

V.

NOTICE OF AN URN, FLINT KNIFE, AND WHETSTONE, FOUND IN REMOVING A LARGE CAIRN AT STENTON. BY REV. G. MARJORI-BANKS, B.D. COMMUNICATED BY J. R. FINLAY, ESQ., VICE-PRESIDENT.

This urn, flint knife, and whetstone were discovered in December 1877 in a mound on the farm of Meiklerigg, in the parish of Stenton, East Lothian. The mound, commonly known as the "Fairy Knowe," and situated in the "Roodwell Park," was removed in order that the soil might be utilised. Originally covered with whins and brushwood, it was not supposed that anything in the shape of a cairn would be found beneath,

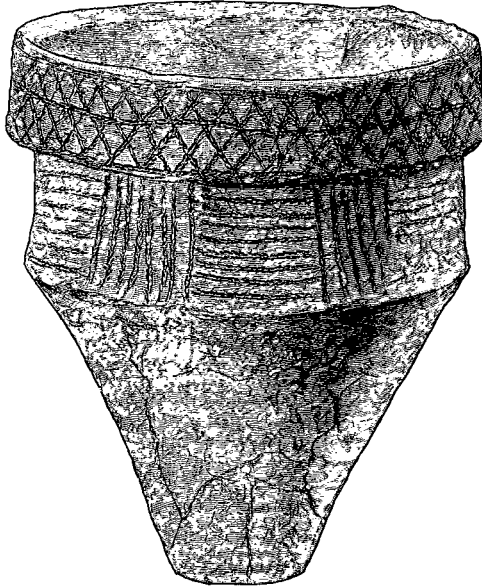


Fig. 1. Urn from a Cairn at Stenton.

but the workmen had not proceeded far when they came upon a complete circle of large boulders, weighing from about 5 to 15 cwt. each.

The circumference of this circle measured about 40 yards, and clearly

defined the extent of the original cairn. After the removal of these boulders, and on approaching the centre from the east, the workmen next came upon a small square cist, containing the urn (fig. 1) in an inverted position, and covering some handfuls of calcined bones. The slabs enclosing it were very carefully arranged, the top slab being so placed as to rest gently on the bottom of the urn, without unduly pressing upon it. There was also found near the cist with the urn another stone cist, lying north and south, and measuring $4\frac{1}{2}$ feet by $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet, containing the flint knife and whetstone, as also a piece of skull. Both the cists were placed about 1 foot above the original surface of the ground. The whole mound previous to removal measured about 110 yards in circumference, and from 3 feet to 14 feet high at its centre. It will thus be seen that the original cairn had gradually increased in size owing to the accumulation of stones and rubbish from the surrounding fields.

The urn (fig. 1), which is $14\frac{1}{2}$ inches in height and $12\frac{1}{2}$ in diameter, is elegant in shape, and though not a new type, is a peculiar variety.

The flint knife (fig. 2), which is 3 inches in length, is one of the finest of its kind. The whetstone (fig. 3), which is 3 inches in length, is also a fine specimen, and interesting from the fact that the boring of the hole through one end is incomplete. It is made of micaceous schist.

The urn, which was much broken, has now been reconstructed, and by the kindness of Lady Mary C. Nisbet Hamilton has been presented, with its accompanying relics, to the Museum.

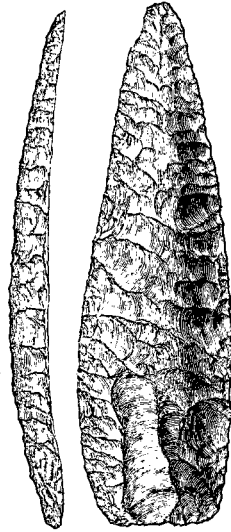


Fig. 2.
Flint Knife.

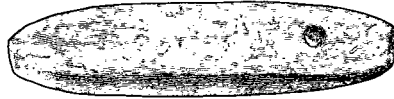


Fig. 3.
Whetstone.