

V.

NOTE ON A CIST AND URN FOUND AT GLASTERBERRY, NEAR
PETERCULTER, ABERDEENSHIRE. BY F. C. EELES, CORR. MEM.
S.A. SCOT.

In February 1899 some men who were digging for sand in a gravel pit on the farm of Glasterberry, in the parish of Peterculter, Aberdeenshire, came upon a short cist made of rough boulders of gneiss, and containing an urn, a skull and a few bones. Owing to the great weight of the cover stone the cist collapsed almost as soon as it was found, and the urn was broken in several pieces.

The gravel pit which contained the cist was in a kind of low mound of natural formation, on the south-west slope of a field adjacent to the south side of the Deeside section of the Great North of Scotland Railway, and immediately on the east side of a small burn which passes under the railway in a culvert a few hundred yards to the east of Milltimber station, and about half a mile north of the river Dee.

The cist (fig. 1) was constructed of large flat boulders, and was in the form of a parallelogram with its ends east and west, about 3 feet long, 2 feet broad, and a little more than 1 foot high, as nearly as could be judged. The stone forming the north side was roughly triangular, about 3 feet 7 inches by 2 feet 3 inches, and about 7 to 9 inches thick. That forming the south side was about 3 feet by 2 feet 2 inches, and was from 2 to 5 inches in thickness. A smaller stone about 2 feet by 1 foot formed the east end, and that which formed the west end had disappeared. The cover was about 3 feet 10 inches by 4 feet 10 inches, and was 9 inches thick. The top of the cist was said to have been within a few inches of the surface on the south-west side of the mound, and that part of it which was nearest to the centre of the mound was at least 5 feet from the surface at the summit.

One of the men saw inside the cist before it collapsed, and informed the writer that the floor of it was carefully paved with small round

pebbles packed in clay, that the urn was resting on its side near the east end with its mouth towards the west, and that the skull was lying on its right side with the crown to the south underneath the urn. The skull appeared to be of the type usually found in cists of this kind in Aberdeenshire, and it seemed to have received a heavy blow on one side. One or two fragments of the leg bones were all that was left besides the skull. The urn was badly broken, and it was difficult to

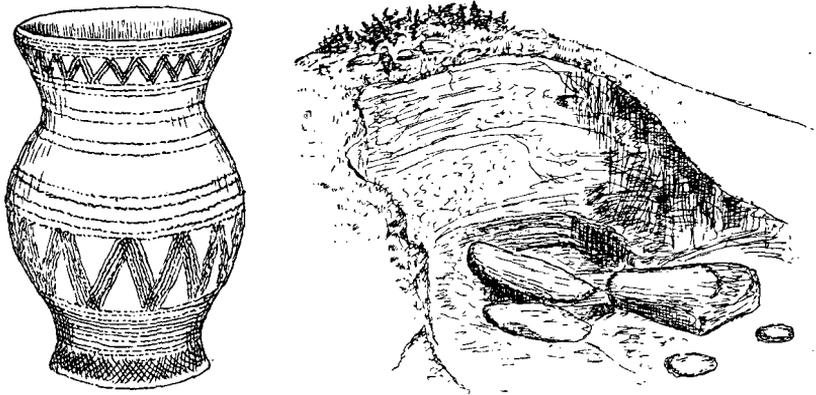


Fig. 1. View of Cist and sketch of Urn found at Glasterbury.

obtain accurate measurements. It was an unusually graceful and rather large example of the "drinking cup" type, $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches high, $3\frac{5}{8}$ inches across the base, and seemed to have been about 5 inches across the mouth.

Mr Alexander Skene, a tea merchant at Aberdeen, and tenant of the neighbouring house of Avondow, for whom the sand was being obtained, immediately took possession of the remains of the urn and bones, which, we believe, are still in his hands.

MONDAY, 12th May 1902.

THE RIGHT HON. SIR HERBERT MAXWELL, BART., LL.D., M.P.,
President, in the Chair.

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

Mrs MARY GRAHAM MURRAY, 7 Rothesay Terrace.

GEORGE M. LOW, Actuary, 15 Chester Street.

