

I.

NOTICE OF A CUP AND RING-MARKED STONE, AND OF INCISED STONES RECENTLY DISCOVERED AT CARGILL, AND OF AN INCISED BOULDER AT FOWLIS WESTER. BY ALEXANDER HUTCHESON, F.S.A. SCOT., ARCHITECT, DUNDEE.

A very interesting cup and ring-marked stone was recently discovered on the farm of Whitefield in the parish of Cargill, tenanted by Mr A. Smith, farmer, and has now been removed by him for preservation to the lawn in front of his house. The stone (fig. 1), is a block of mica schist of an irregular shape, and measures about 3 feet 3 inches in extreme length, varying from 20 inches to 2 feet broad, and about 20 inches thick.

The cups are all on the upper side of the stone as it now lies, but there are several well-marked grooves on at least one of the sides and one end. The cups are twenty in number, and vary from 6 inches in diameter and 2 inches deep to 1 inch diameter and $\frac{1}{4}$ inch deep. Their dimensions respectively are as follows:—

Diam.	Depth.	Diam.	Depth.
No. 1. 6 in.	× 2 in.	No. 11. $1\frac{1}{4}$ in.	× $\frac{3}{8}$ in.
„ 2. 3 „	× $1\frac{1}{2}$ „	„ 12. $2\frac{1}{2}$ „	× $\frac{3}{8}$ „
„ 3. 5 „, × 3 in.	× 1 „	„ 13. 3 „, × $2\frac{1}{2}$ „	× $\frac{1}{2}$ „
„ 4. $3\frac{1}{2}$ „, × 3 „	× 1 „	„ 14. 2 „	× $\frac{1}{2}$ „
„ 5. $3\frac{1}{2}$ „, × 3 „	× 1 „	„ 15. $3\frac{1}{4}$ „	× $1\frac{1}{4}$ „
„ 6. 4 „	× $\frac{3}{4}$ „	„ 16. 2 „	× $\frac{3}{8}$ „
„ 7. $2\frac{1}{2}$ „	× $\frac{3}{4}$ „	„ 17. $1\frac{1}{2}$ „	× $\frac{1}{4}$ „
„ 8. $1\frac{1}{2}$ „	× $\frac{1}{2}$ „	„ 18. 1 „	× $\frac{1}{4}$ „
„ 9. $1\frac{1}{2}$ „	× $\frac{1}{2}$ „	„ 19. 3 „	× 1 „
„ 10. $2\frac{1}{2}$ „	× $\frac{3}{4}$ „	„ 20. 3 „	× $1\frac{1}{4}$ „

Two of the cups are distinctly oval, as if two cups had been run into one. All the cups are tolerably smooth in the bottom, as if partially polished and rounded off on the edges. One of the cups is surrounded

by a ring 9 inches in diameter, having four radial lines or grooves, suggesting a rude attempt at the cross and circle symbol, but much too

