

## III.

CUP-MARKS ON THE STONE CIRCLES AND STANDING-STONES OF  
ABERDEENSHIRE AND PART OF BANFFSHIRE. BY JAMES  
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During an examination of the stone circles of Aberdeenshire extending over many years, numerous instances of the occurrence of those mysterious small rounded hollows known as cup-marks have been observed. Special note has been taken of every instance in which they have been found, and the results of this investigation are embodied in the following paper. Though all the circles in Aberdeenshire have been carefully examined, it is quite likely that some of the cup-marks have escaped notice, for the stones on which they are carved have been exposed to the action of the weather for so long a period that in many instances the marks have become almost obliterated. This explains how the accounts of different observers vary as to the number of cups on any individual stone; indeed, the same observer may notice, in a favourable light, some cups which he had not seen on another visit in less favourable light. A stone can be examined to the best advantage when the surface is slightly damp, and when bright sunshine, striking slantingly across its carved face, throws a shadow into each hollow cup. An endeavour has been made to photograph these cup-marks in the light most favourable for each group, so as to show all the details to best advantage. In each case, also, careful attention has been given to the possibility that the cup-like hollows may have been produced by natural weathering instead of by the hand of man, and some cases of natural hollows are cited. For convenience of reference the cup-marks have been arranged according to their occurrence (1) on stone circles, (2) on standing-stones unconnected with circles, and (3) on rock surfaces. In the latter part of the paper an attempt has been made to draw some conclusions as to the age and purpose of these cup-marks, and a tabular summary has been annexed.

## CUP-MARKS ON STONE CIRCLES.

*Gask or Springhill Circle, Skene.*

Only two stones of this circle now remain. They stand on the high ground which lies between the Skene and Echt roads, about 10 miles west of Aberdeen and half a mile south of the village of Echt. The stone to the south-west has no cup-marks upon it, but the one lying to the north-east bears eight rather indistinct cups, nearly all of them placed within a

short distance of the eastern edge of the stone, and their arrangement has been determined by this edge, and by a weathered hollow on the face. These cups average about 2 inches in diameter, and are little more than  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch in depth. No ring surrounds any of the cups on the front of the stone, but on the back of it, near the top, there are faint traces of a rather doubtful cup surrounded by a ring 10 inches in diameter. The ring is picked out by the growth of lichens within its slight depression, otherwise it would hardly be noticed. The marks on this side of the stone are best seen on a clear summer morning, between six and seven o'clock, when the sunlight falls on its northern face; during the rest of the day, when this side is in shadow, they become almost invisible. The main group of cup-marks on the front of the stone is most distinct about two o'clock in the afternoon.

*Nether Corskie, Echt.*

The farm of Nether Corskie lies close to Waterton of Echt, about 3 miles west of the village of Skene. On the farm are two standing-stones, all that now remain of a circle which once stood there. The stone towards the west has two distinct cup-marks upon it—one on the southern, and the other on the western side. Both are plain cups, without any surrounding ring. The larger one is placed near the middle of the stone, on the south side, near its western edge. It measures  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches in diameter and about  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch in depth. The cup on the western side is about 4 feet above the surface of the ground, and measures  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches in diameter and  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch in depth. It is on the southern face of this stone that the faint carvings of the mirror-case, mirror, and comb described on p. 38 of vol. xlix. of the *Proceedings* of the Society are to be seen. The more easterly of the two standing-stones has no carvings of any kind on its surface.

*Balnacraig, Lumphanan.*

The Balnacraig stone circle stands in a small clump of trees a little over 100 yards to the west of the farm-buildings. The recumbent stone facing the south-west is a large block, on the outer face of which are six plain cup-marks. Two of these form a group near the centre of the stone, the smaller of the two being  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inch in diameter and  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch deep, while the larger one is  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches in diameter, but only  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch deep. Just above the middle line of the stone, towards the west side, and about midway between the central cups and the edge of the stone, there is another group of four very shallow cups, almost hidden by the growth of lichens on the surface, so that it requires careful inspection to discover them.

*Sunhoney, Midmar.*

One of the few complete stone circles in Aberdeenshire stands in a small plantation, on a knoll, a short distance to the north-west of the farmhouse of Sunhoney, which is a little over a mile west of Echt, and about 14 miles from Aberdeen. The circle, which is visible from the main

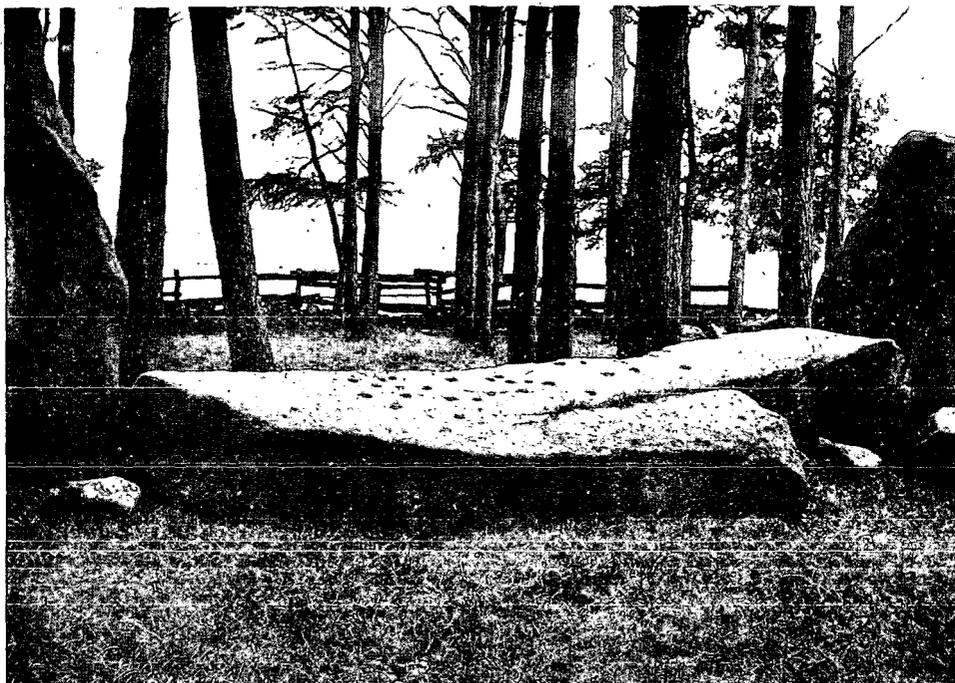


Fig. 1. Cup-marked Recumbent Stone, Sunhoney Circle.

road, consists of a recumbent stone, two pillars, and nine other standing-stones, making twelve in all. On what is at present the upper surface of the recumbent stone there are numerous cup-marks; but as the stone appears to have fallen over on its inner side, it seems probable that the marks were originally on its outer or southern face. The cups on the fallen block (fig. 1) are thirty-one in number. They are of the usual plain type, without encircling rings, and are from 2 to  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches in diameter, and from  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch in depth, a few, however, being rather shallow and indistinct (fig. 2). There is also, in addition to the number on the main block, a single cup on a fragment of stone which has been split away from the north-west corner of the recumbent stone when it was overturned.

Mr F. R. Coles,<sup>1</sup> after a careful examination of the markings, expressed the opinion that they were natural; but they have been examined by many Aberdeenshire antiquaries, including some skilled in geology, and all agree that they are artificial cup-marks. There is no doubt that Mr Coles was mistaken.



Fig. 2. Principal group of Cup-Marks on Sunhoney Recumbent Stone.

*Drumfours, Cushnie.*

There is only a single stone of this circle left standing in its original position, and it has no cup-marks upon it; but nearly 30 yards to the east of it there lies a large boulder, on the upper surface of which sixteen cup-marks are visible (fig. 3). They vary slightly in size, two of them being a little larger than the others, while three or four are quite small and indistinct. The remainder are of the ordinary size and depth.

This block of stone must at one time have been a good deal larger than it is now, for one side of it shows marks of a recent fracture with no signs of weathering upon its surface. The block now lies quite close to the edge

<sup>1</sup> *Proceedings*, xxxiv, p. 184.

of a small quarry from which stones are taken to repair the roads in the neighbourhood, and it looks as if an attempt had been made to utilise it for the same purpose. It is unfortunate that the block has been broken, for close to its fractured edge there are a number of faint lines, possibly the remains of an Ogham inscription, but they are too incomplete and indistinct to allow of a satisfactory transliteration or interpretation.

