

## II.

## A TRIPARTITE BOWL FROM KINTYRE.

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A note which appeared in the *Argyllshire Herald* of 4th March 1893 reports: "On Thursday last week, while some workmen were engaged in levelling the garden plot at Mr Campbell's new house, Glenramskill, they came upon an ancient stone cist in which was a cinerary urn of baked clay. The urn contained only a little earth, and, although a careful search was made, no flints or other relics were found. The cist, which was formed of red sandstone and schist in the form of an irregular square, was three feet and a half in length, by two feet three inches in breadth at the north-west end, this being the direction in which the cist lies. The depth was two feet five inches, the bottom being loose earth in which the urn was partly buried. The cist was covered by several rough blocks of red sandstone about one foot from the surface. Mr Campbell has kindly consented to have the urn, which is beautifully ornamented, placed in the local museum."

So far as can be ascertained this find (Pl. VI, 1, and fig. 1, 1) has never been recorded in the *Proceedings* of the Society.<sup>1</sup>

The food-vessel is of Abercromby's Type B,<sup>2</sup> measures 5½ inches across the rim, which is not everted, and has a slanting stamped decoration on the inner side. It is 4½ inches in height. Two raised mouldings are ornamented with a herring-bone pattern, for which a stamp made of bone or wood has been used; in all probability the same stamp was used for decorating the inner bevel of the rim.<sup>3</sup> Three bands of another pattern occurring above, between, and below the herring-bone ornament consist of two rows of wide angle zigzag motif made by a spatulate tool. False relief technique has been used for these chevrons, but they are merely shallow impressions and overlie the stamped pattern. Between the chevrons there is a pattern of the same type as the rim decoration, but made with a larger stamp. The paste, which is dark and gritless, has been carefully prepared and is fairly well fired; the surface is light brown. The base is undecorated, and the recurrent motifs are defined by eighteen horizontal rows of notched stamping. The overall pattern is well placed and executed with a certain sophisticated assurance.

<sup>1</sup> My thanks are due to the authorities of the Royal Burgh of Campbeltown for access to the Glenramskill bowl and for agreeing to publication; also to Mr Duncan Colville, President of the Kintyre Antiquarian Society. I am indebted to the Keeper of the National Museum of Ireland, Dr Raftery, for permission to use hitherto unpublished material, and to Mr Hartnett for particulars of this, including the example from his excavation at Fourknocks.

<sup>2</sup> Abercromby, *The Bronze Age Pottery of Great Britain and Ireland*, vol. i. (1912), p. 116.

<sup>3</sup> See Pl. VI, 1, showing the pattern enlarged.

The Glenramskill bowl can be closely matched by a small group of which the most characteristic are west of Scotland and Irish in distribution. The bowl form, with overall decoration, is akin to Abercromby's Type A, but has an established identity of its own. This group falls into Professor Childe's Form C,<sup>1</sup> but since the type has no descriptive designation, it will be referred to below as the Tripartite Bowl. In this series, which varies in height from 3 to 7½ inches, the two horizontal mouldings are emphasised by ornament above and below, or by a pattern on the raised band, which suggests that the form was traditionally important. The mouldings may be decorated by slanting stamped impressions, or lines of chevron pattern. Zones of false relief are frequent, or their derivative, the wide angle chevron made with a spatulate tool. The rim is straight, or very slightly everted, and usually decorated on the inner bevel.

The chief characteristic of the group, apart from the tripartite form, is the rhythmic overall pattern, for which the same implement is often used in varying combinations. Notable exceptions are no. 26 and a bowl from Tormore (not figured) where the lower portion is undecorated. The technique of false relief, a form of ornament common on food-vessels, is particularly characteristic of the tripartite type.

In Professor Childe's opinion there are elements in food-vessels, especially those from the west of Scotland and their Irish relatives, that cannot be derived from native tradition;<sup>2</sup> and this seems to hold good for the tripartite bowls, despite the close proximity of the Beacharra and allied sites. The profusion of decoration suggests Iberian influence, though the form may be a native development. Mediterranean influence is held responsible for false relief ornament,<sup>3</sup> and the persistence of this technique, together with the clear-cut form and decoration of many tripartite bowls from the west coast, suggests sea-borne prototypes and supports the theory of direct connection by the western sea route with the Mediterranean through southern France and Brittany,<sup>4</sup> a point of arrival in this country which has been called the back door.<sup>5</sup> Perhaps the obvious advantage of a sheltered route by the Firth of Clyde and Kilbrennan Sound (a name which reminds us of the sailor Saint of a later date) to the Crinan ore-fields<sup>6</sup> attracted seafaring prospectors, who diffused their tradition through trade.

<sup>1</sup> V. G. Childe, *Scotland before the Scots* (1946), p. 105.

<sup>2</sup> V. G. Childe, *Prehistory of Scotland* (1935), p. 93.

<sup>3</sup> For Spanish examples cf. J. der Motes, *Ampurias* 6 (1944), pl. iii.

<sup>4</sup> Cf. Sir Lindsay Scott, *Proc. First International Congress of Prehistoric and Protohistoric Sciences, London* (1934), p. 133.

<sup>5</sup> Stuart Piggott, *British Prehistory* (1949), p. 114.

<sup>6</sup> Wilson, *Mem. Geol. Surv.*, vol. xvii. (1921), p. 77, "Special Reports on the Mineral Resources of Great Britain." Copper ore was worked in the Crinan district till the eighteenth century, where open-cast workings are recorded at Kilmartin. Mines in Kirkcudbrightshire, Angus and Perthshire are also recorded, and the ore is present in Meath, Dublin and Wicklow. See also Sir Lindsay Scott, *P.P.S.*, vol. xvii. (1951), pp. 37-42.

Among the recorded examples 31 have been chosen which illustrate the varying forms of decoration found on food-vessels of this series. Of these, 25 are ornamented with false relief technique, and one, no. 26 from Bute, has the lower portion undecorated, which may denote a prototype from Brittany.

Fig. 1, 2. This is from an unknown locality in Argyll, and closely resembles the Glenramskill bowl in form. It has an even, well-balanced pattern. The decoration on the inner bevel of the rim, comparable to no. 6, is made with the spatulate tool used for false relief.

Fig. 1, 3. The records of sherds associated with no. 3 suggest a multiple burial at the Gap of Gorteen (Gurtin?), Co. Tyrone. The zonal decoration is akin to the Glenramskill bowl. The flat rim is decorated (Abercromby, no. 310).

Fig. 1, 4. This bowl from Poltalloch, Argyll, was found, with a flint flake, in one of the group of grooved cists in the Crinan district. The section differs somewhat from the Glenramskill example and the base is slightly dished. The whole, though carefully made, is uneven; the overall pattern and the treatment of the raised mouldings, emphasised by zones of false relief, are characteristic. The decoration consists of horizontal rows of alternating false relief and stamped impressions.

