

III.

NOTICE OF THE DISCOVERY OF A SCULPTURED STONE AT LOGIERAIT, PERTHSHIRE. BY ARTHUR ANDERSON, M.D., C.B., F.S.A. SCOT. (Plate XXIX).

The stone, of which I forward rubbings, was pointed out to me in the churchyard of Logierait by the Rev. Mr Meldrum, the clergyman of the parish, and on looking at the part exposed I was convinced that it was a portion of a sculptured stone similar to those so ably described by the late Dr Stuart in his great work on the "Sculptured Stones of Scotland."

Its position was close to the church, in that part of the churchyard belonging to J. Stewart Robertson of Edradynate, and only the upper part of one of its sides appeared above ground.

Not having Dr Stuart's valuable work to refer to, I sent some months ago an imperfect sketch and rubbings to Mr Anderson, the Curator of the Museum, who was good enough to inform me that he could not find that any mention had been made of this stone in the work above referred to. The figure on horseback with a lance, as also that of the serpent, are in remarkably high relief, and so are the four bosses on the cross, which is a very beautiful one; and this relic may, I think, fairly take its place amongst the old sculptured stones of Scotland, as not one of the least interesting.

As the Logierait cross is cut on hard whinstone, it may reasonably be expected to last for many ages in its present upright position. Archæologists must, I am sure, feel grateful to Mr Stewart Robertson for having so readily complied with my wish to have the stone exhumed. Had all landed proprietors equally enlightened views on such subjects, we should not now have to deplore the destruction of so many interesting memorials of a very remote age.

NOTES ON THE SCULPTURED STONE IN LOGIERAIT CHURCHYARD. BY WILLIAM GALLOWAY, ARCHITECT, CORR. MEM. S.A. SCOT.

This stone is 4 feet 1 inch in length, 1 foot 11 inches in its greatest breadth at the foot of the cross, and 1 foot 7 inches at the intersection of the arms. Although very much damaged, especially in the upper part,

the partially intact edges show that the sizes given represent pretty nearly the original dimensions of the stone. It is $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches in thickness, carved upon both faces, and the material is a close-grained, compact, micaceous schist.

Toward the foot of the stone, or its insertion in the ground, it expands outward on one side with a curved outline, but whether this was mere adaptation to a natural form, or purposely so hewn, can only be matter of conjecture. The same remark applies to the possibility of there having been a similar expansion on the opposite side where the stone is now fractured.

On the more perfect face there is a cross carved in good relief with the arms hollowed at the axillæ, these hollows being sunk to the depth of from $\frac{3}{4}$ to $\frac{7}{8}$ of an inch and filled in with plain balls or bosses nearly 2 inches in diameter. A bead an inch in breadth runs round the outline of the cross, the centre, arms, and shaft of which are filled in with a variety of quaint interlaced devices very much worn on their upper surfaces.

The termination of the shaft is peculiar. The marginal bead, instead of being carried round the foot, is formed on each side into scrolls coiling inward, a connecting curve running between them. A similar feature, but in a less pronounced form, appears in the stone at Kettins,¹ and in the stone from St Vigeans,² of which there is a cast in the Museum. On the earlier inscribed and sculptured stones of Ireland it frequently occurs, as may be seen on reference to Miss Stokes' "Christian Inscriptions in the Irish Language."

All the intact edges of the stone on each face, both at sides and top, have a rounded face-bead or margin $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 2 inches in breadth. On the cross-graven face the spaces between this margin and the cross are quite plain, and sunk to the depth of half an inch, the general relief of the carved work in the cross itself being a quarter of an inch.

On the space below the cross at the foot of the stone, some rude letters have been incised and afterward apparently defaced. It is possible that it may have been utilized as a grave-stone in a reversed position.

