



Photo: R. Hogg.

Contemporary drawing of the Garlands Bronze Age vessels as discovered in 1861.

facing p. 1

ART. I.—*Three unpublished collections of Bronze Age pottery: Netherhall, Garlands and Aglionby.* By Miss K. S. HODGSON, F.S.A.

Read at Carlisle, March 24th, 1956.

I. NETHERHALL.

THE collection formed by the Senhouse family from Tudor times onwards, preserved at Netherhall near Maryport, has long been famous for its Roman antiquities, including not only a splendid series of inscribed and sculptured stones but also pottery and miscellaneous small objects, mainly from excavations carried out by members of the family. It was not until 1955, however, on the occasion of our Society's most recent visit to Netherhall, that it was realized that the collection also includes non-Roman pottery of very great interest. Mr. Roger Senhouse, who received us at Netherhall and showed us the collection, most kindly allowed me to take the non-Roman material to my home, for detailed study, and the present paper is the first-fruits of that study, dealing with the Bronze Age pottery.¹

Unfortunately, no definite information is available as to the precise provenance of this pottery, and it must remain a matter of inference. There is always a possibility that some of the pieces were acquired by gift from some friend of the family; but most of the urns are fragmentary, some of them are only represented by mere sherds, and the most complete specimen, no. 5, was already in the Netherhall collection when William Hutchinson's artist drew it for reproduction in his *History of Cumberland* (1794). Hutchinson's text, for what it may be worth, ascribes all the objects that he illustrates to the same site:²

¹ For a Saxon cremation-urn, from the same collection, cf. Art. VII, below.

² *Cumberland* (1794) ii 284.

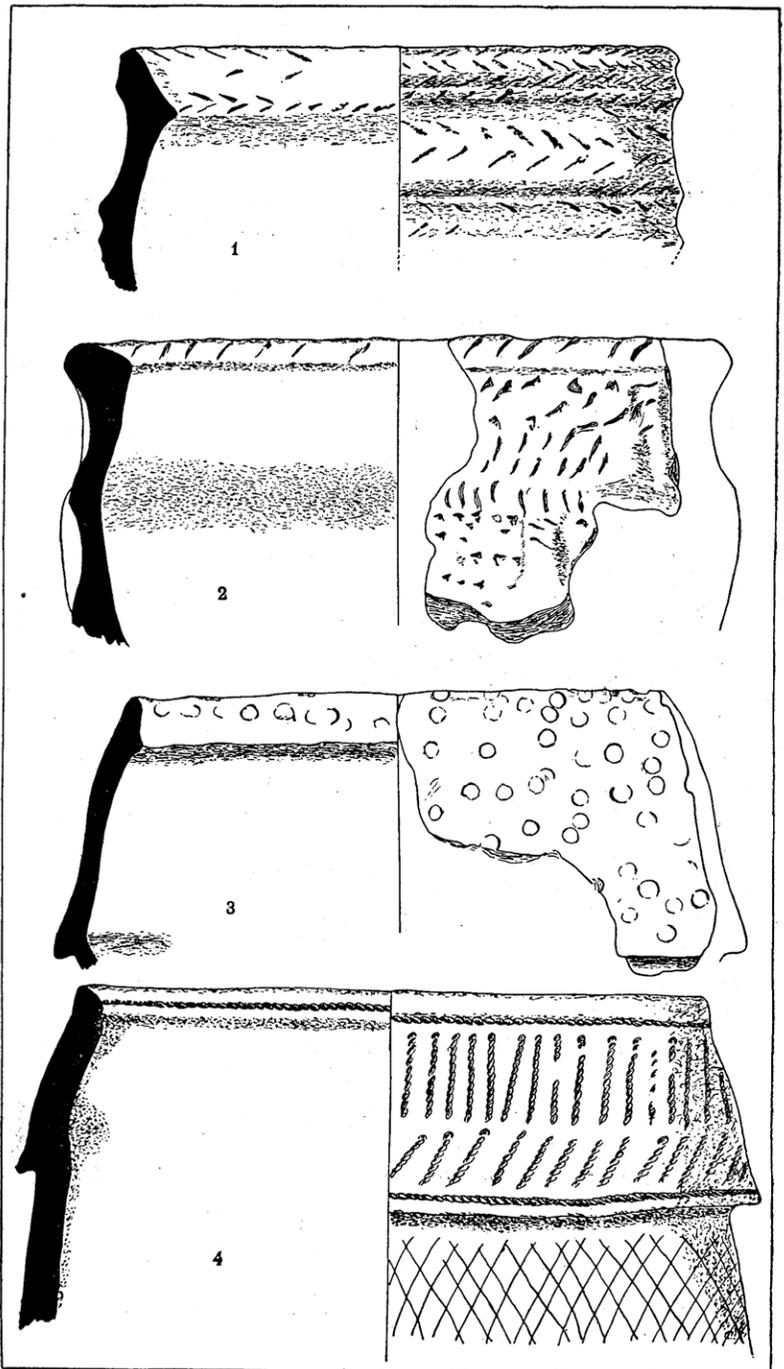


FIG. 1.—Cinerary urns. (†).

"In the plates we have given all the remains which have been lately discovered at this place, and which Mr Senhouse graciously permitted our artist to inspect and draw."

On balance, it seems reasonable to assume that all are local finds, though it does not necessarily follow that all come from the immediate area of the Roman fort.