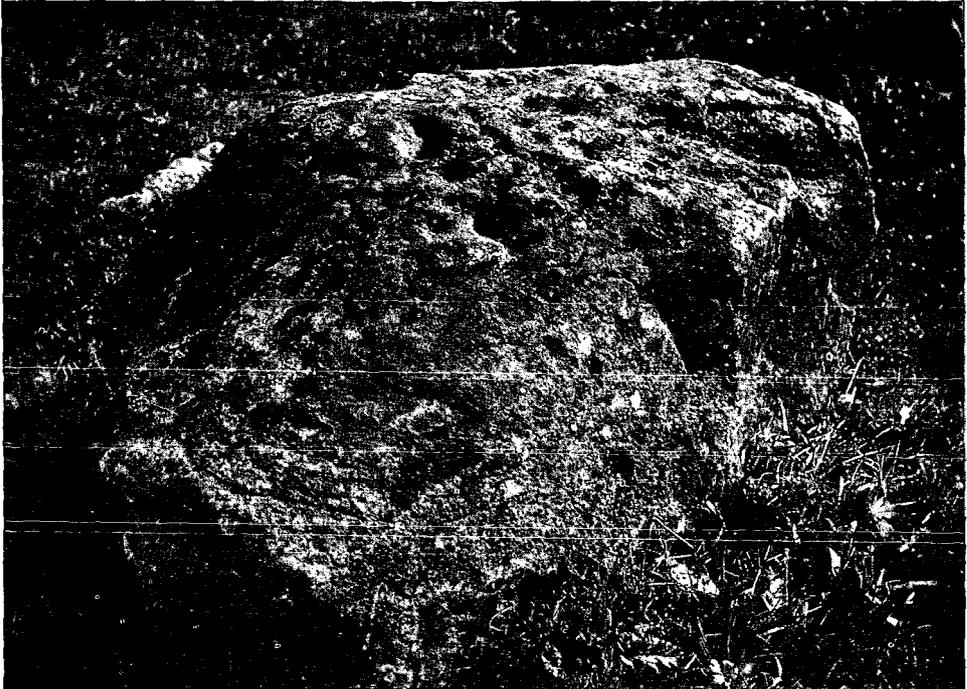


Fig. 3. Cup-marked Stone at Drumfours.

The stone is not in its original position. It at one time lay close to the standing-stone, but was subsequently removed so that the standing-stone could be utilised as a rubbing-post for cattle. The cup-marked block has every appearance of having been originally the recumbent stone of the Drumfours circle.

*The "Auld Kirk o' Tough."*

The stone circle known as the "Auld Kirk o' Tough" stands near the farm of Denwell, on the south side of the Hill of Corrennie, and is about 5 miles distant from both Whitehouse and Tillyfourie stations, on the

Alford branch railway. The circle is now almost completely destroyed, there being only one stone left standing in its original position. It has no cup-marks upon it, but on the upper surface of a flat stone lying near it there are two cups, one of them being surrounded by a ring. On the moorland in the neighbourhood of the circle there are the remains of many small tumuli.

*Potterton, Belhelvie.*

The Temple stones at Potterton, about 6 miles north of Aberdeen, consist of a large recumbent stone and its accompanying pillars, both of which have fallen. On the centre of the outside surface of the west pillar, facing the south, there are two small cup-marks placed close together. They are of the common plain type, each measuring 2 inches in diameter and  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch in depth. No other cup-marks are visible on any of the remaining stones of the circle.

*Balquhain, Chapel of Garioch.*

About 3 miles north of Inverurie, on the rising ground a short distance behind the farm-steading and old castle of Balquhain, a group of standing-stones catches the eye of the traveller along the main road. It is known as the Balquhain circle (fig. 4), and consists of a recumbent stone, two pillars and five other stones, one of which, a tall pillar of white quartz, forms a prominent object slightly outside the circumference of the circle.

Three of the stones belonging to the Balquhain circle are cup-marked. On the top of the recumbent stone there is a single, small, cup-like hollow,  $1\frac{1}{4}$  inch in diameter and  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch deep. Its sides are almost perpendicular, and its bottom flat, so that it is more sharply defined than the ordinary cup-mark is. Indeed, it is not unlike the commencement of a bore-hole intended to hold gunpowder, for the breaking up of the large recumbent stone into pieces suitable for building purposes. There are no other cup-marks visible on the surface of the recumbent stone. On the upper surface of the fallen east pillar, however, there are four, varying in size from 2 to  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches in diameter (fig. 5). Three of these are  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch deep, while the fourth is only a  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch deep. These four cup-marks are all situated on the lower half of the face of the stone, which looked towards the centre of the circle when the pillar was standing upright in its original position. Near the middle of the stone, a little above the cup-marks, there is a very shallow, ill-defined, circular hollow, which may possibly be the remains of a fifth cup.

On the standing-stone next to the west pillar there are twenty-five cups of the usual size, about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches in diameter, and from a  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch



Fig. 4. General view of Balquhain Stone Circle.

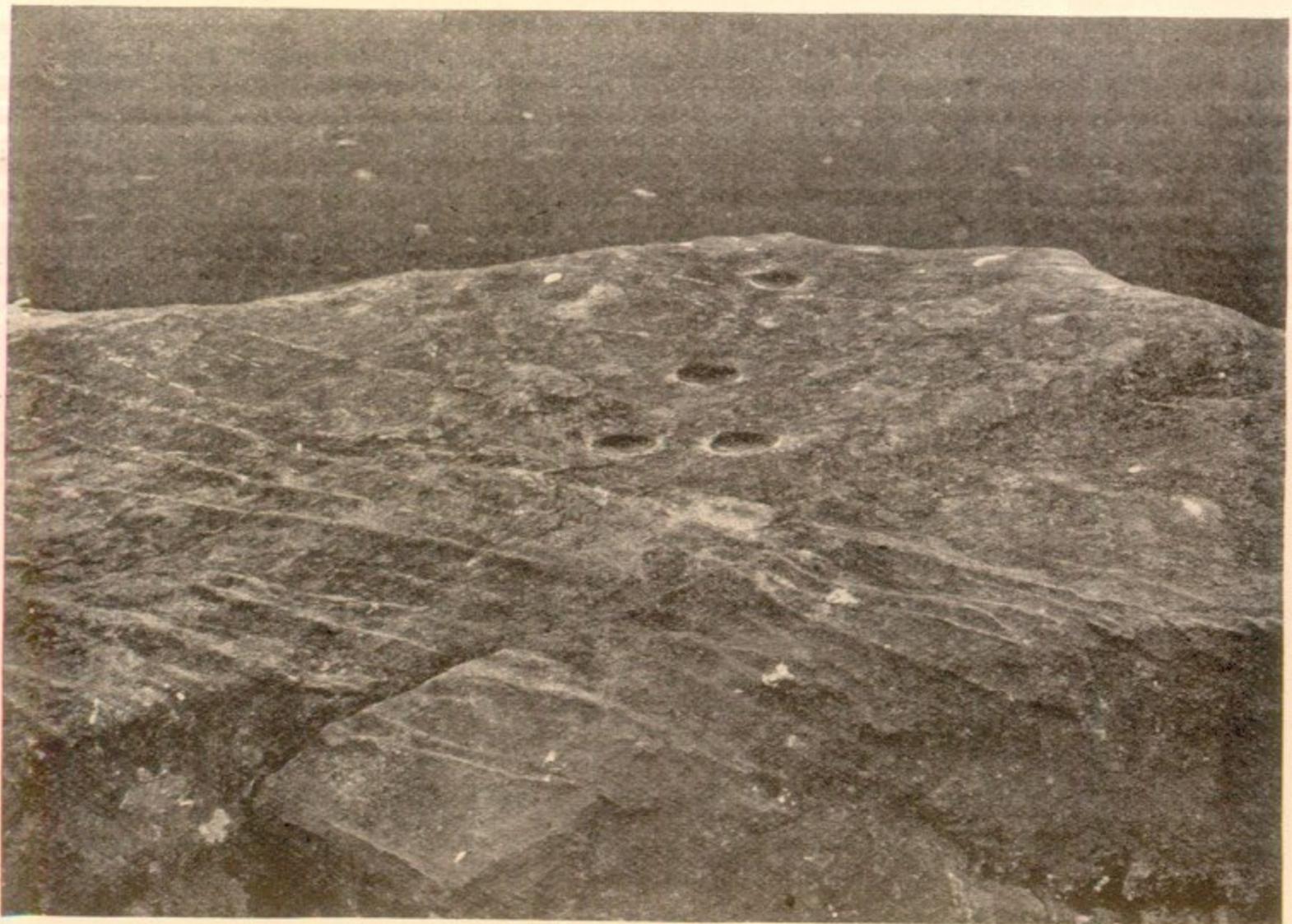


Fig. 5. Cup-Marks on fallen East Pillar, Balquhain Circle.

deep (fig. 6). They are carved on the side of the stone which faces the exterior of the circle, and are all of the plain type without any encircling



Fig. 6. Cup-Marks on Standing-Stone next to West Pillar at Balquhain Circle.

ring. While the greater number are apparently scattered irregularly over the surface of the stone, there are two well-marked groups among them. One of these occurs near the western edge, a little below the middle of the stone. It consists of three cups, placed at equal distances, one above another, in an almost perpendicular line. The second group

is situated near the base of the stone, and is composed of six cups, placed at equal distances from each other, in a horizontal line. The positions of these two groups have been determined by natural features of the stone surface, the former lying along an edge or shoulder, the latter along a raised line due to the presence of a harder vein in the stone, which has come to project slightly through weathering. Several of the remaining cups might be associated together to form other groups, but these are not clearly defined, and the relationships may, after all, be only accidental. One of the cups is placed so close to the base of the stone that some of the soil and vegetation had to be removed before it could be photographed, and on a recent visit it was found to be entirely hidden.