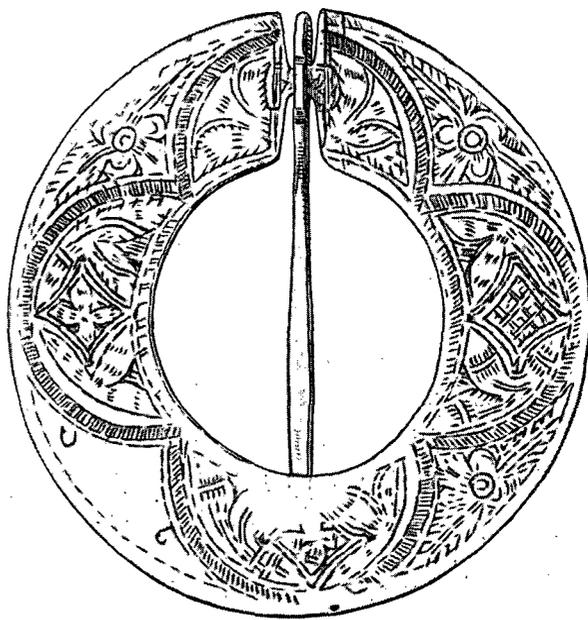
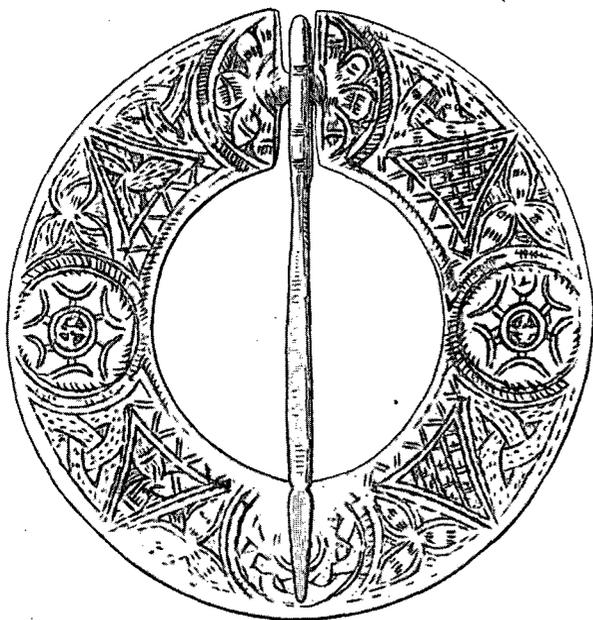
The following Purchases, made by the Purchase Committee for the
Museum and Library during the Session 30th November to 12th May
1902, were exhibited :—

Polished Axe of dark coloured stone, $2\frac{7}{8}$ inches in length by $1\frac{3}{8}$
inches in breadth across the cutting face, and $\frac{1}{2}$ an inch in greatest
thickness, from North Delting, Shetland.

Highland Brooch of silver, 3 inches in diameter, engraved on the
obverse (fig. 1) with a design consisting of alternate circles and triangles
with alternate triquetras of interlaced-work and trefoils between. The
triangles on one side are filled with lattice-work, and on the other side
with trefoils. The two circles at the head and point of the pin are
filled with foliage, and the two on each side with a hexagonal arrange-
ment of crutch-like figures. On the reverse (fig. 2) is foliaceous
ornament in four semicircles, three of which enclose a lozenge-shaped
ornament, the spaces between the semicircles being filled with a kind of
trefoil. The brooch is from Darnaway, Morayshire.

Flat Axe of bronze, $5\frac{3}{8}$ inches in length by 3 inches in breadth across
the cutting face, found in the neighbourhood of Darnaway, Morayshire.

Socketed Axe of bronze, $3\frac{1}{8}$ inches in length by $2\frac{5}{8}$ inches in breadth
across the cutting face, found in the neighbourhood of Darnaway,
Morayshire.



Figs. 1 and 2. Obverse and reverse of Highland Brooch from Darnaway. (†.)

