

## IV.

NOTICE OF AN URN AND FOUR ARROW-HEADS OF FLINT FOUND IN A CIST AT DAIRSIE, FIFESHIRE, AND PRESENTED TO THE MUSEUM BY MRS ERSKINE OF DAIRSIE. BY JOSEPH ANDERSON, LL.D., ASSISTANT SECRETARY AND KEEPER OF THE MUSEUM.

In the month of July last a cist was discovered in a sand-pit in a slightly elevated knoll overlooking the valley of the Eden at Dairsie. The cover was lifted, and the upper part of an urn which was visible at one end of the cist was taken out, but otherwise the contents were undisturbed, and by desire of Mrs Erskine of Dairsie the cover was replaced until a proper examination could be made. I was invited to be present at the examination, along with Mr Gillespie of Mountquhanie, and Mr Alexander Hutcheson, architect, Broughty Ferry, both Fellows of the Society; Mr Hodgson, Cupar; Mr Robertson of Edengrove, and others. The cist, which was about 2 feet 6 inches under the present

surface, lay nearly north and south, and measured 3 feet 6 inches in length internally, by 1 foot 10 inches in width. It was formed of large and massive slabs of the sandstone of the district, and, when cleared of the infiltrated sand, was found to be paved at a depth of about 2 feet with rounded water-worn pebbles. The interment was unburnt, but the bones of the skeleton were sorely wasted, only the more solid portions of the shafts of the long bones and a part of the skull remaining undecayed. The skull was found at the south end of the cist, and beside it and close to the east side of the cist the fragments of the bottom part of the urn. On



Fig. 1. Urn from a Cist at Dairsie (7 inches in height).

the same side of the cist, but near the north end, and close to where the feet would have been, were four arrow-heads of flint, which are here represented in fig. 2. They lay close together, with the points towards

the north end of the cist, as if the four arrow-shafts had been laid alongside of the body. The urn was of the tall, thin-lipped form, with bulging sides, and finely ornamented with a rather uncommon combination of bands of zigzags and chequers. It measures 7 inches in height

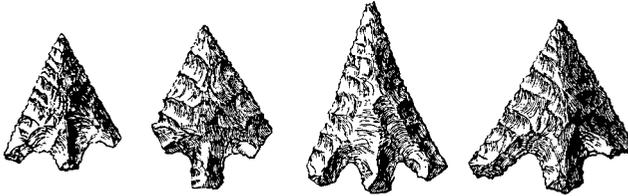


Fig. 2. Four Arrow-Heads of Flint, from a Cist at Dairsie.

and  $5\frac{3}{4}$  inches in diameter at the mouth. The Society is much indebted to Mrs Erskine of Dairsie for the opportunity of placing this interesting interment on record, and specially for her courteous compliance with my request that the urn and arrow-heads should be presented to the National Museum.

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