They are mostly northern types, and no. 5 is own brother to urns from Aglionby and Garlands, about the findspots of which there can be no doubt. It may be added that there are known examples of Bronze Age burials found beneath Roman military sites. In this connection, Professor Richmond kindly allows me to quote his discovery of a cinerary urn in the legionary fortress at Inchtuthil; and it will be recalled that Hutchinson figures one from Old Carlisle.³ In addition, there are the two cists, containing food-vessels, found at the eastern end of the Antonine Wall, at Bridgeness, West Lothian.⁴ We may note also the cup-and-ring marked stones from Bank End,⁵ a mile from the Roman site, now at Netherhall, which imply the presence of Bronze Age man in the neighbourhood.

Before we come to a detailed description of the pottery, it may be remarked that the presence of two "enlarged food-vessels" is of special interest, none having been recorded from Cumberland hitherto, though they are a specifically northern type.

In the description of the pottery, figs. 1 and 2 below, the diameters give the measurement at the mouth of the urn in each case.

1. About two-thirds of the upper part of an "enlarged food-vessel", Abercromby's Type 7; diameter 28 cm. The lip is very deep and slightly concave. *Colour*: greyish-yellow. *Fabric*: the usual black, coarse paste, with heavy grits. *Decoration*: large, slanting slits, mostly arranged in herringbone fashion; in a strong side-light, slight corrugations show on the straight side of some of these slits. They are supposed to have been made with a

³ *Op. cit.*, plate facing p. 409, no. 16.

⁴ PSAScot. lviii 280 f. I owe this reference to Mr. Sleath of Walton.

⁵ CW1 ix 436 f. and CW2 iv 250.

bone or wooden spatula. In the latter case the corrugations would be caused by the grain of the wood; they can also be produced, in plasticine, by a flint (Amerindian) arrowhead, in which case the corrugations correspond to the re-touched edge.

There are several enlarged food-vessels very like this: one from Woodhead, Perthshire, in the National Museum of Antiquities, Edinburgh; and (judging by the illustrations) one each from Humbleton Hill, Sunderland,⁶ and from Durham.⁷

2. Portion of an enlarged food-vessel; diameter probably 33 cm. The rim is slightly rounded; there are two alternate "stops", very much flattened. *Colour* and *fabric* as no. 1. *Decoration*: slits (as in no. 1) on the lip and the upper groove; in the lower groove, a panel of impressed triangles.

There is a rim very like this in the National Museum of Antiquities, from Balrownie, Brechin, Angus.⁸ This urn is of particular interest, as its lip-profile is moving away from the food-vessel type, and the "stops" have become mere decorative bands.⁹

3. Portion of a cinerary urn, of "overhanging rim" type; diameter about 28 cm. The rim is unusually deep, 13.5 cm. *Colour*: blackish-brown. *Fabric*: coarse, dark. *Decoration*: a scatter of incised circles, probably made with a section of hollow bone, or perhaps a large quill.

4. Portions of a cinerary urn, of the same type; diameter probably 33 cm. *Colour*: light brown (slip?), with reddish tints (due to heat?). *Fabric*: black, coarse, with light brown streak near the inner edge. *Decoration*: on the rim, twisted cord impressions—below the lip inside, and round both edges of the rim outside; between these horizontal borders the upper two-thirds of the rim show vertical lines, slanting lines occupying the lower third. These lower lines slant in opposite directions on the two portions of the rim, and the break has occurred just where the change came: it is impossible, therefore, to be certain how it was managed, but I am inclined to think that the gap was filled by a shorter line or lines. The neck of the urn is decorated with plain cross-hatching.

5. A beautiful small cinerary urn, tripartite, much mended but almost complete; 13 cm. high, diameter 11 cm. The rim has a very subtle, graceful curve in profile. *Colour*: pinkish-grey, much reddened by fire in places. *Fabric*: very fine red

⁶ *Antiq. J.* vii, pl xxii 2.

⁷ Abercromby, *Bronze Age Pottery*, pl. xcvi 484.

⁸ *PSAScot.* lxxv 209.

⁹ Cf. Sir Cyril Fox on "An encrusted urn of the Bronze Age from Wales: with notes on the origin and distribution of the type", *Antiq. J.* vii (1927), 115-133.

paste, tempered with tiny white (quartz?) grits. *Decoration*: elaborate and delicate, of twisted fine cord (about equal to no. 10 sewing cotton or no. 60 crochet cotton). On the lip, slanting lines; on the rim, alternate triangles. On the neck, fine small cross-hatchings of twisted cord down to the carination, which is emphasized by a row of small pits.¹⁰ (See Appendix.)

6. Portions (ten fragments in all) of an urn similar to no. 5 but even smaller; probably 12 cm. high, diameter *c.* 9.5 cm. *Colour*: pale reddish-brown. *Fabric*: fine, reddish, tempered medium-sized dark grits. *Decoration*: twisted cord, not so fine as on no. 5. Horizontal lines at both edges of the rim, joined by vertical lines; also a horizontal line on the neck, immediately below the rim, and two lines above the carination.