A crescentic necklace, found in another of the grooved cists 11 feet away, is described as being made of jet or some allied substance such as lignite or cannel coal. The pointillé decoration shows traces of white infill, and the hollow base of the triangular bead, which forms the fastening, is unique among the recorded necklaces of this type (*P.S.A.S.*, vol. lxiii. (1928-29), p. 160).

Fig. 1, 5. A well-made bowl from Kilmartin Glebe, Argyll, now in the British Museum, is of good proportions, with a crisp, well-balanced pattern, and is rather larger than the preceding examples. There is an unusual band of criss-cross stamped pattern on the lower portion. This bowl was found in a 6-foot central pit lined with rounded boulders, which had a capstone measuring 9 feet 4 inches. The cairn, which measured 110 feet in diameter, also covered a double circle of stones 3 to 5 feet in height and approximately 5 feet apart, with a diameter of 37 feet, in which a central cist of normal size contained a bowl of Abercromby's Type A and jet beads from a crescentic necklace. It would have been manifestly impossible to set up the double stone setting after the cairn had been raised, and it may therefore be presumed that the circles, with the central burial which contained the Type A bowl, were completed before the cairn was built. Although it follows that the Irish bowl, with its accompanying necklace-beads, was the earlier inhumation, there need not have been any great period of time between the two burials (*P.S.A.S.*, vol. vi. (1866), p. 339. Abercromby, no. 238).

Fig. 1, 6. False relief ornament is used to mark the raised mouldings of the Arran bowl from Brownhead Cairn. The base is decorated by three converging rows of chevrons, made, as in false relief, with a flat pointed tool.<sup>1</sup>

A circular cairn, 26 feet in diameter, defined by a kerb, covered the cist, filled with black, stoneless earth, in which no. 6 was found. Brownhead Cairn lies between Corrie Crievie and Blackwaterfoot (*P.S.A.S.*, vol. xxxvi. (1901-2), p. 120. Abercromby, no. 249).

Fig. 2, 7. Found at Logan, in the Rhinns of Galloway, a tripartite bowl,

<sup>1</sup> A three-armed pattern was made by outlining with stamping on the base of a food-vessel from Carrowkeel (*P.R.I.A.*, vol. xxix. (1911-12), p. 311.

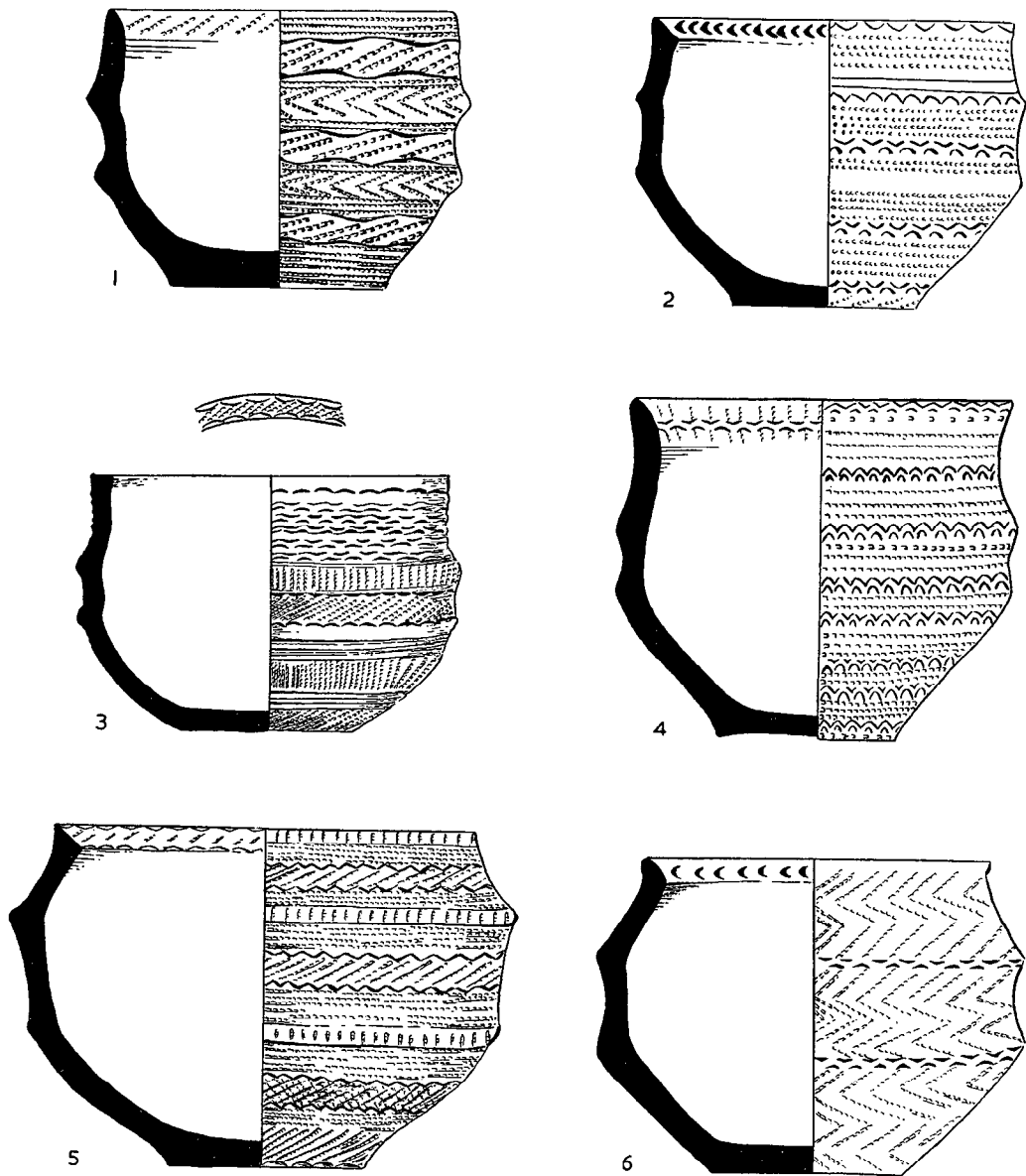


Fig. 1. ( $\frac{1}{8}$ .)

No. 1, Glenramskill, Argyll; no. 2, Argyll; no. 3, Gap of Gorteen, Co. Tyrone; no. 4, Poltalloch, Argyll; no. 5, Kilmartin Glebe, Argyll; no. 6, Brownhead Cairn, Arran.

hitherto unrecorded (now in the Ashmolean Museum of Antiquities, Oxford), has a complicated pattern made with stamps of varying size. Under the row of slanting comb impressions, which decorate the inner rim bevel, a line of single triangular punch-marks gives an individual touch to the ornate style of this bowl. The overall design is formed by alternating long and short stamped impressions and resembles no. 8. (See also Pl. VI, 3.)