*Balhaggardy, Chapel of Garioch.*

This farm is about 2 miles from Inverurie, and contains within its boundaries about half the area of the battlefield of Harlaw. It is divided into two portions, East and West Balhaggardy, and on the lintel above the back door of the old farmhouse of East Balhaggardy occur the sculptures described on page 33 of vol. xlix. of the *Proceedings* of the Society. At the east end of the ridge on which the battle of Harlaw was fought there is a large standing-stone, the sole remnant of a circle (fig. 7). On the north side of this stone there are twenty-four cup-marks of the usual size and type, none of them being ring-marked. Owing to their position on the north or shady side of the stone, and to the shallowness of many of the hollows, they are rather difficult to observe. They can be best seen shortly after sunrise or just before sunset during the height of summer; at other times the shallower ones are almost invisible. They are scattered irregularly over the surface of the stone, with the exception of four, which are situated near the base and which are placed in a horizontal line. It is remarkable that this stone, like that at Balquhain, has a single cup-mark near the middle of the base, close to the ground, and often hidden by the vegetation.

*Newcraig, Daviot.*

This circle stands in a small plantation about 1 mile north of the parish church of Daviot, and a few hundred yards from the farmhouse of Newcraig. The recumbent stone and pillars are prominent objects at the edge of the wood, but very few of the standing-stones now remain. It is not possible now to ascertain whether or not the recumbent stone had any cup-marks upon it, for many years ago the upper portion of it was blasted off with gunpowder by a mason who wished to use it for building purposes, and who did considerable damage to the circle before

his operations were stopped. The west pillar, however, has a number of hollows somewhat like cup-marks on its surface, and though several of



Fig. 7. Cup-marked Stone at Balhaggardy.

these have an artificial appearance, the majority are clearly caused by the action of the weather. It seems the safest plan, therefore, to regard them all as natural markings.

Hidden in the plantation, nearly 50 yards behind the recumbent stone, there lies a large boulder, thickly overgrown with moss and lichen. Eight

or nine cup-marks were visible upon the upper surface of this stone, but when the moss had been scraped away many more were revealed. They number in all nineteen, the majority of them being situated beside the edge of a large hollow near the middle of the stone. The largest cup is 3 inches in diameter and  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch in depth. Another one is also 3 inches in diameter, but is only  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch deep. A third cup measures  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches in diameter, while its depth is  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch. Nine cups are each about 2 inches in diameter, and their depth varies from a  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch. The remaining seven cups are very shallow, and so faint and indistinct as to be visible only when the stone is carefully examined in a good light. There is no ring round any of these cups. The stone upon which they are placed does not appear to have been one of the standing-stones of the circle, as it lies about 20 yards beyond the circumference, towards the east. It is more likely to have been an outlying stone, like that found at the Balquhain circle, about 4 miles to the south-west of Newcraig, and at the Shelden circle, a similar distance to the south-east.

*Loanhead, Daviot.*

This fine circle stands in a wood on the estate of Mounie, near the farm of Loanhead, a short distance north of the village of Daviot, and about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile south of the Newcraig circle. Its most noticeable feature is the recumbent stone which at first sight appears to consist of two parallel blocks placed at a distance of nearly 1 foot from each other. A closer inspection, however, shows that it is really a single block, which at some far distant time has been split along its length, and thus made to look like two separate stones. No similar instance of an apparently double recumbent stone occurs in Aberdeenshire, but the recumbent stone at Braehead, in the parish of Leslie, appears to be slowly undergoing a like change, owing to the action of the weather on a soft band running through the middle of it.

There are no cup-marks visible on the recumbent stone, but upon the standing-stone next to the east pillar there are twelve plain cups. They are situated on the inner face of the stone, which points towards the centre of the circle (fig. 8). Near the western edge of the stone five cups are placed, one above another, in an almost perpendicular line. Each of the three lower members of this group is 2 inches in diameter and  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch in depth, while the two upper members are  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch less in diameter and only  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch deep. A little to the left, near the upper end of the group, there is a single cup, 1 inch in diameter and  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch in depth. Near the centre of the stone there is another group of cups very similar in appearance to that already described. It also consists of five cups in an almost perpendicular line, with a sixth, a little to the left, nearly in the middle

of the stone. All the cups in this second group are about 1 inch in diameter and very shallow. In the wood, a short distance to the north-



Fig. 8. Cup-Marks on Standing-Stone next to East Pillar, Loanhead Circle.

west of the circle, there are a number of rocks exposed. On the upper surface of one of these, two plain cups are to be seen; but though they are similar in size and appearance to those on the standing-stone, they do not seem to be connected with the circle.

*Loanend, Premnay.*

On the top of the ridge near the farm-steading of Loanend, in the parish of Premnay, there are two stones, all that now remain of the Loanend circle. The larger of the two blocks is the recumbent stone, but its accompanying pillars have disappeared. In a slight hollow on the top of it there are two plain cups of the usual type, fully 12 inches distant

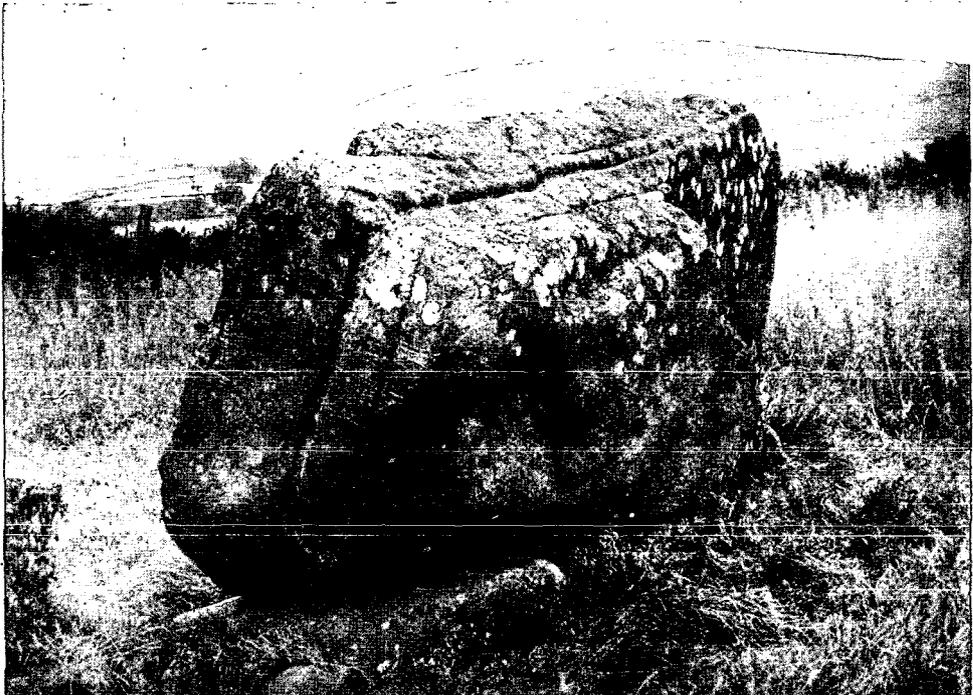


Fig. 9. Recumbent Stone, Braehead, Leslie.

from each other. The larger of them measures  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches in diameter and  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch in depth; the smaller is  $1\frac{3}{4}$  inch in diameter and also  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch in depth. There are no other cups visible either on the recumbent stone or on the standing-stone at a little distance from it. In the neighbourhood of this circle several cists have been found within recent years.

