

IV.

REPORT ON THE SCULPTURED STONES OLDER THAN A.D. 1100, WITH SYMBOLS AND CELTIC ORNAMENT, IN THE DISTRICT OF SCOTLAND SOUTH OF THE RIVER DEE; OBTAINED UNDER THE VICTORIA JUBILEE GIFT OF HIS EXCELLENCY DR R. H. GUNNING, F.S.A. SCOT. BY J. ROMILLY ALLEN, F.S.A. SCOT.

I beg to submit the following report of the work done during the past year in making an archæological survey of the early Sculptured Stones, with symbols and Celtic ornament, in the district of Scotland south of the River Dee.

The survey of the monuments in the northern half of Scotland, made in 1890, has already been reported upon,¹ and the work done in 1891, under the Gunning Fellowship, completes the survey for the whole of Scotland. The area dealt with in 1891 comprises 20 counties, which are arranged in 4 sections in my preliminary list² thus—

East-Central Section.

Kincardine, Forfar, Perth, Fife, and Kinross.

Western Section.

Argyll and Bute.

South-Western Section.

Dumbarton, Renfrew, Lanark, Ayr, Wigtown, and Kirkcudbright.

South-Eastern Section.

Linlithgow, Edinburgh, Haddington, Berwick, Selkirk, Roxburgh, and Dumfries.

The number of localities where sculptured stones exist in this area amounts to about 130, and most of these places had to be visited, except where the stones had been removed to Edinburgh, or in cases where I had already seen the stones on some previous occasion.

I was occupied during the months of June and July 1891 upon the survey of the southern half of Scotland. I found it a more convenient method of procedure to choose as my head-quarters a centrally situated town in each district, with good railway communication and hotel ac-

¹ *Proc. Soc. Ant. Scot.*, vol. xxv. p. 422.

² *Ibid.*, vol. xxiv. p. 510.

commodation, and from it to visit all the localities within a circle of 30 mile radius, than to move about from place to place amongst the smaller towns and villages near which the stones are generally to be found. I chose the following towns as being the most suitable head-quarters for the purpose I had in view, and took them in the order they are given, stopping a week or fortnight at each according to the amount of work to be done,—Montrose, Perth, Oban, Ardrishaig, Glasgow, Dumfries, and Newton-Stewart.

From *Montrose* I visited Fordoun, Brechin, Aldbar, Menmuir, Stonehaven, Auquhollie, Aberlemno, Eassie, Cossins, St Vigean, Camuston, Craig, and Montrose Museum; from *Perth*, Alyth, Bruceton, Meigle, Keillor, Kettins, Forteviot, Dupplin, Crieff, Fowlis-Wester, St Andrews, Mugdrum, Abernethy, Dunkeld, Struan, and Moncrieffe; from *Oban*, Ardhattan, Iona, and Inishail; from *Ardrishaig*, Keills, Eilean Mòr, and Rothesay; from *Glasgow*, Barrochan, Arthurlee, and Govan; from *Dumfries*, Thornhill and Wamphray; and from *Newton-Stewart*, Anworth, Minnigaff, Whithorn, Kirkcinner, and Wigtown.

I will now proceed to give a few notes on the chief points of interest in connection with the different monuments I inspected.

The number of stones at present known in Kincardineshire is exceptionally small; and as there is no apparent reason why this should be the case, perhaps it is due to the fact that the county has not been so well explored as other districts of Scotland.

In the whole of Kincardineshire there is only one upright cross-slab. It is preserved within St Palladius' Chapel, which stands in the churchyard at Fordoun. This stone is remarkable for two reasons—(1) that it has upon it the remains of an almost obliterated inscription; and (2) that the double disc and Z-shaped rod symbol is used by itself, instead of being combined with one or more other symbols, as is generally the case. The inscription is entirely ignored by Dr Stuart,¹ although it is clearly shown in an engraving used to illustrate a paper by Professor John Stuart, of Aberdeen, read before the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland in 1821. Professor Stuart says that the stone has "on the left side the remains of some written characters, so entirely defaced as

¹ *Sculptured Stones of Scotland*, vol. i. pl. lxxvii.; *Arch. Scot.*, vol. ii. p. 314.

to be perfectly illegible." I exhibit a rubbing of the inscription. It is in two horizontal lines, and the letters seemed to be mixed minuscules and capitals. The upper parts of all the letters in the first line are broken away, so that nothing can be made of it. The second line reads—

P i d a r N o i N

P i d a r N o i N

Perhaps if a cast or paper squeeze were to be made the letters might come out more distinctly.