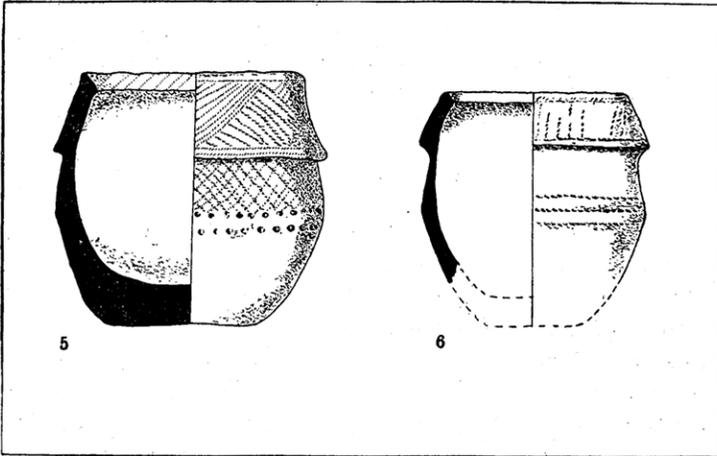


FIG. 2.—Small cinerary urns. (4).

Nos. 5 and 6 have a very strong family likeness, in every respect, to Aglionby no. 1 and Garlands no. 2; one might be tempted to wonder if they came from the same hand. Mr Hogg has pointed out to me that urns of this small size could not have contained more than a small part of the ashes of an adult.

7-9 (not illustrated). Piece of an urn (?), showing its carination; much abraded, in a very coarse fabric, with large rolled pebbles. Two pieces of plain bases.

¹⁰ This is the urn figured by Hutchinson, *Cumberland ii*, pl. iv no. 67 (facing p. 284); for his artist, James Lowes, cf. CW2 liv 268.

Work on this Bronze Age pottery from Netherhall necessarily involved further study of the two important groups of pottery of the same period, from Garlands (the county mental hospital) and Aglionby, which are preserved in Tullie House Museum, Carlisle; and it soon became apparent that both groups were deserving of full publication concurrently with the Netherhall vessels. One of the Aglionby urns has been published by Sir Cyril Fox,¹¹ and five of those from Garlands were illustrated by Abercromby,¹² but neither group has been described or illustrated in full. With the ready consent of our member Mr Robert Hogg, Keeper of Archæology in the Carlisle Museum, the long overdue task has therefore been undertaken; I offer my warmest thanks to Mr Hogg, to his assistant Miss Helps, and to the staff of the museum, for their generous co-operation.

II. GARLANDS.

The larger group is that from the Asylum at Garlands, amounting to as many as 15 urns. It was found in 1861, when the "new buildings" were erected; an old *Directory* states that the urns were discovered under the new croquet-ground (now a bowling-green): but Mr Ritchie, to whom I owe most of my information on the subject, believes that they were really found on the site now occupied by the buildings—and that is the find-spot named in the Museum's catalogue. Mr Ritchie also tells me that the old gardener at Garlands stated that they were found "in pit-sand", which suggests a link with the Aglionby urns (p. 12 f., below).

One piece of contemporary evidence has a pathetic interest (pl. I), the delicate pen and ink drawing of the Garlands group, here reproduced,¹³ "drawn by T.B., a

¹¹ *Antiq. J.* vii, pl. xx 4, p. 120, footnote 2; also p. 128.

¹² *Bronze Age Pottery*, ii, pl. lxxi, 113-113d.

¹³ Mr Hogg has kindly placed his photograph of the drawing at my disposal, for reproduction here.

patient in the Asylum." The urns, and the flint implement found with them, are all readily recognisable in the drawing; it may be remarked that the Garlands beaker¹⁴ is not shown: that can be explained on the evidence of the Museum's accession-book, which Mr Hogg kindly showed me:

Beaker 1928, brought by Mr Rogerson. Found in a sand-pit at Garlands, 1893.

Mr Ritchie believes the sand-pit to have been near to Garlands farm, and in that case it cannot have formed part of the same Bronze Age cemetery group.

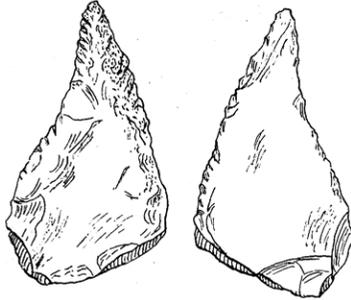


FIG. 3.—The flint implement. (½).

The flint implement is remarkable: it is curved, and both edges show careful and fine secondary working. The record states that it was "found with calcined bones in one of the urns";¹⁵ in the original description it is called an arrowhead, which is obviously impossible in view of its size and weight (see fig. 3).

Looking at the group as a whole, one is most struck by the great difference in quality which it exhibits. Nos. 6 and 7 are well formed, well proportioned and with fine

¹⁴ This is not figured in the present paper, since it has been published already, by Abercromby, *op. cit.*, and more recently by Miss Clare Fell, F.S.A., *The Early Cultures of North-West Europe* (H. M. Chadwick Memorial Studies), 1950, 43-49 and pl. IIc.

¹⁵ It is strange that this has not been published hitherto.