*Braehead, Leslie.*

On the high ground at Braehead of Leslie, about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles south-west of Inch, there lies a large rectangular block of stone (fig. 9), 10 feet

3 inches long, 3 feet 2 inches broad, and nearly 6 feet high. It is the recumbent stone of a circle, all the other members of which have long since disappeared. A curious groove runs lengthwise right round the stone. It has the appearance of having been artificially formed, but is really a natural flaw in the stone, where a softer band of material has been worn away by the action of the weather. In course of time this stone will probably split into two parts like the recumbent stone at Loanhead already mentioned. Several cists have, at different times, been discovered in the neighbourhood of this stone. But the most interesting thing about the block is that its eastern end rests upon another block, 3 feet 6 inches long, 2 feet 6 inches broad, and about 1 foot thick, and that upon the upper surface of this supporting block are four cup-marks. The largest cup, which measures 2 inches in diameter and  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch in depth, is situated close to the outer edge, near the south-east corner of the stone. Near the north-west corner there is a smaller cup, 1 inch in diameter and  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch deep. Each of the two remaining cups is about 1 inch in diameter and very shallow. They lie close together, in the shadow, right under the recumbent stone, and can be more easily felt by the hand than seen by the eye; probably for that reason they have hitherto passed unnoticed.

*Pitglassie, Auchterless.*

About 6 miles west of Auchterless railway station, and 3 miles north of the Kirktown of Auchterless, there are the remains of a circle which, until quite recent times, stood intact. Rather less than half a century ago, however, the tenant who at that time occupied the farm, finding that the stones interfered somewhat with his cultivation of the ground, gathered them together into a heap beside the recumbent stone, and there they now lie. On a stone 5 feet 6 inches high, which stands close to the recumbent stone, and appears to have been its east pillar, there are eight cups of the ordinary form, unaccompanied by rings. They are all somewhat similar in size, being from  $2\frac{1}{2}$  to 3 inches in diameter and from  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch in depth. None of the other stones appears to be cup-marked, but they are so huddled together that it is difficult to examine them thoroughly.

*Tofthills, Clatt.*

The farm of Tofthills is in the parish of Clatt, 1 mile north-east of the Kirktown, and about 3 miles south-west of Kennethmont railway station. Built into the garden dyke close to the farm-steading there is a fine cup-marked block of grey granite, upon the upper surface of which an ancient cross has been incised (fig. 10). This cross was described in the *Proceedings*

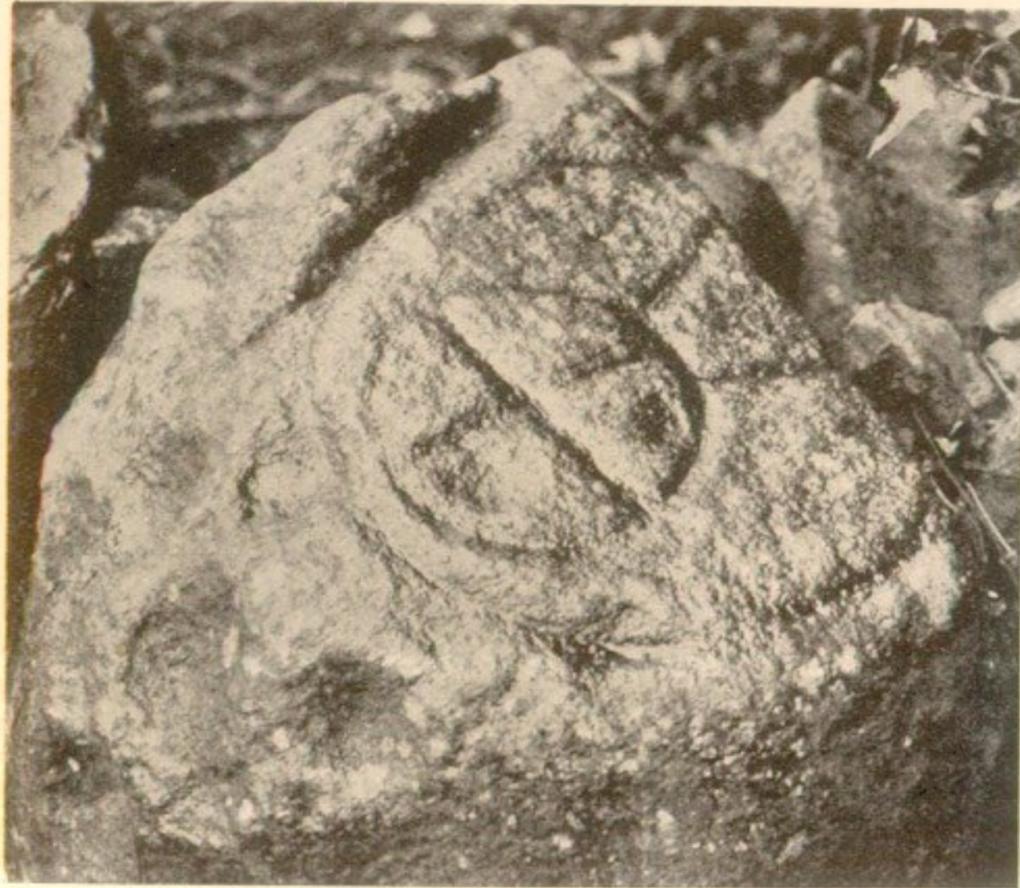


Fig. 10. Top of the Tofthills Stone.



Fig. 11. Cup-marked side of the Tofthills Stone.

of the Society, vol. xlv. pp. 212-214, where attention was also drawn to the cup-marks. The stone is broken, and part of its surface is hidden by the dyke, but as far as can be seen there are at least thirty cups upon it. They are of various sizes, several of them being nearly 4 inches in diameter, and they also vary slightly in depth. They are placed close together, in somewhat irregular lines across the visible portion of the stone (fig. 11). All are plain cups, no spirals or rings are to be seen upon the stone except such as are connected with the cross incised upon it. The cups are not confined to one side of the stone, but are distributed over all



Fig. 12. Symbols on the back of the Banchory Stone, No. 5.

its visible surface. If, as seems likely, the cross was originally incised upon the upright face of the stone, then the cups must have been carved both upon the top and the sides of the block.

It is not known with certainty where this stone originally stood, but it was found in 1879 in the foundation of the barn when that structure was being rebuilt. Mr William Bisset had it removed to the dyke for preservation, and at the time made diligent inquiry to discover if possible its original site. He concluded from all he could learn that it was one of the standing-stones of a circle which at one time stood a short distance north of the farm-buildings. All the stones belonging to this circle have been removed, but its site is still known in the neighbourhood as "The Sunken Kirk." There is a spring near by, known as the holy well, which gives its name to the farm of Holywell on the north side of Toffhills.

The proximity of this holy well to the stone circle in all probability explains how a Christian cross came to be carved upon a cup-marked stone.

Another instance of the occurrence of Christian symbols upon a cup-marked stone occurs at Banchory House, fully a mile west of Aberdeen (fig. 12). In the flower garden, close to the house, there lies a fragment of a sculptured stone with symbols on both sides. It originally came from Dinnacair near Stonehaven, and it has upon one of its sides a well-defined cup-mark. This stone was described in the *Proceedings*, vol. xlix. pp. 36 and 37. A third example may be seen in the churchyard of Dingwall, where there stands a cup-marked stone (fig. 13) with early Christian symbols carved both on front and back (*Early Christian Monuments of Scotland*, part iii. pp. 56 and 57).



Fig. 13. Cup-marked Sculptured Stone in Dingwall Churchyard.

especially as the cup-marks upon them are of the same character as those actually within the Aberdeenshire borders.

#### BANFFSHIRE CUP-MARKED CIRCLES.

The four cup-marked circles now to be described are situated in Banffshire, within a short distance of the northern boundary of Aberdeenshire, and therefore practically within the same ancient geographical district. It seems fitting, therefore, that they should be included in this paper,

#### *Thorax.*

The farm of Thorax lies about 3 miles east of Glenbarry railway station. Near the middle of a field, to the west of the farm-buildings,

there is a small clump of wood, surrounded by a wall, built into which the six stones of a small circle may be observed standing erect. The



Fig. 14. Cup-marked Stone at Thorax Circle.

circle has no recumbent stone, and is chiefly notable for the cup-marked stone on its north-west side. This is a block of whinstone, 4 feet 8 inches high, which has on its inner surface, facing the centre of the circle, twenty-five cups, all of the ordinary type, unaccompanied by rings (fig. 14). One specially large cup close to the edge of the stone, near the top, measures

4 inches in diameter and is nearly 1 inch in depth. The others, though varying slightly in size, average about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches across, and are about  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch deep. A few of them, however, are very shallow, and as the face of the stone is somewhat shadowed by the neighbouring dyke, those on the lower portion of it especially are not easily seen.

