

V.

NOTICE OF WORKING DRAWINGS SCRATCHED ON THE WALLS OF
THE CRYPT AT ROSLIN CHAPEL. By ROBERT ANDERSON, Esq.,
ARCHITECT, F.S.A. SCOT. (PLATE I.)

In a few words I wish to bring to your notice a number of markings on the walls of what is generally known as the Crypt at Roslin Chapel, and which on close examination I found to be working drawings.

The one I first observed was on the south wall, and is the rough indication of a working drawing for a pinnacle. Observing others on the north wall of a different nature, I made an accurate survey of each wall, laying down all the stones exactly, and examining every one. The result of this is shown on the sketch I now lay before you. (Plate I.)

Various other lines may be observed on the north wall, but these have apparently been rubbed out previous to drawing the ones shown on the sketch, and nothing can be made of them.

These markings consist of—1. A drawing of a pinnacle. It is not possible, from its very incomplete state, to identify it with any of the pinnacles

now existing, but it evidently has reference to one or more of those on the buttresses of the south side. There are no other drawings on this wall.

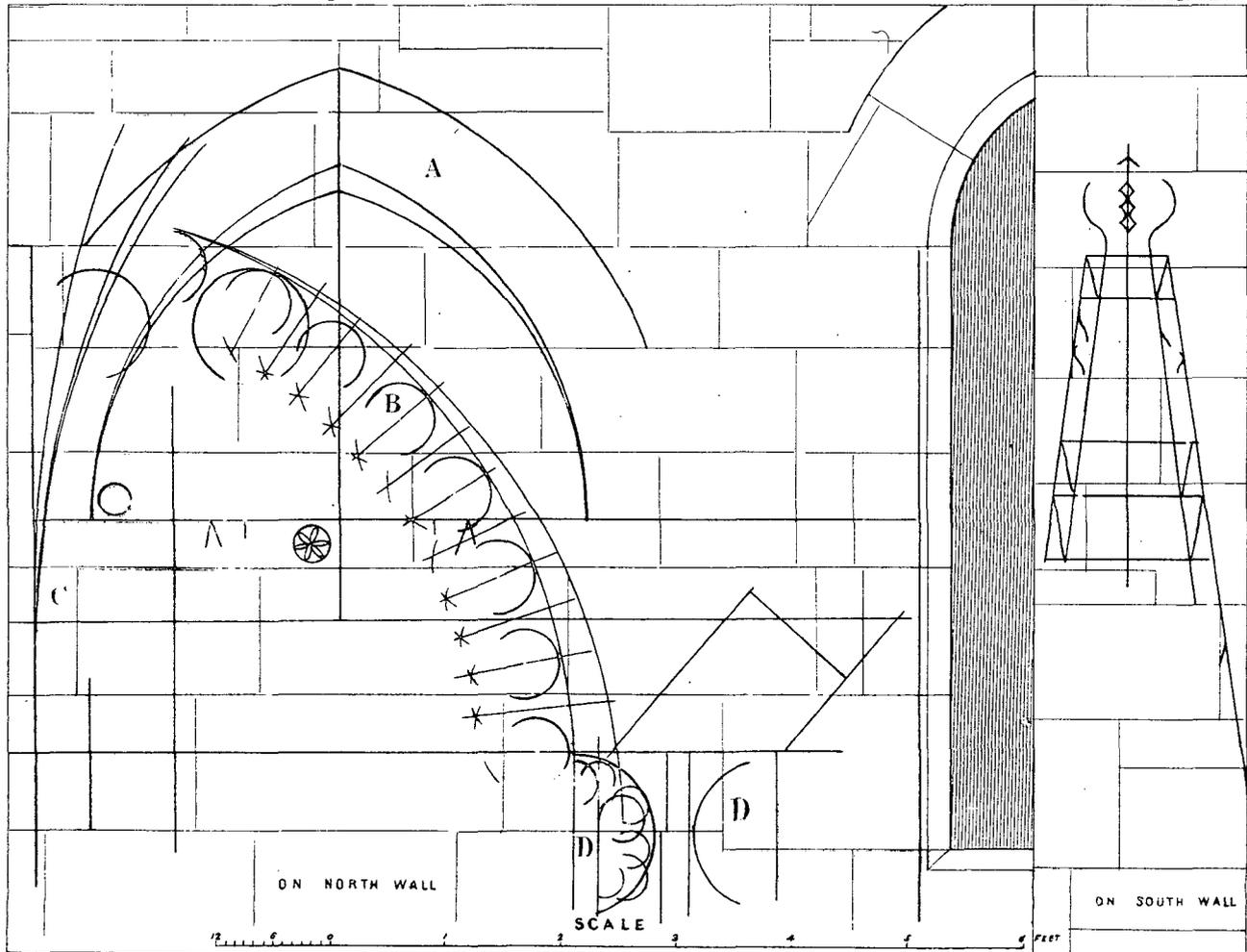
2. A pointed arch, A. This has reference to the arches of the windows of the retro-choir, the part representing the gusset of masonry between the extrados of the window arch and the vaulting. (Plate I.)

3. A vaulting rib, B, with cuspings. This is one of the cusped vaulting ribs of the retro-choir, as it agrees with them in size and number of cusps.

4. Various lines, C, having reference to vaulting, but as they are incomplete they cannot be identified with any part of the building.

5. Two circles, DD, one of them cusped. These are drawn from centres on the same level, and evidently refer to one thing; but as there are no circles cusped in this manner now to be seen about the building, I can scarcely say what they were intended for. Probably the parapet of the aisle, a portion of which still remains, is very ornate, and no doubt the design of each compartment was treated differently.

The other markings are too incomplete to say anything definite about them. The question is, "How came such drawings to be made on these walls?" They are undoubtedly of the same age as the building, and probably the handiwork of the master mason who built this wonderful chapel. They therefore indicate that the crypt was built before the chapel. Every one acquainted with the practical details of carrying on a building such as this knows that the full-sized drawings are made on a horizontal, scarcely ever on a vertical surface, and as these drawings are all incomplete, and do not accurately agree with any part of the structure, it is highly probable that they are mere trials or tentative drawings to solve questions in construction, that were being worked out on the floor of this crypt, which no doubt served as the drawing-board for all the work that has so long been the admiration of visitors to this interesting spot.



Robt Anderson fecit.

W. & A. K. Johnson, Edinburgh.

WORKING DRAWINGS IN CRYPT, ROSLIN CHAPEL.