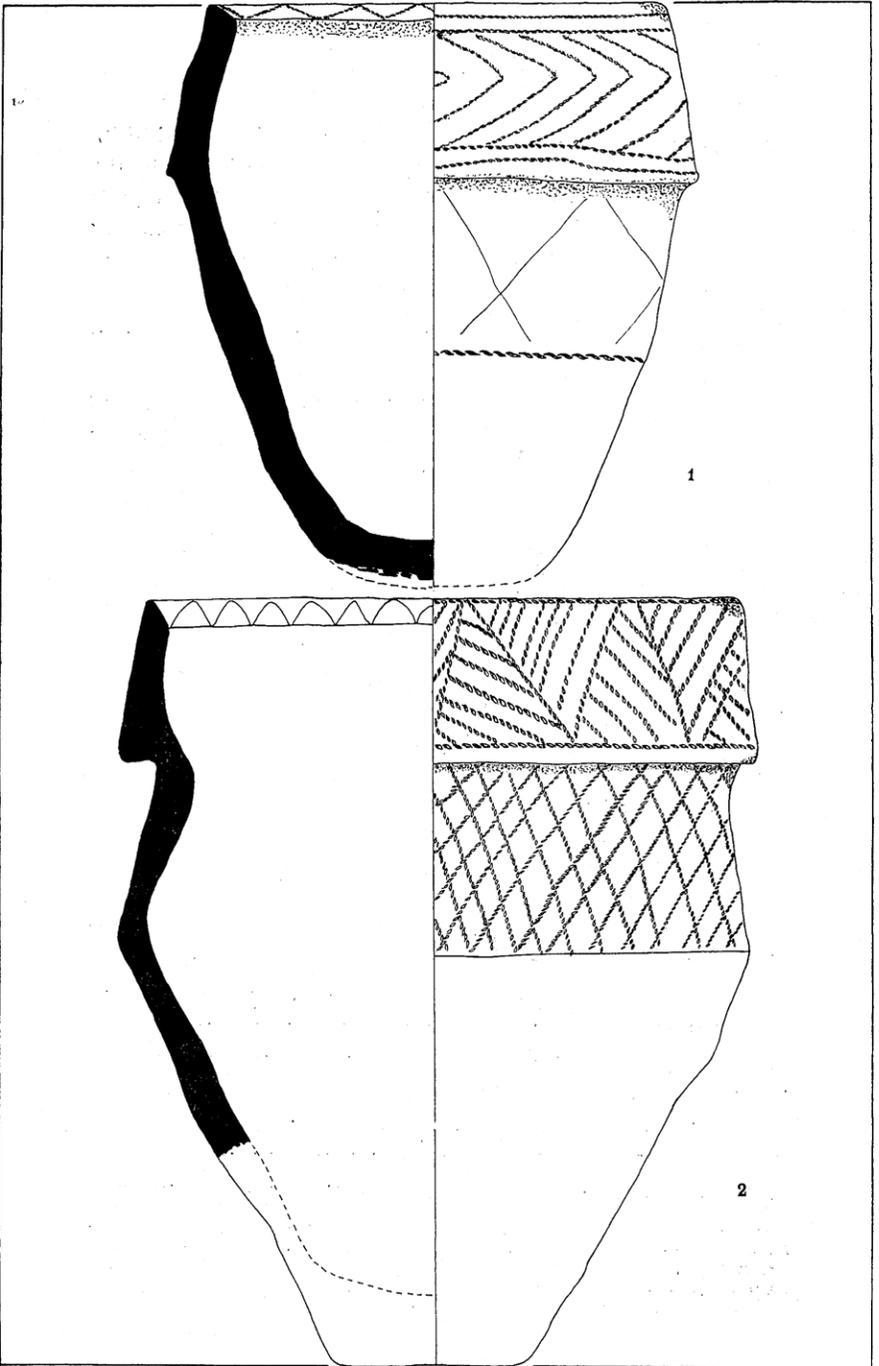


FIG. 4.—Garlands, nos. 1 and 2. ($\frac{1}{4}$).

and accurate decoration; others, such as no. 1, are inferior, and no. 5 is thoroughly misshapen and carelessly made. The plain urns, too, are inferior in workmanship to the best of the decorated ones.

A detailed description of the pottery, figs. 4-6 below, follows; the numbers preceded by O. M. refer to the catalogue of the Old Museum: those in square brackets correspond to the present labelling of the urns, and are added for convenience of identification.

1. O.M. 246, [271]. "Overhanging rim" cinerary urn; height 30 cm., mouth 26 cm., lip 1.8 cm., rim 8.5 cm. *Colour*: reddish-brown.¹⁶ *Fabric*: uncertain. *Decoration*: on the lip, zig-zag of "twisted cord"; on the rim, "fish-bone" between double parallel lines, all of twisted cord; on the neck, a single lattice of incised lines; a row of slanting oval depressions on the carination.

2. O.M. 243, [270]: Similar urn; height 35.37 cm., mouth 13.5 cm., lip 1.2 cm., rim 8.5 cm. *Colour*: red. *Fabric*: rough. *Decoration*: on the lip, short lengths of twisted cord; on the rim, triangles of twisted cord; on the neck, fine incised lattice; an incised line round the body at the carination.

3. O.M. 253, [272]: Similar urn; height 26.6 cm., mouth 20 cm., lip 2 cm., rim 7 cm. *Colour*: brownish-red. *Fabric*: uncertain. *Decoration*: on the lip, two rows of twisted cord; on the rim, lattice of twisted cord between two lines; on the neck, lattice of incised lines; a line of oval pits, between two slanting lines, at the carination.

4. O.M. 179. Similar urn; height 18.5 cm., mouth 15 cm., lip 1.3 cm., rim 6.2 cm. *Colour*: dark, greyish. *Fabric*: interior smooth. *Decoration*: on the lip, zig-zag incised line; on the rim, panels of incised lines, a main line slanting right to left, with slightly curved lines branching off on each side like the veins of a leaf, separated by vertical lines; on the neck, incised arches. The carination is very pronounced.

5. O.M. 282, [274]. Similar urn; height 15 cm., mouth 12.5 cm., lip 1 cm., rim 3.5 cm. *Colour*: brownish-red. *Fabric*: coarse grits. *Decoration*: alternate vertical and horizontal panels of incised lines, carelessly done—the lines over-running at times. The urn is lopsided and its shape lumpish.

