

I.

NOTICE OF TWO STANDING STONES (ONE WITH PICTISH SYMBOLS) ON THE LANDS OF PETERHEAD FARM, NEAR GLENEAGLES, PERTHSHIRE. BY CHARLES S. T. CALDER, A.R.I.A.S., F.S.A.Scot.

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Two stones, situated to the south of the main road about half-way between Blackford and Auchterarder, are noted as "Standing Stones" on the 6-inch O.S. Map of Perthshire, Sheet No. CXVIII, S.W. They are separated from each other by a distance of 400 yards, and stand in arable ground on the lands of Peterhead Farm (fig. 1).

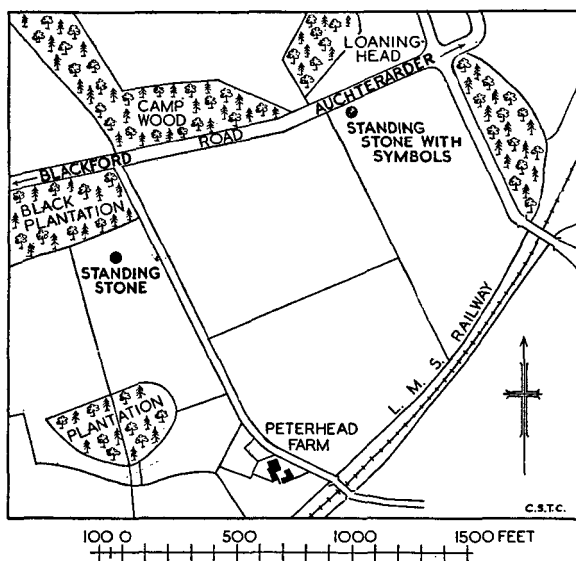


Fig. 1. Map of Sites.

The one that stands in the field bounded on the north by the Black Plantation and on the east by the farm road is a featureless weather-worn boulder (Pl. I, 1). Somewhat cylindrical in form with a girth of 7 feet at the base, it rises with a decided tilt towards the west to a height of 3 feet 10 inches above ground-level. No artificial markings appear on its surface, and its inclusion here is for record purposes only on account of its likeness to, and

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its close association with, the second stone, which is of main interest in having two Pictish symbols incised upon it.

This second stone is also a boulder which is badly pitted and weathered from many centuries of exposure (Pl. I, 2). It stands in a field in a conspicuous position 15 yards from the main road and 150 yards west-south-west of the cross-roads at Loaninghead. On plan it is roughly oblong, with average dimensions of 3 feet from north to south and 2 feet 6 inches from east to west, and it measures in girth 10 feet 9 inches at base and 6 feet 11 inches at top. In its height of 5 feet above ground-level it tilts westwards at an angle of 20°.

Towards the top of its north side the symbols have been incised one above the other; it is highly probable that they were made after the stone itself had long existed as a standing stone, and so far as I am aware they have not previously been recorded (Pl. I, 3). Both have been cut in a strong deep line, but the upper one is so much defaced by weathering that its form is not easily detected at first sight. Nevertheless, from a careful study on the spot it becomes distinct enough to be deciphered as the representation of a goose (fig. 2). The bird has been delineated with considerable skill and artistic merit in graceful outline from the tail to the head, which is turned rearwards and reposes on the back. The line of the wing is evident, and the legs can just be made out but the feet are not clearly seen, nor is the underside of the head and neck. The figure occupies almost the full width of the top of the stone, and measures $13\frac{1}{2}$ inches from the tail to the much weather-worn breastline and $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches approximately from the head to the feet.

A goose is of rare occurrence on Pictish symbol stones; only two other examples have been recorded, and in my opinion one of them bears more resemblance to a duck (fig. 3). The latter, figured No. II on the drawing, is carved on a stone at Tillytarmont in Aberdeenshire;¹ the other, No. I, is at Easterton of Roseisle in Elginshire,² and is portrayed with the head turned backwards in similar manner to the one under review.

The lower symbol, placed towards the left-hand side of the stone, begins just below the feet of the goose and terminates an inch or so from the edge (fig. 2). It resembles a grid divided into three equal panels by two horizontal lines, and measures $10\frac{1}{4}$ inches wide by $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches high, the bottom being 2 feet 10 inches above ground-level. The design represents the double-toothed comb which is symbolised likewise on other sculptured stones although generally of smaller dimensions. The average size would appear to be about 5 inches by $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches, omitting two unusually large ones at Covesea Cave, Elginshire, and The Maiden Stone, Aberdeenshire, which measure respectively 16 inches by 10 inches and $11\frac{3}{4}$ inches by $6\frac{3}{5}$ inches and thus compare with the outsize reproduction on the Peterhead Farm stone.