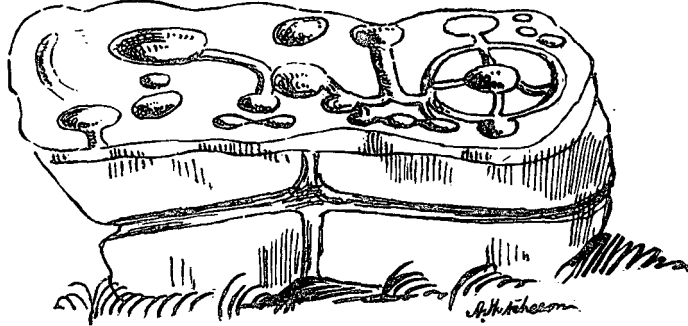


Fig. 1. Cup and Ring-marked Stone, Cargill (side view),

rude to have been an interpolation of Christian times, as has been

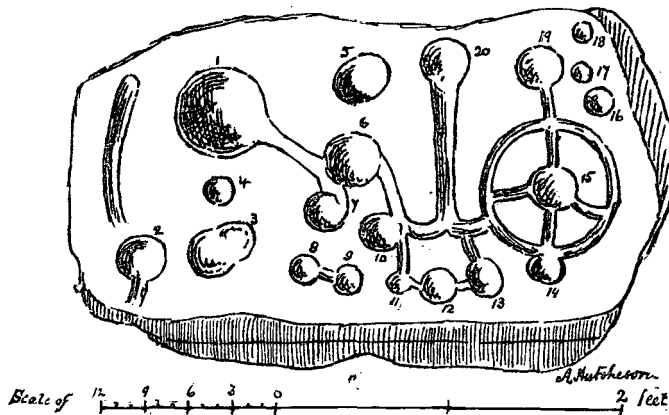


Fig. 2. Cup and Ring-marked Stone, Cargill (Plan).

suggested. Nearly all the cups are connected by grooves (as shown in fig. 2), only numbers 4, 5, 16, 17, and 18 being isolated; and even in

the case of numbers 4 and 5, it may be doubted whether they may not also have been connected. The surface upon which the cups appear is irregular, and the cups and their connecting grooves, as has been observed in other stones of this class, follow the irregularities of the stone, dipping into the hollows and rising over the protuberances. Other cups than those described may have existed, there being several slight depressions which may be the remains of cups where the stone has been worn down by the weather; but all the markings shown in the drawings are distinctly visible. This is a very interesting example of the cup-marked stones, inasmuch as it exhibits so many of their characteristic symbols, and may be said to testify to their common origin.

The stone was found about a quarter of a mile westward from where it now lies. It had been built into the walls of an old house which was taken down about twenty years since, and it seems to have lain unnoticed by the side of a field until a few weeks ago. Tradition says it was originally removed from a circle of stones which stood about half a mile to the eastward, but which have now been buried or broken up. It, however, seems very unlikely that such a weighty stone should have been transported for half a mile merely to serve as a foundation stone for a cottage, when the ground around was capable of supplying as many stones as would be required. The probability is that the stone, when built into the walls of the house, occupied a position not very distant from its original site.

On my visit, Mr A. Fergusson, schoolmaster, Cargill, who has been indefatigable in investigating this class of antiquities in his district, and to whose courtesy I am much indebted, informed me he had discovered a curious incised stone, from which I made the accompanying drawing (fig. 3).

The stone stands in a dyke enclosing a plantation about a mile west from Whitefield, and about 200 yards from the largest of the cup-marked stones figured by Sir James Simpson. It is of whinstone, and measures about 3 feet high above ground, about 2 feet broad, and 10 inches thick. The incisions are all on the western side of the stone, and exhibit an upright rectangular figure having two scrolls which, descending from the upper corners and almost meeting in the centre of the

space, curve gracefully outwards. Beneath these appears a trilobed ornament; the upper part of which appears to be pointed, and to fit in between the scrolls, and from the outer edges of this ornament, and possibly connected with it, descend to the base of the rectangle two incisions or lines. These lines with the ornament above present somewhat the appearance of a draped human figure. To the left of these

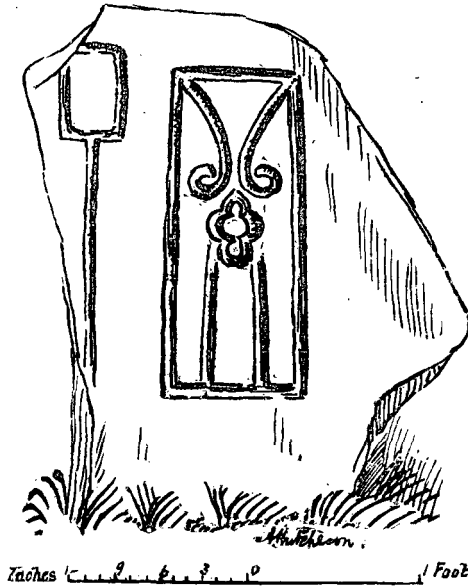


Fig. 3. Incised Stone, Cargill.

symbols appears another symbol presenting a small rectangle on the top of an upright shaft. Unfortunately, the stone has been broken at this part, and the figure is incomplete. The incisions are about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch deep and $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch wide, or just sufficiently wide and deep to fit the tip of the finger in tracing them out.

