

I.

NOTICE OF THE DISCOVERY IN ABERDEENSHIRE OF FIVE CISTS,
EACH CONTAINING A DRINKING - CUP URN. By J. GRAHAM
CALLANDER, F.S.A. SCOT.

I. A SECOND CIST AT MAINS OF LESLIE.

In November 1906 a stone cist containing the remains of the skeleton of a man of middle age and an urn of the drinking-cup type was discovered in the parish of Premnay, Aberdeenshire, on the farm of Mains of Leslie. This discovery is described in our *Proceedings*, vol. xli. p. 116. On the 3rd April 1908, while James Craig was ploughing near the same spot, the point of the "sock" of the plough got fixed under the edge of a flat slab, which on being raised proved to be the cover of a finely constructed stone grave. It was full of soil, which had percolated through the interstices between the stones forming the chamber. This soil was removed and a small drinking-cup urn, fortunately complete, was found standing on its base, in the north-east corner of the cist. The urn was handed over to the laird, Mr Leith-Hay, and is preserved at Leith-Hall. The top of the urn was about 6 inches below the cover stone. A few small pieces of bone in a very friable condition, and some fragments of charcoal, were found in the grave, from which it is supposed that an unburnt body had been deposited in it. The presence of charred wood does not necessarily imply cremation, as it is often found with unburnt interments. Charred wood was found with unburnt human bones in the cist first discovered at this place, and in several of those about to be described.

The cist was formed by two side and two end slabs placed almost perpendicular, the top edges of the slabs being quite straight, so that when the cover, a flagstone of quadrangular shape, was placed in position, it fitted quite closely. The side slabs overlapped the ends, and the complete structure formed a particularly neat little chamber. The

interior measurements of the grave were 2 feet 7 inches along the north side, 2 feet 9 inches along the south side, 1 foot 8 inches and 1 foot 9

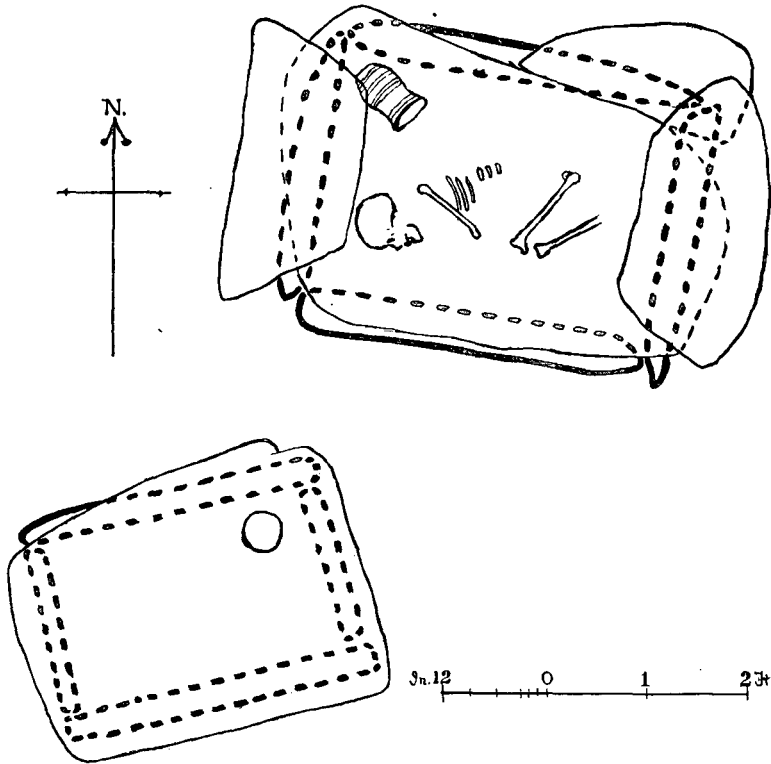


Fig. 1. Ground-Plan of Cists at Mains of Leslie.

