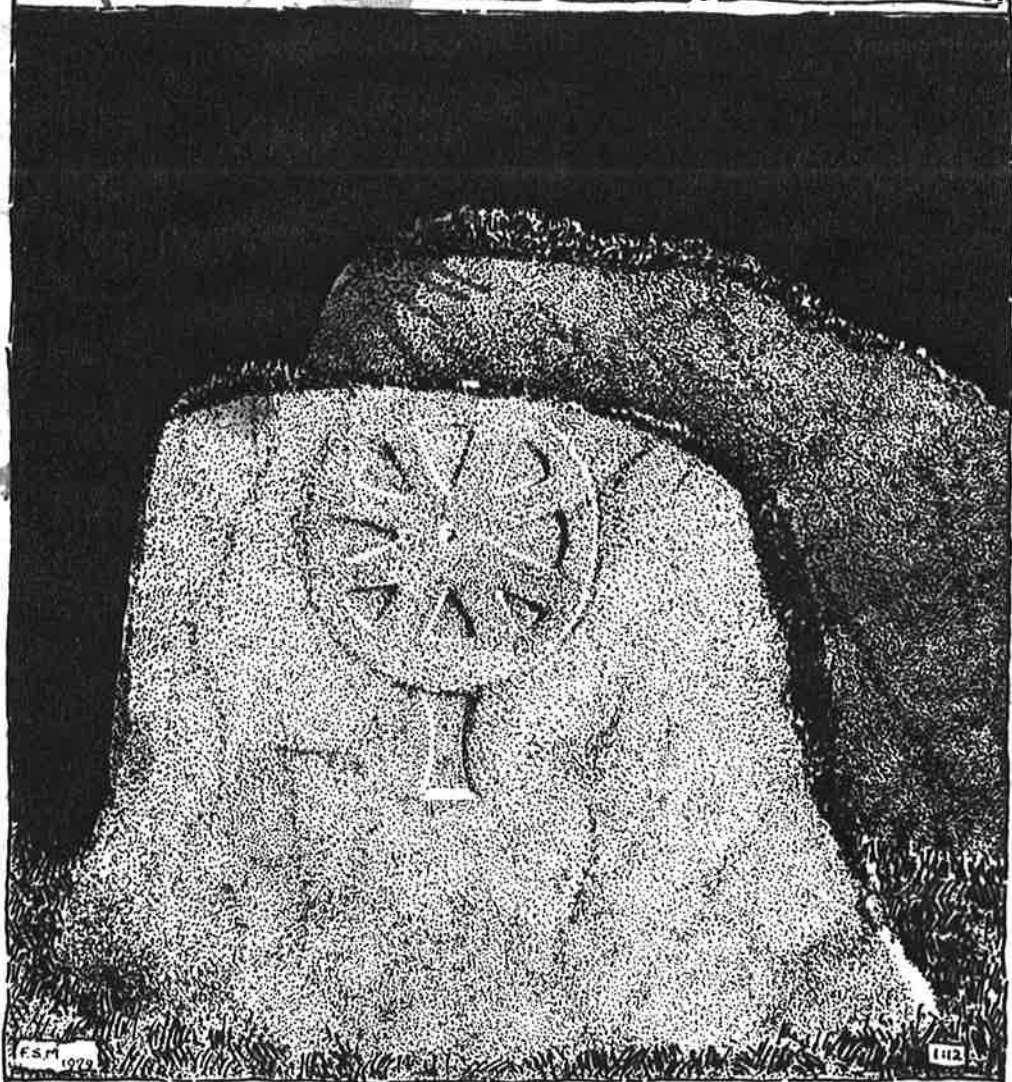


carving at
daltoz on loch Sween



The KIST • 23

T H E K I S T

The Magazine of
The Natural History & Antiquarian Society
of Mid-Argyll

President: Miss Campbell of Kilberry, FSA, FSAScot.

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CONTENTS

<u>The New Inverneill Hill Road - 1846-47</u>	
Mr G.V.Turner, BA, MRTPI, FRMETS.	1
<u>Some Tarbert By-names</u>	
Anon.	10
<u>A Mid-Argyll Contract of Fosterage - 1655</u>	
F.S.Mackenna, MA, FSA, FSAScot.	12
<u>Reflections of an Amateur Excavator</u>	
Mr J.C.Purdie, FSAScot.	16
<u>Aspects of Industry in Mid-Argyll</u>	
Miss Campbell of Kilberry, FSA, FSAScot.	19
<u>Crinan Canal: An Additional Note</u>	
Mrs Richard Smith	25
<u>The Cover: Carved Stone at Daltot</u>	
F.S.Mackenna, MA, FSA, FSAScot.	26
<u>Review: Exploring Arran's Past</u>	29

