

## A Pictish Cross-Slab Fragment from Glamis, Angus

*by Herbert Coultts*

In late 1967 the lower part of a Pictish cross-slab was noticed by the writer at Glamis. At one time it must have been built into a wall as it has been roughly squared and its back face bears traces of mortar. It is of grey sandstone but weathering has given the surface a thin red-brown coating.

The fragment measures 59 cm high, 55 cm across, and is 13 cm thick. On the front (pl 29b) the foot of the cross-shaft is ornamented with interlace decoration. In a panel to the right of the shaft are the hindquarters of a beast (possibly a fox or a wolf), and part of a wing. To the left is the lower half of the figure of a man. The only sculpture to be seen on the other face are two pairs of legs in the top left-hand corner. It is not quite clear whether these represent the legs of two human figures standing close together or an animal.

This is not the first cross-slab fragment to have been discovered at Glamis. At the beginning

of this century the base of a cross-slab was found in a grave in the old churchyard, but is now lost.<sup>1</sup> These two fragments, along with the well-known Glamis manse stone, lend support to the tradition that there was an early ecclesiastical centre at Glamis.

The cross-slab fragment has been placed inside Glamis church for safe-keeping.

#### REFERENCE

1. *Proc Soc Antiq Scot*, XLV (1910-11), 197.