

II.

A CINERARY URN FROM KIRKLANDS, KIRKOSWALD, AYRSHIRE. BY ARTHUR J. H. EDWARDS, F.S.A. SCOT., ASSISTANT KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL MUSEUM OF ANTIQUITIES OF SCOTLAND.

In March of this year a cinerary urn was accidentally exposed when a field on the farm of Kirklands, in the parish of Kirkoswald, Ayrshire, was being ploughed. News of the find having been conveyed to the Most Hon. the Marquess and Marchioness of Ailsa, they reported the discovery to the Museum, and immediately after I was able to visit the site and get particulars of the unearthing of the vessel. I am greatly indebted to the Marquess and Marchioness for giving me the opportunity of, and assistance in, securing this record. I have also to thank Mr Gray, the farmer, who notified the police authorities of the find, when the fragments of the urn and its contents were removed for safe custody to the Police Station at Maybole, under the care of Sergeant J. Gardner of the Ayrshire Constabulary, who did everything possible to recover all the pieces.

The exact place where the urn was found is about 400 feet above sea-level, and a little less than half a mile north-north-east of the village of Kirkoswald. The vessel had been placed in the ground mouth downwards, and, as the base was only 8 or 10 inches from the surface, it had in all likelihood been struck by the plough on a previous occasion, since only a small portion of the bottom was recovered. This portion sufficed, however, to permit of the restoration of the base, and enabled us to make a complete reconstruction of the vessel at the Museum.

The urn (fig. 1), which is of Bronze Age date, is made of brownish clay, and measures $14\frac{3}{4}$ inches in height. The mouth is not quite circular, being from $13\frac{1}{4}$ inches to $13\frac{3}{4}$ inches in external diameter, the widest part of the body measuring $14\frac{5}{8}$ inches in diameter and the base $4\frac{1}{4}$ inches. The overhanging rim measures $4\frac{1}{4}$ inches in depth and is decorated by parallel lines of impressions of a twisted cord, arranged alternately in horizontal and vertical groups, four groups being horizontal and four vertical. On a slightly raised moulding, $2\frac{5}{8}$ inches below the lower edge of the overhanging rim, is a series of shallow vertical incisions. The remainder of the exterior is plain.

The lip, slightly bevelled downwards towards the interior, is $\frac{7}{8}$ inch in width, and is ornamented with parallel lines of twisted cord decoration. A somewhat unusual feature is the projection of the lip over the interior wall for as much as a quarter of an inch in some parts, but a little less at others.



Fig. 1. Cinerary Urn from Kirklands, Kirkoswald.

The urn has been well fired, and, for a vessel of its size, it is remarkable to find that the wall was in places, about midway down, not more than $\frac{5}{16}$ inch in thickness.

The Society is indebted to Mr J. Don for his kind assistance, and thanks are due to the Most Hon. the Marquess of Ailsa, F.S.A.Scot., for so kindly presenting the urn to the Museum.

The remains found in the urn have been submitted to Professor Low, F.S.A.Scot., Aberdeen University, who has kindly supplied the following report:—

The bones from the urn show the fragmentation characteristic of cremated remains.

Although the bones are fragmentary, many pieces can be identified as belonging to an adult human skeleton—pieces of all the flat bones of the cranium as well as parts of right and left petrous bones, pieces of upper and lower jaws, and five molar, three bicuspid, a canine, and two incisor teeth; pieces of vertebræ and ribs; pieces of pelvis; numerous pieces of upper and lower limb bones, including fragments of bones of hand and foot.

As no duplicate parts are identified it is assumed that the urn contained the cremated remains of one individual, and the appearance of the bones indicate a male.

A SHORT CIST AT THE FARM OF DAILL, PARISH OF KILARROW, ISLAY.

While cutting a track for a waterpipe to the farm at Dail, in the parish of Kilarrow, the workmen accidentally came upon a short cist of the Bronze Age, the cover-stone of which was less than a foot from the surface.

I visited the site on 31st March, shortly after the discovery, and was able to obtain the following particulars of the find.

The cist was situated about 250 yards east of the farm, and consisted of two side-stones and a cover-stone, the ends being built of small irregularly shaped stones. It measured 5 feet in length, 2 feet 2 inches in breadth, and 1 foot 8 inches in depth. The cover-stone measured 3 feet 6 inches in greatest length, 2 feet 8 inches in greatest width, and 4 inches in thickness. The main axis of the cist lay north-north-east and south-south-west. It contained the remains of an inhumed burial, most of the bones of which had decayed. It was ascertained, however, that the head had lain at the south end of the cist.

Professor Low states that the bones are the fragmentary remains of a human adult skeleton.

The skull is represented by a fairly complete left temporal bone and four small pieces of parietal; the limb bones are represented by the middle $\frac{2}{3}$ rds of the shaft of a right humerus; three fragments of the shaft of a right femur and the lower $\frac{3}{4}$ ths of the left femur; the upper $\frac{3}{4}$ ths of the right and left tibia. The shafts of both tibia show well-developed muscular ridges.

The Society is indebted to Mr James MacKillop of Bridgend, Islay, who kindly notified the Museum of the discovery.