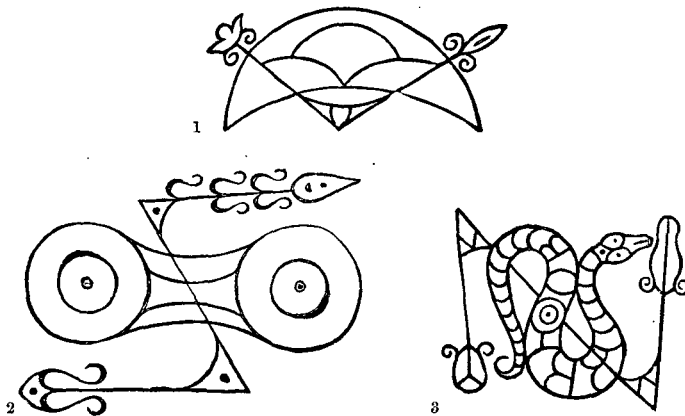
The other face has been very much damaged, the upper part being

¹ "Sculptured Stones of Scotland," vol. ii. pl. viii.

² *Ibid.* vol. i. pl. lxxi.

indeed entirely gone, a result to which the laminated structure of the stone has greatly contributed. What remains of the carving shows that frequent subject of representation on the sculptured stones, a warrior armed with a spear and mounted on horseback, but the major part of the figure and the rear of the animal are quite broken away. The harnessing, &c., is given with considerable minuteness of detail, and makes the loss of the figure the more to be regretted. From the dimensions of the stone, it is probable there may have been some device in the space above the horseman.

Immediately beneath this mounted warrior there is a serpent interlaced with a straight rod or sceptre decorated at both ends. The floriated sceptre, both in the V and Z forms, in combination with the crescent (fig.



1), the spectacle ornament (fig. 2), and other devices, is of frequent occurrence on the sculptured stones. In the Z form it is also met with in combination with the serpent (fig. 3). Dr Stuart has given six examples where it is so combined, viz., at Insch,¹ Newton in the Garioch,² Ballutheron,³ St Vigeans,⁴ Meigle,⁵ and the Bore-stone of

¹ "Sculptured Stones of Scotland," pl. vi.; *vide* also cast in the Museum.

² *Ibid.* pl. xxxvii.

³ *Ibid.* pl. lxxvii.

⁴ *Ibid.* pl. lxxi.; *vide* also cast in the Museum.

⁵ *Ibid.* pl. lxxiii.

Gask.¹ The first two examples are *incised* on what Dr Stuart designates "rude undressed pillars;" the other four are carved *in relief* upon stones bearing Christian emblems. Sometimes also the rods pass over the convolutions of the serpent, sometimes behind them, while at other times they are more or less partially interlaced. The example at St Vigeans differs from the rest in having the terminal arms comparatively short and at right angles to the central rod, instead of the angle being as usual more or less acute.

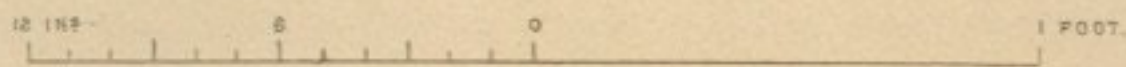
Differing still further from those just mentioned is the instance given by Dr Stuart from Inverury.² It is an incised slab with no distinctive Christian emblems, but having the sceptre both in the V and Z forms combined with the crescent and spectacle ornaments. The serpent is also given convoluted as usual, but with the rod or sceptre quite straight. One extremity is effaced, but there can be little doubt that in this instance both of the terminal arms have been dispensed with. To this variation from the usual custom the stone at Logierait contributes an analogous instance, differing from the example referred to in that the symbol is quite complete, is carved in relief, and occurs upon a cross-graven slab. It will also be noticed that in this case the sceptre and serpent are fully interlaced.

There is another point upon which this example differs from those given by Dr Stuart, and that is in the ears or horned appendages which are so distinctly represented at the back of the serpent's head; indeed all the details of the carving on this side of the stone have been minutely rendered and are in so far well preserved, a fact which can only increase our regret that it should have been subjected to so much injury.

A comparison of the localities in which stones bearing this serpent-symbol occur will also show that this example at Logierait is the most inland of those as yet upon record, the nearest approximations to it being the Bore-stone at Gask towards the south and the stone at Meigle on the extreme eastern confines of Perthshire. With these exceptions all the other instances are limited to two counties, Aberdeen and Forfar.

¹ "Sculptured Stones of Scotland," pl. ciii.

² *Ibid.* pl. cxiii.; *vide* also the illustrations to the Preface and Appendix, vol. ii. pl. xxv.



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SCULPTURED STONE, LOGIERAIT..