

I.

THREE GRAVES CONTAINING URNS OF THE FOOD-VESSEL TYPE.

By J. GRAHAM CALLANDER, F.S.A. SCOT., DIRECTOR OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF ANTIQUITIES.

URN FROM SUNNYSIDE, FYVIE, ABERDEENSHIRE.

About 1910 the fragments of a food-vessel were ploughed up in a cultivated field on the farm of Sunnyside, in the parish of Fyvie. The

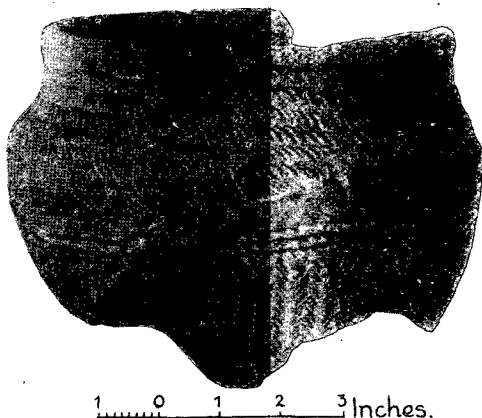


Fig. 1. Food-vessel from Sunnyside, Fyvie.

site was on a slight mound, but there was no appearance of a cairn of stones or of a cist. The shards were recently presented to the National Museum by the farmer, Mr S. A. Niven, to whom the thanks of the Society are due for his kind donation.

About two-thirds of the vessel had survived, and as most of the pieces fitted each other we have been able to restore it so as to show its form, and obtain the diameters of the mouth and shoulder (fig. 1). The vessel is of reddish-brown ware and of pleasing shape. Its profile is not angular, like most of our food-vessels, but consists of curves, the neck being concave and the shoulder and lower part convex. It measures $6\frac{1}{4}$ inches in diameter at the mouth, and $7\frac{3}{8}$ inches at the shoulder, and the wall is $\frac{7}{16}$ inch thick. The lip is rounded on the top, and is slightly

everted in a regular curve. On the neck are ten horizontal rows of closely set, short, curved, incised lines, and on the inside of the lip five similar rows. Immediately under the shoulder are two stab-and-drag horizontal lines, below which the wall is entirely covered with vertical incised herring-bone patterns, the short lines forming them also being curved.

URN FROM A SHORT CIST AT NORTH GYLE, CORSTORPHINE,
EDINBURGH.

On the forenoon of Saturday, 9th March of this year, Mr Alexander Y. Allison, proprietor of the farm of North Gyle, Corstorphine, brought into the Museum a food-vessel that had been found in a grave in one of his fields the preceding afternoon. As Mr Allison was returning home immediately he very kindly motored me out to the site of the discovery, where we met his foreman, James Ritchie, from whom I was able to obtain full details of the finding of the grave.

The site lies near the south-west corner of the farm, in the field known as Kilmun's Park, at a spot about 30 paces north of Gogar Burn and 200 paces east of the boundary of the adjoining property Gogar Park. The ground is fairly flat, with slight undulations, and lies about 150 feet above sea-level. Underneath some 12 inches of soil is a deposit of sand and gravel of varying depth, which is being carted away for building purposes, and it was while tiring a new section of its covering of soil that the grave was exposed. A large part of the field has been gone over in this way, but this is the first prehistoric burial which has been noted.

A large slab of whinstone, measuring 3 feet in length, 2 feet in breadth, and 1 foot in thickness, was first exposed, about 9 inches under the surface. On removing this stone it was seen that it formed the cover of a short cist formed of four slabs of yellow sandstone set on edge, the end slabs being inserted within the ends of the side slabs. The grave, which lay 260° west of north magnetic, about east-north-east and west-south-west, was carefully made and almost rectangular on plan. It measured internally 2 feet 7 inches in length, 16 inches in breadth at the east end, 14 inches at the west end, and 20 inches in depth. The north and east slabs measured 4 inches in thickness, the south slab 3 inches, and the west slab 2 inches. At the west end of the south slab a flat stone had been fitted in to fill a vacancy. A number of blocks and small boulders up to about 1 foot in diameter were packed in against the outside of the cist. The floor was neither paved nor causeyed.

When the cover-stone was removed the cist was found to be full of

THREE GRAVES CONTAINING URNS OF FOOD-VESSEL TYPE. 369

fine sand which evidently had percolated into the inside through the interstices between the stones. On clearing out the sand an urn of the food-vessel class was found in the south-west corner, lying on its side, with the mouth almost against the south wall. No other relics, either in the form of bones or artifacts, were discovered in the cist. The small size of the burial chamber and the absence of osseous remains suggest that the grave was that of a young person whose remains had entirely disintegrated.

