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A BEAKER CIST AT CHAPELDEN, TORE OF TROUP, ABERDOUR, BANFF AND
BUCHAN DISTRICT, WITH A NOTE ON THE ORIENTATION OF BEAKER
BURIALS IN NORTH-EAST SCOTLAND

M K GREIG, C GREIG, A N SHEPHERD and I A G SHEPHERD

CHAPELDEN

M. K. GREIG *et al.*

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The beakers

Ian A G Shepherd

THE BEAKERS

Beaker 1

This is a rather squat pot with a globular body and a very short, sharply everted neck. It is 168 mm tall, 152 mm in diameter at the belly and 148 mm in diameter at the rather squared-off rim. The diameter of the slightly footed base is 92 mm; the greatest diameter is slightly above half-way up the pot. Complete but for a chip out of the rim, the fabric has a hard, black interior with medium-sized stone grits; the surface has been wet-hand-finished and some grains of mica show through.

The decoration has been mostly applied very carefully and generally with a comb c 9 mm long with regular square teeth. The decoration is in five zones of very unequal size. The neck bears five horizontal lines (of continuous comb impressions), while the upper and lower bellies have large triangles filled with criss-cross or ladder motifs/patterns (Southern British Motif Group 4: motif 29). Between these zones and just below the greatest diameter of the pot is a zone defined by horizontal lines of comb (two above and one below) and containing two lines of horizontal chevrons. At the foot are two lines of horizontal comb impressions.

This beaker can be best accommodated within Clarke's scheme as a Final Northern (N4), in view of its strong similarity to its near neighbour from Afforsk, Gardinstown (less than 5 km to the west of Chapelden: Clarke 1970, no 1572, fig 728) and, even more, to the beaker from Mill Farm, Rathen, (c 16 km to the east: *ibid*, no 1476, fig 726). The high, rounded belly and zone-straddling motifs argue such a category: these constitute Clarke's style e - 'balancing the upper and lower registers about the belly axis' (1970, 191).

However, some difficulties are encountered when attempting to place the Chapelden beakers (and its fellows) in the scheme of Lanting and Van der Waals (1972). The sharp division between the short neck and the high belly, both through a sharp bend and the neck decoration could point to a step 4 placing (as would the graceful S-profile and zonation on the upper part of the Afforsk pot). The existence of a strand of such globular or barrel-shaped beakers, running parallel to the development of conventional beakers in north-east Scotland, has been argued elsewhere (Shepherd 1986, 26-28). Admittedly, Clarke felt that many of these pots could be confined within his Final Northern group, in which he defined two series (necked and bilobical) (1970, 192). Furthermore, the only C14 date so far available for the group, that from Mains of Scotston, Bridge of Don, Aberdeen is very late; however, as this does not come from skeletal material, judgement should perhaps be suspended until the final publication of that site. But perhaps such problems help to explain why Lanting and Van der Waals found the Final Northern group to be one of the least satisfactory of Clarke's groupings (1972, 29).

It might also go some way towards explaining oddities like the N4 Bowl from Urquhart, Moray (Clarke 1970, no 1721, fig 723)? Of course, the Food Vessel-like elaboration of interiors of rims of Urquhart, Upper Boyndie and Rathen might indicate that a placing at the end of the beaker series is entirely appropriate; certainly there is little doubt that that is the where they would be located in Case's broad divisions of the phenomenon (1977).

Beaker 2

This pot is represented by five rimsherds and nine small body sherds in a rather flaky, although evenly-fired, fabric with small stone grits. The exterior bears a mid brown to buff

allp. Very little can be said about the shape of this vessel, although it is clear that it did have a pointed rim; the sherds are c 8 mm thick. It should be noted that the fractures on the sherds are fresh and unabraded, indicating that they are unlikely to represent accidental inclusion of residual material; rather the emplacement of these sherds would seem to represent a deliberate act.