inches across the east and west ends respectively, and it was from 12 to 14 inches deep. The longer axis of the grave lay 32° N. of E. and 32° S. of W. magnetic, or nearly north-east and south-west. The slabs were of the local "coreen stone" — andalusite mica schist—from the neighbouring Coreen Hills, and, like those of the grave formerly dis-

covered, had been finely dressed, although, from the weathering of the stone, the tool marks cannot now be seen. The ends of the upright slabs, like the top edge, were dressed beautifully straight, and the angles at the top were well squared. The stones were of a regular thickness. The cover stone measured $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches in thickness, the ends 2 inches, and the north and south sides 3 and 4 inches respectively. In the first grave the slabs were rather thicker, varying from 3 to 5 inches, but the whole structure was on a larger scale. The newly discovered grave lay to the south-west of the first, about 18 inches distant, and overlapping it by 6 inches (fig. 1). Clay had been packed into the joints between the slabs forming the first grave, and a layer of it



Fig. 2. Urn from Mains of Leslie. ($\frac{1}{4}$.)

covered the bottom of the chamber, but none was found so used in the second. The latter chamber was smaller than the first, and the urn recovered from it is also smaller than that from the first grave.

The urn (fig. 2) is of small size and of the drinking-cup variety. It varies in height from 5 inches on the one side to about $5\frac{1}{4}$ inches on the other. The exterior diameter of the mouth is 5 inches, of the neck $4\frac{5}{8}$ inches, of the bulge $4\frac{7}{8}$ inches, and of the base 3 inches. The wall of the vessel is $\frac{1}{4}$ inch thick. The exterior of the urn is ornamented by three zones of design impressed on the clay. One zone encircles the vessel between the rim and the neck, and is about $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide; the second zone, 1 inch wide, encircles the urn just above the bulge, and the lower zone, $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch wide, adjoins the base. The central band of ornament

is separated from the upper and lower bands by plain spaces $\frac{3}{4}$ inch and 1 inch broad respectively. The highest zone of ornamentation is composed of two transverse bands of roughly crossed lines, $\frac{1}{2}$ inch broad and about $\frac{3}{16}$ inch apart; two transverse parallel lines separate these bands, and there are two similar lines on the upper and lower margins. The middle and lower zones have each a transverse band about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch wide, the former composed of perpendicular lines about $\frac{1}{8}$ inch apart, and the latter of roughly crossed lines; both zones have two transverse parallel marginal lines on their upper and lower edges. The colour of the vessel is reddish on the outside, and the clay is of fine texture, being strengthened by an admixture of small broken stones.

Though the site of these burials is near the summit of a hill, there is quite a wonderful depth of soil, and it was only through some of the earth having been removed from above this last discovered grave to fill in the first one, that the plough was enabled to penetrate so deeply as to come in contact with the cover. Formerly there must have been more than a foot of soil above the grave. No large rounded stones were found above this burial, although they were present over the first. From the absence of these stones in the case of the second grave it seems unlikely that a cairn had ever been erected here.

II. THREE CISTS AT UPPER BOYNDLIE.

In the beginning of last September (1908) Dr Anderson received a letter from Mr J. C. M. Ogilvie-Forbes of Boyndlie, announcing that a grave containing a beaker urn, a semicircular implement of flint, and part of a human jaw, had been discovered in a sand pit on a farm on his estate. Dr Anderson informed me of this, and on communicating with Mr Ogilvie-Forbes he very kindly arranged that I should visit the site and record the discovery. On the 11th September I went to Boyndlie House, when Mr Ogilvie-Forbes told me that a second grave containing a drinking-cup urn had been exposed. After examining and measuring the urns we proceeded to the site of their discovery, where, as arranged, we met the men who had uncovered the

graves. They were able to inform us of all the circumstances attending their discovery.

On the farm of Upper Boyndlie, which is in the parish of Tyrie, there are two prominent mounds almost adjoining each other, called the Castle Hills. At first sight they have the appearance of artificial cairns, but the partial excavation of the north-eastern mound shows that they are natural stratified deposits of sand and gravel. Almost in line with the Castle Hills, and rather more than 100 yards to the south-west, is a peculiar formation called the Rebel Hill. It is almost square, and is hollow in the centre. Round three sides there is a broad rampart, which, however, does not extend across the fourth or south side. Here there is a low mound, about the middle of the side, with gaps between it and the adjoining corners. This place much resembles a small fort or encampment, and the gap at the south-west corner has the appearance of a gateway with an approach leading to it, but I think the whole formation is natural. This could soon be proved by a slight excavation. On the Ordnance Survey map "Site of Cairn" is marked on the eastern rampart of the Rebel Hill, and "Stone Cist found" on the north-eastern Castle Hill, the site of the three graves to be described. About 200 yards south of the Castle Hill there is a rough uncultivated piece of ground called Cairnycroch. This is a peculiar group of place names in so small an area, but Mr Ogilvie-Forbes has not been able to discover any special explanation of them.

