

III.

NOTICE OF A JET NECKLACE AND URN OF THE FOOD-VESSEL TYPE,
FOUND IN A CIST AT BALCALK, TEALING, AND OF THE OPENING
OF HATTON CAIRN, PARISH OF INVERARITY, FORFARSHIRE. BY
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Cists at Balcalk.—The urn and necklace which I now exhibit were found in a cist which I examined recently at Balcalk in the parish of

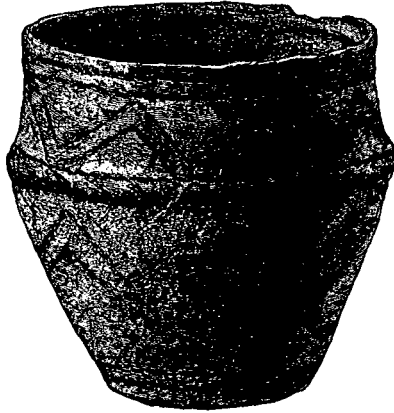


Fig. 1. Urn from the Cist at Balcalk ($5\frac{1}{2}$ inches high).

Tealing, Forfarshire. I found two cists within a short distance of each other, and close to the surface of the ground. The first contained nothing

but some pieces of a broken urn and fragments of bones unburnt. The second cist measured 3 feet 2 inches in length by 2 feet wide and 2 feet deep. It contained the remains of an unburnt skeleton embedded in fine sand which completely filled the cist. The body had been deposited in the contracted position characteristic of such interments. Behind the right shoulder was an urn (fig. 1) of the food-vessel type, 6 inches diameter, $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches high, and ornamented round the inside of the lip with a single row, and round the outside with a double row, of impressed markings as of a twisted cord. A double row of similar markings surrounds the shoulder of the urn, and in the space between it and the lip there is a double row of zig-zag lines of the same character. On the sloping part of the urn underneath the shoulder there is a band of similar ornamentation in zig-zag lines. The urn stood upright on the bottom, and immediately beneath the bottom, and in contact with it, were the small three-cornered flint knife (fig. 2) and the fragment of a bronze pin or awl (fig. 3), which are also exhibited.



Figs. 2 and 3. Flint Knife and Bronze Pin from Cist No. 2 (actual size).

Between the shoulder and the neck of the skeleton, and round the neck, in fact, were the beads and plates of the necklace of jet or cannel coal (fig. 4), which are altogether 147 in number. They lay in position apparently as if the necklace had been on the neck of the body when deposited in the cist. I removed them very cautiously, and in doing so observed that the arrangement was, so far as I could judge, such as I have endeavoured to reproduce in putting the different portions of the necklace together. It consists of 140 beads of "bugle" shape, *i.e.*, cylindrical, but tapering regularly from the middle to the ends, two terminal plates of triangular form and four plates of trapezoid form, which go to make up the central part of the necklace, and a triangular pendant which, with a number of the bugles, lay below the central part of the necklace. This is not only the most complete necklace of this kind that has yet been discovered in Scotland, but

the most perfect ever found in Britain, and, therefore, I may say the most perfect of its kind in existence.

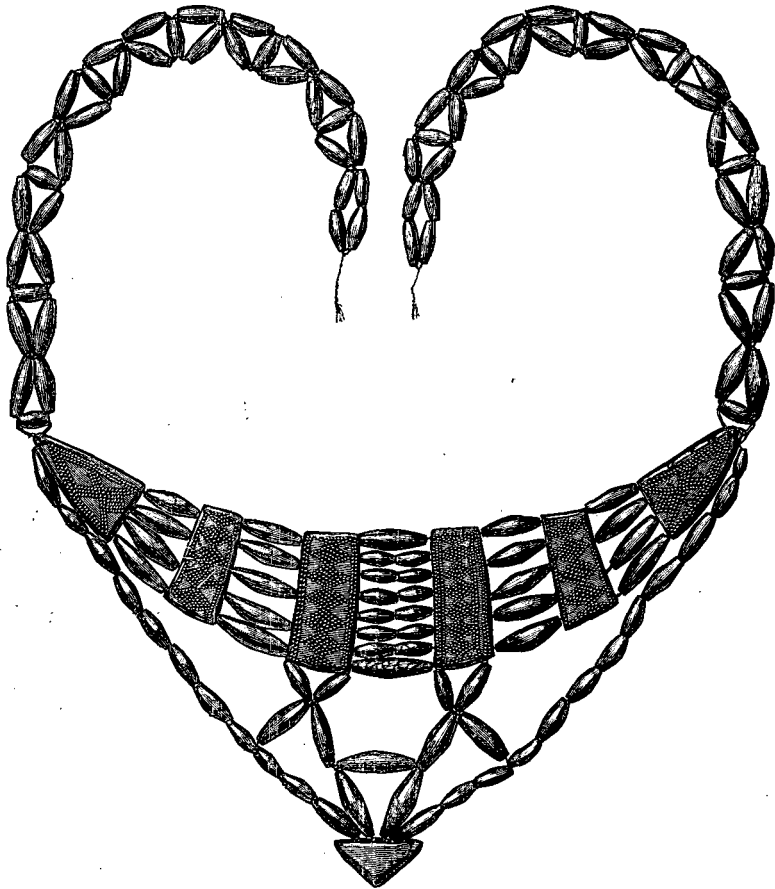


Fig. 4. Necklace found in Cist No. 2.