6. O.M. 249, [276]. Similar urn, height uncertain, mouth 12.4 cm., lip 0.8 cm., rim 4.2 cm. *Colour*: reddish-grey. *Fabric*: fine, grits small and sparkling (quartz?). *Decoration*: on the

¹⁶ All the Garlands urns have been heavily treated with size, which makes it difficult to be certain of their colour and fabric.

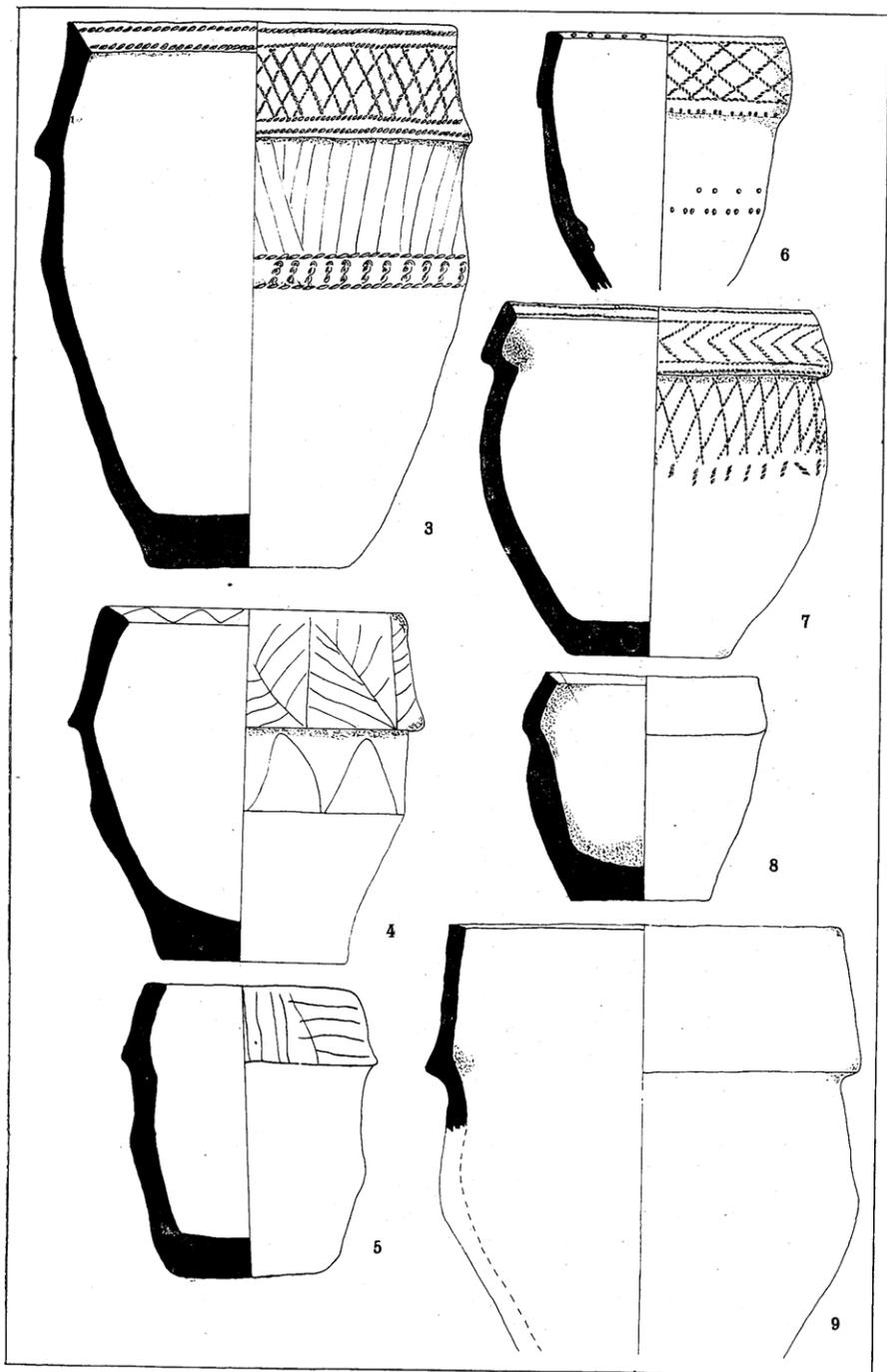


FIG. 5.—Garlands, nos. 3-9. (4).

lip, a single row of pits; on the rim, fine twisted cord lattice between a row of twisted cord (above) and pits (on the lower edge); a double row of pits (in pairs in the lower row) at the carination. The lip is almost flat, and both the projection of the rim and the carination are very slight, the carination coming much lower down the vessel than usual.

In fineness of decoration this urn is comparable with Netherhall no. 5 and Aglionby no. 4, but its shape is different.

7. O.M. 250, [277]. Similar urn; height 18.2 cm., mouth 15.7 cm., lip 0.9 cm., rim 3.2 cm. *Colour*: red. *Fabric*: fine, some coarse grit, interior smooth. *Decoration*: on the lip, two rows of twisted cord; on the rim, "fish-bone" between three rows of twisted cord (two above and one below); on the neck, a fine lattice of twisted cord; slanting lines of twisted cord (three loops) at the carination. The notable feature of this urn is the internal hollowing of its rim.

In fineness of workmanship and decoration this urn also compares closely with Netherhall no. 5 and Aglionby no. 4.

