

I.

CINERARY URNS FROM HUNTERSTON AND SEAMILL, WEST KILBRIDE, Ayrshire; AND A SHORT CIST AT PHANTASSIE, EAST LOTHIAN. BY ARTHUR J. H. EDWARDS, F.S.A.Scot., ASSISTANT KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF ANTIQUITIES.

The urn about to be described was found on Fence's Farm, on the estate of Hunterston, West Kilbride, Ayrshire, about 150 yards north-west of the steading, or nearly 650 yards west-south-west of Hunterston House. The discovery was made by a ploughman, Andrew Hyslop, when ploughing there in December of last year. The discoverer informed Mr George Young, Sanitary Engineer, who happened to be passing, that he had ploughed over something that was hollow and resembled an old chimney-pot. A little later Mr Young returned, and, with some assistance, the object—a cinerary urn of clay—which was embedded in hard sand at a little distance from the surface, was carefully lifted and placed on the ground, prior to being removed to Hunterston House for safe custody. The urn, which contained some earth mixed with charcoal and incinerated human bones, had been placed mouth downwards in the sand with perhaps a few stones under it. A few days after the discovery I was able, through the courtesy of Lieut.-General Sir Aylmer Hunter-Weston, K.C.B., D.S.O., R.E., M.P., of Hunterston, to examine the spot, and I found in the cavity caused by the removal of the urn a few stones of no great size, which appeared to have been burnt. The hole was only 2 feet in depth, so that the base of the urn, which is now wanting, must have been very close to the surface.

The urn (fig. 1), which is made of a brownish-yellow clay, measures 14 inches in height as it now stands, wanting the base. In external diameter across the mouth it measures $11\frac{7}{8}$ inches, and at its widest part $13\frac{3}{8}$ inches. It is encircled by two raised mouldings or cordons, about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch in width, one being 4 inches and the other $7\frac{1}{4}$ inches below the rim. The space between the brim and the upper moulding is decorated by impressions of a loosely made cord of three or more strands, crossed obliquely so as to form a lozenge design. This design is irregular, and the photograph of the urn shows that portion where it is most complete. Above and close to the edge of the brim there can be seen at intervals a transverse marginal line impressed in the same manner as the other decoration. The lip, which is plain but slightly

concave, measures $\frac{1}{2}$ an inch in breadth and dips downwards towards the inside. The vessel resembles two of the five urns found at Seamill, West Kilbride, which were described and figured by Mr J. Graham Callander in last year's *Proceedings*, vol. lxi. p. 249, figs. 8 and 9. The similarity to the urn shown in fig. 9 is more marked, however, this urn being also of the type which has raised mouldings or cordons. Among some of the sand and gravel thrown out of the hole when the urn was being excavated was found a single discoidal bead of lignite or shale. It



Fig. 1. Cinerary Urn (base wanting) from Fence's Farm, West Kilbride.

measures $\frac{3}{8}$ inch in diameter and $\frac{3}{32}$ inch in thickness, with a central perforation for the purpose of stringing. It is similar to two beads of the same material found in the exploration of a burial cairn at Balnabraid, Kintyre,¹ and to others preserved in the Museum, from Brownhead, Arran, and Farrochie, Stonehaven, Kincardineshire.²

One of the other urns from the find made at Seamill in 1830³ had been reported as having been handed over to Mr Robert Hunter of Hunterston shortly after its discovery, so on my visit to Hunterston

¹ *Proc. Soc. Ant. Scot.*, vol. liv. p. 181.

² *Ibid.*, vol. l. p. 238. Lists from other localities are also published here.

³ *Ibid.*, vol. lxi. p. 247.

I made inquiries about it, and was gratified to find that it was still carefully preserved in the strong room there. This urn¹ was found when excavating foundations for one of the gate-posts of the house known as "The Fort," built and owned by Mrs Kenneth, at the south end of Seamill, on rising ground east of the present main coast road. It is a particularly fine example of the cinerary type and is in an almost perfect state of preservation (fig. 2). It is made of a reddish-brown clay, with an overhanging rim and constricted neck immediately below. It measures $7\frac{9}{16}$ inches in height, 7 inches in external diameter



Fig. 2. Cinerary Urn from Seamill, West Kilbride.

at the mouth, $7\frac{1}{16}$ inches at the widest part of the bulge, and $3\frac{7}{16}$ inches across the base. The top of the lip is bevelled downwards towards the inside. The overhanging rim is decorated with impressed vertical lines set in pairs between double transverse marginal lines, and the concave neck by a lattice pattern of double lines margined below by a pair of similar lines. The impressions on both rim and neck have been made by two separate cords, perhaps about 3 inches in length, one of which has been twisted from right to left, and the other from left to right. Sir Aylmer Hunter-Weston has most kindly presented both urns to the National Museum, and the cordial thanks of the Society are due to him for this gift.

¹ *Proc. Soc. Ant. Scot.*, vol. lxi. p. 250, fig. 10.

CIST AT EAST LINTON.

In December of last year, when excavations were being made at Phantassie, East Linton, East Lothian, in connection with the drainage system for some new cottages, the workmen accidentally uncovered a stone grave. The cist, which lay east and west, was about 3 feet below the surface of the ground, not many feet distant from the inside of the dyke which encloses the garden on the high ground above the south side of the Lynn Pool on the Tyne. It measured 3 feet 2 inches in length, 2 feet in width, and 1 foot 6 inches in depth. The sides and ends were composed of single slabs set on edge, and the cover-stone, which was made of stone similar to that obtained from Traprain Law, had a smaller slab on the top at the west end, as if to help to seal more effectually the interstice between cover and end slab. The cist was filled with a fine dust among which were a number of bones of what must have been an inhumed burial. A portion of the lower jaw was found, and from examination it would appear to have belonged to a young person of about eleven years of age, as two of the teeth of the secondary dentition were not fully erupted. I am indebted to Mr W. H. Laing, contractor, for information as to the exact position of the slabs, etc.