On the 28th August 1908, Mr Francis Anderson, son of the farmer at Upper Boyndlie, was digging sand on the south-eastern face of the mound when a quantity of it slipped down, carrying with it three sides and the cover stone of a slab-lined grave, leaving one side standing. The grave was full of sand which had trickled through the crevices between the stones. Amongst the sand, near the centre of the north side of the grave, the greater part of an urn was left standing on its base, and a small flint knife and part of an unburnt human jaw were recovered, though their exact positions were not ascertained, as they slipped down with the slabs. A few days later one of Mr Ogilvie-

Forbes's workmen came upon a second cist, 18 feet south-east of the first, and nearer the base of the mound. The only relic recovered from this grave was the greater part of a small urn, which was found at the east end of the grave with the mouth to the west. On the 20th November a third cist was exposed by the further removal of sand, and again, thanks to the courtesy of Mr Ogilvie-Forbes, I was enabled to visit the site on the 25th, when I saw the cist *in situ*, and secured a record of the discovery. In anticipation of further discoveries Mr Ogilvie-Forbes had instructed his men to inform him immediately any other structure should be encountered, and so this grave was opened under his supervision, Mr Ralph Prendergast and the Rev. George Wiseman being present. This grave, like the others, was full of sand when opened, and it contained the remains of the skeleton of an old man and a complete urn. The skeleton lay on its right side in a flexed position facing the north-west, the skull being in the south-east corner of the cist. The urn was found near the middle of the north side of the chamber, standing on its base and slightly tilted to one side. No other relics were found, but a small piece of charred wood about the size of a hazel nut was noticed. Charcoal was also seen in the first grave from this mound.

Although the first two graves had been removed, the stones of which they were made had been preserved, and with the assistance of the discoverers we were able to reconstruct the chambers so as to secure the approximate dimensions. The longer axis of each of the three graves was about north-east and south-west. The first grave was near the base of the mound on the south-east slope. It was covered by 6 feet of sand, and rested on one of the layers of gravel. The sides and ends of the grave were formed by four fine slabs placed on edge; three small slabs made the bottom, and a single stone the cover. The side and bottom stones were 3 to 4 inches thick, and the cover stone, which was roughly quadrangular, measured from 2 feet 6 inches to 2 feet 8 inches in length, 2 feet in breadth, and $5\frac{1}{2}$ inches in thickness. The interior dimensions of the cist would be about 21 inches in length, 16 inches in

breadth, and 15 inches in depth. The second grave was exceedingly small. It could not have been more than 15 inches square and 12 inches deep, as the longest side stone was only of these dimensions. It had been covered by several small slabs, and it had sand in the bottom, there being no constructed floor. It was nearer the edge of the mound and further east than the first, and was buried to a depth of 2 feet 6 inches. The third grave was the larger of the three, and was placed further up the face of the mound, at a depth of 3 feet from the surface. The sides were nearly parallel, but the north side was rather longer than the opposite one. The west end was square and the east end slightly angled. The ends and south side were each formed by a single slab set on edge, while the north side was composed of two closely-fitting slabs. A large flat flag completely covered the mouth of the structure. The north side was carefully fitted inside the end stones, which overlapped it, but the inner corners of the opposite side just touched the adjoining corners of the end stones. To make these corners closer, a small flag was placed across the south-west corner, and a well-split prismatic stone of square section was inserted at the south-east corner. The south side and adjacent portion of the east end being rather lower than the rest of the cist, had been brought up to the level by a single course of flat stones. No clay had been used to pack into the joints of any of these graves. The floor of this last cist was causeyed with water-worn pebbles of uniform size, 3 to 4 inches in diameter. It was slightly hollow in the centre. The chamber measured 3 feet 9 inches in length at the north side, 3 feet 3½ inches at the south side; it was 2 feet 4 inches in width and 1 foot 6 inches in depth. The south slab was from 2½ to 3½ inches thick, while all the other end and side slabs were 5 inches thick. The cover stone, of an irregular egg-shape, varied from 4 feet 4 inches to 4 feet 7 inches in length, and from 1 foot 9 inches to 2 feet 10 inches in breadth; it was about 8 inches thick. The slabs used in the first and third graves are of mica schist, which is found at Aberdour, three miles distant, and they all had been carefully dressed along the top, and some of them at the ends. The

small slabs forming the second grave were of whinstone, and of irregular shape. The third grave was placed 24 feet north-north-east of the first, and 26 feet from the second. The second grave was 18 feet distant from the first.

