

I.

NOTICE OF A JUG OF PECULIAR FORM FOUND AT FORFAR, WITH AN ADDITIONAL NOTE ON THE OCCURRENCE OF EARTHENWARE JUGS OR JARS BUILT INTO THE WALLS OF DWELLING-HOUSES IN SCOTLAND. By ALEXANDER HUTCHESON, F.S.A.Scot., BROUGHTY FERRY.

On 29th May 1905, in a conversation with Mr William Cargill, builder, Forfar, he told me of a remarkable Jug (fig. 1) which he had found in Forfar during some excavations about eighteen years before.

The Jug was found in clay, at a depth of about 2 feet from the surface, in a low-lying district of the town, now known as Canmore Park. The Jug is now in possession of Mrs Alex. Cargill.

It is of reddish clay, fully a quarter of an inch thick, well formed, like the ordinary domestic jug, with a moulded bow-handle on one side, bulging body, slightly moulded narrow neck, very slightly everted at the lip, which at front has a small depression or a spout.

The Jug, which measures $10\frac{1}{2}$ inches in height, $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches diameter at mouth, $8\frac{3}{4}$ inches at widest part, and 6 inches across where the bottom begins, is in perfect condition, except that it has lost, probably from long immersion in damp soil, a yellowish-green glaze with which it had at one time been covered, evidences of which exist in small patches here and there over its surface.

The remarkable feature of the Jug, however, is in the form of the bottom, which is rounded, so that it cannot stand in an upright position, but is in danger of falling over on its side. To prevent this it has, arranged at about equal distances apart round the bottom, a series of three groups of slight projections formed by the impress of the finger-points of the maker, who, by pulling downwards the soft clay, has formed a slightly serrated edge, which (like the legs of the once familiar three-legged pot) serves the purpose of keeping the round-bottomed vessel from capsizing, since, in whatever direction the Jug should incline,

it is always caught and held by two of the three groups of ridges referred to. This is well shown in the accompanying photograph (see fig. 1).

This feature of groups of finger-prints around the base of a jug is not



Fig. 1. Earthenware Jug found at Forfar.

unknown. Several jugs, but with flat bottoms exhibiting groups of finger-prints, are preserved in the Guildhall Museum, London, and are illustrated in the catalogue.¹ The Guildhall examples may possibly be regarded as more recent types, interesting as exemplifying a survival of a practice which, but for the discovery of this Forfar jug, might have been regarded as purely ornamental.

¹ Guildhall Museum Catalogue, Plate LXVI., Nos. 8 and 9, LXVII., 9; pp. 178, 63; 180, 109; 180, 104.

The Guildhall flat-bottomed jugs with finger-pressed bases are ascribed to the fourteenth century. In the Guide to English pottery in the British Museum, there is a jug illustrated similar to one shown in the Louterell Psalter of early fourteenth century. It has a slightly convex base, with the edges thumbed down to form a series of supports which counteract the rotundity of the base.

The photograph by Mr David Barnet, Science and Art Master, Forfar, was obligingly procured for me by Mr John Knox, The Schoolhouse, Forfar, to illustrate this paper.

ADDITIONAL NOTE ON THE OCCURRENCE OF EARTHENWARE JUGS OR JARS BUILT INTO THE WALLS OF DWELLING-HOUSES IN SCOTLAND. BY ALEXANDER HUTCHESON, F.S.A. SCOT.

Since writing the note which appeared in last year's *Proceedings* (see *Proc.*, xxxix. pp. 387-393), I have learned of yet another instance of the practice in Dundee. The house, a building of three storeys, still stands at the east end of Castle Lane, fronting to a narrow wynd, which turns off abruptly to the south, anciently known as "The Gote," or "Goat Wynd." In the south gable of this building, in the course of its being repointed, two jugs were recently discovered and removed. They were placed "high up" between the windows, and with their orifices flush with the external surface of the wall, as already described for all the other examples noted; but one of the jugs is the largest of all the specimens yet observed. It was broken when discovered, and broken still more in removal, so that its height cannot be ascertained, but it measures $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter at the widest part, 4 inches across the base, and in its broken state $10\frac{1}{2}$ inches in height. It has at one side the base of a handle, marked with double depressions as of the thumbs of the maker. Assuming this handle to have been of the bow-form, like that of the other jugs noted, this specimen had been at least 12 inches in height.

The previously noted Dundee examples averaged 5 to 6 inches, while those found at Innernethy were 9 to 10 inches high. The destruction

of the neck is much to be regretted, as from a small fragment left it appears to have been richly ornamented, as shown by a ring of festoon-like scollops, partly indented and partly raised, with alternately moulded bands encircling it.

No evidence is available as to when this building was erected, but there is no reason to ascribe it to a time more remote than the beginning of the eighteenth century, in which case it would be the latest example of the jug practice, which I had ascribed to the hundred years from 1580 to 1680, a period which I have supposed to be covered by the other examples noted.