On June 24th I spent a very pleasant day at Stonehaven, in the company of Mr A. Hutcheson, of Broughty Ferry. We endeavoured to find out what had become of the fragments of stones with incised symbols which were found on the sea-shore at the foot of Dinnacair Rock, and were afterwards kept at the gas-works at Stonehaven. We interviewed Mr Ross, the manager of the gas-works, whose father had found the stones in question, and he informed us that they had been removed to Banchory some 25 years ago by Mr Thompson. In the afternoon we made an unsuccessful attempt to get to the top of Dinnacair Rock. It is situated between Stonehaven and Dunottar Castle, and has at some former time been joined on to the mainland. The rock is of old red sandstone conglomerate, about 60 feet high, and surrounded by the sea at high tide. The top is covered with long grass, which effectually conceals any trace of buildings if such exist. The ascent from the shore is quite easy up a grass slope on the south side to within 10 feet of the top, but above this the cliff is almost perpendicular, and of too crumbling a nature to afford a firm hold for climbing. Mr Hutcheson hopes on a future occasion to make another attempt by means of a ladder.

The Auquhollie Ogam Stone, which we saw on the same day, is fully described in Professor J. Rhys' paper, printed in this volume.

The Forfarshire stones have been so well explored by others that my

investigations did not add much to what is already known about them. I found, however, that the upright cross-slab at Menmuir was sculptured on the front as well as on the back, a fact that has escaped the notice of Dr Stuart. The slab is kept within the burying-ground of the Carnegies of Balnamoon, a classic spot to the readers of Dean Ramsay's "Reminiscences" of the eccentric and bibulous laird of that ilk.

The only hitherto undescribed stones in Forfarshire are some fragments from Strathmartine, now at Baldovan House, to which Mr A. Hutcheson has called my attention; a broken cross-slab from Inchbrayock, now at Craig manse, for a knowledge of which I am indebted to Mr J. Barclay of Montrose; and a small cross-slab I was fortunate enough to notice in the churchyard at Kirriemuir.

When I visited Aberlemno I expected to find that something had been done towards the protection of the stones there, as I understood that they had been scheduled under the "Ancient Monuments Act," but neither here nor indeed anywhere else in Scotland did I come across the slightest trace of the activity of H.M. Inspector of Ancient Monuments.

In Perthshire, new stones have been discovered at Abernethy, by Dr Laing of Newburgh; at Dunning, by Mr Hutcheson; and at Forteviot, by the minister, the Reverend Dr Anderson. There are also others at Alyth and Meikle.

I take this opportunity of thanking Dr Laing for his courtesy and hospitality on the occasion of my visit to Newburgh. He showed me two stones at his house, both of which he had found at Abernethy—(1) a small fragment with an ogam inscription and portions of horses, and (2) a broken cross-shaft with the Crucifixion and the Three Maries. He also told me of a third stone at Abernethy, which I saw afterwards, built into the wall of a cottage. It is a mere fragment, with a key-pattern upon it.

On July 6th, went to Forteviot, accompanied by Mr A. Hutcheson. We first inspected the Dupplin Cross. It is protected by a wooden railing, and there is a notice-board close by requesting that the cross may not be injured by anyone. This is the only thing of the kind I saw throughout the whole of Scotland. We afterwards called on the Reverend Dr Anderson at Forteviot manse, by whom we were very

kindly received. He showed us some fragments of sculptured stones in his garden, and another built into the wall of Forteviot Mill. In answer to an inquiry I made about a cross formerly existing within the grounds of Invermay, mentioned by Dr Stuart, and the site of which is marked on the six-inch Ordnance map, he told us that he knew where some fragments of it were still to be seen. The minister was good enough to guide us to the exact spot in a fir-wood, called the Long Plantation, half a mile south-east of Forteviot church, where amongst a heap of stones collected from the adjoining field we discovered three fragments, with interlaced work and key patterns upon them. The ornament is well designed, and bears a marked similarity to that on the Dupplin Cross. Dr Stuart says,¹ "There were two crosses at the distance of about a mile from the Holy Hill (*i.e.*, the supposed site of the palace of the Pictish kings at Forteviot)—one on the south side and the other on the north. The first stood on the rising ground called Dronachy, sloping down to the May. The pedestal,² on which it stood, still remained at the north-east corner of the policies of the house of Invermay, but the cross was broken in pieces not many years before 1772. A fragment of an elaborately ornamented cross now in the churchyard at Forteviot is believed to have formed part of it. The second cross was placed on a rising ground at Bankhead, near Dupplin Castle, where it still stands." Dr Stuart is probably mistaken in thinking that the slab in Forteviot churchyard ever formed part of the Invermay Cross, as the newly discovered fragments clearly show that it was a monument of the same type as the one at Dupplin. The weather was so unpropitious on the occasion that we were unable to make a thorough search, but it is to be hoped that the remaining portions may be found at some future time.