Fig. 2, 8. This is a gracious and well-designed example from Dunamase, Co. Leix. The rhythmic pattern of this thin-walled bowl, as well as the excellent potting, are outstanding. The base has a star decoration found also on no. 11, Nurney, Kildare, no. 14, Ballybrew, Wicklow, no. 21 from Oxgangs Road, Edinburgh, and a bowl from Patrickholm Sandquarry, Larkhall, Lanark (*P.S.A.S.*, vol. lxxxiii. (1948-49), p. 207). This symbol, or its survival as a conventional decoration, overlapping the walls of the pot, is found on the base of some food-vessels and of a number of incense cups<sup>1</sup> (Abercromby, no. 313.)

Fig. 2, 9. The worn blade of a bronze knife dagger with two rivets in place was found with cremated bones in no. 9, a tripartite bowl from Corky, Loughquile, Co. Antrim.

The rim of this bowl is slightly everted, and the inner bevel is decorated with a stamp which has four round teeth. At first sight the pattern appears to be free-hand dots. A stamp with larger teeth has been used for a row of slanting impressions on the outside of the rim and for the upper portion of the body, punched with an upward curve. False relief above the upper moulding and below the lower defines the central groove, which is filled with deeply stamped impressions made with another and larger tool. The spatulate tool used for the false relief decoration is notched, a feature which can be seen in other examples. The notched slanting edge of the spatula could be used as a stamp for the horizontal decoration. The technique used for the lower portion of this bowl compares with that of the two preceding examples. (Now in Cambridge University Museum. Abercromby, no. 247.)

Fig. 2, 10. A tripartite bowl of pale buff paste was found in a cairn at Finnart Hill on Loch Ryan, Galloway. This has been quoted as Abercromby's Type A, but seems to conform more nearly to his Type B or to Professor Childe's Type C. This is another seaboard example of the tripartite bowl. Rows of notches made with a blunt implement are used for the decoration, alternating with wide angle chevrons. Deeply punched horizontal herring-bone patterns complete the decoration, with rather roughly executed lines of stamping (*P.S.A.S.*, vol. lxxviii. (1943-44), p. 136).

Fig. 2, 11. No. 11 from Nurney, Co. Kildare, is of coarse paste, ornamented with false relief which is used in a manner suggestive of radial decoration; a development of this is also indicated by the bars of notched technique sloping upwards from the roughly decorated base.

The bowl was "found 3 feet underground in a gravel hill at Nurney, near which formerly some broken urns were found." This suggests a multiple burial (Abercromby, no. 322).

Fig. 2, 12. Another example of notched technique was found in one of a group of cist burials from Crouck, Co. Tyrone. The upper and lower zones of decoration have been made with a shell or curved stamp, and finger-smoothed bands have been drawn after the notched decoration was applied. The form is akin to no. 9.

Fig. 3, 13. A broken jet bead, barrel shaped, a flint flake and an andalusite crystal were found with no. 13, a curiously decorated bowl from Ballybrew,

<sup>1</sup> See V. G. Childe, *Prehistory of Scotland* (1935), and Siret, *Questions de Chronologie et d'Ethnographie Iberiques*, vol. i. (1913), fig. 60.

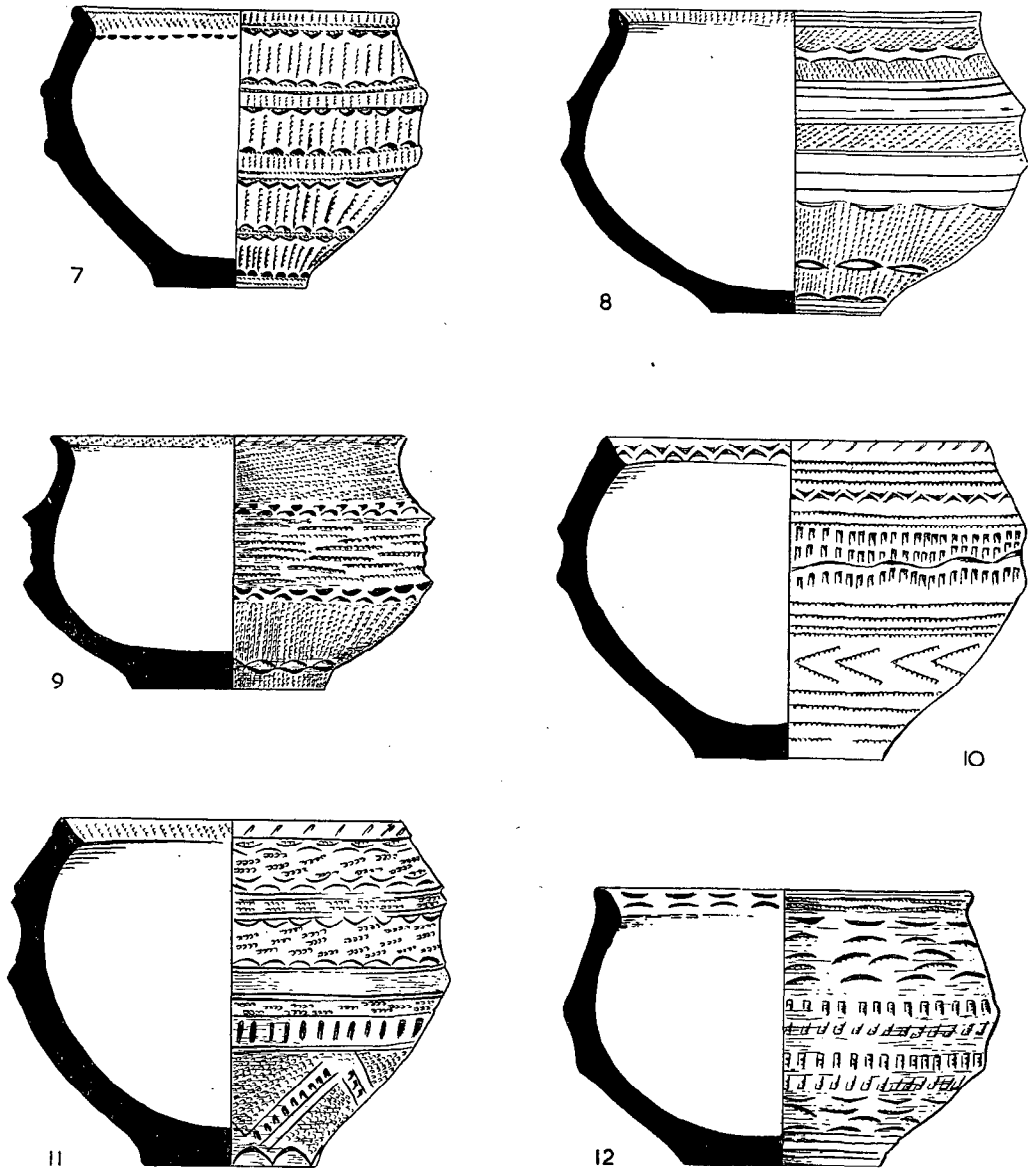


Fig. 2. ( $\frac{1}{3}$ .)