*St Brandan's Stones.*

Rather less than a mile to the east of Tillynaught railway station, on the farm of Templeton, are situated the remains of a circle known locally as "St Brandan's Stanes." The circle is in a very dilapidated condition; the recumbent stone has disappeared, and there remain in position only the two pillars, with a cluster of broken and displaced stones huddled round them. The west pillar, a column of grey granite about 6 feet high, has on its northern side, facing the interior of the circle, a group of twelve cup-marks (fig. 15). These are placed on the rounded surface of the lower part of the stone, and are all well-marked cups of the usual size, without any surrounding rings. The lowest five cups are situated so near the base of the stone that the long grass almost hid them from view, and it had to be torn away before they could be properly seen and photographed.

*Rothiemay.*

This circle stands in a field on the home farm at Rothiemay House, a little to the north of the village, and nearly 3 miles north-east of Rothiemay railway station. When complete the circle must have been an imposing structure, containing probably twelve standing-stones of which, however, only the recumbent stone and four erect stones now remain. About 1845 the other stones were removed, without authority, by the grieve then at the home farm. When his action came to the knowledge of the proprietor of the estate, the removal of the stones was immediately stopped, and two of them, then in process of removal, were deposited near the gate leading into the field.

It is not, however, for its size that the Rothiemay stone circle is chiefly remarkable, but for the numerous cup-marks upon it. It is by far the best cup-marked circle in the north-east of Scotland. The cups are found on the recumbent stone, and on the standing-stone to the east of it. This latter is not one of the pillars which flank the recumbent stone, for both of them have been removed, but it is the stone which stood next to the east pillar. It is 5 feet 9 inches high and 4 feet broad, and on the side of it looking towards the exterior of the circle there are seven cup-marks (fig. 16). The highest one is situated near the centre of the stone, while the others are placed near its base, one of them being so close to

the bottom that it is frequently hidden by the soil and vegetation, like the cup-mark on the Balquhain circle. Three of the cups form a group

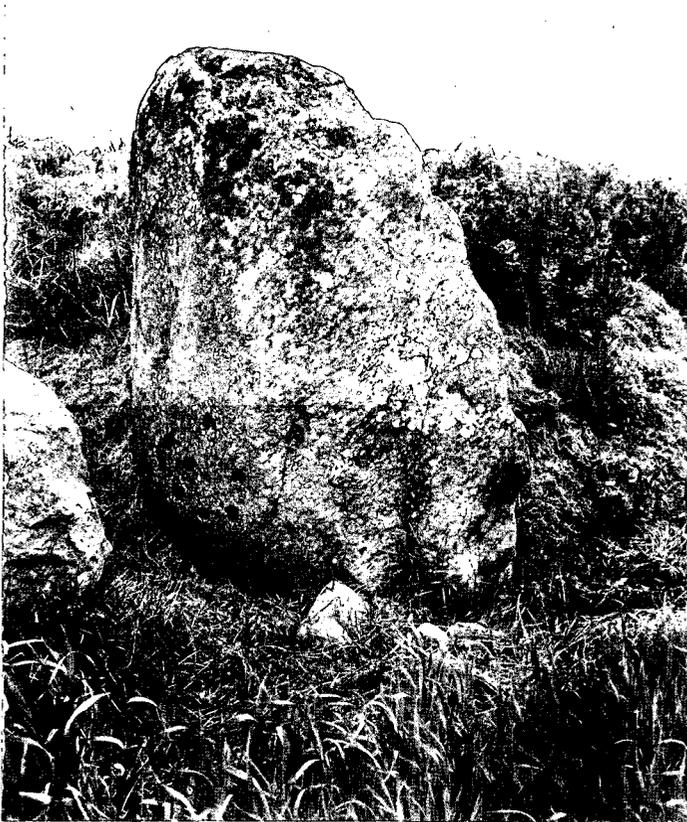


Fig. 15. Cup-marked West Pillar, St Brandan's Stones.

like an equilateral triangle. Similar groups are to be seen on a number of the Aberdeenshire circles, but it is often difficult to decide whether the grouping is intentional or accidental. In this case it seems to be intentional. Two of the remaining cups are so placed as to form, along with the base of the triangle, a horizontal line of cups similar to those

on the Balquhain and Balhaggardy stones. The cups are all of the average size, though somewhat shallow, and there are no rings round any of them.



Fig. 16. Cup-marked Stone next to East Pillar, Rothiemay Circle.

The Rothiemay recumbent stone is a huge rectangular block of whinstone, about 14 feet long, 4 feet broad and 5 feet high (fig. 17). It has cups on two of its surfaces—the top, and the northern side, which looked towards the interior of the circle. On the top there are twelve plain

cups, most of which are situated near the centre of the block. The inner surface of the stone has a great many cups scattered thickly all over it. Several drawings of this cup-marked surface have been published, but none are wholly satisfactory. By far the best is that made by Mr F. R. Coles from rubbings of the marks taken by the late Mr Geddes, schoolmaster of Rothiemay, and figured in the *Proceedings*, vol. xxxvii. p. 227, but unfortunately it does not include the whole surface of the stone, and is therefore incomplete.



Fig. 17. Cup-marked Recumbent Stone, Rothiemay Circle.

This is a difficult stone to photograph, and the discrepancies in the published drawings of it are easily accounted for. Its inner and principal cup-marked face looks towards the north-east, and is therefore in shadow during the greater part of the day. Consequently, at the time when most visitors examine it, many of the shallower cups are almost invisible, and are thus easily overlooked. The best time to examine the cup-marked face of the stone is shortly after sunrise on a bright midsummer morning, when, for a short time, the sunlight strikes slantingly across the surface, and throws a dark shadow into each hollow cup. The accompanying photograph was taken under such favourable conditions, but to procure it, home was left in the evening and the greater part of the night spent

beside the stone, waiting for the morning light. It thus shows for the first time the cups visible on the whole upright surface of the recumbent stone. These are 107 in number, and they vary considerably in size. Several of the larger ones are about 5 inches in diameter and 1 inch in depth. The greater number are of the usual size, about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches in diameter and  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch deep, while the remainder are from 1 inch to  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inch in diameter and very shallow. Four of the larger size are each surrounded by a single ring, but there are no spirals or other lines upon the stone. Several are close to the base of the stone, and the cups are more closely clustered together at the bottom than near the top of it, the arrangement of a line of four at the right-hand bottom corner of the photograph being noticeably determined by the edge which they flank.

*The Harestanes, Feith-hill.*

The farm of Feith-hill lies nearly 2 miles west of the Pitglassie circle and about 7 miles south-west of Turriff. Though within the county of Banff, it touches the northern boundary of Aberdeenshire. On the rising ground to the north of the farm there once stood a circle of which now only two stones remain. These are the recumbent stone and the fallen west pillar, and they are known locally as "The Harestanes." On what is now the upper surface of the fallen stone there are six plain cup-marks; but when the stone stood in its original position on the west side of the recumbent stone, the cup-marked surface was turned to the outside of the circle.

CUP-MARKS ON STANDING-STONES UNCONNECTED WITH CIRCLES.

*Easter Sinnahard, Towie.*

In the middle of one of the fields on the farm of Easter Sinnahard, in the parish of Towie, about 10 miles west of Alford, in the valley of the Don, there stands a solitary pillar of stone, known in the locality as "The Lang Stane." It is 5 feet 6 inches high, 2 feet 6 inches broad, and 8 feet 6 inches in circumference, round the middle, about half-way up from the ground. Near the centre of its western side there is a single plain cup, 2 inches in diameter and  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch in depth. There are no other cups to be seen elsewhere on the stone.

*Blacktop, Peterculter.*

About 5 miles west of Aberdeen, and nearly a mile from Countesswells House, lies the farm of Blacktop. The nearest railway station is Bieldside, on the Deeside railway, from which a road leads directly to the farm.

