

### III.

NOTICE OF A CINERARY URN OF CLAY RECENTLY DISCOVERED ON  
THE CAWDER ESTATE, NEAR BISHOPBRIGGS, LANARKSHIRE. BY  
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On Saturday, 26th March 1927, a cinerary urn of the late Bronze Age was unexpectedly brought to light on the estate of Cawder, near Bishopbriggs, in the Lower Ward of Lanarkshire. On the forenoon of that date as a company of estate workmen, under their foreman Mr Thomas Gibson, were driving a cutting eastward through a long ridge of sand, the urn came rolling down among their feet from the western face of the sandpit.

The urn was set aside for inspection, and I saw it on the forenoon of Monday, 28th March. It was found to be a well-fired specimen of dark brown clay. About one-third of its surface had been broken, and

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several of the broken pieces were recovered, but others were not, as, after being found, the urn had been laid on heaps of stones at the bottom of the sandpit, and some of the smaller pieces and contents had fallen under these stones. The ornamentation of the vessel, however, is adequately seen from the portion which remains.

The urn (fig. 1) is of the cinerary type with heavy overhanging rim, its sides varying from  $\frac{3}{8}$  to  $\frac{7}{16}$  of an inch in thickness. From the base of  $3\frac{7}{8}$  inches diameter, the sides spring upwards to the lower

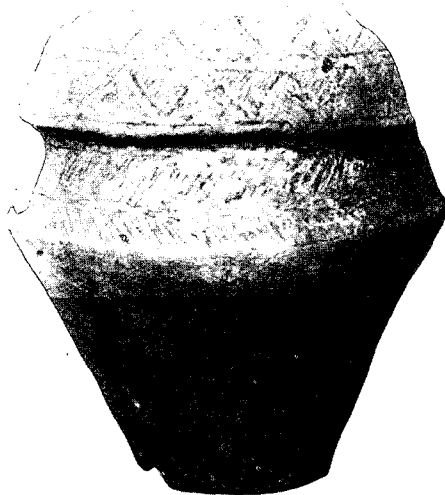


Fig. 1. Cinerary Urn found near Bishopbriggs, Lanarkshire.

band of ornamentation, where the diameter widens to 9 inches. This is followed by a concave waist-like area, which is decorated by two zones, each filled by oblique incised lines, the lines of the upper zone being set at a different angle from those of the lower. This is succeeded by the overhanging upper part, also 9 inches in external diameter at its greatest. The sides of the urn slope inwards from this point to the lip, where the diameter narrows to 7 inches. This upper part is ornamented with two zones, each containing triangles, their margins formed by impressed lines as if of a twisted cord. The interior of each triangle is cross-hatched with incised lines, the lines of the hatching of the inverted triangles being at right angles to the hatching

of those triangles with apex pointing upwards. The top of the rim is ornamented with zigzag lines, impressed when the clay was still unfired by a notch-edged implement. The total height of the vessel is  $9\frac{7}{8}$  inches.

The urn contained broken incinerated human bones, most of which have been lost. Two vertebræ and a few small fragments are all that have been recovered. Some roots and sand have mingled with these; there are no traces of implements or ornaments.

Although closely pressed on the point, the workmen denied that there were any traces whatever of any stone cist or structure enclosing the urn. They stated that it had been buried about 6 feet below the present surface of the ridge. It was noticed, however, that, for a depth of 3 feet 6 inches or thereby, the original surface of the ridge had been heaped up with a mound of earth and stones. This addition seemed to be artificial, and probably is the base of a demolished round cairn of the diameter of about 20 feet. The ridge is some 13 feet above the natural surface of the field to the south, and is of a serpentine formation, probably of fluvio-glacial origin. It runs east and west, parallel to, and south of, the Forth and Clyde Canal. The urn was found 40 yards south of the canal and 459 yards east of the south-east corner of the bridge over the canal known as "the Glasgow Bridge," on the main road between Bishopbriggs and Kirkintilloch.

Through Major Fraser, the factor of the Keir and Cawder Estates, Ltd., the urn has been kindly presented by General Stirling of Keir to Kelvingrove Art Galleries and Museum, Glasgow.