

## IV.

## NOTICE OF A CIST CONTAINING AN URN, FOUND AT WESTER WOODEN, ECKFORD, ROXBURGHSHIRE. BY JOHN G. WINNING.

When ploughing the field locally called "Garlic Knowe," on Wester Wooden Farm, in the parish of Eckford, the ploughmen came on the cover of a cist, which they raised, but they did not otherwise disturb the ground. The site of this cist is on a flat portion of the field adjacent to Wester Wooden Loch.

I found the cover of the cist to be about 9 inches below the surface. It had been packed at the edges with small water-worn boulders, chiefly whinstone. The cover was one rough slab of red sandstone nearly 9 inches thick. The cist, which lies north-east by south-west, is also formed by rough slabs of red sandstone about 4 inches thick.

The east side consists of two slabs, the other side of single stones. The dimensions (inside) are—east side, 3 feet long; west side, 3 feet 2 inches; width, 18 to 19 inches; and depth about the same as the width. The east side was made up with a layer of flat stones about 1 inch thick, to bring it to a level with the other sides. None of the stones appeared to have been dressed in any way, and I could not discern any artificial markings on them.

There was no floor to the cist. It was filled to the top with fine sand (somewhat damp), mixed throughout with charred fragments of wood. This sand was firmly packed. It was carefully loosened with a knife, lifted out and passed through a fine-meshed sieve. This operation disclosed two small rough flints about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches long, and about the same width, and also one or two small fractured or chipped pieces of stone. These, with the urn after described, were the only articles found, and no trace of bones was discernible. At the south-west corner of the cist an urn was discovered. It was lying lengthwise on the bottom of the cist, close against the corner, and with the mouth towards the north. A stone was placed against it, apparently to keep it in position. It was filled with sand and charred fragments of wood

similar to the contents of the cist. The upper portion of one side was broken, but it was got out entire as it lay. Latent cracks have since developed and further portions have become detached.

The urn (fig. 1), which is of brown clay, is 9 inches high by  $6\frac{1}{2}$  inches across the mouth. The circumference at top when whole, would be about  $19\frac{1}{2}$  inches; at its most contracted part above the middle it is about 18 inches, at the greatest girth below the middle it is about 20 inches, and at the base about 12 inches. The ornamentation consists of incised and dotted lines encircling the urn, and forming eleven bands or divisions, the upper five of these bands being divided by the incised lines, the others by the dotted lines. Four of these bands are filled with zig-zag lines, one with hatched lines, and the others with short oblique lines. The incised lines on the upper part of the urn were filled with some whitish substance. This showed plainly when it was first exhumed, but the colour has now faded although traces of it are still discernible.



Fig. 1. Urn found at Wester  
Wooden (9 inches in height).

In dimensions and character of ornament the urn is similar to the one found near Manderston House, Berwickshire, in 1882, which is figured and described in vol. x, p. 304, of the *Transactions of the Berwickshire Naturalists' Club* for 1883. The Wooden urn, however, appears to be more elaborately ornamented.

[The urn has since been presented to the National Collection by His Grace the Duke of Buccleuch and Queensberry.]