

V.

REPORT ON THE PHOTOGRAPHY OF THE SCULPTURED STONES EARLIER THAN A.D. 1100, IN THE DISTRICT OF SCOTLAND SOUTH OF THE RIVER DEE; OBTAINED UNDER THE JUBILEE GIFT OF HIS EXCELLENCY DR R. H. GUNNING, LL.D., F.S.A. SCOT. BY J. ROMILLY ALLEN, F.S.A. SCOT. AND LOND.

In the month of October 1894 I visited Scotland for the purpose of making arrangements for the photography of a series of the best examples of the early sculptured stones in the district lying south of the river Dee.

I left London on the morning of the 9th of October, and arrived in Edinburgh the same evening. On Wednesday morning, the 10th, I called on Dr J. Anderson at the National Museum of Scottish Antiquities, to consult with him on various matters connected with the business in hand.

In the afternoon I had an interview with Mr J. Vallance at the Museum of Science and Art, my chief object being to see the cast of the Ruthwell Cross, which had recently been made and erected in the principal hall of the Museum. The cast is a very fine one, and for purposes of study is quite as good as the original. The cast has been slightly tinted, to give the colour of the stone and add reality to the whole. Before the tint was put on, Mr Vallance was good enough, at my request, to instruct his photographer at the Museum to take negatives to scale of all four of the sculptured faces of the cross. Mr Vallance has kindly allowed the Society to make use of the photographs thus obtained, free of cost, and the half-toned blocks reproduced from them have come out extremely well.

I had a conversation with Mr Vallance as to the desirability of acquiring a cast of the upright cross-slab at Nigg, in Ross-shire, for the Museum, as a typical example of purely Celtic art-sculpture, to compare with the Anglian or Northumbrian designs upon the Ruthwell Cross. Mr Vallance therefore arranged that I should see the Director, Major-General Sir R. Murdoch Smith, K.C.M.G., on the following Saturday, and lay my views on the subject before him.

On Thursday, the 11th, I proceeded by train to Glasgow, and called on Mr W. G. Black, the Secretary of the Glasgow Archæological Society, who drove me to Govan. I had here an opportunity of convincing Mr Black that the report I had made on a previous occasion, commenting somewhat strongly on the damage which was being done daily to the sculptured grave-slabs lying in the churchyard, was fully justified by the facts of the case. We were able to secure an interesting survival from the Stone Age, which would have delighted the heart of Sir Arthur Mitchell, K.C.B., had it been used for a better purpose, in the shape of a naturally formed hammer-stone lying in a hollow on one of the grave-slabs. The abrasions on the hammer-stone, the sand and water lying in the hollow of the grave-slab, and the mutilated state of the monument, clearly showed how this primitive engine of destruction had been employed quite recently.

The neglected state of the Govan stones has been fully discussed in the Glasgow newspapers, and a fund has been raised for their preservation. I understand also that it is proposed to make a set of paper moulds and plaster-casts of all the slabs, on the same system as that adopted by Mr R. C. Graham with the Islay stones.¹

On the same day I went to Jordan-Hill, where, by the kind permission of Mr J. Parker Smith, I was allowed to take rubbings of the cross-shaft brought from Govan, which now stands in the grounds of Jordan-Hill House. Good photographs from two points of view of the Jordan-Hill stone, taken by Mr S. Milroy, were procured for me by Dr James Macdonald.

On Friday, the 12th, I made an expedition from Edinburgh to Crook-

¹ Since this was written, Sir John Stirling Maxwell, Bart., M.P., has with great liberality defrayed the expense not only of having casts made of all the Govan stones, but of getting the casts photographed. The results are most successful, and the sculpture comes out very much more distinctly than it would do if the photographs had been taken from the stones themselves; confirming my view that the other early sculptured stones of Scotland should be treated in the same way. Sir John Stirling Maxwell has set a noble example, well worthy of imitation, and deserves the best thanks of all Scottish antiquaries.