Whatever these sculpturings may have been intended to mean, there

can, I think, be little doubt that this stone should be referred to that class of symbol stones which seem to occupy an intermediate position between the cup stones on the one hand, and those sculptured stones, of which the Meigle and St Vigean's stones are examples, on the other. The symbol stones are distinguished by the sculpturings on them being invariably incised and usually confined to one side of the stone, the figures being in most cases highly conventional. The comb and mirror and the so-called spectacle and sceptre ornaments are examples of the most common forms of representation. The symbols on the Cargill stone do not, so far as I know, appear on any stone hitherto discovered, but there are not wanting points of resemblance between it and other stones of the class. The trilobed central ornament in the larger figure may be an example of the large circle, with two smaller circles joined on at the sides, which is seen depicted with more or less simplicity of outline on the stones at Clatt, Kintore, Glamis, &c. (see *Sculptured Stones of Scotland*, vol. ii.). But in the Cargill stone the upper small circle is pointed. One of the symbol stones, the slab from Strone Shunnamal, Benbecula, now in the Museum, exhibits a figure presenting, although rather more spread out and reversed, two arms within an oblong terminating in scroll ends, of similar character to those in the Cargill stone. It may be remarked that the figures on the Cargill stone appear to be less highly conventional in treatment than those in the class of stones just referred to. A stone at Corrachree, described and figured by Dr Mitchell in the *Proceedings* of the Society, vol. x., exhibits some figures new to the symbols; and if the Cargill stone is to be regarded, as I think it must, as the latest addition to the incised symbol stones, it will add yet another variety to the usual figures depicted on these stones.

The parish of Cargill lies about four miles from Coupar-Angus and eight miles from Perth, and abounds in boulders. Four of these, having cup markings, have been described, and two of them figured by Sir James Simpson. The area of the boulders lies at a general level of 400 feet above the sea (see Ordnance Sheet, one-inch scale, sheet 48).

A large boulder of whinstone lies buried in Mr Fergusson's garden, and shows a deep cut or channel with traces of slighter channels run-

ning into it, but without any cups. Similar channelling exists on two large masses of granite now lying apart, but no doubt at one time forming a very large boulder, part of a group in the parish of Fowlis Wester. These channels are very different from the grooves usually accompanying cup-markings, as will be seen from a consideration of their measurements and the annexed drawing (fig. 4). The channel starts at the high side, and running transversely across the stone with an average depth of 3 inches and a width of 1 inch, branches off at right angles about the centre of the block, with a channel 4 inches deep and 3 inches

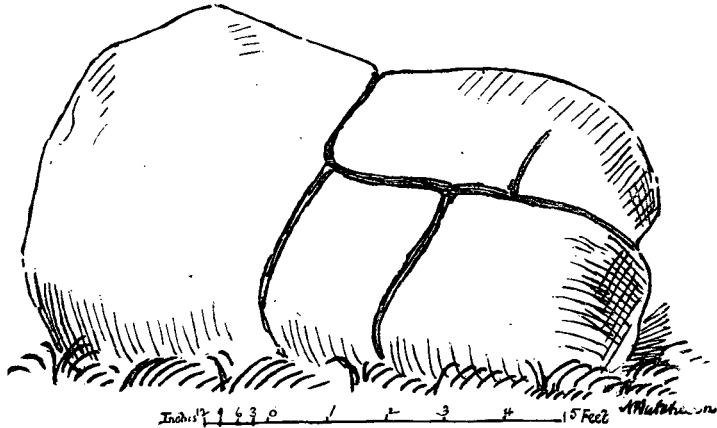


Fig. 4. Southern Fragment of Channelled Boulder, Fowlis Wester (south view).

wide, which gradually deepens and narrows until as it passes over the end of the stone it attains the extraordinary depth of 10 inches, with an average width of $1\frac{1}{2}$ inch. These grooves are not the result of cracks or rents in the stone, but are perfectly smooth on the sides and bottom. Whatever may have been their purpose (if they are artificial), it must have been a labour of no ordinary description to cut such deep grooves in a granite boulder, and it would be of much interest and value, in a consideration of the subject if any similar channelled boulders known to exist were measured and recorded.