No. 7, Logan, Rhinns of Galloway, Wigtownshire; no. 8, Dunamase, Co. Leix; no. 9, Corky, Loughquile, Co. Antrim; no. 10, Finnart Hill, Loch Ryan, Wigtownshire; no. 11, Nurney, Co. Kildare; no. 12, Crouck, Co. Tyrone.

Co. Wicklow. This has a zone of false relief immediately below the rim, and a looped pattern of stamping, presumably based on false relief technique, which decorates the raised mouldings of so many of the series. The base has a stamped decoration. This bowl comes from a cist burial in a group in which another tripartite bowl, no. 14, was also found (*P.R.I.A.*, vol. xliii. (1936), p. 255).

Fig. 3, 14. Quartz pebbles and two flint flakes were associated with the second cist burial at Ballybrew, Co. Wicklow (see above, no. 13). Looped decoration is also used on the raised mouldings of this thin-walled bowl and closely set zones of slashed ornament. The flat rim is similarly treated. There is a four-armed star on the base.

Fig. 3, 15. Horizontal panels found on the Irish examples quoted decorate a hitherto unpublished tripartite bowl from Annaghmore, Co. Wexford, 6 miles from the coast, which was found in a cist with the crouched burial of a youth. The paste has a backing of large quartz grits, but is well prepared; the bowl is thin-walled and evenly decorated. A four-pointed star ornaments the base.

Fig. 3, 16. A tripartite bowl (hitherto unpublished) was found in a large cist, with a crouched burial and extensive additional cremation, as a secondary in the mound covering a complex structure with passage-grave affinities at Four Knocks, Co. Meath. This has asymmetric panels formed by a spatulate tool, which has also been used for the decoration of the inner rim bevel. The panels are filled with rows of horizontal stamping, the upper raised moulding has close-set slashed ornament and irregularly tooled lines. (Publication forthcoming.)

Fig. 3, 17. A tripartite bowl from Kelshamore, Co. Wicklow (hitherto unpublished), has panels filled with vertical stamped impressions. A band of wide angle zigzag recalls the basal star decoration, already noted in no. 8.

Fig. 3, 18. No. 18 was found in a paved cist with a crouched skeleton at Keenogue, Co. Meath, and comes from a sand-pit in which other burials were found. This thin-walled bowl, which is well made, is unevenly decorated, the asymmetric panels are filled with stamped impressions and uneven, finger-smoothed horizontal lines. The inner bevel of the rim is finger-marked and the base is ornamented with a five-pointed star (R. Macalister, *Ancient Ireland* (1935), p. 66).

Fig. 3, 19. A curiously decorated tripartite bowl was found at Crossakeel, Co. Meath. This bowl is ornamented with horizontal zones of false relief and thong impressions. The inner bevel of the rim has two rows of cord ornament. The panels on the lower half made, as in the examples already quoted, by false relief technique are filled with thong impressions. The base has been much made up.

Fig. 3, 20. Thong impressions are the only decoration of a poorly made bowl from a cist burial at Slaterach, Kerrera, Argyll, found with seven waterworn pebbles of creamy quartzite. The base is greatly restored (*P.S.A.S.*, vol. lxvi. (1931-32), p. 406).

Fig. 3, 21. This bowl was found in a cist at Oxbgangs Road, Edinburgh, in association with a food-vessel of another type and a broken shale button. The upper decoration resembles the bowl from Crossakeel. Well-spaced radial lines ornament the lower portion. The rim decoration consists of horizontal lines of thong impressions.

The Caie cup-marked stone is 180 yards north-west of the site (*P.S.A.S.*, vol. lxviii. (1933-34), p. 351).

Fig. 3, 22. Two bronze rings 3 inches in diameter were found with a headless skeleton in a cist at Kinneff, Kincardine. The inner rim bevel of the accompanying bowl is ornamented by two rows of thong impressions, which decorate the pot overall excepting for two rows of zigzag false relief and two rows of single

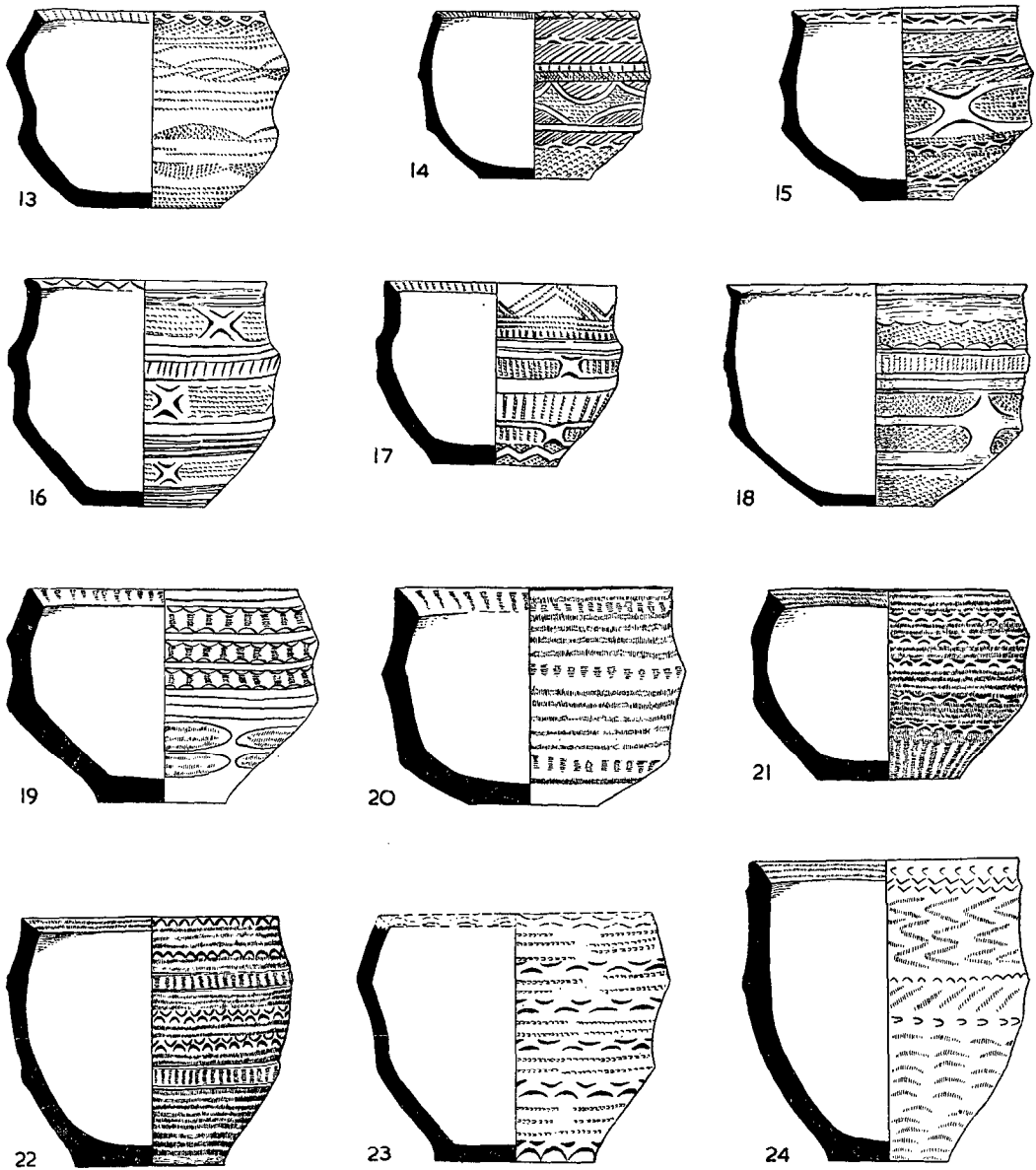


Fig. 3. (1.)