Sculptured Stone, 4 feet 3 inches in height by 19 inches in breadth and 10 inches in thickness, rectangular in form, but with a triangular top, the front of the stone surrounded by a narrow fillet, and divided into two panels. In the upper panel, which is larger than the lower, is a warrior on horseback, armed with a short sword and an oblong shield with rounded ends ornamented on the inner side with parallel lines crossing each other chequer-wise. He holds the sword aloft in his right hand so that it makes a horizontal division between the panel and the triangular head of the stone, which is filled with a scalloped ornament. The horse has his two fore feet elevated on a kind of block or pedestal. In the lower panel is a nude figure prostrate, his sword fallen from his right hand, but grasping his shield with his left. The stone was found in digging the foundations of a house near the junction of the Larbert road with the highway between Falkirk and Glasgow, and was obtained for the National Museum by the King's and Lord Treasurer's Remembrancer. [See the previous communication by Mr Thomas Ross, architect.]

Cinerary Urn, 12 inches diameter at the mouth and now 12 inches in height, but wanting the bottom part. The exterior is plain for 2 inches under the rim, and has there a slight moulding, under which is a band 3 inches in width, bounded both above and below by a single incised line and filled in with groups of obliquely parallel lines arranged in triangular spaces. The under part is plain except for a slight moulding underneath the band. The urn was found in ploughing on the farm of Slackend, in the Ythan Wells district of the parish of Forgue, Aberdeenshire. It was not enclosed in a cist, but stood inverted over a deposit of burnt bones. The bottom (which was uppermost) being only about 9 inches underneath the surface, was taken off by the plough, thus leading to the discovery of the urn, which was carefully extracted and preserved by Mr John Wight, the farmer, and a notice of the circumstances of its finding was sent to the Society by Mr F. C. Eeles, Corr. Mem. S.A. Scot., who visited the place and negotiated the acquisition of the urn for the National Museum.

Stone Hammer, wedge-shaped, with rounded butt, $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length by $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches in breadth and $1\frac{1}{4}$ inch in thickness, imperforate, but having a concave depression on each side $1\frac{1}{8}$ inch in diameter, where the hole for the handle had been begun to be drilled. It was found in the neighbourhood of Crieff.

Facsimile in electrotype of a circular Seal or Stamp found near Crieff, and bearing in a sunk triangle, a castle, and in the surrounding segments the words ZEAL SECVRES REWARD, with a thistle over each word.

Palæolithic implement of black flint, of the broad flat-pointed variety, with rounded butt (of the type of Evans's fig. 449, *Ancient Stone Imp.*, 2nd ed., p. 575), $7\frac{1}{4}$ inches in length by 4 inches in greatest breadth, and 2 inches in greatest thickness, said to have been found in Bloody Moss, parish of Sorbie, Wigtownshire.

This being the first instance of an alleged discovery of a palæolithic implement of flint in Scotland, the Purchase Committee requested Dr Anderson to obtain all the available evidence from the parties on the spot, and to submit the implement itself, along with the evidence, to Sir John Evans and Sir Herbert Maxwell. Sergeant John Pirie of the Constabulary Office, Whithorn, through whom the information of the implement originally came to the Society, kindly undertook to hunt up the evidence, and ultimately sent the following report:—

SIR,— Regarding the flint, so far as I can learn the following are the particulars:—

It was the property of Joseph Young, Blackbraes, Whithorn. He got it from the late John Webster, crofter, Bloody Moss, Sorbie, four or five years ago, and Webster told him that it was found in the Bloody Moss, but did not say if he found it himself, or how he came to have it, or whether it was found on the surface of the clay, or in the moss. I then saw the deceased's son John Webster, farm servant, Bailiewhirr, and showed him the flint. He stated that he was always in service and not much at home, and he had never seen or heard of such a thing about his father's house. He advised me to see James M'Creadie, labourer, Ravenstone Castle, Whithorn, who worked about his father's place and knew more about it than he did. M'Creadie stated that a man James Sletch, deceased, while cutting a surface drain thirty years ago or so in a plantation at Bloody Moss, found a flint axe head, and had often told him of the find, but that he had never seen the axe, and that the late John Webster and Sletch were like brothers, and were never apart.

Mrs Adam Martin, Glasserton Street, Whithorn, stated that the deceased James

Sletch was her uncle, and that he had told her of finding a flint axe at Bloody Moss, and that he had given it to the deceased John Webster, Bloodymoss Croft.

