{1}{2}$ inches high)

infant skeleton, which was placed in the north-west corner of the cist, was another and smaller urn (fig. 16) of the same form ($5\frac{1}{2}$ inches high

by $3\frac{3}{4}$ inches wide at the mouth), which is here figured for the first time.¹ In another grave of the same group, which had been previously opened by Mr James Hay Chalmers, two unburnt interments were also found in one cist, the heads being placed at opposite ends of the cist. With them were two urns (figs. 17, 18) of peculiarly graceful form and ornamentation, which I am glad to have the opportunity of figuring.



Figs. 17, 18. Urns from a Cist at Broomend, Inverurie (6 inches and 7 inches high).

At *Tomore*, in Arran, in 1861, in the centre of a stone circle about 7 yards in diameter, formed of four blocks of granite, a cist was found by Dr Bryce containing an unburnt interment, with which an urn, here figured (fig. 19), and two or three flint flakes, were found. The urn is $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches in height and 7 inches diameter at the mouth, tapering to a base of $3\frac{1}{4}$ inches. In another circle of the same group,

¹ These urns are not in the Museum, though the spoon is. They have been figured from photographs. The two urns found by Mr J. H. Chalmers are in the Museum, and are here figured for the first time. See the *Proceedings*, vol. vii. pp. 110 and 115, for the detailed accounts of these discoveries.



Fig. 19. Urn from a Stone Circle at Tormore, Arran ($7\frac{1}{2}$ inches high).



Fig. 20. Urn from a Stone Circle in Arran ($6\frac{1}{4}$ inches high).

15 yards diameter, and formed of tall sandstone slabs, a cist was found containing an unburnt interment, with an urn of the same form (fig. 20) in fragments, a bronze pin $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length, and some flint chips.

One object of this brief description of these interments is to point out the fact that the different forms of these urns are all forms that are found associated with bronze.

The urns which have been thus described all differ in form, in material, and in ornamentation, from the urns of the Stone Age found in chambered cairns, of which there are only two in the Museum whose forms can be made out. They are small, round-bottomed vessels, of a hard, close paste, very dark in colour, and peculiarly ornamented by vertical striations or flutings.

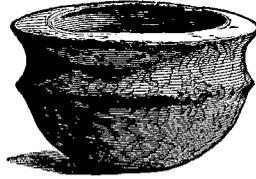


Fig. 21. Urn from a Chambered Cairn at Auchnacree, Argyleshire.