On the opposite side of the road from the farm-buildings there stands a cottage, past the east end of which an old and little-used road strikes

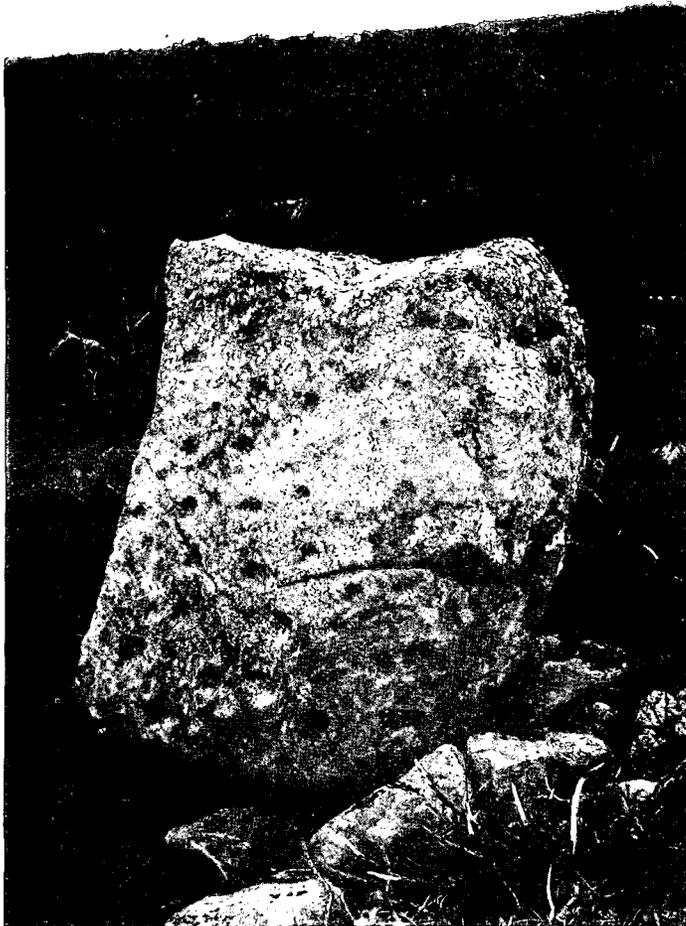


Fig. 18. Cup-marked Standing-Stone at Blacktop.

northward for about a couple of hundred yards, and then bends westwards towards the wood on the higher ground. Along both sides of this road numerous boulders lie scattered, and one of these, which stands on the southern edge of the road, has a large number of cup-marks incised on one of its sides (fig. 18).

The cup-marked stone is a block of porphyry nearly 4 feet high and 2 feet 9 inches broad. In section it is wedge-shaped, being 2 feet 10 inches wide at the base, and gradually decreasing to 9 inches at the top. One side of the stone, that facing the east, has a flat surface, probably made by the rubbing action of ice in the far-distant past. This flat surface does not extend quite to the bottom of the stone, and measures 3 feet 6 inches in height by 2 feet 9 inches in breadth. On it there are thirty-eight cups, so that it is the best-marked stone in Aberdeenshire unconnected with a circle. Many of the cups, however, are shallow, and not easily distinguished. Five of the cups have a single ring round each of them, while a sixth has two rings; but in all these cases the rings are very shallow, and it is with great difficulty that they can be traced at all. The majority of the cups are of the usual size, from 2 to 3 inches in diameter, and nearly  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch deep, but many of them are much shallower. The lowest part of the circumference of the lowest cup is only  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inch above the bottom edge of the smoothed face of the stone, so that it is little above the surface of the ground. The cups on this stone are best seen when the sunlight strikes slantingly along its eastern face, shortly before ten o'clock in the forenoon.

*The Ringing Stone, Leslie.*

There is a standing-stone on the farm of Johnstone, in the parish of Leslie, nearly 6 miles south-west of Inch railway station. It is called "The Ringing Stone," but why it is so called no one in the neighbourhood can explain satisfactorily. One suggestion is that the name is a corruption of "St Ninian's Stone," similar to that of the village of St Ninians near Stirling, which is known locally as St Ringans. Another explanation is that the name may have arisen from the ringing sound produced when the stone is sharply struck. The stone itself is a pillar of whinstone 6 feet 6 inches high, 2 feet 6 inches wide, and averaging 1 foot in thickness. It is cup-marked on both sides. On its eastern face, close to the southern edge and rather more than 2 feet above the surface of the ground, there is a single small but well-defined cup, 2 inches in diameter and fully  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch in depth.

On the western face of the stone there are six plain cups similar to the solitary one on the other side. The two largest measure, each, 2 inches in diameter and  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch deep. The remaining four are somewhat smaller, being only  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inch in diameter and slightly over  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch in depth. One of the cups is situated quite near the base of the stone, just 6 inches above the surface of the soil, so that it is apt to be overlooked when the vegetation is rank. In addition to these six distinct cups, there are faint traces of two rather doubtful ones about half-way up near the

northern edge of the stone. An old road now seldom used passes within a few yards of the stone.

The Ringing Stone at Johnstone is included among the cup-marked



Fig. 19. Cup-marked Stone, Mytice, Gartly.

stones unconnected with circles, because there is no known record of a stone circle ever having occupied the site. But while this is so, the stone itself is in appearance very like one of the pillars which accompany a recumbent stone. In this connection it is interesting to note that there is another Ringing Stone which is undoubtedly a member of a stone circle.

It is situated on the high ground quite close to Rothiemay railway station, about 15 miles to the north-west of the Ringing Stone at Johnstone. It is known to be the recumbent stone of a circle variously known as the Ernehill, Arnhill, or Haddoch circle, now almost destroyed. On its northern side, which faced the interior of the circle, there are several curved grooves of a somewhat artificial appearance, but which almost certainly have been caused by the action of the weather upon the surface of the stone:

*Mytice, Gartly.*

The farm of Mytice lies near the Kirkney Burn, which flows along the valley on the north side of the hill known as The Tap o' Noth, on whose summit there is a large and well-known vitrified fort. The farm is about 3 miles west of the railway station at Gartly, and is the place at which the Percylieu sculptured stone lay for many years before it was removed to its present site at Leith Hall, Kennethmont. A well-marked cup-stone lies beside the farmhouse (fig. 19). It measures 1 foot 11 inches in height, 1 foot 3 inches in breadth, and is about 4 inches thick. The original position it occupied is unknown. It was found by Mr William Hardy, nephew of Mr Knight, at that time tenant of Mytice, in a stone dyke on the farm of Finglennie, about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  mile distant. In all likelihood it at one time stood on the ground near the dyke, to which it had been removed when the land was cleared of stones, so that it might be brought under cultivation.

The Mytice stone is cup-marked on both sides. On that shown in the photograph there are sixteen cups, and there is a similar number on the other side. They vary in size from a diameter of 2 inches to nearly 4 inches. The depth also varies, the smaller cups being correspondingly shallow, and some of the larger cups being nearly 1 inch deep. There are no encircling rings on the stone, but in two instances a couple of neighbouring cups have been joined together by a channel somewhat less in depth than the cups themselves, so that they form a figure like a dumb-bell. A single cup and also a dumb-bell group lie close to the base of the stone.

CUP-MARKS ON ROCKS AND BOULDERS.

For the purpose of enabling a comparison to be made between the cups on the stone circles and standing-stones, and those found on rock surfaces in the same district, one or two of the best marked of the latter will now be described and illustrated.

*Glack, Migvie.*

Glack is a farm in the parish of Migvie, and lies nearly 4 miles west of Tarland and about 6 miles north of Dinnet station on the Deeside railway. Just outside the garden gate beside the farmhouse there is a large block of red granite almost 3 feet long, nearly as broad, and 1 foot 6 inches high (fig. 20). Upon the upper surface of this boulder there are



Fig. 20. Cup-marked Stone at Glack, Migvie.

forty cups, ranging from  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches in diameter and from  $\frac{1}{2}$  to 1 inch in depth. The great majority are of the plain type unaccompanied by rings, but there are several of peculiar form. In one instance, two of the cups have been connected by a hollow almost as deep as the cups themselves so as to form an elongated groove. In another case three cups have been similarly joined, so as to make a figure like the capital letter T or a St Anthony's cross. A second example of this shape occurs, but it is not so well formed and distinct as the first one. The fourth example is the most peculiar of all. It consists of four nearly equidistant cups,

which have been joined together by grooves crossing each other at right angles, so as to form a cross. The arms of this cross are nearly equal in length, there being a cup-mark at each of the four ends. The length of the cross thus formed is 6 inches from top to bottom, and its breadth is 5 inches from end to end of the cross arms.

No forms at all like these crosses are to be seen on any of the other cup-marked stones of Aberdeenshire, but their presence at Glack may,

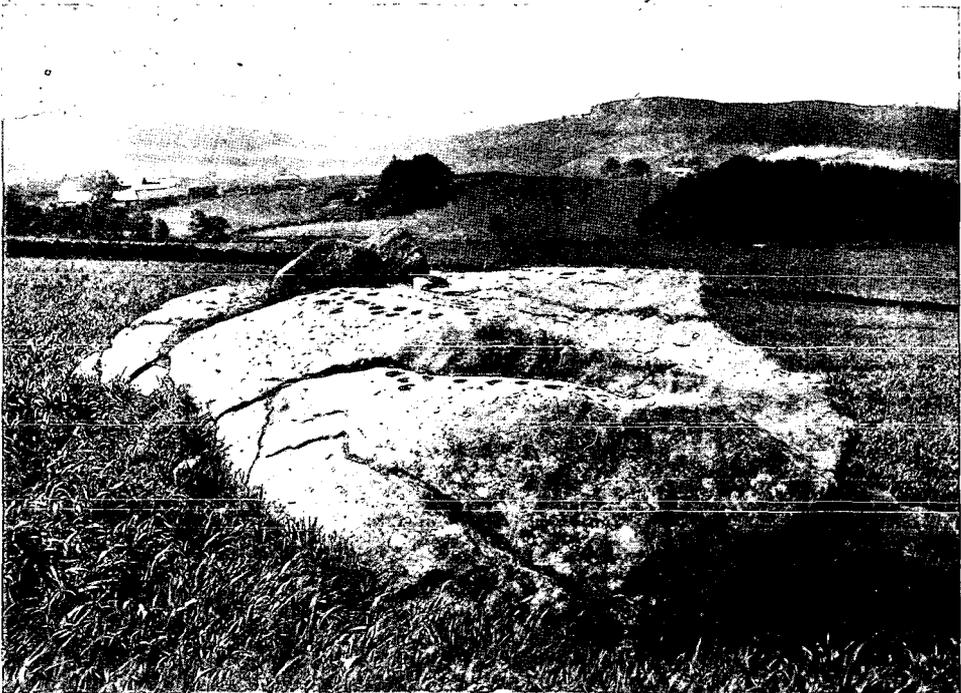


Fig. 21. Cup-marked Stone at Avochie, near Rothiemay.