Andrew M'Adam and his sister, retired farmers, West Drumrae, near Bloody Moss, say that Sletch often told them of his finding a battle axe in the Bloody Moss, but neither they nor Mrs Martin ever saw the article.

The question now is—is this the same flint?—which of course I cannot certify.

JOHN PIRIE.

Sir John Evans wrote as follows:—

9th April 1902.

DEAR DR ANDERSON,— I do not see any reason to doubt the authenticity of the enclosed. It is distinctly of a palæolithic type, and in colouring rather resembles the Hoxne and Herne Bay specimens. It would be very interesting if it could be proved to have been found in Wigtownshire, but on this point I have my doubts. Could it have gone astray from Sir Herbert Maxwell's collection? I should recommend you to submit it to him. The whole story about it may refer to some other specimen which would be more readily recognised as an axe.—Believe me, yours very truly,

JOHN EVANS.

Sir Herbert Maxwell wrote as follows:—

16th April 1902.

DEAR DR ANDERSON,—I do not recognise the very fine palæolithic implement, although it is quite possible that it once was included in my collection. In any case, how came it to the Bloody Moss? I can only suggest the following hypothesis.

Like most other mosses in Galloway, the Bloody Moss yielded an axe which came first into the possession of John Webster and from him to Joseph Young. Many years ago I gave a lecture in Whithorn, illustrated by a representative series of weapons and implements, including several palæolithic ones. Of these, one may have been left out in repacking and passed into the hands of Joseph Young. The original axe from Bloody Moss may have been mislaid, and this one have become credited with that origin; the curious thing is that the axe seems to have got a mossy stain, deeper than the iron oxide which discolours the chalky covering of flint. As you well know, we have no flints on this scale in our raised beaches.

The whole thing is a puzzle, and conveys a lesson of caution in regard to locality of origin and juxtaposition.—Yours truly,

HERBERT MAXWELL.

Four Pennies of Alexander III. from the hoard found at Kinghornie near Stonehaven. [See the subsequent communication by Mr George Macdonald, Curator of Coins.]

Handle and fragments of the body of the jar in which the Kinghornie hoard of coins was found.

Sixty-five Deeds on parchment, mostly relating to lands at Torphichen.

Collections of Flint Implements from Culbin Sands, Morayshire, and Glenluce Sands, Wigtonshire.

Also the following books for the library :—Hœpli's Manuals of Antiquities, 3 vols. ; Jubainville's Catalogue of Celtic Manuscripts ; Corpus Inscriptionum Latinarum, xiii. 3 and xi. 2 ; Roesler, Les Influences Celtiques ; Forrer, Achmin Studien über Steinzeit-Hockergräber ; Aberdeen Ecclesiological Society's Transactions, 9 annual parts ; Fleming's Castles and Mansions of Stirling Nobility ; Cumming-Bruce's Family Records of the Bruce and the Comyns ; Warrender's Marchmont and the Humes of Polwarth ; Stevenson's Edinburgh—Drawings by John Sime ; Journal of Hellenic Studies, 10 parts ; Guthrie-Smith's Strathendrick ; Anderson-Smith's Benderloch ; Ross's Busby and its Neighbourhood ; Transactions of the Innerleithen Alpine Club ; Martin's St Rule's Chapel, St Andrews ; Brown's History of Sanquhar ; Milne's Chartulary of the Blackfriars, Perth ; Watson's Hawick Tradition of 1574 ; Ward's Greek Coins and their Parent Cities ; Graham's Antiquities of Iona ; Maclagan's Hill Forts, and What Mean these Stones ; Riddel's Scotch Peerage Law, Riddel's Tracts Legal and Historical, Clanranald, and Lennox ; Napier's Partition of Lennox ; Gibson's Inscriptions on the Tombs of the Covenanters ; Reussen's Elements de Paleographie ; Press's Translation of the Laxdale Saga ; Boswell's Tour in Scotland with Dr Johnson ; and a Manuscript Collection and Comparison of Place-names in North and South Britain and Ireland, with explanations of the names, by George Chalmers.

The following Communications were read :—