Nos. 13, 14, Ballybrew, Co. Wicklow; no. 15, Annaghmore, Co. Wexford; no. 16, Four Knocks, Co. Meath; no. 17, Kelshamore, Co. Wicklow; no. 18, Keenogue, Co. Wicklow; no. 19, Crossakeel, Co. Meath; no. 20, Slaterach, Kerrera, Argyll; no. 21, Oxfangs Road, Edinburgh; no. 22, Kinneff, Kincardine; no. 23, Dunbar, Haddington; no. 24, Greenhill, Balmerino, Fife.



stamps, made with a spatulate tool (Anderson, *Scotland in Pagan Times, the Bronze and Stone Age* (1886), p. 59. Abercromby, no. 253, p. 155).

Fig. 3, 23. No. 23 was found near Dunbar, E. Lothian; no further details are recorded. This has been chosen on account of the similarity in decoration to nos. 19 and 21, with an important difference in technique. No. 23 has somewhat irregular stamped impressions while the others are decorated with thonging. The base of no. 23 is undecorated, but the imprint of a spatulate tool round the outer edge recalls the overlapping basal star decoration.

Fig. 3, 24. An east coast example from a hilltop cairn on the banks of the Tay was found at Greenhill, Balmerino, Fife. The inner rim bevel is ornamented, and both raised mouldings are decorated with zones of false relief, the lower with a row of slanting stamped impressions. Haphazard herring-bone, and horizontal lines made with a thonged stamp and two lines of a stabbed or slashed ornament, complete the decoration of this rather ungainly example.

The central cist of Greenhill cairn, which had a kerb of stones, was of unusual size,<sup>1</sup> and was made of whinstone slabs and paved with quartzite pebbles. The excavators found it empty. Covered by the same cairn were the remains of seven bowls of varying type and a tiny incense cup which was found in the slab-covered pit containing no. 24. Two beads, one thought to be of bone or possibly burnt lignite, the other of lignite, were in the make-up of the cairn, and on the rock surface near the empty central cist 62 discoid jet beads with 10 oblong plates were found (*P.S.A.S.*, vol. xxxvi. (1901-2), p. 635).

Fig. 4, 25. This excellently made example was found with four flint flakes in a cist central to a circle of seven stones, 45 feet in diameter, of which the tallest was 18 feet in height, at Tormore, Machrie Moor, Arran. False relief and slashed ornament are used for the decoration of this pot, which is larger than the type (*Book of Arran, ibid.*, p. 114, fig. 57. *P.S.A.S.*, vol. iv. (1860-62), p. 499, and vol. xxxvi. (1901-2), p. 126. Abercromby, no. 252).

Fig. 4, 26. Notched technique is used on the little bowl from Tibbradden Mount, Co. Dublin. Although the record is not altogether clear, it is said to have been found in the centre of a mound covering a passage-grave. This is the smallest of the examples quoted; the decoration is neat but poorly executed, with two zones of finger-nail ornament, and sideways notching (Abercromby, no. 314).

Fig. 4, 27. Sherds found in a cist at Knockenny, Glamis, Angus, and associated with discoid and barrel-shaped beads, belong apparently to this group, in spite of the weak outline and crude thonged decoration.

Fig. 4, 28. In a cist burial under a cairn at Mount Stuart, Bute, a well-made tripartite bowl was found with the skeleton of a woman. A bronze fragment and a crescentic necklace consisting of a hundred barrel-shaped jet beads and seven jet "plates" were found with the inhumation. It is noteworthy that the lower portion of this bowl was undecorated (*P.S.A.S.*, vol. xxxviii. (1903-4), p. 63. Abercromby, no. 250).

Fig. 4, 29. This bowl from Luggacurran, Co. Leix, is globular in form, with crude herring-bone slashed ornament in panels, which have been formed by false relief technique. The decoration on the lower portion gives a singular faceted effect, and is formed with a tool pressed obliquely into the clay. Spiral fragments of bronze were found in association, and are now in the National Museum of Ireland. Fragments of beads are also mentioned, but of these there is now no trace (*J.R.S.A.I.*, vol. xv. (1879-82), p. 446).

<sup>1</sup> Compare cist of unusual size with no. 5, Kilmartin Glebe grooved cists, and cist A Cairnpapple (*P.S.A.S.*, vol. lxxxii. (1947-48). 68).

Fig. 4, 30. The false relief decorating no. 30, from North Gyle, Corstorphine, nr. Edinburgh, is made with a tool forming a particularly acute angle, and the stroke ornament of the lower half indicates fusion with another type.

Fig. 4, 31. This bowl, found in a cist near Redden Farm, Kelso, Roxburghshire, associated with a finely worked flint blade, has been recently published. The pattern of thonged decoration compares with that on a bowl from Drimmagh, where Mr Kilbryde Jones remarks on the form as of "British type" (*P.S.A.S.*, vol. lxxxiii. (1948-49), p. 220, Pl. XXXVI, 3. For the Drimmagh bowl see *J.R.S.A.I.*, vol. lxix. (1939), p. 208, fig. 3).