Unburnt human remains were found in the first and third graves. From the first a small part of a human jaw with two molar teeth in position was recovered. The bone crumbled away on being handled, leaving the two teeth. The skeletal remains from the third grave were much broken and decayed. Barely half the skull survived and none of the long bones were complete, but portions of the leg bones, pelvis, and ribs, and a number of vertebræ and teeth, were secured. From small bony nodules which had grown round the edges of several of the vertebræ it was evident that the deceased had suffered from rheumatism. Professor R. W. Reid of Aberdeen University, to whom I delivered the bones, reports that "The skull is much broken. The right half of the skull-cap shows the same outline as is seen in the skulls in the Anatomical Museum here, obtained from Aberdeenshire short cists. The piece evidently belonged to a brachycephalic skull. The three remaining teeth are much worn. The bones of the limbs are badly broken, and the pieces of the femora show much flattening in their upper thirds. The right tibia has its shaft intact, and has an estimated length of 37 cm. It shows distinct flattening. The bones of the pelvis are much broken and portions are absent, but by piecing together those which are present, the characters of a male pelvis are well shown. Altogether the skeletal remains are those of an adult brachycephalic muscular male of a height approximately not more than 5 feet 6 inches."

The flint knife found in the first grave is semicircular in shape and of a bright yellow colour. It has been secondarily worked on the straight side. It is $1\frac{3}{4}$ inches long and $1\frac{1}{8}$ inches broad.

The urn (fig. 3) recovered from the first grave is of the drinking-cup type. It is incomplete, about two-thirds of it having been recovered. It measures 8 inches in height, $3\frac{3}{4}$ inches across the base, and from the arc of the remaining part of the rim had been $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches across the

mouth. Its wall is $\frac{5}{16}$ inch thick, and its colour is dark reddish. The vessel bears three zones of ornamentation encircling the everted brim, the bulge, and the lower part. They are 1 inch apart, and measure about 2, $1\frac{7}{8}$, and $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches in breadth respectively. The three zones have each a series of upright zigzag lines slanting first to the left, and there is a single transverse line on the upper and lower margins, but the

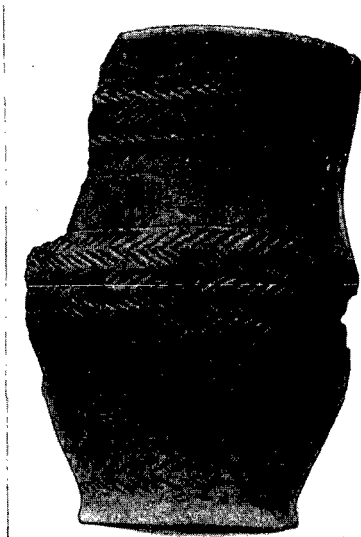


Fig. 3. Urn from the first Grave at Upper Boyndlie. ($\frac{1}{3}$.)

lower zone has no bottom marginal line, and it has zigzags of four parts, while the others have five. The space between the rim and the top marginal line already mentioned in the upper zone is occupied by two transverse parallel straight lines and a transverse zigzag line. As in the other four urns described in this paper, the ornamentation has been impressed on the soft damp clay with a toothed stamp, but the oblique lines seem to have been made by a larger and rougher tool than the transverse lines.

The urn (fig. 4) from the second grave is of the drinking-cup type. It is reddish in colour, and little more than half of it remains. It is of small size, and the scheme of its ornamentation is seldom seen. The height of the vessel is $4\frac{3}{8}$ inches, the breadth across the base $3\frac{1}{8}$ inches, and the diameter of the mouth has been about $4\frac{1}{4}$ inches. The wall of the urn is about $\frac{3}{16}$ inch thick, and the rim is rounded instead of being flattish, like the generality of beaker urns. The decoration



Fig. 4. Urn from the second Grave at Upper Boyndlie. ($\frac{1}{2}$.)

on this vessel is simple, being composed of two bands of roughly parallel transverse lines, one immediately below the rim and the other above the base. The upper band, composed of eighteen lines, occupies a space about 2 inches broad, and the lower band has eleven lines occupying a breadth of $1\frac{5}{8}$ inches. The central bulging portion of the urn, $\frac{3}{4}$ inch broad, is plain. Two of the lines at the foot of the urn being complete, it is seen that these lines are not spiral, and it is probable that those on the upper zone were similar.