¹ *Early Christian Monuments of Scotland*, Pt. III, p. 186, fig. 201.

² *Ibid.*, Pt. III, p. 126, fig. 130A; *Proc. Soc. Ant. Scot.*, vol. lxxiv., pl. xv, a, facing p. 64.

NOTICE OF TWO STANDING STONES NEAR GLENEAGLES. 3

The comb symbol is very frequently depicted, usually in association with a mirror but not always so. In the *E.C.M.* Romilly Allen records and illustrates eleven single- and sixteen double-toothed varieties. Six different

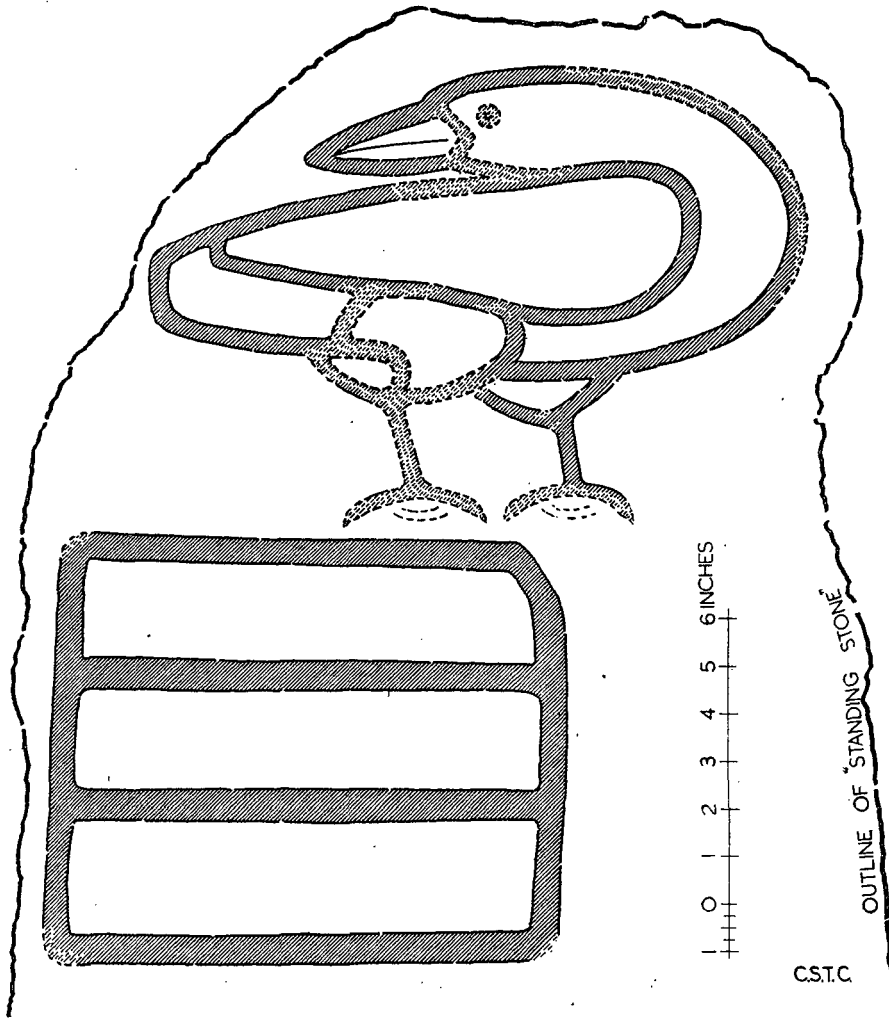
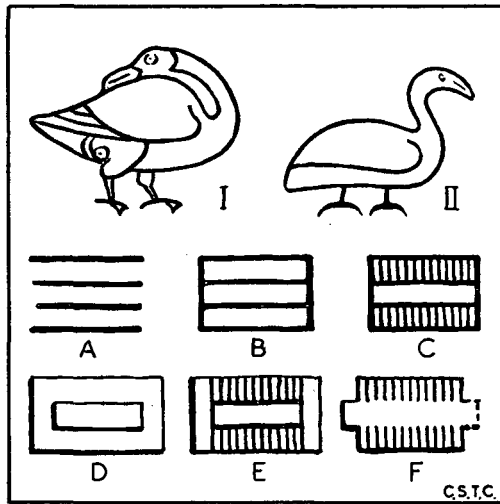