I think, be accounted for by the peculiar associations of the locality. The stone is situated on one side of the farm-steading on the other side of which are the parish church and churchyard of Migvie. In the churchyard there stands a well-known Celtic interlaced-work cross, which has several early Christian symbols carved on the surface of the stone close to the shaft of the cross. At Tillypronie, too, there is another sculptured stone which was found in the district, and which also has several early Christian symbols carved on it. These indicate that long ago some workmen skilled in stone-carving resided for a

time in this neighbourhood, and one of them may have consecrated the stone by changing the pagan cups into Christian crosses.

*Avochie.*

In the neighbourhood of Rothiemay, besides the cup-marked stone circle, there are a number of other cup-marked stones. The best of these is situated close to the border of Aberdeenshire, on the rising ground about half-way between Rothiemay village and Avochie House, and nearly 2 miles east of Rothiemay railway station (fig. 21). It is a large whinstone boulder, 11 feet long and 9 feet broad, rising to a height of about 3 feet above the surface of the ground. On its upper surface there are about eighty cups, varying in size from a little over 1 inch to nearly 4 inches in diameter, many of them, however, being shallow and indistinct. The stone, however, is remarkable for the large number of ringed cups which it has on it. There are altogether seventeen cups each surrounded by a single ring, though in many cases the rings are faint and indistinct. In one or two cases the rings touch each other, either by design or by accident. A very fine plan of this stone, showing all the cups and rings, has been drawn by Mr F. R. Coles, and appears in the *Proceedings* of the Society, vol. xl. p. 319.

*Cuttlecraigs.*

Some years ago, during the process of clearing away a number of stones which encumbered a portion of this farm, a cup-marked boulder was destroyed by blasting. A portion of it was removed by Mr Walker, who occupied the farm at the time, and it now lies in the garden leaning against the wall of the farmhouse. The number of cups originally on the boulder is unknown, but on the fragment of it which has been preserved there are fifteen of the ordinary type, several of them being shallow. The stone seems to have suffered much from the action of the weather.

*Culsh Eirde House, Tarland.*

A fine example of an eirde or underground house occurs near the farmhouse of Culsh, 2 miles east of Tarland. Its entrance is only about 3 feet high and correspondingly narrow, but as the passage proceeds inwards it increases in width and height until a fairly wide chamber is formed, in which a man can stand upright. If the visitor within the chamber looks towards the entrance, he will see a cup-mark on one of the stones built into the wall on his right hand. Another cup will be found on a stone near the entrance.

From the above examples it will be seen that the cup-marks on the rock surfaces in Aberdeenshire are similar in character to those found on the stone circles and standing-stones of the county.

#### GENERAL CONCLUSIONS.

It will be noticed from the foregoing descriptions that the cup-marks on stones which form parts of circles are not distributed, as it were, casually, on any of the members of the circle, but are all found either on the recumbent stone or in its immediate neighbourhood. As far as can be ascertained from the Aberdeenshire circles now in existence, the cups occur only on the recumbent stones, the east and west pillars, and the stones next to these pillars. But they do not occur on all the circles in the county; on some of the most perfect, such as those at Auquhorthies near Inverurie, and Cothiemuir near Keig, no cup-marks are found. Neither are they exclusively confined to circles and the stones near them, for, as has been shown, they are also found on living rock, and on boulders which have evidently never formed parts of circles, as at Avochie and Migvie.

The cups on the stone circles and those on the detached boulders are similar in design. The great majority are simple cups, from 2 to 3 inches in diameter and about  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch deep. A few are joined together in pairs to form a figure like a dumb-bell, and a rather larger number are surrounded by a ring, the ringed specimens being chiefly found in the Rothiemay district. The rings are usually single; one or two double rings occur, but in no case are there more than two. The rings are always shallower than the cups they surround, and in many instances they are so faint as to be almost invisible unless the light is good and the surface of the stone wet. No examples of spirals or of the elaborate designs found in various southern districts have as yet been discovered in Aberdeenshire.

Except in a few instances, the cups do not appear to be clustered together so as to form any definite design. In a few cases, as at Balquhain, Balhaggardy, and Loanhead, a number of the cups are arranged in lines, horizontal or perpendicular, and the position of these is frequently determined by some natural feature in the stone. In some instances there appear to be groups of two or three cups, and in the latter case the three often appear to form a figure of triangular shape with equal sides, but whether this occurs by accident or design it is impossible to say.

The hollows appear to have been formed by the rotation of some hard substance, such as a rounded stone, within them, for they are always circular and have smooth sloping sides and rounded base. In no case have any distinct marks of tooling come under the notice of the observer, and the shallowest cups, which seem to have been just commenced, are

quite as smooth as the deepest ones which are presumably finished. One would expect to find, in the neighbourhood of the cup-marked stones, some remains of the implements by which these hollows were formed, but such remains, if they exist, have not been recognised. Flints and rubbed stones do not appear to be more numerous beside the cup-marked stones than in other places. Perhaps the great age of the cups may account for the dispersal of the instruments by which they were formed.

It is evident that these cup-marks are of very ancient date. There are many interesting traditions, forming what may be called the folklore of the Aberdeenshire stone circles, but none of the stories attempt to account for the occurrence of the cup-marks upon them. Nor is this to be wondered at, for, it seems to me, there is evidence that the cups are at least as old as the circles themselves, and in some cases probably older. In several instances the cups are so placed as to show that they have been carved on the stones before these were put into their present position. On the cup-marked standing-stones at Balquhain, Balhaggardy, Rothiemay, and Johnstone there is in each case a cup at the base of the stone, so close to the level of the ground that it is frequently entirely hidden by the vegetation. On the interior surface of the west pillar at St Brandan's stones there are twelve cups, all near the base of the stone. In these cases it seems hardly likely that the cups would have been carved out with great labour while the stones stood erect. The evidence rather points to the conclusion that the cups were made while the stones lay flat on the ground, before they were erected as members of their respective circles. The recumbent stone at Rothiemay has the cups on its upright surface more thickly clustered near the base of the stone than near the top, and several of them are just above the ground-level. Again, the recumbent stone at Braehead of Leslie rests upon another stone, which has four cup-marks on its upper surface. These marks are so placed, right underneath the recumbent stone, that they could not possibly have been made while that stone occupied the present site, which is evidently its original position in the circle. Indeed, the use of a cup-marked stone as a support for the recumbent stone rather indicates that the cups had become obsolete before the circle was erected, as has happened in those cases where cup-marked stones have been utilised in the making of eirde houses and stone cists. In any case, the significance of the cup-marks had been lost long before Christian times, for in the cases of stones at Tofthills and Banchory House, as well as a stone at Dingwall, and a boulder at Glack, the pagan monuments have been reconsecrated by the addition of Christian symbols to the older markings.

Many suggestions have been made as to the meaning and purpose of these cup-marks, but no satisfactory explanation of their use has yet

been discovered. So many different forms of them have been found in various districts that it seems unlikely they all had the same significance, and therefore no single explanation can be expected to suit all cases. The following remarks, therefore, are intended only to apply to the plain type of cup as found in Aberdeenshire.

It is somewhat unfortunate that the name "cup-mark" has been so generally adopted to describe these circular hollows, for it at once suggests that their purpose was to contain some kind of liquid. The idea is very prevalent in the localities in Aberdeenshire where they are found that they were intended to hold the blood of sacrifices offered on the "altars" of the stone circles. But this idea is clearly wrong, for many of the recumbent stones are quite unsuitable for use as altars of sacrifice, and could not have been utilised for any such purpose. For instance, the recumbent stones at the Sunhoney and Dyce circles are too narrow on the top for holding a sacrifice; while the recumbent stone at the Cothiemuir circle is rounded on the top and equally unfitted for such use. The cups themselves are found on upright surfaces as well as on flat ones, and though, as already suggested, some of the standing-stones probably had their cups engraved on them before they were erected into the upright position, this does not seem likely to have happened in every instance. The recumbent stone at Rothiemay has cups both on the top and on the inner upright surface, while at Tofthills there are cups almost all round the stone. On the Ringing Stone at Johnstone also, and on the stone at Mytice, there are cups on both sides, which would not likely have been the case had the stones not been intended to stand erect. On the Nether Corskie stone, too, there is a cup on the south and another on the west side, so that no matter in what position the stone lay both cups could not be filled with liquid at the same time.

