

#### IV.

A FOOD-VESSEL URN FROM OBAN, ARGYLL. BY J. GRAHAM CALLANDER, F.S.A. SCOT., DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF ANTIQUITIES.

In the month of January of this year a typical short cist of the Bronze Age was discovered at the south-east side of the roadway that

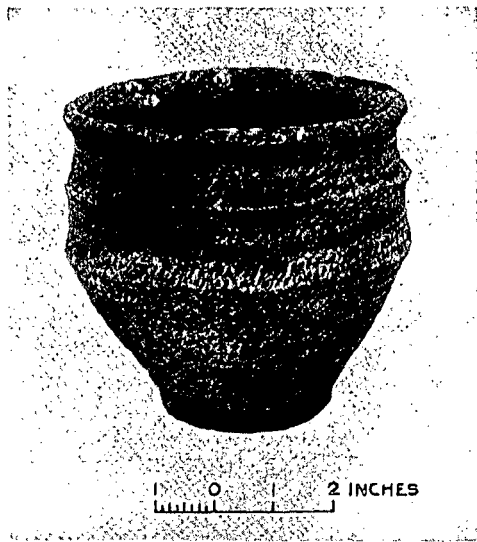


Fig. 1. Food-Vessel Urn from Oban, Argyll.

runs through the Corran Park, Oban, about 25 yards from the north-eastern end where it debouches on to the Dunollie Road. The cist, which was formed of four slabs set on end and covered by a large cover-

stone, measured 4 feet 6 inches long, 2 feet broad, and 3 feet 9 inches deep, the main axis lying slightly south of east and north of west. It was sunk in the 25-30-foot raised beach about 30 feet above ordnance datum, there being about 12 inches of soil above the cover. About a barrowful of sand and gravel had found its way into the grave, and amongst this at the eastern end was an almost complete food-vessel urn; no other relics or fragments of human remains were found.

The urn (fig. 1), which is of brownish ware, belongs to a common variety of the food-vessel type, with a long upright brim and a tapering lower half. On the upper part are slight transverse mouldings at the mouth, at the shoulder, and midway between, so that this portion shows two broad shallow concave zones encircling the vessel. From the lip to the base the wall is decorated with twenty-eight irregular transverse rows of punctulations made by a pointed implement; four rows of similar ornamentation appear on the top of the brim. The vessel measures  $6\frac{1}{2}$  inches in height,  $6\frac{1}{8}$  inches in greatest external diameter at the mouth,  $6\frac{9}{16}$  inches at the shoulder, and  $3\frac{1}{4}$  inches at the base, and the wall is  $\frac{3}{8}$  inch thick; the lip, which is bevelled towards the inside, is  $\frac{3}{4}$  inch broad.

About fifty or sixty years ago a number of cists and urns were found at distances of from 35 to 140 yards from the present find.

I am indebted to Mr Dugald M'Isaac, J.P., for furnishing me with the particulars of the discovery.