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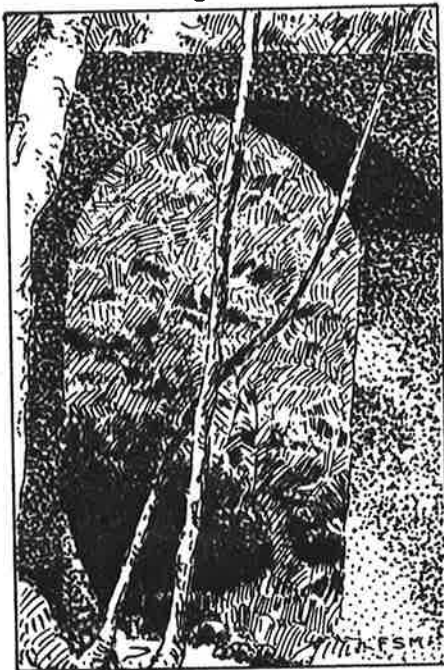
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THE NEW INVERNEILL HILL ROAD - 1846-47

Geoffrey Turner

The research into this chapter of the history of road-making in Argyll began when I tried to find out about the high bridge over the Inverneil Burn close to my house - Achabhraid.

The bridge is listed as a building of architectural and historical interest under the Planning Acts and the entry reads - 'Bridge - Inverneil Burn NR 83508140. Single high



span. Rubble. Parapet with flat cope. Category C(S).' No date is mentioned, nor is this information in the Divisional Engineer's records. The bridge spans a spectacularly deep gorge - itself a site of special scientific interest - and its height appears to be more than the 45' from parapet to water-level as measured. It is claimed to be the tallest bridge in Argyll.

My interest increased when I was shown a copy of an estate map of Inverneil surveyed by Taylor and Skinner in 1776. This shows the road from Auchoish keeping to the south side of the Inverneil Burn until it

joins the Loch Fyneside road near Whitehouse Bay. Faintly marked on this map at a later date is the line of a new road crossing the gorge and passing near to Achabhraid.

Then the articles in Kist on Early Roads by Dr Mackenna (Nos. 17 & 18) introduced me to the fascinating Road Trustee minute books in the care of our local archivist Murdo Macdonald.

The 1775 Act divided the shire into a number of districts in which Road Trustees would be responsible for maintaining roads and bridges. The Argyll District roughly cor-

responded to what we now think of as Mid Argyll. The work of the Trustees from 1775 to 1843 was recorded in four minute books, but unfortunately the second one (1782-1817) has gone astray. In 1843 a further Act divided the (Mid) Argyll District into North and South sections. Four minute books recorded the work of the new Trustees from 1843 to 1890, but once more one of the books (No.3, 1864-1879) is missing.

A further source of information was found in early maps and historical accounts. Relief maps show that the Inverneil locality offers one of the few opportunities for crossing Knapdale from Loch Fyne to the Sound of Jura. The Inverneil Glen provides a gradual ascent to a watershed of less than 650', lying between Cruach Lusach (1529') and Sliabh Gaoil (1844').

Roy's map of the area, dating from the mid-18th century, does not show any road along Loch Fyne side. The main line of communication followed the west coast through Kilberry, Achahoish and so to Loch Sween. Although Loch Arel is shown, no road is indicated between Achahoish and Inverneil.