Fig. 2. Drawing of the Symbols:

representations of the latter type are noticed and are lettered from A to F on the diagrams (fig. 3). A, B, C are incised examples and D, E, F are in low relief, with the exception of one at Covesea Cave, which is also incised. It has been described as a rectangular symbol and not as a comb, but being associated with two mirror-case symbols and agreeing exactly in shape with

Type D it obviously must be reckoned within the comb group. Types A and F occur only once each. Regarding the so-called "rectangular symbols," of which there are fifteen examples, these have the appearance of decorated leather wallets, in some cases with flaps as in fig. 4, F, G, and I, and in others with thong-lacing as in fig. 4, F and J. It may not be out of place here to suggest that they are intended to represent comb-cases on the analogy of the mirror-cases. In shape, at all events, the design is reasonably proportionate to the comb symbols (fig. 4), and in size the average dimensions are not much



I EASTERTON OF ROSEISLE, ELCINSHIRE
 II TILLYTARMONT, ABERDEENSHIRE
 ABC TYPES OF DOUBLE-TOOTHED COMBS INCISED
 DEF Do. Do. Do. IN LOW RELIEF

Fig. 3. Diagrams of Types of Symbols.

larger. It is to be observed that the comb C and the symbol H are both carved on the same stone, and the use of comb-cases at an early date is attested by the finding of an ivory comb and case in a Viking grave of the eighth century at the Bay of Skail in Orkney.¹

"Symbols . . . including the mirror and comb were carved on funerary slabs in the Roman Empire . . . and were used in Early Christian symbolism too."² In Christian times "The comb had a ceremonial use in the ritual of the Church. . . . It was one of the symbolic relics buried with ecclesiastical personages. . . . St Cuthbert's comb was buried with him."³ In a letter from Pope Boniface to Queen Ethelberga, c. 625, he concludes with

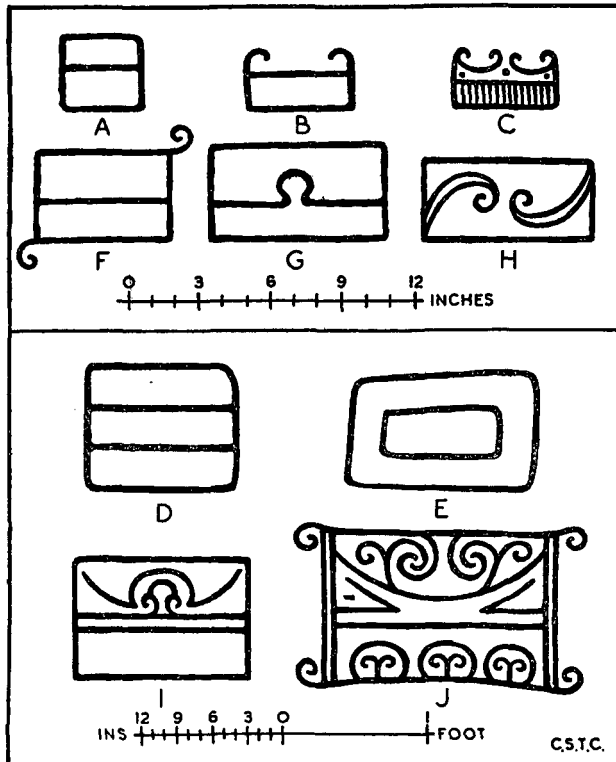
¹ *Inventory of Ancient and Historical Monuments in Orkney and Shetland*, Introduction, fig. 8, pl. 5, and Orkney article No. 767. *Proc. Soc. Ant. Scot.*, vol. xxii. p. 284, fig. 1.

² *Proc. Soc. Ant. Scot.*, vol. lxxiv. p. 65.