8. O.M. 275. Similar urn; height 11.7 cm., mouth 10.2 cm., lip 0.8 cm., rim 3 cm. *Colour*: reddish. *Fabric*: smooth red, sparse light-coloured grit. *Decoration*: none.

9. O.M. 242, [273]. Similar urn; height 27.5 cm., mouth 23 cm., lip 0.8 cm., rim 8 cm. *Colour*: brownish. *Fabric*: uncertain. *Decoration*: none.

10. O.M. 240, [282]. Pygmy urn; height 4.2 cm., mouth 7 cm., lip 1.3 cm. *Colour*: bright reddish-brown. *Fabric*: uncertain. *Decoration*: a double row of pits on the lip; two double rows below the lip, at the carination and above the base. Two holes in the wall.

11. O.M. 251. Pygmy urn; height 5.2 cm., mouth 8.7 cm., lip 1 cm. *Colour*: greyish-brown. *Fabric*: uncertain. *Decoration*: none. The lip is very steep. The clay displaced in boring the two holes in its wall has not been smoothed off, but left as irregular rings on the inside. The wall and base are of the same thickness.

12. O.M. 241. Base of Pygmy urn.

Besides the vessels which are complete, or at least represented by considerable surviving pieces, there are a good many fragments from the Garlands find. Most seem to be merely unconnected parts of the urns which have been restored, but some of them are interesting, and deserve description here.

13. Portion of rim, diameter probably ? cm., showing the characteristic triangle decoration.¹⁷

14. O.M. 280. Fragments of rim showing a "leaf" decoration, as on no. 4, but the lines are of twisted cord.

15. O.M. 267. Fragments of rim and neck. *Decoration:* on the rim, twisted cord, vertical and slanting; on the neck, blunted triangular depressions, something like those on the lower part of Netherhall no. 2.

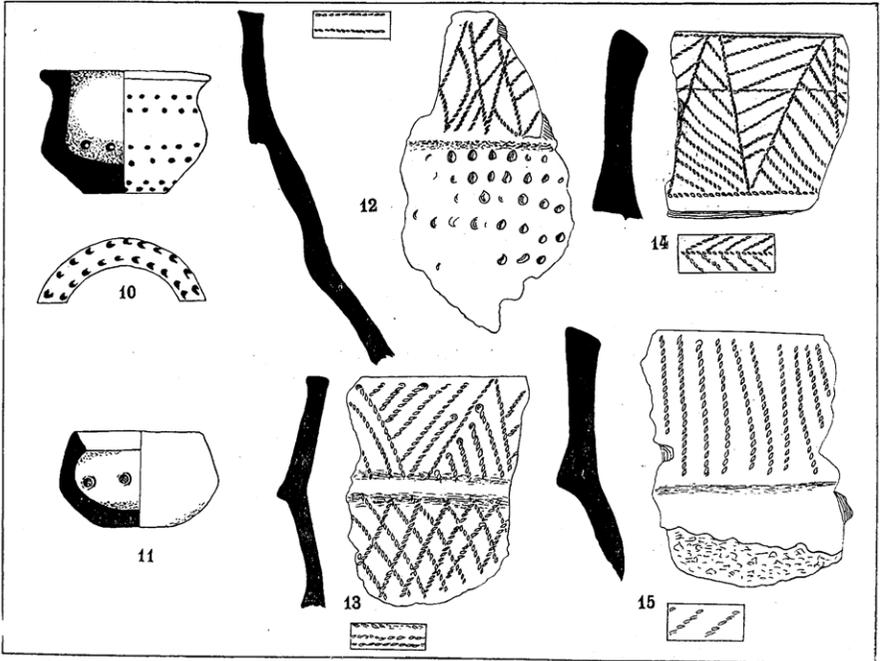


FIG. 6.—Garlands, nos. 10-15. ($\frac{1}{2}$).

III. AGLIONBY.

The following short notice was printed in the *Proceedings* of the Society's Spring Meeting, 1927 (CW2 xxvii 234 f.):

Mr Hope also exhibited Bronze Age urns, found recently at Waterloo Hill sandpit, near Aglionby. The sand is a deposit of the glacial period, and had formed the delta of a large river,

¹⁷ Cf. the Broomrigg example, CW2 1 38.

probably the early Eden. One of the urns proved to be a rather important find, and belonged to a well-marked type of a rather earlier (*sic*) period of the Bronze Age, known as the "encrusted type" owing to the applied ornament with which it was decorated. There was a considerable stretch of sand still to be removed, and it was possible that they were just reaching the cemetery of the settlement, if settlement it was. There were several instances of a settlement and burial place in close proximity to one another.

There seems to be no further reference to this find in *Transactions*, but Mr T. Strong, of Messrs Brown & Strong (who were concerned with the Waterloo Hill sandpit), very kindly gave me much valuable information about the finds, and suggested that the original notices of them could be found in the *Cumberland News*; and by the courtesy of Colonel Burgess I have been able to look up the two notices in question, and to copy the relevant portions:

(a) *Cumberland News*, 23 April 1927:

Within recent months interesting relics of the Bronze Age have been discovered at the Waterloo Hill sand-pit. These have included two cinerary urns and a recumbent skeleton possibly of a male. The skeleton was that of a person of mature age but with the exception of the skull and a few vertebrae the remains were too decomposed to be fit for preservation. Located 3 ft. below the surface the body was lying E.-W. with the head to the West. The urns were associated with cremation of the dead.