The urn (fig. 5) from the third grave is also of the drinking-cup type. It is of a dirty drab colour, with a tinge of red in it. It is complete, and

of very unusual shape. The vessel is 6 inches in height, the exterior diameter of the mouth is $5\frac{3}{16}$ inches, of the neck $4\frac{3}{8}$ inches, of the bulge $5\frac{5}{16}$ inches, and of the base $3\frac{5}{8}$ inches. The wall is about $\frac{5}{16}$ inch thick. Besides being of uncommon shape, this urn bears the rare feature of a broad band of ornamentation on the inside of the rim. The body of the vessel is a regular oval, and is surmounted by a thin sharply everted rim. The effect of the lip curving out so much is that a larger part of the inside of the brim is exposed than is usual in pottery of this type.

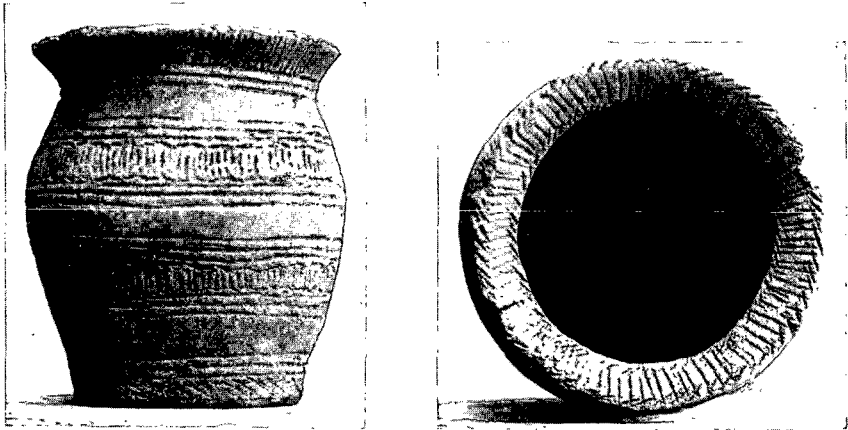


Fig. 5. Urn from the third Grave at Upper Boyndlie. (4.)

This flattened rim seems to have appealed to the potter as specially suitable for ornamentation. This takes the form of straight radiating lines, about $\frac{5}{8}$ inch long, each line having a short oblique line, $\frac{1}{4}$ inch long, at each end, that next the rim slanting to the right, and the other, next the inside, slanting to the left. The complete band is about 1 inch wide. The exterior of the vessel bears four ornamental zones, $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{5}{8}$ inch apart. The highest band of ornament, $1\frac{1}{8}$ inches broad, is composed of three parallel transverse lines encircling the neck, the space between these and the rim being filled in with vertical straight lines. The second and third zones, placed above and below the bulge, are of the

same design, and are $1\frac{1}{4}$ inches broad. Two zigzag lines go round the vessel, the space between them being filled in with perpendicular straight lines, and three transverse parallel lines form each of the upper and lower margins. The lowest zone, contiguous to the base, is $\frac{3}{4}$ inch broad. It is formed by a series of crossed oblique lines forming a transverse diamond or lozenge pattern; three transverse straight lines on the upper margin complete this band of ornament.

III. A CIST AT BLACKHILLS, TYRIE.

Thanks to Mr Ogilvie-Forbes I am also able to put on record the discovery of another drinking-cup urn, which was recovered eight or ten years ago by Mr John Willox, while digging sand at Blackhills, in the parish of Tyrie.

The site of the burial lies about $1\frac{3}{4}$ miles south-east, and within sight, of the Castle Hills, where the three graves just described were unearthed. The urn had been enclosed in a cist, which, having become undermined by the removal of the sand, came slipping down the sand face along with the urn, fortunately without breaking it in bits. The discoverer being now in America, I am indebted to his parents for permission to have the urn photographed and for the information about its discovery. As they distinctly remember about the stones coming down with the urn, there is little doubt that there had been a stone-lined grave.