³ *E.C.M.*, p. xxxvi.

the following passage: "We have, moreover, sent you the blessing of your protector, St Peter, the prince of the apostles, that is a silver mirror and a gilt ivory comb. . . ." ¹

Not all comb symbols, however, can be ascribed to the Christian era in Scotland, but only those examples which appear with crosses may be so



A B & C SINGLE-TOOTHED COMB SYMBOLS
 D & E DOUBLE-TOOTHED COMB SYMBOLS
 F TO J "RECTANGULAR SYMBOLS"
 (? COMB-CASES)

Fig. 4. Comb and "Rectangular" Symbols.

related. These consist entirely of double-toothed combs sculptured in low relief and, according to Mrs Cecil L. Curle, "the earliest possible date . . . may be accepted as sometime in the fifth century"; ² those which are incised are the exceptions, none of which appear in conjunction with crosses.

It may be a point of some significance that the exceptions comprise the whole range of single-toothed and half of the double-toothed comb symbols,

¹ Bede [B ii, C 12, A.D. 625].

² *Proc. Soc. Ant. Scot.*, vol. lxxiv. p. 62.

all of which are found only on rude natural boulders, slabs, pillars and rock surfaces. Romilly Allen places them in his Class I of Symbol Stones, which he and other authorities have no hesitation in regarding as the earliest type, presumably pre-Christian, in the area of their distribution. To this category and period, then, the Peterhead Farm symbols may be assigned.

A list of the stones on which the comb and rectangular symbols occur, with reference to their position in the *E.C.M. of Scotland*, Pt. III is appended. Letters within brackets in the items below accord with those of the diagrams, figs. 3 and 4. All the rectangular symbols are incised, and only one, Golspie, occurs on a cross-slab.

Single-toothed.

County.	Place.	Page.	Fig.	County.	Place.	Page.	Fig.
Sutherland	Clynemilton (No. 2)	40	37	Aberdeen	[C] Newbigging Leslie	177	192
"	Kintradwell (No. 3)	44	42	"	[B] Park	180	195
Elgin	Golspie ¹ Easterton of Roseisle	126	130	Forfar	Rhynie Aberlemno (No. 1)	183 205	198 221
Banff	Inveravon (No. 2)	153	159	"	Dunnichen	207	223
Aberdeen	Daviot	161	170				
"	[A] Keith Hall	170	183				

Double-toothed.

County.	Place.	Page.	Fig.	County.	Place.	Page.	Fig.
<i>Type A.</i>				<i>Type D.</i>			
Caithness	Sandside House	29	26	Ross	Hilton of Cadboll	62	59
<i>Type B.</i>				"	Rosemarkie	64, 65	60 A, 62
Banff	Inveravon (No. 1)	152	158	Elgin	[E] Covesea Cave	131	135, C
Aberdeen	Bourtie	157	163	Forfar	Kirriemuir (No. 1)	227	239, B
"	Drummies	163	171	"	St Vigean	236	250, B
Perth	[D] Parkhead Farm	Perth	Meigle (No. 7)	303	316, B
<i>Type C.</i>				<i>Type E.</i>			
Sutherland	Dunrobin Castle	42	39	Aberdeen	The Maiden Stone	191	207
Inverness	Drambuie (No. 2)	99	102	Forfar	Kingoldrum	226	238, B
Elgin	Upper Manbean	129	134	"	Monifieth (No. 1)	228	241, B
				<i>Type F.</i>			
				Perth	[F] Meigle (No. 1)	296	310, B

¹ Cf. *Proc. Soc. Ant. Scot.*, vol. lxxvii. p. 29, fig. 2.



1. Standing Stone (3 feet 10 inches) nearest the Black Plantation, from S.E.



2. Standing Stone (5 feet 1 inch) nearest Loaninghead, from N.W.



3. Top of Standing Stone, showing Symbols.

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1. Mound at Pinnacle Hill, Kelso (diameter 140 feet).



2. Fragments of Upper Cist.



3. Lower Cist.

EXCAVATION OF BRONZE AGE CISTS AT KELSO.

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Rectangular Symbols.

County.	Place.	Page.	Fig.	County.	Place.	Page.	Fig.
Shetland	[G] Sandness	4	2	Elgin	[F] Grantown	126	131
Orkney	Firth	20	16	Aberdeen	Old Deer	162	..
"	So. Ronaldsay	21	17	"	[H] Newbigging		
Sutherland	[I] Clynekirkton				Leslie	177	192
"	(No. 1)	38	34	Fife	Court Cave	370	..
"	Clynekirkton			"	Doo Cave	371	389
"	(No. 2)	38	35	"	Jonathan's Cave	372	390
"	Little Ferry			"	Sloping Cave	373	..
"	Links (No. 1)	46	44				
"	[J] Golspie	48	48, B				
Hebrides	Benbecula	111	114				