Part of another urn has just been unearthed from amongst the sand by the manager of the pit, Mr Thomas Mills. This relic was found about 20 yds. from the place where the skeleton was discovered, and fragments of bones were lying on each side of the broken urn, the contents of which included numerous tiny pieces of bone. Mr Mills considers that the urns were made from clay available in an adjoining field, but they do not appear to have been baked very hard. Mr Mills recently presented to Tullie House a stone pot-boiler of the Bronze Age which he believes was possibly discovered in an adjoining field, where a sand-pit formerly existed.

(b) *Ibidem*, 14 May 1927:

Further relics of prehistoric interest were discovered at the Waterloo sand-pit on Saturday. The manager, Mr T. Mills, unearthed two fine specimens of cinerary urns of the Bronze Age

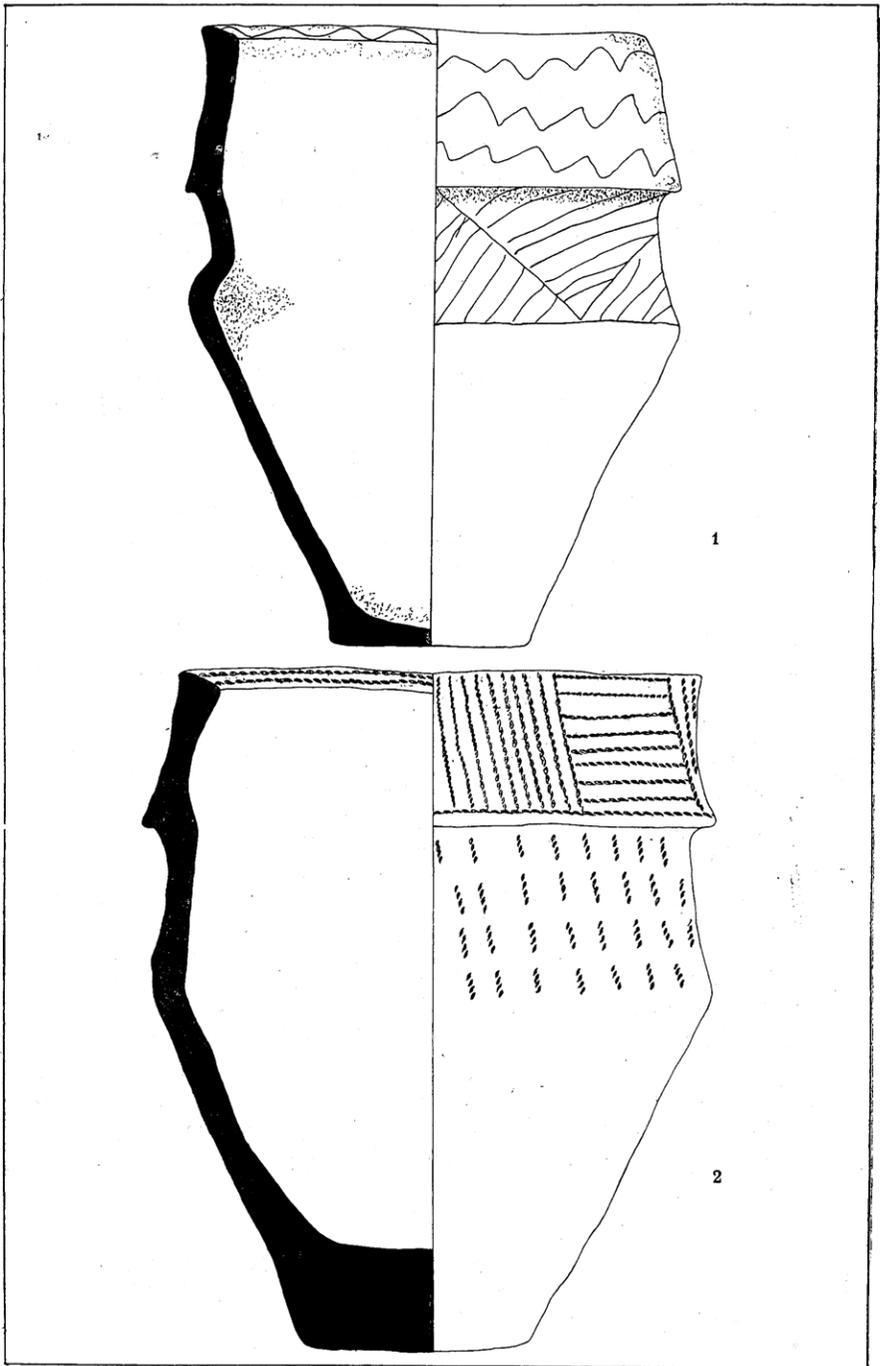


FIG. 7.—Aglionby, nos. 1 and 2. (4).

Mr Mills informed a *Cumberland News* representative that he knew by the blackened material found in the vicinity of the urns that a discovery was imminent . . . ultimately two beautiful urns were unearthed. One is absolutely perfect. The urns are cone-shaped. The largest (slightly broken at the base) is 14 in. deep and 36 in. circumference at the top. The smaller one, which is entirely intact, is 12 in. deep and 32 in. at the top. [*my Aglionby no. 1*]

The sand is covered by a thick layer of soil and the urns were buried about 4 ft. 6 in. deep, resting in about 1 ft. of sand. They were about 4 ft. from each other, the large one being upside down and the smaller one standing erect. Round the urns, for a distance of about 2 ft., were powdered black ashes . . . Another small urn, 6½ in. deep, was found on Monday in the same area . . . [*Probably my Aglionby no. 3: it must have been broken later, and then restored.*] which is in perfect condition; it was also full of fragments of bones and was unearthed about 2 ft. NE. of the other two. Within 8 ft. of the urns was also found a quantity of burned bones.