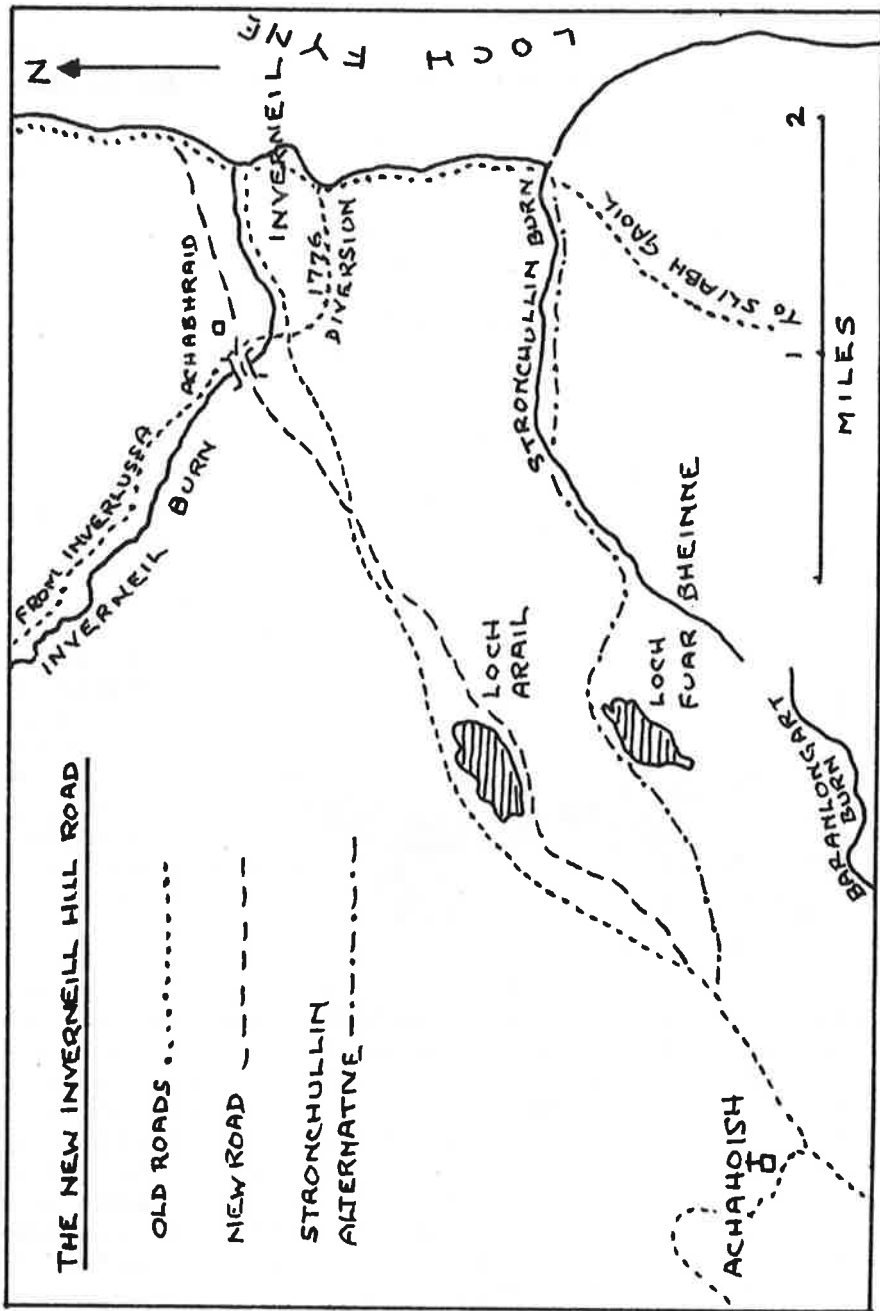


Loch Arel

Fifty years later Langland's map, published in 1801, shows a track connecting Achahoish and Inverneil, but passing to the north-west side of Loch Arel.

In the Second Statistical Account the information for South Knapdale was drawn up in 1840 by the Rev. Duncan Rankin. He had this to say - "There are two churches in the parish, the one at Achoish near the manse, the other at Inverneil, six miles distant. The road between the two churches is excessively hilly, ill-lined and not kept in good repair. Both churches were built about the same time, in the year 1775." Since he was a regular user of the road in the course of his pastoral duties one can appreciate his comments!

At a meeting of the Argyll Road Trustees at Inveraray on 18th October 1775 "there was a petition given in for



Colonel Archibald Campbell of Inverneill showing that the present road leading from Inverneill to Auchachoish runs close by the stance where the petitioner means to build a house upon the said lands of Inverneill And whereas the petitioner intends as soon as possible to build a publick house south of the present line of road he hopes the meeting will agree to his altering the road about two or three hundred yards southward towards the march of Stronechuline so as to bring the road to run by the publick house and, that being agreed to, the petitioner engages to make the intended road from the present line to the publick house twenty feet wide at his own expense." The Trustees agreed to this and appointed a committee of three to "run the line of the road". This diversion is shown on the 1776 estate map for Inverneil and can still be traced in part on the ground.

At a meeting of the Trustees at Lochgilphead on 15th July 1835 a committee was appointed "to concert with the Heritors as to the best practical line of road from Inver-



Inverneil Glen

neill to Achoish and the probability of raising funds for making it."

Various meetings were held, and then on the 14th March 1837 four members "proceeded to walk up Stronchullin Glen with a view to ascertain the practability [sic] and eligibility of a road in that direction either by Loch-na-

Fuarbhain or by the glen to the south of it to the march of Barinlongart." Having taken the levels they found Loch-na-Fuarbhain to be 659' above the level of the Campbeltown road at Stronchullin and the ridge 14' higher, making in all 673'. The Committee found the level of Loch Car-rail or Sandstone loch by which the present road passes is 596' above the same spot of the Campbeltown road and the present road passes as high as 710' The highest level in the glen towards Barinlongart is 590½' and the distance from that point to the Campbeltown road is 3 miles 60 yds, and the ascent being regular a good road in this direction

on that side may be obtained." However, taking all things into account the Committee finally recommended that the improvement should follow the existing line in the vicinity of Loch Arail.

The following extracts from the first Minute Book of the South Knapdale Road Trustees indicate the progress made. Where appropriate the extracts are quoted verbatim, otherwise a précis is made.

Lochgilphead 5th March 1844

In the report of a Surveyor's Committee it states - "About four miles of this section the Road would require to be made on an entirely new line - even leaving out of view the making of that piece from above Inverneill Sheep Fank to join the Shore Road at Brenfeorline March, which to complete the improvement of that road is required."

Lochgilphead 8th March 1844

"The meeting appointed Sir J.F.Orde to be Convener and Donald MacIntyre to be Clerk with a Salary of £20 per annum - Mr George MacCombie to be Surveyor with a Salary of £60 and Collector with a Salary of £30."

In an account of monies collected there is a list of offences and fines for the period 5th September 1843 to 1st February 1844 totalling £3.14.0 The most common offence was "putting dirty water and sweepings on the road", for which the fine was 2/6d, but the list also included

"John Campbell - Dunardry - 1 pig on road	2s.6d.
Mrs James Sherewood - Lochgilphead - hanging	
clothes on the fence.	2s.6d.
Mrs Duncan McBrayne - child dirtying the street.	2s.6d.
Dugald Campbell - Tayvallich - holding horse	
across a pavement.	1s.6d."

