

2. DISCOVERY OF A SHORT CIST CONTAINING A BEAKER URN AT
BOGHEAD FARM, PITSLIGO, ABERDEENSHIRE.

In September 1941, when Mr Robert Simpson, the son of Mrs Helen Simpson, the proprietrix of Boghead Farm, Sandhaven, was digging out shingle from a gravelly knowe which lies about a quarter of a mile south of Boghead Farm in the Parish of Pitsligo, and about 2 miles south-south-east of Roseheart, he accidentally uncovered a short cist. The cist, the major axis of which lay east-south-east and west-north-west, consisted of rough stone slabs and measured about 3 feet by 2 feet by $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet in depth, the top of the cover stone being about 3 feet below ground level. It contained a fine specimen of a beaker urn, but no skeletal remains.

The urn, which was made of a light brown clay and decorated with bands of ornament with intervening plain zones, measured $6\frac{3}{8}$ inches in height, $5\frac{1}{4}$ inches in external diameter at the mouth, $5\frac{1}{4}$ inches at the bulge, and $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches at the base (Pl. XXVII, 1).

The ornamentation consisted mainly of rows of oblique strokes and vertical and horizontal lines with a single band of cross-hatching in the middle of the shoulder zone. The oblique dashes had been made with a tool closely resembling a thickened finger-nail, while the vertical and horizontal lines had been made on the soft clay with a fine-toothed implement leaving a series of hyphenated impressions, or, as it is sometimes called, comb-ornamentation. A large lump of clay, similar in colour to that of the urn, was subsequently found in the gravel pit, but whether this is the same clay from which the urn was made cannot be determined without analysis.

The urn was presented to the Museum by Mrs Helen Simpson, Moss-side, Rathen, through Dr W. Douglas Simpson, D.Litt., F.S.A.Scot., to whom I am indebted for particulars of the find.

A. J. H. EDWARDS.