

## Urns found at Ditchingham.

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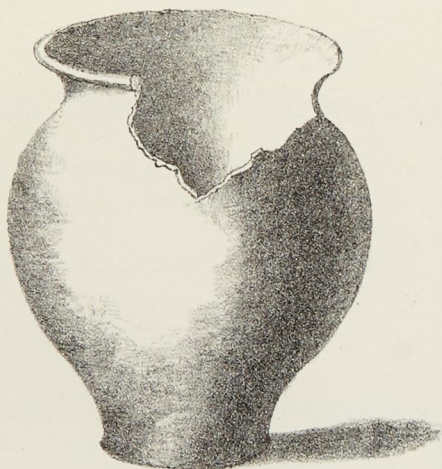
MR. GRAYSTONE B. BAKER.

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In the latter part of September in the present year, some labourers were engaged in excavating a roadway down to the "Orphanage," now in the course of erection at Ditchingham, Norfolk, leading from Belsey Bridge lane in a southerly direction along a strip of land, late glebe. At a depth of about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  feet from the surface, and midway in the line of cutting, the men came upon what at first sight appeared to be a number of broken tiles, amongst which, however, they soon discovered an "old pot," as they called it. Having made this latter discovery, they proceeded more cautiously with pick and spade, and then found that the pieces which they had mistaken for old tiles were the fragments of eight or ten urns, which they had accidentally broken. Three were, however, saved from destruction, and contained fine black earth, which the men threw out.

It is especially to be remarked that these urns were not found in a standing position, but lying in a sort of open pan, or bowl, of an irregular circular shape, about 3 ft. in diameter at top, 18 inches deep, and the crust 3 to 4 inches thick, rudely formed in the native brick-earth by the hand, and hardened by the action of fire.

1.



2.



3.



SCALE  $\frac{1}{4}$  SIZE OF THE ORIGINALS.

URNS FOUND AT DITCHINCHAM.

It has been suggested that this might possibly have been used as a small kiln; but I cannot think so, as, on questioning on the spot one of the men who made the discovery, he stated that the earth around was only slightly discolored by smoke, and that the evidence of fire-heat was very faint, if any; neither was there flue-hole, furnace, nor any charred remains to be seen.

The form of it was in every respect unlike the kiln found in 1858, in the adjoining parish of Hedenham, figured at page 149 of this volume.

The three urns and fragments of others, with pieces of the bowl in which they were found, are carefully preserved by the Lady Superior of the House of Mercy at Ditchingham, who most obligingly permitted my brother and myself to see them, and imparted every information in her power.

It is unfortunate that the men should have levelled the soil, and effaced all vestige of the site, before making known the discovery to any one—not even to the Rector, who lives on the spot.

These urns are of different shapes and sizes, as figured in the illustration, and the dimensions are as follow:—

No. 1. The largest, about 8 inches high,  $7\frac{1}{4}$  inches diameter in the largest part,  $6\frac{1}{2}$  inches across the mouth, and  $3\frac{1}{4}$  inches at the bottom, has lost a considerable piece from its upper part, and is without band or foot, and stained throughout with a dark mud colour.

No 2. About 5 inches high, 6 inches diameter in the largest part,  $5\frac{3}{4}$  inches across the mouth, 2 inches across the bottom, and not quite so dark as No. 1. This has a slight foot, and a single raised band running round just beneath the lip, with an indented one round the body, and is slightly damaged at the opening.

No. 3. Measures  $4\frac{3}{8}$  inches in height,  $4\frac{1}{2}$  inches in diameter at the mouth, and  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches at the bottom. It is a hard-burnt coarse *red* ware, slightly discoloured, and is nearly perfect. It has two indented lines or bands encompassing the body.

The fragments of the hollow pan were of a dark rusty-iron tint, and did not appear to have been subjected to so much heat as the urns.

Bungay, Oct. 17, 1862.