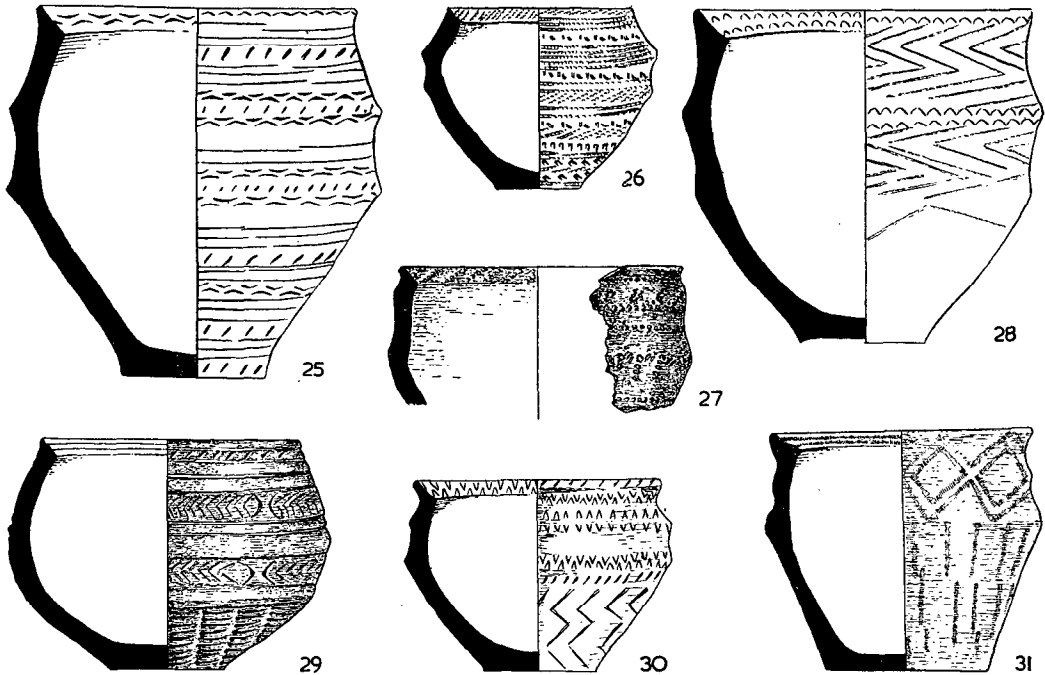


Fig. 4. (†)

No. 25, Tormore, Machrie Moor, Arran; no. 26, Tibbradden Mount, Co. Dublin; no. 27, Knockenny, Glamis, Angus; no. 28, Mount Stuart, Bute; no. 29, Luggacurran, Co. Leix; no. 30, North Gyle, Corstorphine, Midlothian; no. 31, Redden Farm, Kelso, Roxburghshire.

From the above list it will be seen that the associations, which are not impressive, indicate the prevalence of jet, lignite or shale in the varying types of ornament for which these substances were used. Well-made crescentic necklaces are found with no. 28, Bute,<sup>1</sup> in a cist from the same cairn as no. 5, Kilmartin Glebe,<sup>2</sup> and at Paltalloch.<sup>3</sup> At Brownhead Cairn,<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup> *Book of Arran* (edited by Balfour) (1910), p. 105, fig. 42. *P.S.A.S.*, vol. xxxviii. (1903-4), p. 64. Abercromby, no. 250, p. 118, no. 66.

<sup>2</sup> *P.S.A.S.*, vol. vi. (1866), p. 339. Abercromby, no. 238, p. 117, no. 58.

<sup>3</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. lxiii. (1928-29), p. 154.

<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. xxxvi. (1901-2), p. 120. Abercromby, no. 249, p. 118, no. 65.

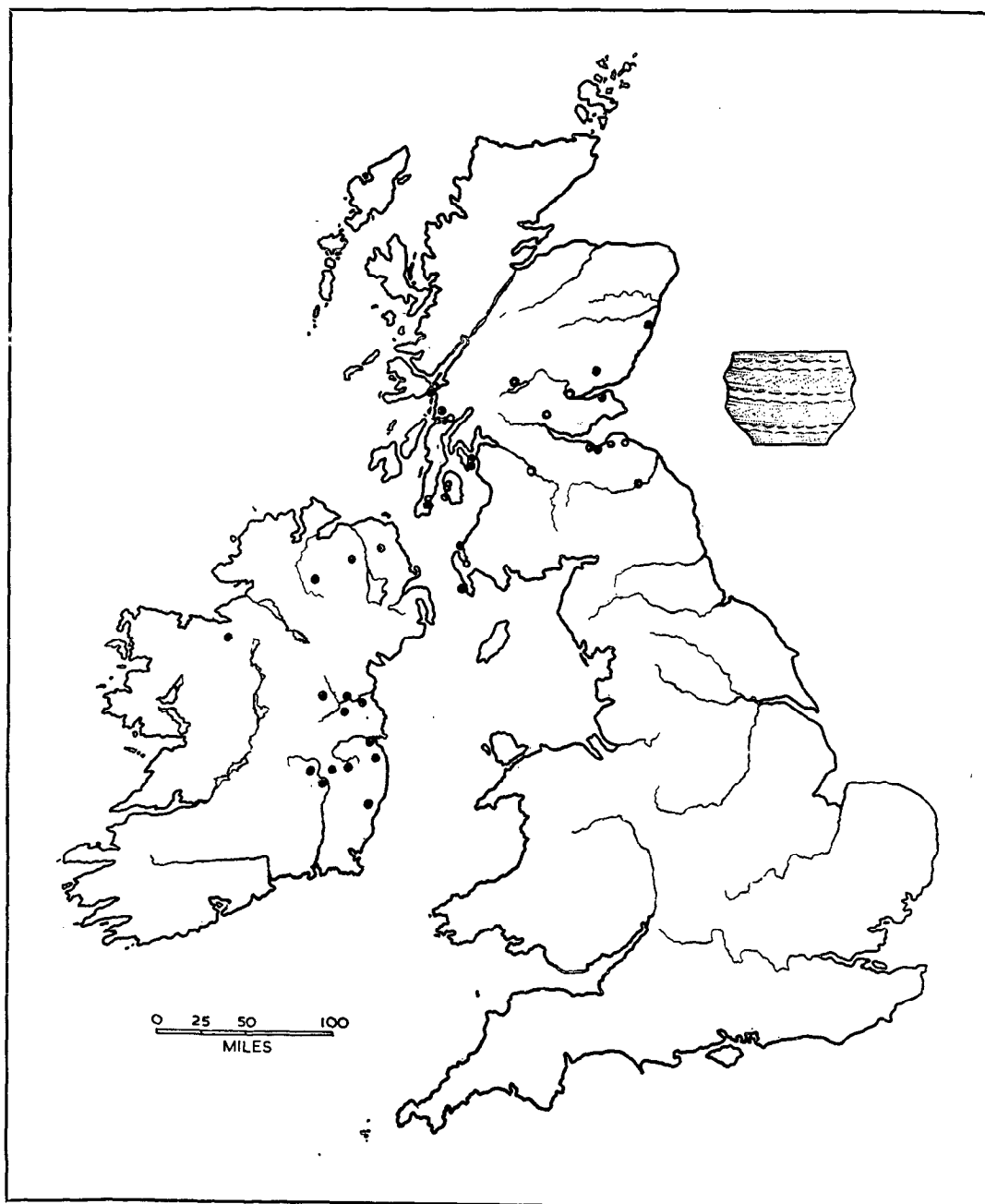


Fig. 5. Distribution of tripartite bowls.