The urn (fig. 6) is of the drinking-cup type, and is nearly complete, only a small part of the rim being broken off. It is very small, is of uncommon shape, and is ornamented on the brim, an unusual feature in this class of ware. The vessel is only $3\frac{7}{8}$ inches in height; the mouth, neck, and bulge have an exterior diameter of $4\frac{1}{4}$, $3\frac{7}{8}$, and 4 inches respectively; and the base is $2\frac{3}{4}$ inches across. The wall is $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{5}{16}$ inch in thickness, and the colour is a yellow drab. The urn is squat, and has a short recurving rim. Although it bears a slight resemblance to some urns of the food-vessel variety, from the curve and thickness of the wall there is no doubt about its being a drinking-cup urn. The

scheme of ornamentation is very simple, there being only two bands of design encircling the vessel. The first band, $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches wide, occupies the upper part of the urn from the lip to near the bulge, and the second, 1 inch wide, is placed below the bulge, $\frac{1}{2}$ inch from the upper band and 1 inch from the base. The two zones of ornament are composed of a series of rows of chevrons placed above each other, with a single transverse line on the upper and lower margins, but the upper zone has also three other parallel transverse lines between its top marginal line and the lip of the vessel. The number of chevrons superimposed on each



Fig. 6. Urn from Cist at Blackhills, Tyrie. ($\frac{1}{3}$.)

other varies from three to six in the upper band and from three to seven in the lower. The top of the rim is decorated with a series of short lines slanting to the right impressed on the outer and inner edges of the rim, thus forming a herring-bone design, the top ridge of the rim being the dividing line.

These four cists with drinking-cup urns do not exhaust the prehistoric interments recorded from the Boyndlie district. It has already been mentioned that a grave was found on the same mound as the three cists, and that it is marked on the Ordnance map. Previous to 1876 a skull from this grave was presented to the Anatomical Museum at Marischal College, Aberdeen, by the late Mrs John Charles Ogilvie-

Forbes. From his old gamekeeper, Andrew Young, Mr Ogilvie-Forbes heard that "all the bones except the skull were replaced in the cist, which was left *in situ*," and no doubt covered up again. The exact provenance of a second skull from Boyndlie in the Museum is not known. These skulls have been described by Dr Alexander Low.¹ He has also fully recorded the discoveries of two short cists found at Auchlin, Aberdour, in November 1904, and at Blackhills in March 1905.² The Auchlin cist was 3 feet 8 inches long, 18 inches wide, and 16 inches deep. It contained the calcined remains of an adult, and portions of the skeleton of a child about five or six years old which showed no evidence of having been calcined. Pieces of charcoal were also found in the grave. The Blackhills cist was opened in his presence. It measured 3 feet in length, 2 feet in breadth, and 1 foot 9 inches in depth, and contained the skeleton of a male about 5 feet 4 inches in height, which was lying on its back in a contracted position. Apparently it had been covered by an ox hide, as it was covered by a felted substance, which under the microscope was seen to contain hairs. There was an urn of the food-vessel type in the grave. Thanks to Professor R. W. Reid I am able to reproduce a photograph of the urn (fig. 7) which is now in the possession of Lord Saltoun. The bottom of the grave was paved with rounded pebbles of uniform size. There is no record of the opening of the cairn on the Rebel Hill mentioned on the Ordnance map.

A very small portion of one of the Castle Hills has been excavated, and four burials have been exposed. That there are more graves both in it and the other adjoining Castle Hill and Rebel Hill is very probable. The mounds are prominent spots on the landscape, and command an extensive prospect, and being composed of sand the digging of a grave was an easy matter.

From the illustrations it will be noticed that three of these five drinking-cup urns are worthy of special note, those from the second and

¹ *Proc. Anat. and Anthropol. Soc. of the Univ. of Aberdeen*, 1902-4, pp. 9, 14.

