NOTICE OF TWO BURIAL URNS FOUND IN THE PARISH OF 

The two urns which are the subject of this notice were found in a 
cairn on Wetherhill, a grassy knoll surrounded by moss, at 1128 feet 
above sea-level, at the western end of a ridge which, beginning near 
the village of Glenbuck, in the 
parish of Muirkirk, close to the 
county march with Lanarkshire, 
runs in a westerly direction for 
about a mile and a quarter, 
with its highest point at 1273 
feet. The knoll is formed by 
an outcrop of dolerite rock 
which comes to the surface at 
the cairn. Round the top of the 
outcrop the cairn is formed of 
stones two or three deep accord- 
ing to size. Its shape is circular; 
it measures 30 feet from N. to S., 
and 25 feet from E. to W., and 
has no kerb at the edges. The 
first urn (fig. 1) was found in a 
cranny of the rock about 4 feet 
to the north of the core. It had 
evidently been laid on its side 
safe from any pressure except 
from the top, but a stone had 
slipped from above and crushed 
it badly. Nothing was found with it. The second urn (fig. 2) was lying 
bottom upwards in another nook about 7 feet to the south of the core, 
and was very badly crushed. When found it was a mere lump of earth, 
charcoal, and burnt bones, with only its rim remaining. Fragments of 
charcoal were scattered over the rock, and about 7 feet from the core and 
9 feet to E. of the second urn there was a deposit of charcoal and burnt 
bones on the spot where, it may be presumed, the burning of the corpse 
took place. The story of the funeral of a person probably of distinction 
seems complete. The rock, a suitable spot for the pyre and a conspicuous 
place of burial; and the urns—one filled with the ashes of the dead,
TWO BURIAL URNS FOUND IN MUIRKIRK, AYRSHIRE.

for their better preservation placed where it might be supposed to be safe from destruction; the other similarly placed but empty, a relic of a common superstition,—appear to form a faithful record of one method of disposing of the dead during the Bronze Age.

By the kindness of Professor Bayley Balfour, an examination was made by his assistant, Mr H. F. Tagg, of certain fragments of carbonised wood found beneath the cairn, and which were identified as remains of birch and oak.

REPORT ON THE BONES. By Professor T. H. Bryce, F.S.A.Scot.

The deposit of bones found in the urn is a small but typical one. The bones are very much comminuted, and no fragment is present which conveys any information regarding either the age or sex of the individual.

The second deposit from the separate burial represents only a portion of the original deposit. It consists of burnt bones of chalky appearance and fracture. Only one fragment is recognisable, and represents the neck of the mandible. Its size suggests the possibility that the individual was of small stature and a woman.