At Kilmory 7th November 1844 - Surveyor's Committee

"The Committee proceeded to inspect the Plan, Report and the Estimate, made by Mr James Thomson in September 1839 of two sections of the line of road from Inverneill to Auchoish and the Draft Plan and Report prepared this season by their Surveyor on the remaining portion of that road, and Ormsary having stated that if these improvements be commenced that season and executed according to these plans or in an equally efficient manner, he would be ready to guarantee that the half of the expense would be met by private subscriptions."

"Under these circumstances and considering the great utility of this line as affording communication between an

extensive District of Country and the Point of Ardrishaig the Committee do not hesitate to recommend that this improvement be the first proceeded with." and "The Committee appoint Sir J.P.Orde Bt., Ormsary and Shirvan a Sub-Committee to communicate with the proprietors through whose grounds the proposed improvement of the Inverneill and Auchoish roads must be carried, Ormsary to be Convener." and "The Committee in terms of the powers given them by the District Meeting of 4th April last agree to give the Surveyor £10 a year additional to meet the expense of providing himself with all the instruments necessary for Surveying and the extra expense which he may incur when so employed."

Lochgilphead 4th December 1844

"Decided that a Special District Meeting of the Road Trustees for South Argyll would be held at Lochgilphead on 5th March 1845 to examine the plans and estimates for the foundation of a new line of road from Inverneill to Auchoish or from some point on the road between Ardrishaig and Inverneill to some point on the road between Auchoish and Barinlongart."

At Lochgilphead 5th March 1845 - Special Meeting

Estimates considered were - "from Auchoish to the outlet of Locharel to £444.18.6, and for the summit section to £416.8.6, and for the section from the summit to the public road on Lochfyneside to £557.4.10, besides £300.14.6 for bridges; being in all £1719.5.4 note the discrepancy of 1/- ; the half of the expense having been guaranteed by Ormsary the proportion payable by the District according to this estimate will be £857.12.8d."

Kilmory 8th March 1845 - Surveyor's Committee

Surveyor to prepare plans etc. in order to advertise for contractors for the new Inverneill Hill Road and Bridges. Work to be divided into sections. Gravel or metal to be measured before laying on. Road to be formed with a fall of not less than $\frac{1}{2}$ " to each foot of cross section. In side cutting the side nearest the hill to be highest. Road to be 14' wide except in rock cutting and to have occasional wider places for turning. "The Surveyor is instructed to examine and report upon the practicability [sic] of lowering Loch Aral and making a portion of the road along its Southern margin."

Lochgilphead 3rd April 1845 - Surveyor's Committee

"Sir J.P.Orde Bart presented to the Committee a letter containing plan of a proposed Suspension Bridge on Dredges patent principle 64' long 14' wide which fixed and complete exclusive of the masonry required for embankment walls would cost £400 and be equal to all kinds of traffic." This was decided to be too dear.

Lochgilphead 7th May 1845 - Surveyor's Committee

"The Committee accept the offer of John MacLean Railway Contractor Bishoptown near Paisley, amounting to £1097.5.1d or failing him that of William Robertson & Coy at Inveraray amounting to £1180.8.6d." This was for 5 lots plus the bridges, but not including the eastern section near Achabhruid.

Lochgilphead 11th June 1845

"The Surveyor reported that the contractor John MacLean commenced operations on the new line of road near Auchoish on 2nd June." "The Surveyor stated that the contractor was willing to take £10 as a lump sum for making all the sivers, bringing the whole contract to £1107.5.1d, which was approved."

Lochgilphead 12th June 1845

"An additional assessment of four pence on each pound sterling of annual value within the District of South Argyll for improving the Inverneill-Auchoish road."

Lochgilphead 2nd July 1845 - Surveyor's Committee

"The contractor for the Inverneill Hill had about 80 men working on it in June and ground broken on nearly all the first two lots and that the work is progressing in such a way as to give evidence of the contractor's intention to do it well."

Lochgilphead 3rd September 1845

"The contractor for Inverneill Hill has not had above 30 men working since the 23rd August but that having nearly completed the principal embankments and having put in a good deal of the road bottoming there is no reason to complain." "The rocks are turning out very ill as metal .. there are about 600 yards broken but much of it is above even the greatest size specified, which is 2 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches."

Lochgilphead 1st October 1845

Offers for the third section of the Inverneill Hill Road were examined, including

	Road	Bridges	Total
"John MacLean	--	--	£650
Robert Hardie	338.13.4	263.0.0.	601.13.4
Surveyor's Estimate (after deducting an error of £87.10.0 in the calculation)	334.5.0	300.0.0	634.5.0

The Surveyor having stated that Hardie was a competent and respectable man and was ready to give sufficient security, and his offer being the lowest and within the Surveyor's estimate, the Committee accept the same."

Lochgilphead 7th January 1846 - Surveyor's Committee

"The Committee do not feel themselves authorised to increase the wages of the Surfacemen from 1/6d to 1/8d during the winter months as prayed for."

Lochgilphead 7th May 1846 - Surveyor's Committee

"The Surveyor's report was read. The Committee trust that the contractors MacLean & Hardie on the Inverneill New line may be able to arrange between themselves regarding the taking the stones to the new Bridge."

Lochgilphead 2nd March 1847 - Annual Meeting of Road Trustees

"The Surveyor reported that money paid for the Inverneill Hill Road to be as follows

In the year ending 1 Feb 1846 £657.7.10

" 1 Feb 1847 1061.19.1

£1719.6.11

Sum retained from MacLean on account

of deficiencies & to be expended £31.10.0

" Hardie 20. 0.0

51.10.0

£1770.16.11"

This total is very close to the Surveyor's estimate of £1719.5.4, reported to the meeting in March 1845.

In the autumn of 1846 the road and bridges were nearing completion and at a Surveyor's Committee on 2nd September 1846 a Sub-Committee of 5 was appointed "to inspect both portions of the Inverneill New Road as they may be respectively reported ready by the Surveyor, with power to take them off the Contractor's hands." A quorum consisting of William Campbell of Ormsary, James Archibald Campbell of Inverneill and Sir J.P.Orde met at Inverneill on

24th September 1846, and the following day the Surveyor was instructed to open MacLean's section to the public.

Hardie was unable to complete his section according to contract, partly due to bad weather, and it was not until 8th January 1847 that a meeting at Inverneil inspected the new line, accepted the work and paid Hardie for his work, subject to a penalty of £22.2.6 The receipt describes the road as beginning at "the four mile stone on the road from Lochgilphead"; this is where the B8024 leaves the lochside road.

Lochgilphead 8th December 1847

"The Surveyor also reported that he had painted a figure on each of the Inverneill Hill milestones showing the number of miles from Lochgilphead."

Although I have travelled the Inverneill Hill road for many years it is only since doing this research that I have realised that the road is not a winding country road. It is built in a series of straight sections laid out by a surveyor and built by a contractor trying to make his profit.

My conclusion is that the Achabhraid Bridge was built as part of Hardie's contract and was first used in early 1847. As one reads these fascinating Minutes one becomes aware that they are written by an administrator with a legal mind and a great concern for the details of finance. No reference is made to the engineering skill which produced this very impressive bridge.

Is it too much to hope that one day the missing Minute Books will be found? Moreover, what became of Mr James Thomson's plan and Mr George MacCombie's estimates and engineering drawings? The detection of local history is both fascinating and tantalising.

.....

Editorial Note:- Perceptive readers will have observed an apparent discrepancy in the spelling of Inverneil - sometimes with one 'l', and sometimes with two. The latter form is the one found in old documents. Possibly the one-l variant which is now in common use, originated in the attempt of Ordnance Survey staff to cope with Gaelic place-names. We all know what that only too often led to, but in the case of Inverneil(1) no excuse can be suggested.

SOME TARBERT BY-NAMES

Anon. (with Editorial note)

Tarbert, as many readers will know, has long been an isolated self-contained community, engaged almost exclusively in fishing, but there is a whole structure of communication and identification which only actual residence, and for the longer the better, brings to light. This is the remarkable proliferation of by-names which has evolved over many years as the only practical means of identifying individuals where there are only a very few 'family' names. In Wales, as everyone knows, a similar lack of surname-variety has made some form of personal identification essential; there they do it by tacking on the person's occupation. But in Tarbert where most families, more or less, are connected with fishing, that would get nowhere. It is impossible to detect any method in the Tarbert by-names, as the following list clearly shows. It was given to us many years ago by a now-deceased fisherman, who declared that it was far from complete. Some of the names arose from a particular episode: for example The Matador had suffered a collision with a cow on the road; the first Tar happened to be 'on the yachts' at the time Para Handy was published - "the Tar" was one of his crew. Many of the names are shared by several members of one family by inheritance (marked F in the list); others are applied to only one person. Many of the by-names take the place of the legal surname in ordinary conversation, in which case the owner's fore-name is tacked on to the family by-name, and everyone knows who is intended, whereas a simple "John Smith" would open up a dozen possibilities of identity. So the system certainly does make for ease of intercourse. But it must not be thought that things are just as easy as that. Some of the by-names can be used in addressing their owner without fear of reaction; others can be used obliquely in his hearing but not directly to him; but there are a large number which must not on any account be used in the hearing of their bearer. All this takes a long time to master, and calls for exceptional discretion.

In this list the spelling is phonetical and no hint as to identity is given in order to avoid offence; this is a deprivation, for many of the names gain greatly by being given complete - Dougie This or Malkie That sounds much better, but the Editor, in writing this note and in caus-

ing publish the list, does not wish to find himself being
'run out' of Tarbert!

Alfalfa	Dorbie	Moly (F)	Scavenger (F)
Allie O	Doo	Morrach (F)	Samson
Blarney	Duck	Magravy (F)	Shaughnessy
Boy Toy	Duff	Moose	Spider
Boater	Eskie	Macduff	Sanders
Bogy	Faa	Muncle (F)	Sgeelin
Bonyin	Fadgie	Macjock	Scabby (F)
Boyach	Flunkey (F)	Merry Christ-	Smoky Joe
Bunny	Fat Fellow	Ned (F) /mas	The Tank
Bandmaster	Gleedy	Nellie (F)	The Golden Won-
Bybee	Geordie Coal	Neily Nony	The Cat /der
Boosack	Gummy	Nate (F)	The Grunter
Blouse	Gucha	Popples	The Braxy
Boaf (F)	Groshan	Poogy	The Clachlan
Bull (F)	Grosh	Pope	The Matador
Bailey	Gorry (F)	Pooder	The Count
Battock	Hyuck	Pauchie (F)	The Butcher
Bane	Hairy (F)	Peelings	Tapp
Caapy	Hank (F)	Pudd	Toga
Calabar	Hughie na	Puntock	Toe
China	Jaw /Green	Pluff	Tom (F)
Clyde (F)	Jerusalem (F)	Packy Ha	Tawpie
Cocky (F)	Jawson	Raon	Tick tock
Cotchman	Ja	Roll	Tamur
Cock Faady	Jap (F)	Rots (F)	Tunnock
Croodan	Joe (F)	Raasay	Tar (F)
Dalbrodie (F)	Jates	Red Cod	Tim
Diddler	Jod (F)	Rufus	Uisteach
Dooksack (F)	Kruger	Saddler	Vulcan Jack
Doods	Kewtoch	Stalin	Wee Bongan
Dory (F)	Lipstick	Scager (F)	Wee Puntock
Dowler	Lightning	Scowdie	Wilks
Doolans	Meagle	Shuck	Yehudi
Dawty	Moorah (F)	Skate (F)	Yeck
Dowser	Maady (F)	Sniggery	Ye ken

Apart from its initial incompleteness, the list suffers from the fact that some of the owners of individual by-names have died in the interval, and at the same time, as it is a continuous process, new candidates for inclusion have been created unknown to the Editor.

A MID-ARGYLL CONTRACT OF FOSTERAGE: 1655

F.S.Mackenna

It is a curious circumstance, in view of the antiquity and widespread occurrence of the custom, that so few Contracts of Fosterage have survived in Scotland. The text of the Bond given below is of particular interest to Kist readers because the parties lived in our area.

Before presenting the transcription, however, it may not be amiss to provide some account of this business of fosterage.

In practically every country of the ancient world there was, to lesser or greater degree, this convention, almost amounting to adoption, whereby children were given from different families to be reared. Nor was it an arrangement pertaining only to persons of superior social status - in Scotland, lairds for example - giving a child to a retainer, frequently not even their own retainer, but it occurred widely amongst the less important members of society, from bonnet-lairds downwards. The present Bond concerns persons of this stratum. Miss Campbell of Kilberry has kindly provided in a footnote some biographical information about the people whose names are preserved in this document, in addition to giving translations of the three Gaelic proverbs quoted.

Even where the child belonged to a locally important family there was no expectation of reward on the part of the fosterers, who often contended with some vigour for what they viewed as an honour.

Although the custom may seem strange to modern ideas, it had one very important result; this was the deep bond of affection and mutual support which usually developed between the foster-child and his adopted family. Scottish history affords many instances of this and of the acts of selfless bravery and devotion performed under its influence. Indeed it might not be too fanciful to see something of a parallel between the ties developed by fosterage, and the celebrated Theban Band. The bond frequently became so strong as to surpass the affection of the foster-child for its own family. Several well-known Gaelic proverbs put the matter very succinctly. "Is caomh le fear a charaid, ach's e smior a chridhe a chomh-dhalt" (Dear to a man is his kinsman, but his heart's marrow is his foster-

brother); "Càirdeas gu fichead, comh-dhaltas gu ciad" (Kinship twentyfold, fosterage hundredfold); "An nuair a théid a'ghrian fodha, teich idh m'faileas, ach grian ann no as, cha teich mo chomh-dhalta" (When the sun sets, my shadow forsakes me, but sun there or away, my foster-brother will not forsake me).

There was certainly much to be respected in a custom which forged such close bonds between various classes of society; indeed its continued existence for centuries in Scotland since Viking days affords proof of its usefulness. Only one example of the working of this benefit need be mentioned from relatively modern times; it is the well-known story of Colonel John Cameron of Fassiefern, one of whose foster-brothers, a McMillan, enlisted in the same regiment for the express purpose of remaining in a position where he could support and protect him in the dangers of battle. Such instances can be multiplied indefinitely. On the other hand, the implications of fosterage could involve a whole clan in conflict with a neighbour, as in the following serio-comic event. A young Clanranald, at his assumption of chiefship, was unwise enough to comment unfavourably on the wholesale slaughter of cattle to provide the feast, saying that a few hens would have done as well. This caused great offence and the clan were quick to detect a parsimony which they were not prepared to countenance in their chief, and immediately chose one of his brothers in his place. "We will have nothing to do with a hen chief". The deposed youth had been fostered by Frasers, who sprang to arms in his defence but were defeated in a desperate battle, the 'hen-chief' being numbered amongst the casualties. (Hen-chief:- In many Scottish establishments this was the designation accorded to a youth, often of limited intellect, who had charge of the more basic needs of the poultry yard.)