The decorative scheme on the neck seems to have consisted of tall chevrons flanked by vertical filling (Basic European Motif Group 7, which later developed into Motif 29, a variant of the Southern British Motif Group: Clarke 1970, 425 & 427). All the decoration has been executed with a comb with very fine, square teeth; it is not possible to estimate its length, but it was probably different from the one used on beaker no 1.

This pot cannot be classified precisely, although the tall triangles on the neck suggest that it should be placed late in the sequence of Scottish beakers.

The N4 pot from Rathen clearly has some similarities in decoration (Clarke 1970, fig 726, no 1476), as does the N3 beaker from Inveramsay, Aberdeenshire (*ibid*, fig 682, no 1457). Finally, some hint of the total decoration may be seen on the S3 (E) pot from Kilmorie, Skye (*ibid*, fig 968, no 1672).

The orientation of beaker burials in north-east Scotland

Alexandra N Shepherd

| Site | Grid ref | Publication | reference | C14 date |
|--------------------------------|----------|--------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Borrowstone Newhills 1 | NJ853081 | Shepherd, IAG | DES 77, 4 | |
| Borrowstone Newhills 2 | NJ853081 | Shepherd, IAG | DES 77, 4 | |
| Borrowstone Newhills 3 | NJ852078 | Shepherd, IAG | DES 80, 9 | |
| Borrowstone Newhills 4 | NJ851078 | Shepherd, IAG | DES 84, 13-14 | |
| Borrowstone Newhills 5 | NJ851078 | Shepherd, IAG | DES 84, 13-14 | |
| Borrowstone Newhills 6 | NJ851078 | Shepherd, IAG | DES 84, 13-14 | |
| Boysack | N0628491 | Thoms, E | DES 78, 31 | |
| Broomend of Crichtie 2 | NJ778192 | Davidson, CB | PSAS vii, 115-8 | |
| Chapelton, Aberdour | NJ840638 | Greig et al | present paper | |
| Donside Field, Manar Estate | NJ748201 | Shepherd, IAG & AN | DES 89, 20-1 | |
| Fallaw Farm | N0509409 | Coutts, H | PSAS xcvi, 159-60 | |
| Hatton Mill Frieckheim | N0496618 | Wedderburn, L | PSAS 102, 82 | |
| Keabog, Pitdrichie | N0799820 | Shepherd, IAG | PSAS 117, 33-40 | 1745 ±95 (GU-1123) |
| Kennay Paradise Road | NJ736167 | Woodham, A | DES 74, 5-6 | |
| Ladyvine Logie Buchan | NJ975299 | Woodham, A | DES 73, 3 | |
| Lesmurdie 9 | NJ400332 | Robertson, A | PSAS 1, 205-11 | |
| Mains of Balnagowan | NH810546 | Shepherd, IAG & AN | PSAS 114, 560 | 1555 ±85 (GU-1121) |
| Mains of Leslie Frennay | NJ604244 | Callender, JG | PSAS xli, 116 | |
| Mains of Scotston | NJ935107 | Ralston, IBM | DES 75, 5 | 1190 ±70 (UR-2097) |
| Nether Criggie Dunnottar | N0838823 | Kirk, W | PSAS lxxxviii, 1-6 | |
| Newlands Oyne 1 | NJ694253 | Callender, JG | PSAS lxxvii, 228 | |
| Park Quarry 1 | N0803976 | Shepherd, IAG | DES 89, 22 | |
| Sandhole, Fetterangus | NJ998521 | Ralston, IBM | DES 81, 13 | |
| Tavelty Farm Kintore | NJ788172 | Ralston, IBM | DES 83, 11 | 1760 ±70 (GU-2169) |
| Upper Mains of Catterline | N0857790 | Fraser, JR & Reid, RW | PSAS lvi, 27-40 | |
| Whitehouse, Skene | NJ809068 | Callender, JG | PSAS xl, 23-39 | |

Table 2 : North East beaker cists with orientation information. Grid and publication references with available C14 dates.

PSAS = *Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland*
DES = *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland*