

688. Kildonnán.—The ruin of St Donnan's Church, a post-Reformation building, stands on the east side of the island at the head of the bay Poll nam Partan. It is a stone and lime building constructed with local rubble and is oblong on plan, measuring 50 feet 11 inches from east to west by 18 feet 3 inches within walls 3 feet 3 inches thick. There is a small rebuilt, lintelled window at the east end of the side walls. The entrance is in the south wall towards the western end.

In the north wall is a tomb recess, merely 5 feet 4 inches in length, with a moulded archi-volt of freestone. In the back of the recess are two freestone panels. The upper bears the date 1641 and initials D R linked by a Y-shaped ligature. The lower panel is armorial. Centred in the upper part is an eagle, flanked on the dexter side by a hand grasping a wheel cross. On the sinister side is a lion rampant. In the lower dexter corner is a galley, and a triple-towered castle fills the sinister corner.

The church is utilised as a burial ground, and some of the modern graves are provided with cover slabs and headstones removed from earlier interments. Of these are the following:—

(a) Figs. 302-3. A cross-shaft of slate 6 feet 1 inch in length, 1 foot 1 inch wide at top and 1 foot 5 inches wide at bottom by 4½ inches thick. The front bears a finely executed de-based vine pattern terminating at the foot in opposed winged animals; and on the back is a scrollwork similar in detail, though differing in arrangement, while the terminal animals are not winged.

(b) A fragment of a cross-shaft 2 feet 9 inches in height, 1 foot 4 inches in breadth by 2½ inches thick bears a Greek cross, with widened ends, in a circle 1 foot 2 inches in diameter.

(c) A cross-shaft of slate, very weatherworn and fractured, measures 5 feet 7 inches by 1 foot 8 inches. On the upper surface are traces of scrollwork with animal figures.

(d) A fragment of a cross-shaft of hard free-stone, 1 foot 9 inches by 1 foot 1 inch, bears a panel inscribed with a late key pattern.

John Moydartach, Captain of Clanranald in the second half of the sixteenth century, is said to have erected the church at Kildonnán (*Book of Clanranald in Reliquie Celtice*, ii., p. 171).

Island of Eigg (Inverness-shire) lxxiii.
8 July 1925.



Fig. 4. Cross-slab at St Donnan's, Eigg.

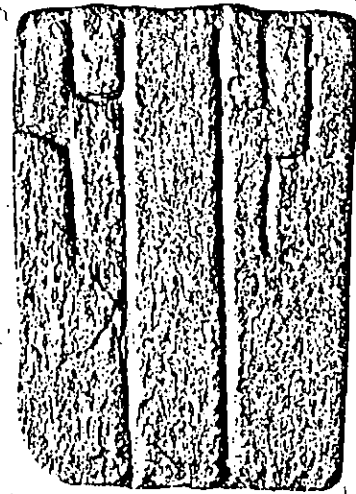


Fig. 6. Cross-slab at St Donnan's, Eigg.

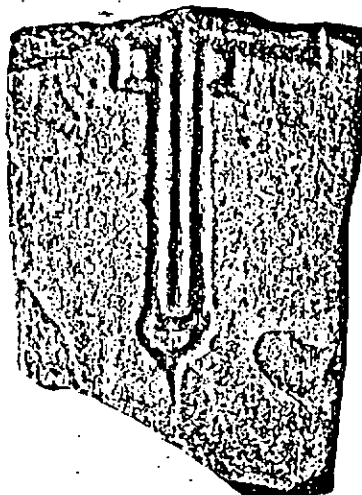


Fig. 5. Cross-slab at St Donnan's, Eigg.

(2)

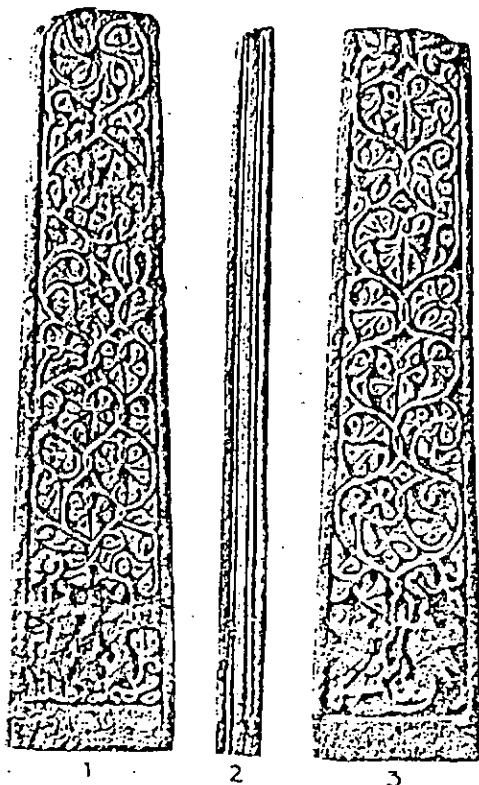


Fig. 7. Cross-shaft at St Donnan's, Eigg.

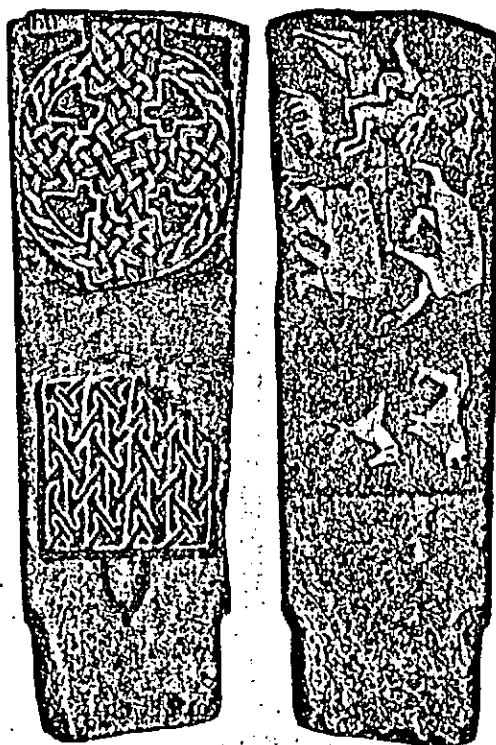


Fig. 3. Cross-slab at St Donnan's, Eigg.

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(5) By The Rt. Hon. WALTER RUNCIMAN, P.C., M.P.

Cast of parts of the head and the shaft of a Cross, much worn and broken. The head portion shows a hunting scene with two hounds attacking a deer, and other designs of indeterminate character; it measures 24 inches by 14½ inches. The fragment of the shaft bears a foliaceous design with leafage springing from both sides of a wavy central stem, and on the left margin is a narrow border with pateræ. It measures 34½ inches by 11½ inches. From St Donnan's, Eigg, Inverness-shire. (3)

(7) By The Right Hon. WALTER RUNCIMAN, P.C., M.P., President of the Board of Trade.

Casts of fragments of four Cross-slabs and of a Cross-shaft at St Donnan's, Island of Eigg.

(1) A Cross-slab of red sandstone, broken across the middle and rejoined, the central part wanting (fig. 3). On the face is the ringed head of a cross, decorated with interlaced designs and a panel containing a key-pattern. On the back is a hunting scene, the figures shown as moving from the top to the bottom. A man on horseback with a dog and bird below and another dog above follow two pigs, in front of which are two more animals, the lower one being a horse. All these designs are in relief, but incised at a later time on the top border of the face are the letters Ihu and XPI, and in the centre of the back a cross with short lines across the ends of the arms.

(2) A small fragment of a Cross-slab of red sandstone showing part of a cross within a ring, with a triquetra more or less carefully cut between the arms (fig. 4).

(3) and (4) Fragments of two Cross-slabs, each showing the lower portion of a cross of unusual form (figs. 5 and 6).

(5) Cross-shaft of bluish schist, both faces decorated with leafy interlaced scrolls springing from the tails of four beasts, two on each face (fig. 7). Such designs appear on many crosses and grave-slabs in the west of Scotland. This monument bears a very strong resemblance to the disc-headed cross with short arms at Campbeltown and the one in the National Museum from Kilchoman, Islay. Their date is probably about the end of the fifteenth century. (3)

Church and cross to be supplied by field surveyor.

The four cross slabs illustrated are preserved in the porch of Galmisdale House (NM 479 842).

(OSFI:AA:8 5 1972)