● Illustrated. ○ Not illustrated.

on the west shore of Arran, graduated discoid beads are found with no. 6. Disc and oblong beads are recorded from the multiple burial on the banks of the Tay at Balmerino,<sup>1</sup> where a singular type of incense cup was found with no. 24; and two disc beads are recorded as having been found in a beaker in the "passage-grave" cairn in which a tripartite bowl was found at Balnabraid<sup>2</sup> near Campbeltown (not figured). The barrel-shaped bead with the bowl from Ballybrew,<sup>3</sup> Co. Wicklow, no. 13, was accompanied by an andalusite crystal. Barrel and discoid beads were found with no. 27, a poorly decorated bowl from Knockenny, Angus;<sup>4</sup> and a broken V-perforated button, pierced, perhaps to form a bead, is recorded with no. 21 from one of the cist burials in Oxgangs Road, Edinburgh.<sup>5</sup> No. 4, Poltalloch, and a flint flake were recovered from one of the group of nine "grooved" cists,<sup>6</sup> 11 feet from another of the same character which contained a flint knife and a crescentic necklace whose singular fastening has already been noted.<sup>7</sup> This association with a localised type of burial is a significant cultural feature of the tripartite group.<sup>8</sup>

A knife dagger was found in the bowl from Corky, Loughquile<sup>9</sup> (no. 9), and fragments of bronze and an awl or pin are recorded with one of the allied pots from the Tormore circles, Machrie Moor (not figured).<sup>10</sup> Two bronze rings were found with no. 22 and the headless skeleton of a man, 6 feet 2 inches in height, at Kinneff, Kincardine,<sup>11</sup> and have a parallel in a bronze ring found with a beaker, late in character, from Crawford, though this need not be interpreted as denoting coeval dating; such possessions could have a long life and more than one owner.

An early date is suggested for the spiral fragments found with the bowl from Luggacurran, no. 29;<sup>12</sup> such bracelets have been found in Brittany.<sup>13</sup> Two "links" of beads were also found in the cist, and are said to be "of some mineral substance of a bluish colour."

Apart from flint, no stone is associated with this type. A scraper is

<sup>1</sup> *P.S.A.S.*, vol. xxxvi. (1901-2), p. 635.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. lxvi. (1931-32), p. 406.

<sup>3</sup> *P.R.I.A.*, vol. xliii. (1926), p. 255.

<sup>4</sup> *P.S.A.S.*, vol. lxv. (1930-31), p. 419.

<sup>5</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. lxviii. (1933-34), p. 351. This has a close comparison in a similar button made of bone found in Spain in the Cueva de Toralla, with Early Bronze Age associations; see *Ampurias* 6, (1944), p. 50, fig. 15.

<sup>6</sup> *P.S.A.S.*, vol. lxiv. (1929-30), p. 128, and vol. lxv. (1930-31), p. 269.

<sup>7</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. lxiii. (1928-29), p. 163.

<sup>8</sup> Cup-marks were discovered on the inner face of slabs forming grooved cists at Mid-Cairn, Nether Largie, where a cup-marked slab was also found near the periphery of the cairn, and at Barsloisnoch. The inner face of the slab bore two cup-markings. This grooved cist also contained an unidentifiable jet fragment (*P.S.A.S.*, vol. lxiv. (1929-30), p. 128, fig. 13, and p. 136, fig. 18).

<sup>9</sup> *J.R.N.A.A.I.* (1889). Abercromby, no. 247, p. 118, no. 63.

<sup>10</sup> *P.S.A.S.*, vol. xxxvi. (1901-2), p. 128. Anderson, *Scotland in Pagan Times, Bronze and Stone Ages* (1886), p. 99. *Book of Arran*, p. 118, fig. 58.

<sup>11</sup> Anderson, *ibid.*, p. 59. Abercromby, no. 253, p. 155, and p. 119, no. 68.

<sup>12</sup> *J.R.S.A.I.*, vol. xv. (1879-82), p. 446.

<sup>13</sup> Du Chatelier, *Les Epoques Préhistoriques et Gauloises dans le Finistère* (1907), pl. xvii.

recorded from Ballybrew, and a well-made flint blade was found with no. 31 from Redden Farm, Kelso.<sup>1</sup> In the Crinan district, ochre is reported in association with the Poltalloch and Carnasserie<sup>2</sup> bowls (not figured).

In the decoration of these bowls, as already noted, the spatulate tool used for false relief is sometimes notched along one edge, and could be used for the square or oblong stamping which is the most frequent form of ornament. The technique of stamping with a thong or cord wrapped round a bone or the forefinger is an alternative method. Throughout the food-vessel class however there is individuality in decoration, and the persistence of the shape is, in this group, the common denominator. Certain of the east coast examples suggest wooden prototypes, but on the whole the outlines flow rather too easily for copies of this medium. The most characteristic examples of the tripartite bowl are found in the Luce-Crinan district and maintain form and decoration, though varying in detail as the type is carried eastwards, where the vivid outline and ornament become blurred.<sup>3</sup>

The distribution in Ireland is seldom far from one of the sea routes, and although the bowls are comparable, in that the tripartite form and the importance of the raised mouldings persist, the decoration is often asymmetric and a panelled ornament develops, derived from fusion with an existing tradition.

A recurring feature in the records of this type, both in Scotland and among the Irish examples quoted, is the occurrence of tripartite bowls, either as secondaries with earlier burials, as at Balnabraid and Fourknocks, or in multiple burials, such as Balmerino, Larkhall<sup>4</sup> and Ballybrew.

Of a date late in the Early or at the inception of the Middle Scottish Bronze Age, this type appears in the areas attractive to settlers and traders who introduce new influences in a period of movement and change.

<sup>1</sup> *P.S.A.S.*, vol. lxxxiii. p. 220.

<sup>2</sup> *Ibid.*, vol. lxxv. (1930-31), p. 277.

<sup>3</sup> A map showing find-spots is appended (fig. 5). While necessarily incomplete it illustrates the trend of distribution.

<sup>4</sup> *P.S.A.S.*, vol. lxxxiii. (1948-49), p. 208, and fig. 3, 1.

RECORDED EXAMPLES OF SCOTTISH TRIPARTITE BOWLS NOT FIGURED.