The urn is of the food-vessel type, light brown in colour, with an

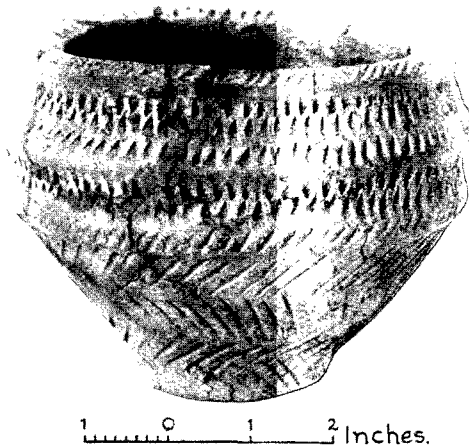


Fig. 2. Food-vessel from North Gyle, Corstorphine.

almost vertical upper part encircled with two broad, hollow mouldings, and a quickly tapering lower part (fig. 2). It measures $5\frac{3}{8}$ inches in diameter externally at the mouth, $5\frac{5}{8}$ inches at the shoulder, $2\frac{5}{16}$ inches across the base, and $4\frac{1}{8}$ inches in height. The rim, which is bevelled downwards towards the inside, is $\frac{5}{8}$ inch in width. The top of the rim and the whole of the wall are covered with ornamentation, that on the top of the rim and the upper part of the vessel consisting of triangular impressions formed by a flat, pointed instrument, and that on the tapering lower part consisting of vertical zig-zags of four parts incised with a sharp tool. Although intact, the upper part of the vessel is cracked in many places.

URN AND JET NECKLACE FROM A SHORT CIST AT HIGH
COCKLAW, NEAR BERWICK.

Early in 1898 a short cist was unearthed on the farm of High Cocklaw, near Berwick. Previous to this, two others had been discovered in the same field. In one of the latter some pieces of charred bones and the fragments of a clay urn had been found, but in the other two no relics, either in the form of human remains or humanly wrought objects, were noted.¹

Within a couple of years after the latest of these discoveries yet

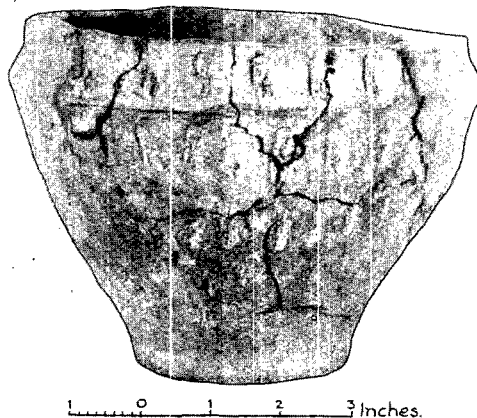


Fig. 3. Food-vessel from Cist at High Cocklaw, near Berwick.

another short cist was laid bare in the same field. It was found to contain "an urn inside, with a large number of jet beads and also two flint beads."²

Recently, through the good offices of our Fellow, Mr J. Hewat Craw, we were able to acquire for the National Museum the urn, parts of the necklace, and a flint knife from the discoverer. Unfortunately, parts of the necklace had been given away, amongst which were a plate and a bead that were handed to Mr John Ovens, Mansfield, Foulden. When Mr Ovens heard that we had secured the surviving parts of the ornament, he very kindly presented his two pieces to the Museum, along with a very fine flint knife found on the same farm, though not in association with the graves. The Society is much indebted to Mr Ovens for these gifts.

¹ *Proc. Berwickshire Nat. Club*, vol. xvii. p. 127.

² *Ibid.*, p. 198.

The graves lay on the south-east slope of a hill, were formed of four sandstone flags set on edge with a heavy sandstone slab as a cover, and measured about 4 feet 6 inches in length internally.

The urn, which is of the food-vessel type, was broken, and some parts were amissing, but, as the greater part remained, there was no difficulty in rebuilding it (fig. 3). Formed of buff-coloured ware, it measures from $4\frac{3}{4}$ inches to $5\frac{1}{8}$ inches in height, $6\frac{1}{4}$ inches in external diameter at the mouth, $6\frac{5}{8}$ inches at the shoulder, and $3\frac{3}{8}$ inches across the base. The converging upper part above the shoulder, which is only $\frac{7}{8}$ inch in height, is decorated by a horizontal row of upright oblong markings rudely impressed on the clay, while below the shoulder are three rows of similar markings. On the flat top of the rim, which is $\frac{1}{2}$ inch thick, is another row of these designs, radially placed. The decoration is unusual, as I have never met with it before on any of our Scottish Bronze Age pottery.

Of the necklace, including the two pieces presented by Mr Ovens, there remain three trapezoidal plates, a triangular plate from one end of the crescent formed by the beads, and eighteen barrel-shaped beads, some of which are imperfect; there are also five fragments of others. Two of the plates are plain, and one is decorated with two punctulated lozenges, while the triangular plate bears a similarly made triangular design.

As for the two beads of flint mentioned in the original account of the find, they have not survived, and one doubts whether a mistake may not have crept into the record. However, a very finely flaked, oval knife of dark grey flint (fig. 4), measuring $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches in length, $\frac{1\frac{3}{8}}$ inch in breadth, and $\frac{9}{32}$ inch in thickness, was found in the grave, and this may have been confused with the beads. It is nicely dressed on one face, but shows no secondary working on the other.



Fig. 4. Flint Knife from Cist at High Cocklaw. ($\frac{1}{2}$.)