

### 3. JOTTINGS ON EARLY POTTERY.

As new information is published in archaeological journals, things long stored in museums can be seen in a new light. This has quite often been incidental to the rearrangement now going on in our collections. Some cases are placed on record here without discussion.

*Pigmies Isle, Butt of Lewis.*—In *Proc. Soc. Ant. Scot.*, vol. xxxix, 1904–5, p. 248 ff. there is a description of certain structures and the legends attached to them. From under the floor of the smaller rectangular building there were dug up sherds and also bones of domestic animals which feature in the earlier stories about pigmies. The one sherd then illustrated, half size, has hitherto not been recognised as part of a Neolithic bowl. Three other decorated sherds are thinner and have the burnished surface better preserved, but are likewise “channelled” in Neolithic fashion. A sherd of the same type subsequently presented by J. Graham Callander, in 1915, bears a herring-bone pattern. The piece of slightly flattened base mentioned in the original account is of quite a different and more recent fabric.

*Urquhart, Morayshire.*—The Rev. James Morrison presented various fragments from Urquhart in 1871. Some of them may possibly be identified with those from pits at Meft farm which he described in *Proc. Soc. Ant. Scot.*, vol. ix, 1870-72, p. 255: "The pieces of pottery, some of them ornamented, are in general of better quality than the urn found in the cist on the same farm." At any rate there are three decorated sherds of quite good thin Neolithic A pottery, and five or six undecorated (fig. 1, 2-4). All contain quartz and some mica as temper. The colour varies from yellow to black through reddish and grey. In two cases the decoration is simply very shallow channelling which might have been executed with the back of the finger-nail (Pl. XXIV, 1, and fig. 1, 1), but on the third, narrow channels form metopic Unstan pattern (Pl. XXIV, 2).

*Skitten, Caithness.*—Among the Barry Collection there is a sherd from an unknown site at Skitten. It is a fragment of a rim, probably  $7\frac{1}{2}$  inches in diameter, of hard grey to black pottery. A groove runs round the outside below the rim, and just below it starts a close series of slightly oblique lines; this suggests a bowl of Unstan type.

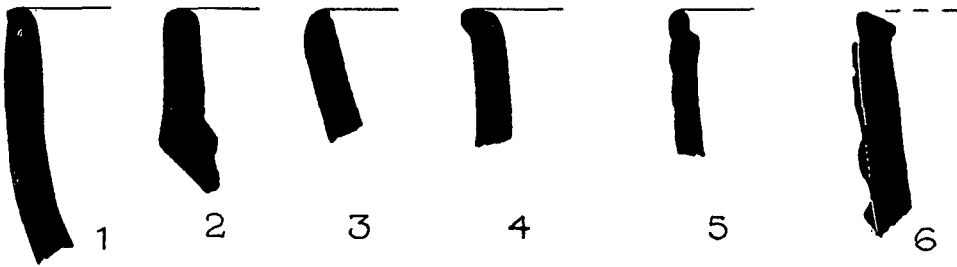


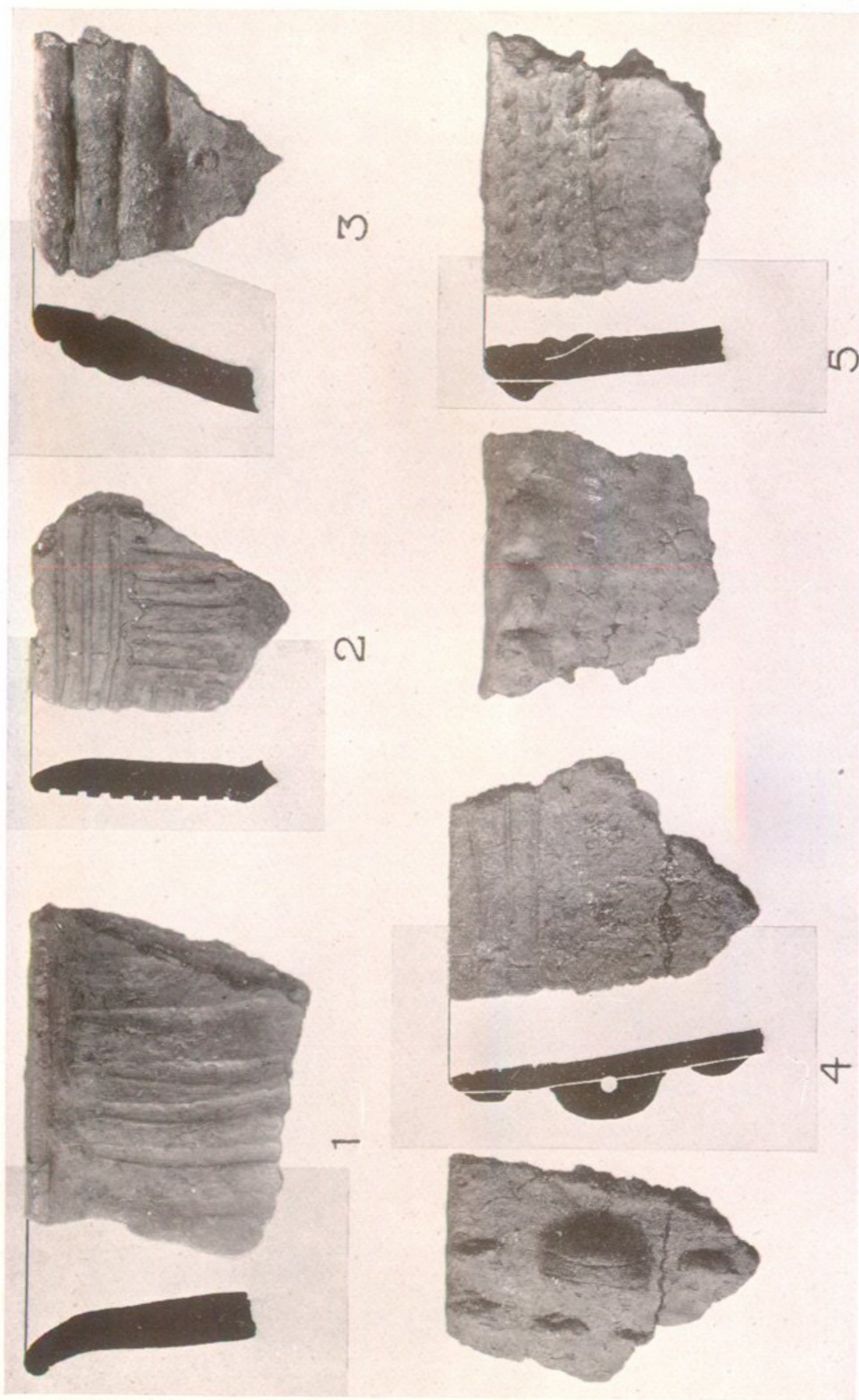
Fig. 1. 1-4, Urquhart—Neolithic A; 5, Hedderwick; 6, Evie—Grooved Ware. (c.  $\frac{1}{2}$ .)

