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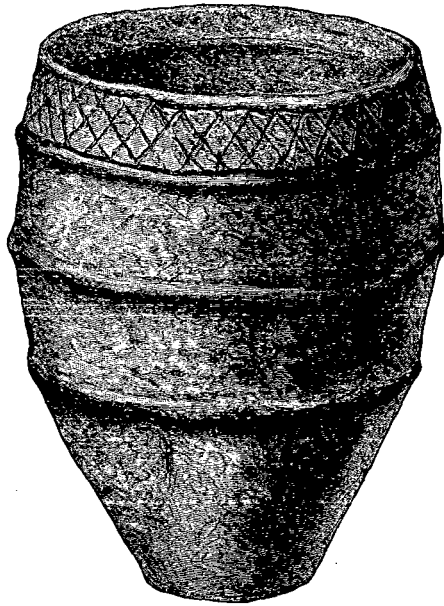
NOTE OF A STONE CELT FOUND AT STOBBSHIEL, NOW PRESENTED TO THE MUSEUM; ALSO, OF A LARGE CINERARY URN FOUND AT STOBBSHIEL, HADDINGTONSHIRE, RECENTLY PRESENTED TO THE MUSEUM. By JOHN ALEXANDER SMITH, M.D., SEC. S.A. SCOT.

The fine stone celt, which I have now the pleasure of presenting to the Museum, measures 6 inches in length by $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches in breadth across its larger extremity, the other extremity being an inch in breadth. Its surface is smooth and rounded, and it has become weathered to a nearly uniform light colour; it shows, however, a grey or light bluish colour where its surface has been more recently chipped or broken. It is formed apparently of a variety of the fine-grained hardened felstone, of which many of these stone celts appear to have been made.

The celt was given to me by Mr. John Hyslop, farmer, Stobbshiel, on whose farm it was found some thirty years ago. Mr. Hyslop tells me it was discovered in the artificial bank of the mill-pond, the bulk of which had been made up by bringing earth and stones from a large oval enclosure or camp on the farm. This camp had been originally surrounded with a large drystone dyke or wall, now mostly removed; indeed, it was between the years 1812 and 1814 that this was principally done for the purpose of building march dykes between the farms of Stobbshiel and Kidlaw. In some such utilitarian way as this, the old camps and stone structures of our remote ancestors have been generally removed, obliterated, and forgotten. A small part of the old camp wall, however, still remains, covered by the turf of the field; but the use its old walls have been put to, will give at least somewhat of an idea of its original bulk and great extent.

The large clay cinerary urn exhibited was recently presented by Mr. John Hyslop to the Museum. It measures $14\frac{1}{2}$ inches in height, across the mouth (inside) $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches, over the outside of mouth $10\frac{1}{2}$ inches, and across the bottom 5 inches, from which it bulges gradually upwards to its greatest diameter, about 12 inches, and then contracts again towards

the mouth. It is ornamented by three projecting ribs or mouldings, which thus form two bands round the upper part of the urn. These bands are quite unornamented, but the space between the upper band and the mouth of the urn is covered with a pattern of crossing lines. (See the annexed careful drawing.)



Cinerary Urn, found at Stobshiel, Haddingtonshire.

The urn was partially broken. I am able, however, to exhibit it now, carefully repaired and restored, and I am glad to have this opportunity of stating that, under the careful and zealous superintendence of the Curators of the Museum and Dr. Joseph Anderson, they are now able to repair and even rebuild broken, but valuable specimens of clay urns, making them nearly as strong and perfect as they were at first, and preserving at once their original shape and character quite intact;

the partially new parts supporting and completing the urns, but at the same time being quite easily distinguished from the old. The Fellows of the Society will, therefore, I trust, now bear in mind the fact, that no cinerary or other urn can be so much broken as to be of no value for presentation to and preservation in our National Museum, where indeed, I am happy to say, we now have the finest and most important collection of ancient Scottish sepulchral fictile-ware in Britain, and therefore in the world.

This cinerary urn was discovered on this farm of Stobshiel, about the middle of June 1881; while a field was being deeply ploughed for a second time, the ploughshare touched and broke something under the surface of the ground. A little examination by the ploughman showed that it was not a stone, but something else of an unusual character, and Mr. Hyslop being informed of the occurrence, got the ground carefully cleared away from it, and found this large urn. It was buried in the ground inverted; the bottom of the inverted urn was about 18 inches below the surface of the ground, and, with the exception of the injury by the ploughshare, was preserved entire, and on being lifted up, it was found to cover a quantity of burnt human bones and white ashes, and among the bone ashes the remains of a small flat plate or blade of bronze. The blade was considerably corroded, and broke easily round its edges by being handled, being very brittle, and so was now quite irregular in outline, it measured about $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches in greatest length by 1 inch across. Two rounded holes, like rivet holes, about 1 inch apart from one another, had been cut in the line of its greatest diameter. The bronze seemed to be the remains of a small knife or dagger, which had a handle fastened apparently by these rivets to the broadest extremity of the blade; of the handle no remains were found. Only a very few blades of this class have as yet been found in cinerary urns with interments after cremation. This one reminds me of another somewhat corresponding instance found near Lockerbie, brought before the Society by Mr. William Rae, and described in vol. ii. of the new series of our *Proceedings*, 1880, p. 280. In this case, however, the blade was more raised into a midrib in the middle,

and had apparently only one rivet hole to attach it to the handle. It was also found among burnt bone ashes under an inverted cinerary urn.

Another variety of these small plates of bronze have been found with burnt bones in urns. These, however, have a long tang by which they have been attached to a handle, and therefore show no appearance of rivet holes.¹ Cremation interments of this latter class have, however, apparently been found under cairns of stones or in tumuli, and not, as in the instance now described, simply buried below the surface of the ground, although, of course, any cairn or tumulus which once covered the site of this interment, may have long since been removed in the course of the agricultural improvements of the district, and of which no trace or even tradition might now remain.

Small bronze dagger-like blades have also been found in tumuli along with skeletons of the simply interred remains of the dead; these blades generally showed more rivet-holes than two.

Dr. Joseph Anderson, in a paper "Notes on the Classification of various Cinerary Urns, &c.," in vol. i. p. 107 of the new series of our *Proceedings*, gives much information on various ancient interments; we still, however, require more information on many interesting questions connected with the sepulchral remains of the dead.

This sepulchral urn was apparently an example of an early Pagan burial of the Bronze age, after cremation. The place where it was discovered was on the top of an elevated ridge of ground, the upper part of a very dry field, named the "Stonefast Hill," which was enclosed some twenty-five years ago, and brought under cultivation. It forms an outlying ridge of the Lammermuir Hills, and is about 900 feet above the level of the sea.

Mr. Hyslop also informs me that a bronze celt or plain axe-head was found some seven years ago on the "Windy Law," on this same farm of Stobshiel, and is now in the possession of the Lady Jane Scott.

The farm of Stobshiel, I may mention, is near Upper Keith, in the parish of Humberie, in the county of Haddington.

¹ Notices of small bronze blades, &c., in vol. viii. p. 475, and vol. x. *Proc. Soc. Antiq. Scot.*, p. 430, by Dr. J. A. Smith.