

I.

NOTE REGARDING CINERARY URNS RECENTLY DISCOVERED AT UDDINGSTON. BY J. DALRYMPLE DUNCAN, F.S.A. SCOT., HONORARY SECRETARY, GLASGOW ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

The circumstances attending the discovery of the urns now exhibited may be very shortly stated.

On Wednesday, 25th March last, while some workmen were excavating the ground preparatory to the construction of a road in front of a row of cottages recently erected at Kylepark, Uddingston, they discovered two urns embedded in the gravel at a depth of about 1 foot from the surface of the field. There was no trace of any enclosing cist, and both urns, in accordance with a not unusual practice, had been merely placed in the earth mouth downwards over the bones they were intended to protect.

The fact of their discovery was reported to me next day, and on Saturday the 28th I proceeded to Uddingston. By this time the urn first found had been got out comparatively uninjured, although unfortunately the workman who discovered it had sent his pickaxe through its bottom before he realised what it was. The other, and by far the finer in the character of its ornamentation, as ill-luck would have it, lay under one of the lines of rails of a tramway used for conveying the building material, and had been broken to fragments by the heavy weights passing over it. We collected the pieces as well as we could, and I am informed by Dr Anderson that he believes it will be quite possible to put them together again.

Subsequent to the discovery of the urns, and about 3 yards from the place where they were found, the workmen had come on a quantity of bones. With the assistance of a couple of men whom Mr Thomson, the proprietor of the field, kindly put at my service, I had the ground dug up for a considerable space round the spot, when after some search we were successful in discovering a few small portions of a third urn.

The urns are of the large cinerary class, and are, as usual, formed of coarse clay paste mixed with minute fragments of stone.

The unbroken urn (fig. 1) stands a little over 12 inches in height, with a diameter across the mouth of $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches. The ornamentation on it is almost wholly found above the shoulder, and consists of two horizontal double lines of indented markings, as of a twisted cord. The lines are $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches apart, and between them run zigzag lines similarly formed. The lower portion of the urn is flowerpot-shaped and plain.

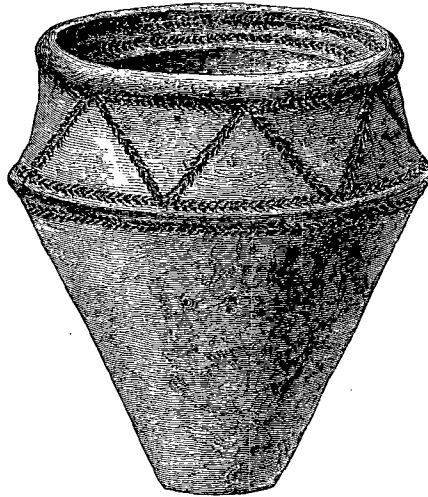


Fig. 1. Urn found at Uddingston (12 inches in height).

The double line of indented markings running just below the shoulder is uncommon. Round the inside of the lip run two double lines of indented markings parallel to each other, and nearly an inch apart.

The second urn (fig. 2), which is now reconstructed, and measures $13\frac{1}{2}$ inches in height, is characterised by much more elaborate ornamentation, consisting of strongly-marked moulded lines running zigzag, with bosses in the angles. The mouldings are enriched by a double row of indented markings on each side, and the inside of the lip has two rows of holes (each about $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches from the other) running round it, with a

clearly-marked dividing line between them. The bosses have evidently been moulded on the urn from the exterior.

The trifling portions of the third urn, which have been preserved, do not enable us to judge with any certainty as to its size or character. Its ornamentation, however, seems to have consisted of lines of indented markings.

The field in which the urns were found is bordered by the Clyde, and



Fig. 2. Urn found at Uddingston ($13\frac{1}{2}$ inches in height).

the particular spot where they were discovered is about 70 yards from the bank of the stream. The soil is of a specially dry and gravelly nature, and Mr Thomson informs me that this characteristic distinguishes it and a field immediately opposite on the other side of the river from the adjacent lands, which are boulder clay. The line of demarcation is, I understand, very clearly marked.

The field has been regularly ploughed, and it is somewhat remarkable,

in view of the inconsiderable depth at which the urns were found, that they should have remained so long undiscovered, and should have received no injury from the plough and the feet of the horses passing over them.

I have had the bones which were found with the urns examined by Professor Young of Glasgow University and Professor Buchanan of Anderson's College, but they both report that they are unable to say anything definite as to the number of persons represented in the remains, or as to their age and sex. Professor Buchanan says he is able to distinguish portions of the bones of the fore-arm, and would infer from their small size that the person to whom they belonged was comparatively young—about seventeen probably. Professor Young recognises a clavicle, which he says must have belonged to a man of no great stature—about 5 feet 6 inches probably. A portion of a jaw-bone in all likelihood belonged to a person of about 4 feet 8 inches. They both agree that parts of the skeletons of at least two persons, one full-grown and the other comparatively young, are present, but inextricably mixed together.

The group of urns found at Uddingston forms evidently a specimen of the small local cemeteries of the Bronze period described by Dr Anderson in the *Proceedings of the Society* for 1879, and the discovery is specially interesting from the fact that it is the first instance, so far as I am aware, of one of these having been brought to light in the immediate neighbourhood of Glasgow.