The second report is partly an amplification of the first, and there are only five urns in all, including the "incense-cup".

Mr Strong informed me that the hollows in which the urns were situated were 3 ft. below the modern surface, 6-8 ft. in diameter and filled with black ash and charcoal; and that the bones which were not contained in urns were in heaps, as if they had been deposited in skin bags, or similar containers, which had perished. The encrusted urn was 60 or 70 yds. from the other finds, and it was with it—indeed, among its fragments—that the rubbing- or grinding-stone was found.

One thing is clear in Mr Mills's account, namely that there were no vestiges of a tumulus on the spot, and we may conclude that the urns come from a flat cemetery. Details of the Aglionby pottery (figs. 7 and 8) follow.

1. Overhanging-rim cinerary urn; height 31 cm., mouth 23 cm., lip 2 cm., rim 8.5 cm. *Colour*: brownish. *Fabric*: inner surface roughly finished, showing lines and hollows. *Decoration*: wide zig-zag on the lip, three lines of the same on the rim, deep line marking the carination—all plain-incised.

2. Similar type; height 32 cm., mouth 26 cm., lip 2 cm., rim 8 cm. *Colour*: reddish-brown. *Fabric*: black, with coarse grits. *Decoration*: on the rim, twisted cord arranged in alternating panels of vertical and horizontal lines; on the neck, four rows of short, vertical lengths of twisted cord.

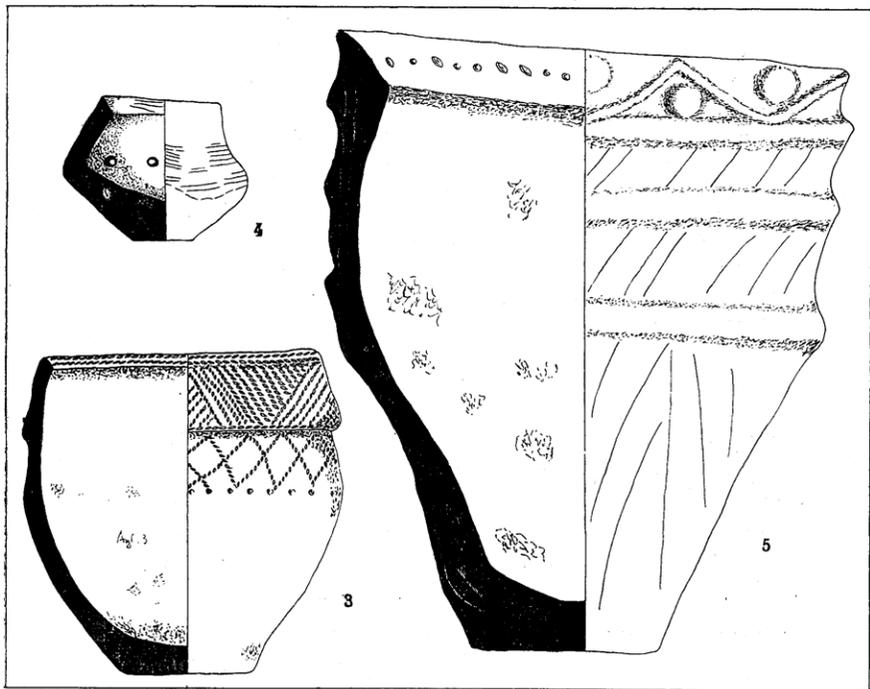


FIG. 8.—Aglionby, nos. 3-5. (2).

3. Similar type; height 17 cm., mouth 15 cm., lip 7 mm., rim 4.5 cm. *Colour*: brown, much calcined. *Fabric*: fine, red, with small black grits; the interior is rough. *Decoration*: on the lip, two lines of twisted cord; on the rim, alternate triangles of twisted cord between horizontal lines (two above and one below); on the neck, a lattice of twisted cord. There was possibly a line of pits marking the carinations, but the pits are very irregular, and they may really be holes left by grits which have disappeared. This urn is strikingly like Netherhall no. 5, above.

4. Pygmy urn; height 7.25 cm., mouth 6.5 cm., base 3 cm., greatest width 9 cm. *Colour*: reddish-grey, dark. *Decoration*: deep incised lines, arranged in triangles, on the upper half; concentric lines on the middle; triangles again on the lower portion. There are two eyelet holes.

5. Encrusted urn; height 32 cm., mouth 27 cm., lip 4 cm. *Colour*: yellowish to reddish-brown. *Fabric*: rough inside. *Decoration*: inside the lip, a row of impressions, circular and oblong; outside the lip, chevrons containing a roundel apiece. Below come three cordons with slightly slanted incised lines between them; on the body there are incised lines, full length.¹⁸

APPENDIX.

Mr Ernest Bleazard, Keeper of the Natural History department of Tullie House, contributes the following note on the row of pits decorating Cinerary Urn no. 5 from Netherhall.

"Allowance must be made for their having been done on coarse clay and for distortion in the firing of the pots. The impressions seem to tally most with the distal end of a small femur or upper leg bone, indicating the two equally-shaped protuberances of a hinged joint; the proximal end of any similar bone, with its projecting head or condyle, would give an impression of markedly different depths. As far as they are defined, they could be from the femur of a mammal of weasel size, but there remains a very strong possibility of a bird bone, about thrush size."

¹⁸ Cf. Sir Cyril Fox, *Antiq. J.* vii, 128, no. 5.