The positions of many of the cups also make it unlikely that they could have been used to contain votive offerings of any kind.

At first sight the groups of cups seem to bear a close resemblance to the plans of circular huts, clustered together to form villages, the ringed specimens representing the more important dwellings, each enclosed within a protecting trench or pallsade. But it is difficult to believe that the population in the far-distant past could ever have been so dense, as, according to this theory, would have been the case at, say, Rothiemay, where so many cup-marked stones are found, each differing from the others.

That the cups are masons' marks, each representing the claim of the maker of it to a share in the erection of the circle, and perhaps to a right of burial within it, is not likely, for the cups are not confined to circles which have been proved to be burial-places, but are also found on rock surfaces, where no burials could have taken place.

It has been thought by some that the cup-marks were connected with the worship of the heavenly bodies, and may have been intended to represent portions of the starry sky. If they had been star maps, however, there would undoubtedly have been some of the more prominent constellations represented, but none are recognisable. The photograph of the cups on the upright face of the Rothiemay recumbent stone was submitted to an eminent astronomer, but he was unable to recognise in it a resemblance to any portion of our northern heavens.

It has been suggested that the marks may have been a primitive kind of writing, but, if such had been the case, they would naturally fall into more easily recognisable groups than they seem to do. Some groups there undoubtedly are, but they are few in number compared with the number of cups scattered apparently at random. It is certain that these marks must have conveyed ideas of some sort to those who lived in the neighbourhood at the time they were made; but for all that, they do not seem to be divisible into groups forming any kind of rudimentary alphabet.

These cup-marked stones could not have been the anvils on which stone implements were fashioned, for in that case we would have had a large accumulation of chips round the stones which have numerous cup-marks on them; and, conversely, where chips have been found in great numbers, we would have expected to find cup-marked stones also. But these things do not occur together; at the base of the cup-marked stones we find no accumulation of flints, and in other places, where chips have been found in abundance, we have no cup-marked stones.

The large number of small-sized cups on many of the stones seems to preclude the idea that they were primitive mills, used for grinding or pounding seeds, nuts, or other substances, for food. For that purpose a few larger cups would have been all that was necessary, besides being much more easily made, and more efficient.

The wide area over which cup-marked stones are found shows that the ideas underlying their construction must also have been widely prevalent among primitive man. It might be expected, therefore, that we would get some insight into their meaning from studying any similar custom common to the primitive tribes of to-day. Professor Spencer, in his *Native Tribes of the Northern Territory of Australia*, pp. 334-336, describes the discovery of a group of cup-marks carved on the surface of a flat outcrop of sandstone rock, a little south of the Gulf of Carpentaria. They varied in size from 1 or 2 inches in diameter and  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch to  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch in depth, to 10 or 12 inches in diameter and 6 to 8 inches in depth. The smaller ones are therefore similar to those so common in Aberdeenshire, while the larger ones, though unrepresented in the county, seem to be

not unlike those on the standing-stone in the churchyard of Fodderty, near Strathpeffer, which, in addition to several small cups, has a large and deep one on each side. Unfortunately the purpose for which these Australian cup-marks were made has been forgotten. Professor Spencer says the natives have no knowledge of their origin or meaning, though they believe them to have been the work of Namaran, the Thunder Man.

In Messrs Spencer and Gillen's volume on *The Northern Tribes of Central Australia*, the marks on the churinga of the natives have been fully described and illustrated. These marks consist largely of circles, spirals, and sinuous bands, which bear a resemblance to some of the rings and spirals found in various districts where cup-marks are found. They do not, however, appear to correspond with our Aberdeenshire cup-marks, where the essential element in the design is the central cup-like depression, wanting on the churinga. Neither do the meanings attached to these figures by the Australian natives who use them help us much. The authors say that "the nature of the design gives at most very little, and usually no clue whatever, to its meaning." "On one churinga, a series of concentric circles or a spiral will represent a man, on another, a frog, on another, a tree, and on another, a water-hole."<sup>1</sup> The attempts, therefore, to correlate these churinga designs with our cup- and ring-marks, and thus to show that the latter represented a sort of rude heraldry, having a social rather than a religious meaning, are somewhat unconvincing.

It has been abundantly proved that our stone circles, whatever other purposes they may have served, were undoubtedly places used for the burial of the dead. From the frequency, therefore, with which cup-marks are found on or near the recumbent stones of these circles, it seems a fair deduction to suppose that the marks must have had some connection with the dead lying within the circles, or with their burial ceremonies. But the marks are also found on rock surfaces, unconnected with stone circles, where, as far as we can judge, no burials have taken place, but in whose neighbourhood there undoubtedly must have existed a considerable population, probably a village. Now we know, from the remains found within stone circles and cists containing urns of a like age, that the inhabitants of that far-back era believed in some kind of life beyond the grave. It seems reasonable, therefore, to conclude that the cup-marks, on their burial-places and elsewhere, had some relation to that belief, and were intended in some way to conciliate the spirits of the dead, and induce them to refrain from revisiting the abodes of the living. The conclusion, therefore, appears to be that the Aberdeenshire cup-marks, in several instances, and perhaps in all, are older than the circles on which they are carved, and had in all probability a religious significance.

<sup>1</sup> *The Northern Tribes of Central Australia*, p. 730.

## TABULAR SUMMARY.

Locality.	Number of Cups.	Remarks.	Position of Stone in Circle.
CUP-MARKS ON STONE CIRCLES.			
<i>Aberdeenshire.</i>			
Gask or Spring-hill.	9	8 on south-east side, 1 doubtful cup and ring on back.	Indeterminate.
Nether Corskie	2	On south and west sides of standing-stone.	Indeterminate.
Balnacraig . . .	6	On outside surface of recumbent stone.	Recumbent stone.
Sunhoney . . .	32	31 on recumbent stone, 1 on broken-off part.	Recumbent stone, none on pillars or other stones.
Drumfours . . .	16	Also Ogham inscription.	Probably recumbent stone.
Auld Kirk o Tough.	2	1 ringed cup.	Indeterminate.
Potterton . . .	2	On outside of west pillar.	West pillar, none on east pillar or recumbent stone.
Balquhain . . .	30	1 on top of recumbent stone, 4 on east pillar, and 25 on standing-stone next to west pillar.	Recumbent stone, east pillar, and stone next west pillar.
Balhaggardy . . .	24	On north side of standing-stone.	Indeterminate.
Newcraig . . .	19	On upper surface of stone lying near circle.	Outlier, and perhaps on west pillar.
Loanhead . . .	12	On inside face of stone.	Stone next east pillar, none on recumbent stone.
Loanend . . .	2	On top of recumbent stone.	Recumbent stone.
Braehead . . .	4	On upper surface of supporting stone.	Stone beneath recumbent stone.
Pitglassie . . .	8	On outside face of stone.	East pillar.
Toffhills . . .	30	Also ancient incised cross on stone.	Indeterminate.
<i>Banffshire.</i>			
Thorax . . .	25	On north-west standing-stone.	No recumbent stone in circle.
St. Brandan's stones.	12	On inside of west pillar.	West pillar. Recumbent stone missing.
Rothiemay circle.	126	7 on standing-stone next to pillar, 12 on top, and 107 on inner surface of recumbent stone, several with rings.	Recumbent stone, and stone next east pillar. (Pillars non-existent.)
Harestanes, Feith-hill.	6	Plain cups.	West pillar.
CUP-MARKS ON STANDING-STONES UNCONNECTED WITH CIRCLES.			
Easter Sinhard.	1	"Near middle of "The Lang Stane."	
Blacktop . . .	38	Several ringed cups.	
Ringing Stone, Johnstone.	7	1 on east, 6 on west side.	
Mytice . . .	32	16 on each side, several of dumb-bell shape.	
CUPS ON ROCKS AND BOULDERS.			
Loanhead, Daviot.	2	Rock near stone circle ( <i>q.v.</i> ).	
Glack . . .	40	Dumb-bell, triangle, and cross-like forms.	
Avochie . . .	80	Several with rings.	
Cuttleraigs . . .	15	On fragment beside farmhouse.	
Culsh . . .	2	On walls of underground house.	