² *Ibid.*, 1904-6, pp. 126 and 133.

third graves at Upper Boyndlie, and the example from Blackhills. The first of these (fig. 4) is of small size, and the contour of the wall does not show the fine curves usually seen in pottery of this type, the bulging portion springing more abruptly from the upper and lower parts of the vessel. Also the ornamental design, one band round the base and another round the brim, leaving the bulge plain, is unusual. The second (fig. 5) is an extremely interesting vessel, and has no prototype amongst the long series of beaker urns figured by Mr Abercrombie in our *Proceedings*, vol. xxxviii. The body forms a more

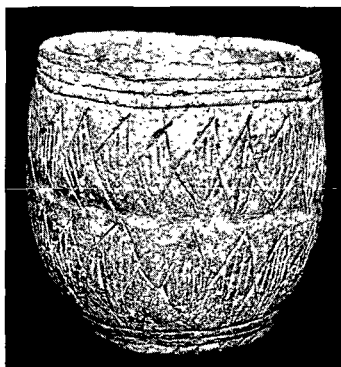


Fig. 7. Urn from Blackhills.

perfect oval, and the thin brim is recurved to a greater extent and more sharply than any of his ovoid group. Besides this, the band of ornament, an inch broad, on the inside of the flattened brim, is more elaborate and more striking than in any urn I have seen. In our National Museum there are three drinking-cup urns ornamented inside the rim. One from the Court Hill, Dalry, Ayrshire, has a series of four transverse lines occupying a space of about $\frac{3}{4}$ inch; another from Crawford, Lanarkshire, which contained a ring of bronze 3 inches in diameter, has a band of crossed lines of a width of $\frac{5}{8}$ inch; and a third, from Bathgate, Linlithgowshire, has three transverse lines inside the lip, its exterior being ornamented by a continuous spiral from the base to the

lip, with a break $\frac{1}{8}$ inch broad at the widest part of the vessel. A drinking-cup urn decorated on the outside by a continuous spiral found at Tents Muir, near Leuchars, bore three transverse parallel lines inside the brim.¹ One of the numerous fragments of what apparently were drinking-cup urns discovered in a kitchen-midden at Tusculum, North Berwick, had the interior of the rim decorated with four transverse lines about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch apart.² Cinerary urns, it may be mentioned, are occasionally ornamented inside the mouth. The third urn (fig. 6) from Blackhills is small and squat, and it is ornamented on the top of the rim, which recurves very slightly. Seven beakers in the Museum have this peculiarity: two from Ellon, Aberdeenshire; one from Broomend, Inverurie, Aberdeenshire; one, No. E. G. 21 in our Catalogue, from Aberdeenshire; one from Buckie, Banffshire; one from Ross-shire; and one from Callachally, Glenforsa, Mull, Argyllshire. The two from Ellon have a thickened lip more like the food-vessel urn. The Blackhills drinking-cup urn is not unlike some food vessels in shape, but the texture of the clay, the thinness of the wall, and the scheme of ornament, place it in the beaker type. Indeed there is at times some difficulty in saying if an urn is of the drinking-cup or food-vessel type, as the two Blackhills urns testify. Were it not for the small everted brim the beaker from Blackhills is almost identical in outline with the urn from the same district which Dr'Low has named a food-vessel.

Elsewhere I have drawn attention to the fact that twelve of the thirteen drinking-cup urns found with skeletons in short cists, in the north-east of Scotland, had been associated with males, only one having been found with a female.³ The third urn from Upper Boyndlie is the thirteenth beaker found in a man's grave. Perhaps too much stress should not be placed on this point, as drinking-cup urns have occasionally been found with women's remains in England. Future discoveries will probably help to prove whether or not drinking-cups were, as a rule, specially reserved for the graves of men and not of women in Scotland.

¹ *Proceedings*, vol. xvii. p. 384.

² *Ibid.*, vol. xlii. p. 283, fig. 16.

³ *Ibid.*, vol. xli. p. 121.

Two of the Boyndlie graves were provided with a floor, the first of slabs and the third of rounded pebbles carefully caused. The Blackhills grave which contained the food-vessel urn was paved with water-worn stones, and another Aberdeenshire grave, discovered in 1907, at Gateside of Scotstown, Old Machar, had a layer of flat pebbles superimposed on a thin layer of yellow clay which covered the gravelly subsoil.¹ This cist, now re-erected in the vestibule of the Anatomy Department, Marischal College, contained the remains of the unburnt bones of an adult human skeleton, a finely-made flint knife, and numerous small pieces of charcoal.

The thanks of the Society are due to Mr Ogilvie-Forbes, who has generously presented to the Museum the first two urns and the flint knife found on his estate. The skeletal remains from the third grave have been given to the Anatomical Museum in the University of Aberdeen, and the urn found with them is meantime retained at Boyndlie House.

¹ *Proc. Anat. Soc. of the Univ. of Aberdeen*, 1906-8.