
A contractor engaged on government work digging in the grounds of Fettercairn House, Kincardineshire, in the summer of 1941, came upon the remains of an ancient urn. One piece, consisting of the base and rather less than half of the circumference, was rescued by Lieut. John D. Hamilton, the Royal Scots, who gave it to the late Mr J. T. Ewen of Pitseandly, not letting him know at the time the location of the find, for military reasons.

Details have, however, now been kindly communicated to the Museum by Mr Hamilton, following on the presentation of the urn by Mrs Ewen, with the approval of Lord Clinton of Fettercairn. The site was a sandy mound some 10 feet high by 20 feet in diameter, in a belt of trees (Strathywell Belt) to the west of the Cairn o' Mount road, opposite the Mains of Fasque (Nat. Grid ref. 37/653745).

The vessel is a rather squat and coarsely made beaker (Pl. LIV, 3), buff-coloured outside. Its estimated rim diameter is 5 inches, height 5 inches, base diameter 3 inches. On the bevelled rim it is decorated with radial finger-nail impressions, and outside with unserrated impressions in zones, five zones of three horizontal lines alternating with three cross-hatched zones. There is a grain impression on base; such impressions are in Scotland invariably barley.

R. B. K. Stevenson, Keeper of the Museum.
1. Gold armlet from Kirkmaiden.

2. Neolithic pot from Roslin, Midlothian.


4. Food-vessel from Knockhill, Kirkden, Angus.

5. Cist at Knockhill, Kirkden, Angus (food-vessel replaced).

6. Food-vessel from Balbie Farm, Burntisland.

R. B. K. Stevenson and Stuart Piggott.