

4. AN EARLY IRON AGE VESSEL FROM MUCKLE SKERRY

ABOUT one-third of a small Early Iron Age vessel was found by the keeper of the Pentland Skerries Lighthouse in a mound about 100 yds. NW. of the lighthouse on Muckle Skerry. The sherds were sent to Mr Groundwater of Stromness who passed them on to the National Museum.

The pot is quite well fired, of a coarse paste, tempered with a large quantity of coarse

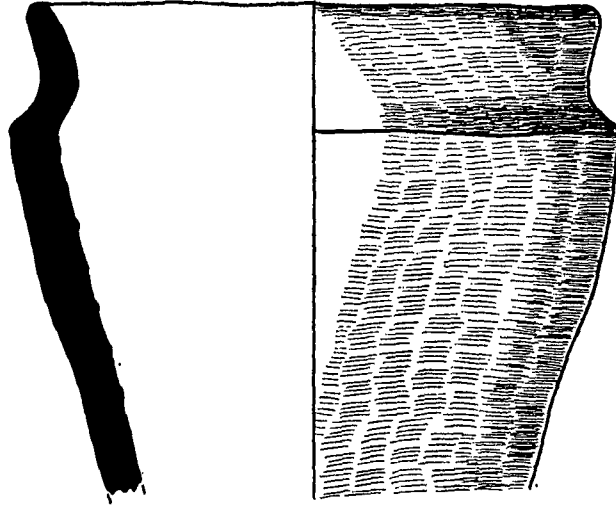


FIG. 1. Early Iron Age vessel from Muckle Skerry ($\frac{1}{2}$)

¹ For all these hoards, see *ibid.*, 94-134; the Tinwald, Dumfriesshire, finds are not certainly associated.

² *P.P.S.*, xxx, 293 ff.

and medium grits many of which erupt through the internal surface. Both surfaces are brown with darker patches, especially on the neck and rim, and the core is dark grey. The external surface has been smoothed though now considerably eroded.

In form and fabric the vessel is very like one recovered from beneath 4 ft. of peat at Esha Ness, Northmavine, Shetland,¹ though this vessel has an internally bevelled rim, and the fabric is again matched on a vessel from the 'Wag' of Forse, Caithness.²

The vessel is now in Stromness Museum.

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