The only new discovery of sculptured stones that has been made in Fifeshire is at St Andrews, built into the east wall of the cathedral. The circumstances of the discovery have already been placed before the Society by Mr A. Hutcheson, at the meeting held on April 11th. I visited St Andrews on July 8th and saw these stones, under the able

¹ *Sculptured Stones of Scotland*, vol. ii. p. 59.

² Marked on six-inch Ordnance map of Perthshire, sheet 109, thus: "Standing stone on the site of an ancient sculptured stone."

guidance of Mr Henry, architect, of St Andrews. Since I was last there the beautiful sculptured sarcophagus in the museum has been removed from the pedestal on which it stood, and where it could be well seen, and placed on the floor, with one side against a railing, and an old oak pulpit put on the top of it.

On July 15th, whilst staying at Oban, I called on Dr Alan Macnaughton at Taynuilt, to whom I am much indebted for the very valuable assistance he gave me whilst prosecuting my researches in Argyllshire. We spent a most delightful afternoon in examining the memorials of several successive ages in the little-known burial-ground of Archattan, on the north shore of Loch Etive. The greater proportion of the monuments are of the 14th and 15th centuries, but there are two of much earlier date, namely, (1) a cross-slab within the private burial-place of Lochnell, and (2) an inscribed slab with intersecting arcades round the edge. My acknowledgments are due to Dr R. Christison for informing me of the existence of these undescribed stones in the first instance. The cross-slab is the finest example of its kind in the west of Scotland, and has much in common with the monuments found on the east coast. The beautifully executed spiral ornament and the figures with peaked hoods playing musical instruments are well worthy of notice. A warrior on the same slab has a shield of the peculiar form represented on the sarcophagus at St Andrews. The letters on the inscribed stone at Archattan appear to be minuscules of the 12th century, but the meaning is a great puzzle.

I visited Iona on July 16th. It is little short of a national disgrace that the antiquities of the most historically interesting spot in Scotland should be allowed to perish miserably from neglect and exposure to the weather.

Mr John Macdonald, guide, postmaster, and "king of the island," informed me that if he ever saw an iconoclastic American tourist produce a hammer from his pocket, he courteously took it away from him before any mischief was done, but beyond this no steps of any kind have been taken to protect the ancient sculptured stones of Iona from injury.

A large number of stones with Celtic ornament at Iona have never

been illustrated or described. Amongst the most important of these are the fragments of a cross, which when perfect must have been a much finer one than St Martin's Cross, as the breadth across the arms could not have been less than 5 feet 6 inches, and the ornamental sculpture is of a far better class. The mortice-holes for the insertion of the four quadrants of the circular ring connecting the arms of the cross still remain, and show the method of construction, which was very ingenious. The art of the sculpture is the same as that of the crosses at Keills in Knapdale, and at Kildalton in Islay, one of the peculiar features being the raised bosses, with a circular sinking in the centre of each enclosing smaller raised bosses.

On July 21st I made a most interesting excursion to Keills and Eilean Mòr. A glance at the map of Argyllshire will show how inaccessible these places are, being situated at the extreme end of the long promontory which lies between Loch Sween and the Sound of Jura. I reached Keills by taking a conveyance from Finlay's Ardrishaig Hotel, and driving along the side of the Crinan Canal as far as Bellanoch, and then turning off to the south-west along the promontory. The whole distance is about 25 miles. St Charmaig's Church is situated on a hillside overlooking an inlet of the sea that still bears the name of "Loch na Cille." The building is roofless, and contains a very remarkable assemblage of sepulchral slabs of the 14th and 15th centuries, overgrown with nettles and utterly uncared for. Amongst the rest is the well known one with the representation of an ancient Scotch harp upon it. The church is a particularly good specimen of early Romanesque architecture of the Irish type, perhaps as old as the 11th century. The cross stands on a low mound paved with rough stones, about 100 yards higher up the hillside than the church, to the N.E.