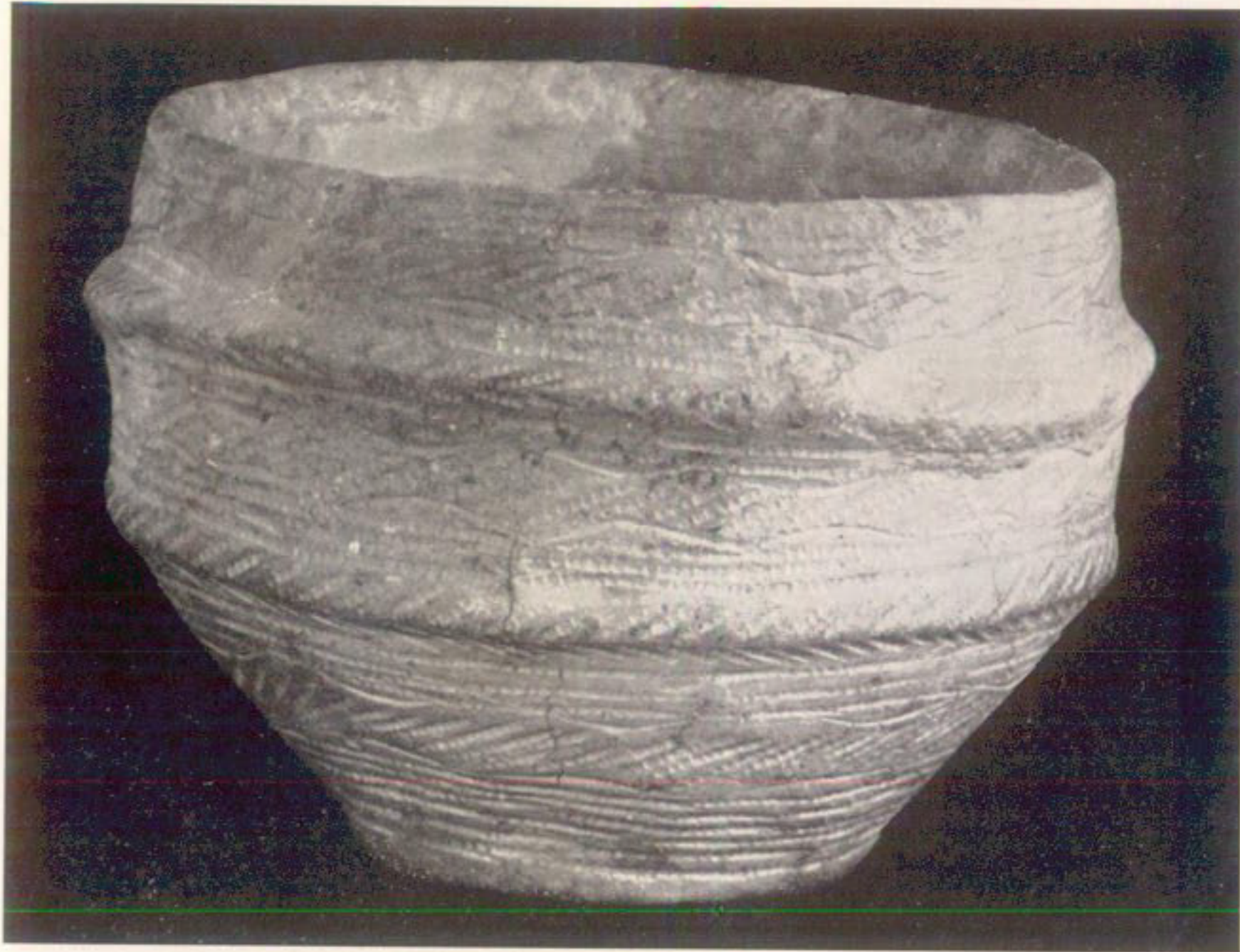
Locality.	County.	Cist burial.	Present location.	Reference.	Remarks.
Poltalloch	Argyll	Not known	N.M.A. <sup>1</sup>	<i>P.S.A.S.</i> , xxxix, p. 240. Abercromby, no. 342	
Carnasserie	"	..	"	<i>P.S.A.S.</i> , lxxv. p. 227	Associated with flint and ochre.
Corran Park, Oban	"	?	"	<i>P.S.A.S.</i> , lxxvi. p. 365	
Coraphin, Balnabraid, Kintyre	"	..	?	<i>P.S.A.S.</i> , liv. 178	Two beads with beaker burial under same cairn.
Machrie Moor, Tormore	Arran	..	N.M.A.	<i>P.S.A.S.</i> , xxxvi. Anderson, 99. <sup>2</sup> <i>B. of A.</i> , <sup>3</sup> p. 118, fig. 58	Associated with flint flakes and bronze awl.
Tomont End	Great Cumbrae	..	Kelvin Museum, Glasgow.	<i>T.G.A.</i> , 11, 117. Abercromby, no. 340	
Inch, Loch Inch	Galloway	Not known	N.M.A.	<i>P.S.A.S.</i> , xxi. p. 189. Abercromby, no. 341	
Patriekholm Sand Quarry, Larkhall	Lanark	..	"	<i>P.S.A.S.</i> , lxxxiii. p. 208, fig. 3, 1	Star ornament on base.
Costerton Mains, Blackshields	Lothians	Not known	"	<i>P.S.A.S.</i> , lxxix. p. 13	
Luffness	"	Not known	"	..	Decorated with maggot thong impressions and the base with garland of maggots.
Bruach, Glen Lyon	Perthshire	..	?	<i>P.S.A.S.</i> , xix. p. 39	Found with headless skeleton of man 6 feet 2 inches tall.
Keir, Dunblane	"	?	Stirling Institute Perth Museum	..	Very debased.
Sheriffton, Old Scone	"	Not known	Perth Museum	..	Disproportionate, with cord decoration, resembling Redden Farm and Drimnagh.

<sup>1</sup> National Museum of Antiquities, Edinburgh.

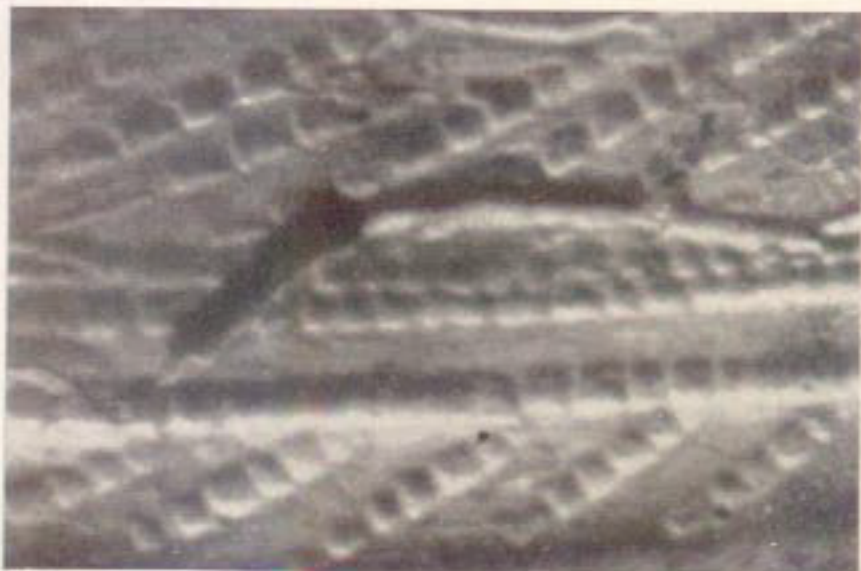
<sup>2</sup> Anderson, *Scotland in Pagan Times*.

<sup>3</sup> *Book of Arran*.





1. The Glenramskill bowl. (c.  $\frac{2}{3}$ .)



2. Decoration of Glenramskill bowl. ( $\frac{1}{3}$ .)



3. Tripartite bowl from Logan, Stranraer.

ALISON YOUNG.

[To face p. 50.]