The photographs have been published by Messrs T. & R. Annan & Son, 230 Sauchiehall Street, Glasgow, and are now available for the use of antiquaries and art students.

ston House, near Heriot railway station. Mr Borthwick, the owner, showed me two fragments of sculptured stones taken from Borthwick church, and now built into an exterior wall at the back of the modern house of Crookston, just above one of the windows. By the help of a ladder I was able to take rubbings and dimensions of the stones. My attention was first called to the existence of these stones by Miss Russell of Ashiestiel. I have to thank Mr Macfie of Borthwick Hall, who entertained me hospitably on this occasion, and drove me over to Crookston.

On Saturday, the 13th, I called at the Museum of Science and Art, on Major-General Sir R. Murdoch Smith, K.C.M.G., whose acquaintance I had had the pleasure of making many years previously when he held the responsible position of Director of Telegraphs at Teheran, in Persia. I told Sir Murdoch Smith that I considered the Nigg Cross the finest example of early sculptured stonework now existing in Great Britain, and strongly recommended him to procure a cast of it for the Museum. The Director quite fell in with my views, the gratifying result being that casts of the Nigg Cross are now available for study both at Edinburgh and in the South Kensington Museum, London.

The thanks of the Society are again due to Sir Murdoch Smith and Mr Vallance for presenting excellent photographs of the cast of the Nigg stone, which have been reproduced as illustrations to the forthcoming work on the *Early Christian Monuments of Scotland*, now in the press.

On Monday, the 15th, I left Edinburgh for Dundee, and on the Tuesday I made an excursion to St Andrews in the company of Mr Alex. Hutcheson, F.S.A. Scot., of Broughty-Ferry. Here Mr Hay Fleming acted as our guide, and took us over the excavations then being made on the site of the Priory, at the expense of the Marquis of Bute, K.G. Here two new fragments of early sculptured stones were seen, and I learn that a small coped stone and portions of crosses have been found subsequently.

I here made arrangements with Mr Thomas Rodger to take photographs of the sculptured sarcophagus in the museum, and the portions of cross-shafts built into the base of the wall of the Cathedral. Mr Hay Fleming kindly undertook to superintend the photography of the

sarcophagus, and to obtain the required permission from the Principal. The janitor of the museum rendered valuable assistance in removing cases and other obstacles in the way of the camera, and in cleaning the sculpture thoroughly before the negatives were taken. The difficulties of taking a photograph of the sarcophagus were considerable, owing to the extremely awkward position in which it is at present placed, on a level with the floor. We sincerely hope that the authorities will see the desirability of placing it on a suitable pedestal, at a height of about 2 feet 6 inches above the floor, and in the centre of one of the rooms, where all the faces can be easily seen. It was so placed when I saw it first, many years ago ; and it is a great pity that its position should have been altered.

On Wednesday, the 17th, I went to Meigle with Mr Hutcheson. Sir John Kinloch asked us to luncheon to meet the Ven. Archdeacon Aglen, of Alyth, who has published a valuable catalogue of the stones at Meigle. After luncheon we visited the museum, and I explained to Sir John Kinloch what I wanted done in the way of photography. He willingly gave permission to have any photographs taken that the Society required, and promised to afford every facility to the photographer who might be sent.

My principal object in visiting Dundee was to arrange the details of the photography of the sculptured stones in Forfarshire and Perthshire with Mr Alex. Hutcheson, who had promised to undertake the general superintendence of the work on behalf of the Society, if I would give him all the necessary directions as to what was wanted.

By Mr Hutcheson's advice, I commissioned Mr D. M. Duncan to take the negatives, and the quality of the work done by him has fully justified Mr Hutcheson's recommendation. I supplied Mr Duncan with complete directions as to the way in which the photographs would have to be taken, and the preliminary preparations that would have to be made in cleaning the surfaces of the stones, removing obstructions, such as the railing round the Cossins Stone, the earth accumulated round the bases of the Cossins Stone, and the Aberlemno Stone No. 2, and the dry rubble wall built in front of the Aberlemno Stone No. 3.