But it is time to look at the underlying details of the arrangement. Variations occurred in different localities, but the fundamental course of action remained the same.

A child might be put out to fosterage at any age, but most were between 7 and 8; the duration was normally 7 years, but was often for longer. The foster-father seems always to have been of lower rank, if only marginally, than the child's own family. The transfer of the child was marked by its father handing over cattle, possibly four or five

cows and stirks and perhaps also a horse. The foster-father set aside a similar number of beasts, and the little herd became the property of the child under the designation of 'Makallow', from macaladh, a fostering. The progeny of these animals increased the herd and eventually it could assume substantial proportions, as none of it could be alienated without the father's permission. It was common for a third person to be given the care of the Makallow in order to ensure impartiality. In return for the pasturage of this herd the foster-father could claim the milk. The contract invariably included a clause to cover the contingency of the foster-child failing to survive the full term of fosterage - quite a real possibility in those days of child-mortality - in which event the father's contribution to the Makallow reverted to him. There was in addition to the Makallow a certain stipulated annual payment for board; in the bond here cited this took the form of two bolls of meal, the equivalent of £10 Scots (the £ Sterling equalled £12 Scots). Frequently too, particularly in the earlier bonds, an undertaking is given by the father to protect the foster-parents.

The foster-parents, on their side, invariably gave the child a share of their inheritance - "a bairnis part of gear", i.e. a child's legal share of a parent's free movable estate.

The whole custom gradually declined and by the second half of the 18th century it was fast becoming rare. Johnson, writing his Journey to the Western Islands of Scotland in 1773 speaks of it as "passing fast away", and no doubt it had lingered on in the isolation of the Hebrides after it had quite ceased on the mainland.

In the following exact transcription no glossary is offered, it being the writer's belief that others may well obtain an enjoyment similar to his in working out the convoluted orthography and the contractions. Documents such as this give ample proof of the futility of adopting any hard and fast opinions regarding the 'correct' spelling of many of our family names by reliance on the evidence of contemporary scribes' efforts.

At Kilberrie the second day of May J^mvj fyftie five zeiris it is condiscendit upon be the persones and pairties wndirwrn. They are to say duncane Campbell in

Tiretigane w^t consent of Moir N^CNeill his married spouss for the weel and profeit of Dowgald Campbell his Lawfull sounne they ar bothe gladlie contentit and willinge at the wryttinge of thir pnt That Johne M^CCartour in Kilberrie Rynnald N^CNucature his spouss sall keepe and intertaine the said Dowgald Campbell in foode and rayment for the space of five yeires after the daite of thir pnt. And to that effect the s^d Duncane is to give zeirlie tva bolls meill in full contentatione of burdeine for his s^d sounne Togidder also w^d foure head of catle Qlk the s^d Duncane nominates to belonge properlie to the said Dowgald his sounne as also the s^d Joⁿ M^CCartoure w^t consent of Rynald N^CNucature his spouss for the love and respect they both cari to the said Dowgald ther fostire they ar bothe willing and content to delivere for the weel and use of the s^d Dowgald thrie girt kye and ane stirke to be nominated upon the s^d Dowgald as his owne good and geire and the sds goods ar to be put in a mediate man's hands who sall be answerable for them and thair ofspring ar to be fourthe comand and noo to be dispoones upon w^t out the advyce of the s^d Duncane his father. It is Lykwyse heirby provydeit w^t the mutuall consent of baithe the pairties that if it sall happine y^t the s^d Dowgald sall depairte out of this mortall lyf before that the s^d space of five zeires sall be exsplied than and in that caise ilk pairtie sall have thaire owne goods w^t thaire ofspringe Lykwyse it is provydeit w^t mutuall consent of the sds pairties and w^t the frei consent of the s^d Joⁿ M^CCartoure and Rynnald n^CNucature y^t qⁿ it sall please God to call the s^d Joⁿ M^CCartoure out of this mortall Lyf y^t the s^d Dowgald his fostir sall have equall portiones w^t the rest of his owne childrene Be this o^r mutuall consents wⁿdir bothe o^r hands day zeir & place for sds Wrytten be Angus Campbell of Kilberrie before y^r witness M^r Ard M^CLachlane and Angus Campbell of Kilberrie.

Lykwyse it is agreeit upone w^t the mutuall advyce of bothe the pairties y^t non of the ofspringe of the sds goods sall be killed or anywyse dispooned upon w^tout mutuall advyce In witness qrof we have sub^t yir pnt w^t or hands as fallowes

Joⁿ M^CCartour w^t my hand led at the penn
Mr Ard M^CLauchlane, witness
Ang. Campbell witness

Biographical Notes from Miss Campbell of Kilberry

"Johne McCartour in Kilberrie Rynnald McNucatire his spouss" - McNucatire = "daughter of the Fuller or Waulker", a sept of MacMillan, now Walker. In the next century there were many of the name at Lergnahension and Torintuirc, spelt variously McNuccader, McNughga, etc.

Angus Campbell of Kilberry, who wrote the Deed and witnessed it:- Son of Dugald Campbell of Kilberry and his wife, who was a MacDonald of Largie. Angus later took part in Argyll's Rising and was lucky to escape hanging. He died in 1699.

