

I.

NOTE OF FIVE KISTS FOUND UNDER A TUMULUS ON THE GLEBE OF THE PARISH OF EDDERTOUN, ROSS, AND OF A KIST WITHIN A CIRCLE OF STANDING STONES IN THE SAME NEIGHBOURHOOD. By the REV. J.M. JOASS, GOLSPIE, CORR. MEM. S.A. SCOT.

In the corner of a field in the glebe of Eddertoun occurred a tumulus about 24 feet in diameter, and 5 feet high. The discovery of a kist there, when the land was first brought under cultivation fourteen years ago, was supposed to have exhausted the contents of the tumulus, which prevented further research until recently, when it was resolved to inspect said kist.

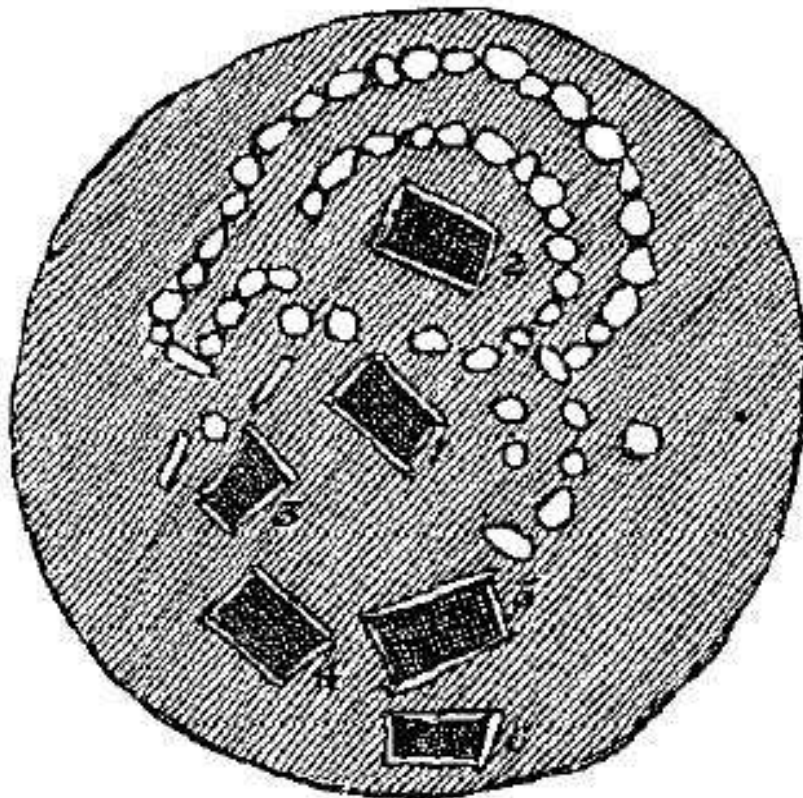


Fig. 1.—Plan of Tumulus, on the Glebe at Eddertoun.

It was found to have been built into the old surface level—was roofless, and filled with gravel, which yielded but one flint flake (see the annexed woodcut, Fig. 1, No. 1). Further excavation to the north exposed, on the same level, another kist (Fig. 1, No. 2), 3 feet long by 2 feet wide and deep. It was heavily roofed, and contained fragments of burnt bone and small pieces of baked clay. This kist was almost surrounded by a double circle of boulders on the natural surface. It was then resolved to clear away the whole tumulus, when four more kists were discovered, on the same level.

Fig. 1, No. 3, contained an entire clay urn (see woodcut, Fig. 2), with skeleton of aged person of small stature, skull unusually broad and flat.

Fig. 1, No. 4, yielded a rude flint arrow-head, charcoal, and blackened grain.

In No. 5, Fig. 1, were found numerous fragments of baked clay, portions probably of an urn; also burnt bones, tooth cases, molars small but much worn; a nearly semicircular disc of bluish flint sharpened on convex edge, and husks of black oats; carried perhaps by field mice, and blackened by damp.

No. 6, Fig. 1, was filled with sand containing minute fragments of charcoal and burnt bone. The materials of the tumulus are now ranged in a low ridge around the kists, which are left *in situ*, with their covering slabs replaced.

It is probable that the mound was originally erected over kist No. 2, .Fig. 1, and increased in size as subsequent occasion required.

One can but guess as to whether this gathering of kists is to be accounted for by relationship, or by the hallowing of the spot from the first burial.

In any case, it is interesting to note the evidences of burial by cremation and otherwise, under the same tumulus, and on the same level.

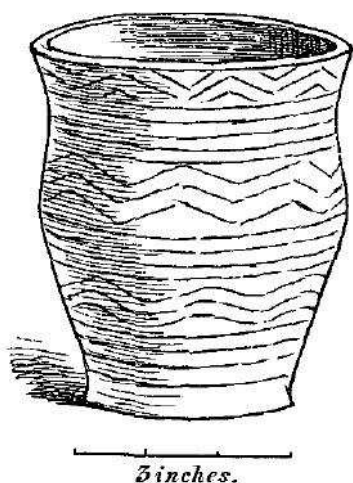


Fig. 2.—Clay Urn or "Drinking-Cup."

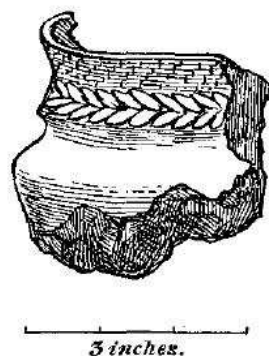


Fig 3. Portion of Ornamented Clay Urn.

Near the monolith with symbols at fig. 31, "Sculptured Stones of Scotland," vol. i., occurs a megalithic circle, originally consisting of ten stones, of which five remain. Its diameter is 36 feet, the whole interior at six inches below the present surface is closely paved with round stones, and immediately under these, in the centre, was found a short kist with double cover, containing fragments of a highly ornamented urn (see woodcut, Fig. 3), pieces of burnt bone, tooth cusps much worn, and bits of charcoal.