After much haggling I came to terms with two sailors belonging to a small trading-vessel that was lying at anchor at the mouth of Loch Sween to row me over to Eilean Mòr. Fortunately the day was fine; otherwise the voyage could not have been attempted, as Eilean Mòr is one of four small islands situated right in the middle of the tideway at the entrance to Loch Sween, the volume of pent-up water from which rushes out with such extreme force into the Sound of Jura that when it

encounters the slightest opposition in the shape of wind blowing in a contrary direction the waves are lashed into a fury that nothing can withstand. The distance from Keills is about 4 miles, and takes an hour to row under favourable circumstances. The church on Eilean Mòr, like that at Keills, is dedicated to St Charmaig. It is one of those curious stone-roofed structures which are not uncommon in Ireland, and the cross stands close to the east end. The antiquities of this island have been so well described by Capt. White and Mr Muir that hardly anything further is to be gleaned by followers in their footsteps, especially if the visit is a hurried one, as mine necessarily was, because time and tide wait for no man,—not even an enthusiastic archæologist. I succeeded, however, in getting a rubbing of the cross, which I think shows some of the details of the ornament more clearly than the illustrations hitherto published. An expedition to Eilean Mòr is worth making for the sake of the scenery alone, and no word-painting can give any idea of the wonderful effects of light and colour produced by the reflections of the clouds on the glassy surface of the sea, with the purple grey masses of the Paps of Jura overshadowing everything.

Of the fact that antiquities are not always surrounded by the beauties of nature I had a striking proof on the occasion of my visit to Govan on July 24th. The church is situated on the bank of the Clyde in what is now a squalid suburb of the city of Glasgow. Since Stuart's *Sculptured Stones* was published a large number of new slabs of early date have been brought to light at Govan. I was able to catalogue as many as thirty-four, all used as modern gravestones and laid in a horizontal position. The continual tramping of passers-by over the stones has worn away the carving, so that most of them are shockingly defaced. It seems a great pity that something cannot be done to remedy this very deplorable state of things.

The chief result of my exploration of the S.W. section of Scotland was, that I was enabled to catalogue several new stones at Whithorn, to which my attention was called by Mr W. Galloway.

I append to this report a complete list of the undescribed stones in the whole of Scotland. Out of a total of about 500 stones that are known to exist, nearly 130 are undescribed.

LIST OF SCULPTURED STONES WITH SYMBOLS AND CELTIC ORNAMENT, IN SCOTLAND,
THAT HAVE NOT BEEN HITHERTO DESCRIBED.

CLASS I.	CLASS II.	CLASS III.	
<p><i>Shetland</i>— Lerwick. Uya.</p> <p><i>Sutherland</i>— Clynekirkton, No. 2. Kintradwell, Nos. 2 to 4. Kirtomy. Little Ferry Links, Nos. 1 to 4.</p> <p><i>Ross</i>— Ardross, Nos. 1 and 2. Dingwall. Roskeen.</p> <p><i>Inverness</i>— Dunnachton. Moniaek.</p> <p><i>Hebrides</i>— Pabbay.</p> <p><i>Banff</i>— Inveravon No. 3. N. Redhill.</p> <p><i>Forfar</i>— Baggerton.</p>	<p><i>Forfar</i>— Inchbrayock, No. 3. Strathmartine, Nos. 5 and 6.</p> <p><i>Perth</i>— Alyth.</p>	<p><i>Shetland</i>— South Garth.</p> <p><i>Orkney</i>— Flotta.</p> <p><i>Caithness</i>— Reay.</p> <p><i>Sutherland</i>— Clynekirkton, No. 3. Collieburn. Lothbeg.</p> <p><i>Ross</i>— Rosemarkie, No. 4. Tarbet, Nos. 3 to 5, and 9 and 10.</p> <p><i>Nairn</i>— Achareidh. Wester Delnies.</p> <p><i>Elgin</i>— Birnie, Nos. 3 to 5. Burghead, Nos. 11 and 12.</p> <p><i>Aberdeen</i>— Fyvie, No. 3.</p> <p><i>Forfar</i>— Kirriemuir, No. 5. Strathmartine, Nos. 8 to 13.</p> <p><i>Perth</i>— Abernethy, Nos. 2 to 4. Dunning. Forteviot, Nos. 3 to 6.</p>	<p><i>Perth—continued.</i> Invermay. Meigle, Nos. 28 to 30.</p> <p><i>Fife</i>— St Andrews, Nos. 15 to 21.</p> <p><i>Argyll</i>— Ardchattan. Iona, Nos. 8 to 13. Kilfinnan. Kilneave.</p> <p><i>Dumbarton</i>— Roseneath.</p> <p><i>Lanark</i>— Govan, Nos. 11 to 34.</p> <p><i>Wigtown</i>— Glenluce, No. 2. Parish of Glasserton, Nos. 1 to 4. Whithorn, Nos. 4 to 12.</p> <p><i>Kirkcudbright</i>— Minnigaff, Nos. 1 and 2.</p> <p><i>Edinburgh</i>— Carlowrie Castle. Crookston. Lasswade.</p> <p><i>Roxburgh</i>— Jedburgh, Nos. 3 and 4.</p> <p><i>Dumfries</i>— Closeburn. Penpont, Nos. 1 and 2. Wamphray.</p>