Hatton Cairn.—The Hatton Cairn, in the parish of Inverarity, Forfarshire, is one of nine cairns all situated within a few hundred yards of each other. Some of these have been removed for building purposes; and when

they were thus being cleared away, stone-cists with decayed bones in them and specimens of urns of different sizes were discovered. The smaller urns came in handy for flower-pots, the larger sizes were left to be destroyed by the weather. The Hatton Cairn is chiefly composed of stones, collected from the neighbourhood. It measures 30 feet in diameter to the inner circle, which is composed of large stones set on edge and firmly imbedded in the soil. Some of these boulders are so heavy that it must have taken six men to lift them on edge. Inside of this circle were placed the stone cists. They were formed of rough slabs set on edge and imbedded a few inches in the natural surface of the ground. They were placed with their sides parallel to the line of the circular enclosure of stones set on edge which surrounded them, and was continued all round the cairn. These cists were on an average a little over 3 feet in length, about 18 inches wide, and 18 inches deep. But in the centre of the cairn there was a much larger cist, 4 feet 2 inches long, 2 feet wide, and 20 inches deep. Like the others, its sides were large flat slabs, but the cover was composed of two stones of great size, one laid above the other, and the lower one large enough to cover the whole cist.

The sketch now exhibited shows the relative positions of the cists in the cairn.

Beginning at the south side the first cist was opened in 1876 without its being recognised, as the man who was working had no idea that a cist was such a rudely-constructed thing. He preserved some of the bones, however, and this was the only cist in which bones were found. The next cist opened was the large one in the centre. The cover stones being so large, I had the end of the cist taken out. There was no urn in the cist, and nothing was found in it but a very fine specimen of an implement formed of chipped agate (fig. 5). The next cist opened was the small one situated nearly over the top of the

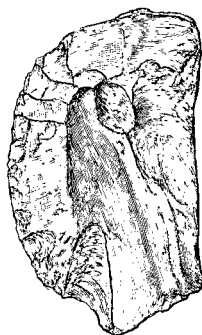


Fig. 5. Knife of Agate.
(Actual size).

central cist as shown in the sketch. In it were the fragments of a small urn which I have reconstructed. In 1877, as the farmer had cleared away most of the loose stones, I was again successful in laying open a few more of the cists composing the circle which I have already described. They were all similar to those formerly opened, and all empty except one on the west side, in which we found a very fine urn. Next year I laid open another cist, but like so many of the rest it was quite empty.

Stone Cists near Kirkbuddo Station.—When my attention was called to the gravel pit near Kirkbuddo Station, one stone cist had been found in it containing remains of decayed bones and a fine specimen of an urn, highly ornamented, which the farmer had broken to pieces to see what it was made of. I was only able to pick up a few of the pieces, but by putting them together I have reconstructed the size and form of the urn. Making an inspection of the sides of the pit, I pointed out to the farmer a place where there were indications of another cist. Following up my hint he commenced the following day, and with the first blow of his pick laid open another cist, in which was a complete skeleton, unburnt, and a very fine urn similar in shape to the one previously found, but larger. This cist was 4 feet 3 inches in length, 21 inches wide, and 18 inches deep, the bottom being neatly paved with small rounded pebbles about $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch in diameter. A boar's tusk of large size was found beside the skeleton in the cist, along with several chips and flakes of flint.

In 1877, in walking over a field at Kirkbuddo, where numbers of cists and other articles have been found, I fell in with a stone cist of the long form. It was made of rude sandstone slabs set on edge, and covered with slabs of the same material, the covers being about 12 inches under the surface. The soil, being of a nature between sand and clay, showed the mode in which the material had been scooped out. This had been done apparently either with a stone or a piece of wood, and the bottom smoothed by the hands. The skeleton lay at full length with the head to the west, and was in good preservation. Part of the skull of another skeleton lay at the feet of this one. Nothing else was found in the cist, but on the surface

of the ground there were flint flakes and scrapers, some being nicely chipped. In some cists which had been previously found there were urns, which were either left or broken to pieces by those who first found them.

Flint Axes exhibited.—The three flint axes or celts, which I now send you for exhibition, are perhaps different from any specimens which you have in the Museum, being made of a bright yellow flint, chipped on the surface, and ground at the cutting edges. One specimen (fig. 6) measures $5\frac{7}{8}$ inches long by $2\frac{1}{4}$ inches mean breadth, and $\frac{3}{4}$ ths of an inch

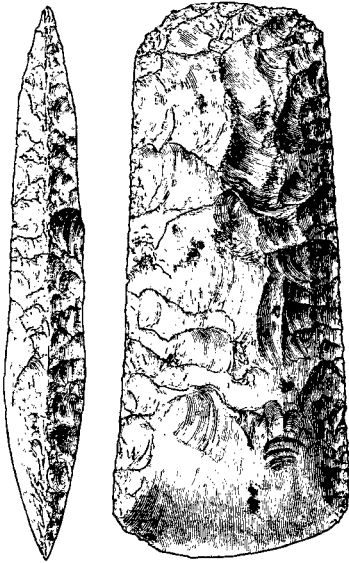


Fig. 6. Flint Celt.
 $5\frac{7}{8}$ inches long.

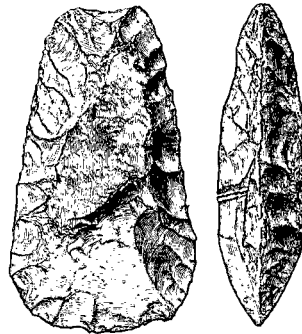


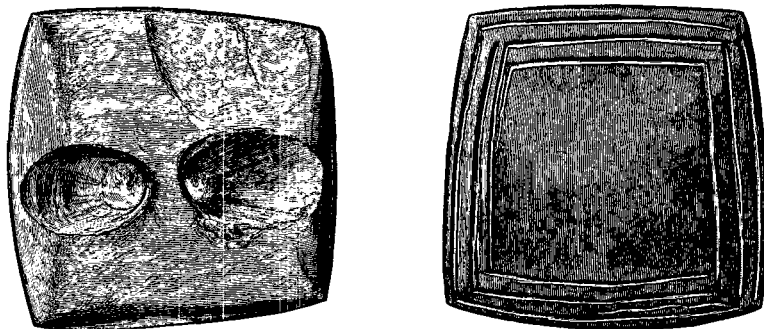
Fig. 7. Flint Celt.
 $1\frac{5}{8}$ inches long.

thick. Another measures $5\frac{5}{8}$ inches long by 2 inches wide at the cutting end, and 1 inch at the butt end, which is slightly damaged. This specimen was found some time ago in the vicinity of Dundee. Another (fig. 7) measures $1\frac{5}{8}$ inch long and .1 inch wide at the cutting edge, tapering towards the butt end, and about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch thick, and is also slightly damaged at the cutting edge; but it is, perhaps, the smallest ground flint

celt yet found in Scotland. Both specimens were found while preparing the ground for turnip seeds on the farm of Newton-Affleck, parish of Monikie.

The locality where these celts were found is in the vicinity of where an ancient burial-ground or cairn once stood, which was cleared away a number of years ago for building purposes. When clearing out the foundations of this cairn, the workmen laid open a number of stone coffins of the short kind, in most of which were urns, I believe, of the food-vessel type.

Jet Button exhibited.—I also exhibit a jet button of peculiar form and ornamentation found on Dundee Law (figs. 8, 9). I do not remember

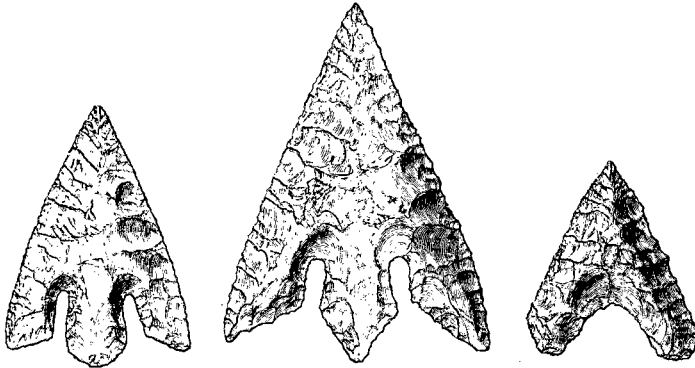


Figs. 8, 9. Jet Button, front and back.
(Actual size).

to have seen anything exactly like it figured in any of the archæological works. Round buttons of nearly the same size, and having the holes similarly perforated, have been found on different occasions in cists in Forfarshire, and some specimens of these are now in the Museum. Mr Evans also figures some English specimens of the round form in his work on stone implements. But this specimen is remarkable for its peculiar shape and ornamentation, which do not seem to have been common among the many varieties of ornaments in this material.

Flint Arrow-Heads Exhibited.—The three flint arrow-heads (figs. 10, 11,

12) which are sent for exhibition, are the finest specimens in my collection. The largest measures 2 inches in length and $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches in breadth, and is beautifully worked to a finely symmetrical form, the edges being minutely serrated and the barbs and stem peculiarly formed. It was found at Wardneuk, Carmyllie, Forfarshire. The other arrow-head, of the same form, is smaller, but almost as finely worked. It measured $1\frac{3}{8}$ inches in length, and 1 inch in breadth. The edges are slightly curved and most



Figs. 10, 11, 12. Flint Arrow-Heads.
(Actual size).

minutely serrated. The form of the stem is slightly different from that of the larger specimen, and the barbs are not so much spread. This arrow-head was found at Petty, near Fordoun. The third is of the rarer type, having no stem, and hollowed in the base for the reception of the shaft. It measures $1\frac{1}{8}$ inch in length and $\frac{7}{8}$ inch wide, the extremities of the barbs are rounded off, and the edges are not so regularly and distinctly serrated as in the other two examples. It was found at Ellon, Aberdeenshire.