

4. A FOOD VESSEL AND PART OF A JET NECKLACE FROM ARDFIN FOREST,
JURA, ARGYLL

THE Food Vessel (fig. 2) is of heavily gritted friable ware (visible where the pot is damaged at one side near the base) with the surface covered by a fine slip, fired buff-pink. The decoration is by incised lines. There are two rows of slanting lines round the bevel of the rim. Nine lines round the neck and seventeen or eighteen round the lower part of the body are divided by a vague groove round the shoulder. In the groove is a row of slanting jabs.

The necklace is represented by seven fusiform beads and fragments of an eighth bead, one trapezoidal spacer-plate and two pieces probably from the same triangular end-plate. The fusiform beads vary from 0.5 to 1.05 in. long, and from 0.28 to 0.45 in diameter. The ends of the beads are not quite at right angles to the long axis of the bead, and are considerably worn. The trapezoid plate is undecorated and slightly damaged. There is a perforation straight through the plate just within each side, and three perforations along the top edge and six along the bottom edge emerge in two rows on the back face of the plate. Around the holes along the top edge there are worn hollows, the end and centre

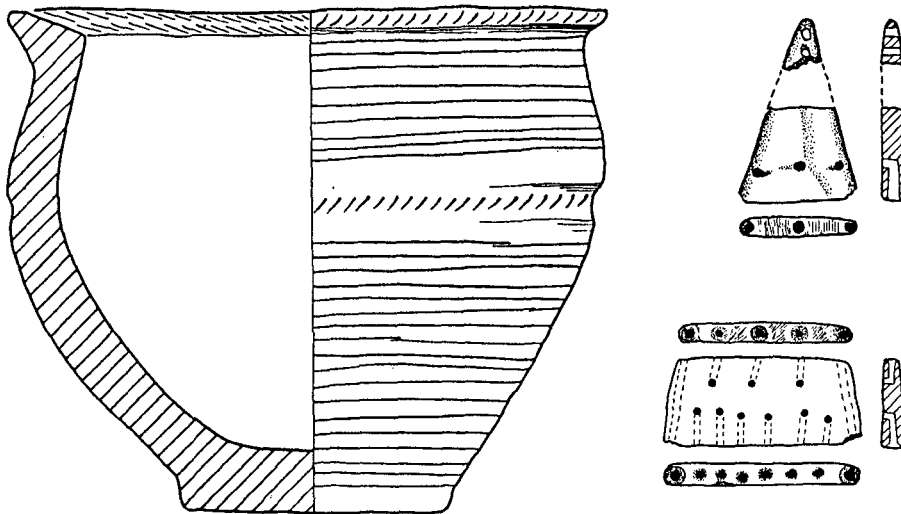


FIG. 2. Food Vessel and two plates from a jet necklace found in a cist at Ardfin Forest, Jura. Scale $\frac{1}{2}$

holes being especially worn. On the bottom edge the two outer holes are more worn than the other holes. The triangular plate, also undecorated, has two transverse perforations through the tip, and three perforations in the lower edge which emerge on the back surface. Faint worn grooves, presumably from a string, appear to connect the three holes in the back. Similar grooves connect the two upper holes on both faces, and the uppermost hole appears to be worn round its upper side. The upper edge of the trapezoid plate and the lower edge of the triangular plate are faintly striated, presumably from rubbing down by an abrasive during manufacture. The surfaces of beads and plates are now 'crazed', in some places tending to flake away.

The Food Vessel and jet beads were found in a short cist in Ardfin Forest, in the SE. corner of Jura (N.G.R. NR 507635). The cist measured 2 ft. by 3 ft. 3 in., by 2 ft. deep. The pot was in the SW. corner and the beads and spacer-plates were in the NE. corner. There were no remains of the body.

The Museum is indebted to the Conservator West Scotland, Forestry Commission, for presenting these finds and for the information about the burial.

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