The portions of the sculptured faces disclosed to view by these

operations do not appear to have been seen before in recent times, and are entirely omitted in the illustrations in Stuart's *Sculptured Stones of Scotland*. In removing the dry sandy soil from the base of the Cossins Stone, a curious and hitherto unknown feature was revealed; namely, the fish-like tails of the pair of beasts whose heads meet at the apex of the pediment at the top of the slab, the bodies of the beasts forming the vertical marginal borders of the slab.

The following is a list of the stones in Forfarshire and Perthshire which have been photographed by Mr D. M. Duncan, for reproduction as half-tone process blocks, to illustrate the work on the *Early Christian Monuments of Scotland* :—

		Faces			Faces
Aberlemno,	No. 1,	1	Inchbrayock,	No. 1,	2
"	No. 2,	2	Meigle,	No. 4,	2
"	No. 3,	2	"	No. 4A,	2
Dunnichen,	"	1	"	No. 5,	2
Cossins,	"	2	"	No. 15,	1
Eassie,	"	2	"	No. 22,	1
Glamis,	No. 1,	2	"	No. 25,	2
"	No. 2,	2	"	No. 26,	2

Altogether twenty-eight negatives, all whole plates, except two which are half plates.

In addition to the photographs specially ordered to be taken for the Society, permission has been obtained to reproduce the following :—

St Madoes Stone,	photographed by the late Mr Magnus Jackson, F.S.A. Scot., Perth.
Dunfallandy "	"
Craill "	"
Jedburgh "	"
Inchbrayock No. 3	
Ruthwell Stone,	"
Nigg "	"
Govan "	"
	Erskine Beveridge, Esq., F.S.A. Scot., Dunfermline.
	C. C. Hodges, Esq., F.S.A. Scot., Hexham.
	Museum of Science and Art.
	T. & R. Annan & Sons, Glasgow.

Sir John Stirling Maxwell has been kind enough to give me permission to make use of this splendid series of photographs in any way I please for the book on the *Early Christian Monuments of Scotland*.

The reproduction of the photographs just described, as well as of a selection from those already specified in my former "Report on the Photography of the Sculptured Stones earlier than A.D. 1100, in the District of Scotland North of the River Dee," was entrusted to Mr Drummond, of Henrietta Street, Covent Garden, London, W.C., agent for a Vienna firm, by whom the half-tone process blocks were made. The blocks were finished in May 1896, and have since been delivered to the Society. The photography of the Sculptured Stones and the preparation of the blocks was carried out entirely under my direction, and I may mention that the time spent on this work was very considerable, and the correspondence in which it involved me was no light task.

Through the liberality of his Excellency Dr R. H. Gunning, the Society has now acquired a very valuable series of negatives and half-tone blocks of typical specimens of the early Sculptured Stones of Scotland, which, although taken in the first instance for the purpose of illustrating the work on the subject now in course of publication, can also be made of use in various other ways subsequently for the benefit of the Society. Enlargements or lantern slides made from the negatives would be very serviceable for educational purposes, and would supersede the more clumsy and less accurate lecture diagrams. If the negatives were deposited with a professional photographer, an arrangement might be made with him to supply Fellows with prints at a fixed rate.

In conclusion, I would urge upon the Society the desirability of forming a complete collection of permanent prints and negatives, not only of the early Sculptured Stones, but of other classes of national antiquities. Amateur photographers might render very valuable assistance, in contributing specimens of their work towards such a collection.

Since the above Report was written some remarkable discoveries of early sculptured stones, and the remains of a Celtic monastic settlement, with cells surrounded by a cashel, have been made at St Blane's, Isle of Bute, during the course of the restorations being carried out there for the Marquis of Bute, under the superintendence of Mr R. Weir Schultz. It is to be hoped that an account of these discoveries will be laid before the Society during the course of next session.