*Kenny's Cairn, Caithness.*—Of the pieces published by Callander in his standard paper in *Proc. Soc. Ant. Scot.*, vol. lxxiii, 1928-29, his numbers 3, 5-7, 10 now appear to be Iron Age rather than Neolithic. Though they represent four somewhat differing fabrics, none are quite like the undoubted Neolithic sherds. The flat base (10) has a typically Iron Age texture. One of 3 and also 5 each show a structural joint not smoothed off on the inside (seen in section in his fig. 14.5); this is probably an Iron Age feature.<sup>1</sup> Finally, the angle that the walls made with the lips in the case of 3, 6, and 7 is wider than shown in Callander's sections—the last two in fact sloped markedly outwards. It will be remembered that C. S. T. Calder found Iron Age sherds in a chambered cairn in Eday.<sup>2</sup>

*Dingieshowe, near Deerness, Orkney.*—Among the sherds from the "Broch of Deerness" (1892 Catalogue) presented in 1865 there are two fragments of a typical Grooved Ware pot, similar to sherds from Rinyo illustrated in *Proc. Soc. Ant. Scot.*, vol. lxxiii, Pl. XXII, 3 and 8. There is also a thick undecorated sherd from a large vessel resembling Rinyo's coarser fabric. The Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments record that pottery of this nature was

<sup>1</sup> *Proc. Soc. Ant. Scot.*, vol. lxxiii, p. 238.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. lxxi, pp. 128, 143 ff.



1-2, Urquhart, Morayshire; 3-5, Glenluce Sands, Wigtonshire. (Under  $\frac{2}{3}$ .)

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found some years ago in a kitchen-midden at Dingieshowe, which may be presumed to be the same site.<sup>1</sup>

*Evie, Orkney.*—As also noted by the Commission,<sup>2</sup> a number of sherds of Grooved Ware were found on Evie Sands not far from the Broch of Gurness in 1930. These are now in the Museum, and may well all belong to one vessel (fig. 1, 6). Below the flat rim there are two horizontal grooves, and then after an interval the surface was peppered with small blobs as at Rinyo.<sup>3</sup>

*Glenluce, Wigtownshire.*—Three sherds not published by Callander may now tentatively be linked with Grooved Ware. The first is of very thin blackish ware with a reddish-buff exterior. The rim, which may have been some 6 inches in diameter, is undifferentiated; but on the inside three parallel lines are scored horizontally across a specially prepared zone, .9 inches broad (Pl. XXIV, 4). On the outside of the sherd elongated blobs have been applied in vertical rows starting just below the lip. At a level with the second and third rows there is a neatly formed vertical lug with small horizontal perforation, and two vertically scored lines cross the hump of the lug. The next sherd is thicker and muddy coloured (Pl. XXIV, 5), but seems to have belonged to a pot of the same size and shape with a similar decorated zone inside. This zone is strictly an applied band of clay, and bears three horizontal lines of cord impression with a fourth just below it: triple impressions of this kind are normal on B-beakers from Glenluce. Round the outside of the lip there is a close-set row of round applied blobs of clay.

The third sherd is even less certainly ascribed (Pl. XXIV, 3). It is coarser, black outside and reddish inside, and contains large grits. It has a roughly executed depressed line below the rim outside, and under that a broad, presumably applied, band with a hollow along the middle. On the inside a line seems to have been scored half an inch below the rim.

*Hedderwick, East Lothian.*—A fragment of Grooved Ware also comes from the Neolithic B and B-beaker site at Hedderwick.<sup>4</sup> The wall is quite thin and hard. The outer surface is weathered but still light brown, the rest grey-black. Traces of two or three grooves can be seen faintly below the rim outside, while the inside of the rim is step-bevelled, as often at Rinyo (fig. 1, 5).

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