Mr Archibald McLauchlane, the second witness:- One of a series of Ministers who served the parish in a vacancy lasting from 1649 to 1660 or longer. In 1655 he was "to preach where he may be living, namely Kilberry, drawing the stipend", but was not accepted by the Synod for induction to a parish. Possibly he was the brother or father of Martin McLachlan who in 1649 "escaped with his life out of Yla" and preached at Kilberry 1649-50, returning to Islay in 1650 and back to Kilberry in 1660.

Editorial Note. Care must be taken when dealing with Scots territorial titles; e.g. of Kilberry and in Kilberry are very different matters - the former denotes the laird and members of his family, the latter is someone resident on some part of the laird's property as a tenant.

...oooOooo...

REFLECTIONS OF AN AMATEUR EXCAVATOR

J.C. Purdie

On two occasions I was privileged to attend an excavation by the Scottish Field School of Archaeology. This particular site was the Roman Fort at Strageath, which lies about five miles to the south of Crieff in the parish of Muthill, in Perthshire (NN898172). The site director was Professor Sheppard Frere, one of the foremost authorities on Roman Britain.

To work on an actual 'dig' was something I had always

wanted to do and this was my first opportunity. My expectations were more than amply gratified. It is to my mind a most exciting experience to uncover the past in this way. Even the ordinary mundane things of this period seem to take on a kind of aura, lying there in situ as left by their users, opposed to seeing them in a museum.

Scraping away the cover of the centuries, I am sure must have been one of the most interesting things I have ever done. Indeed it was a bit like having a personal time machine.

Strageath lies at the centre of a fairly substantial Roman complex of sites belonging to the first and second centuries A.D.; one of a chain of forts built to guard the glens, from which the unsubdued tribes could pour forth. Even today its military importance can be appreciated as it gives a commanding view of a good part of Strathearn, and the actual site itself could hardly be better for an army station, as it offers both ease of access and defence. With the Roman road passing a few yards from the main gate, it would be easy to get reinforcements and also it would be in contact with the signal stations of the Gask Ridge. The ground slopes away from the main gate, and to the rear is a fairly steep bank of the river Earn.

There are three occupation levels apparently, namely Flavian and Antonine I and II. Artifacts are not too numerous, as it is probable that each occupation ended as part of an orderly withdrawal according to the political motives of the times. However, there are the usual pottery shards, a few coins, nails, and a sizable piece of amphora.

Like most Scots I have been brought up to be proud of the fact that our country was never totally subdued by the Romans. Yet I could not help having a kind of sympathy for the occupants of Strageath some two thousand years ago. After all, like the young men of every army before and since, they would have to go wherever sent - orders are orders and have to be obeyed. Nothing ever changes, it seems. It would be no "cushy billet" to be posted to this far-off part of the Empire. One can well imagine the grumbles of the rank and file, to say nothing of the officers, especially if a previous posting had been to somewhere along the Mediterranean with its amiable climate and even perhaps more amiable inhabitants, long used to and perhaps delighting in the glory of Rome. What with the cold and damp weather and sullen and rebellious natives,

who seemed to prefer (perhaps with good reason) the internecine warfare of the Caledonians to the peace of the Romans, one can well imagine their thoughts as they paced out the long watches of the night on the ramparts here on the North-West Frontier. Strageath could possibly be a Gaelic name meaning "windy strath or place". It would indeed seem so to the garrison if more used to sunnier climes.

However I am sure it would not be all gloom and doom. The hunting about the countryside would be good and the fishing also. It appears that there would be the usual camp followers, whose settlement was outside the fort between the road and N.W. corner of the main wall. Possibly there would be wives and children of the men living there too.

Strageath lends itself well to excavation, as there has never been any other building or occupation on the site, as far as known; the only problem being that it is now under cultivation and can only be worked at after harvest. Today all that can be seen is the outline of the four main walls in the form of a square - typical of a Roman fort. In Scotland we are fortunate in having so many Roman remains which do not have other occupation levels over them. One of the best examples is Inchtuthill - a very large fort indeed, and if things had gone differently for the Romans, it could possibly have become the capital of Scotland as happened in other places such as Hamburg, Buda-Pest and other great cities which started as Roman forts.

It is my belief that Archaeology is as important to the future as to the past - more so today than ever before, with the threat of horrific consequences for mankind if he fails to grasp a better understanding of the problems facing his neighbour. By studying previous Societies, primitive and otherwise, we will be enabled to see other people and their cultures as human beings much like ourselves.

Therefore I would ask our members, whenever they visit any archaeological site, to take a humane as well as a scholarly approach to those who have gone before. As I have heard our respected President say, "We are their future".

So it is my firm belief that time, effort and money spent on Archaeology and History are well worth-while. We can and should learn from the past, as mistakes made then cannot be repeated without dire results for us all.

...oooOooo...

ASPECTS of INDUSTRY in MID-ARGYLL

Marion Campbell

'But surely you can't pretend there was ever any Industry here?' - a remark once made to me in reply to something I had said about some old working-site.

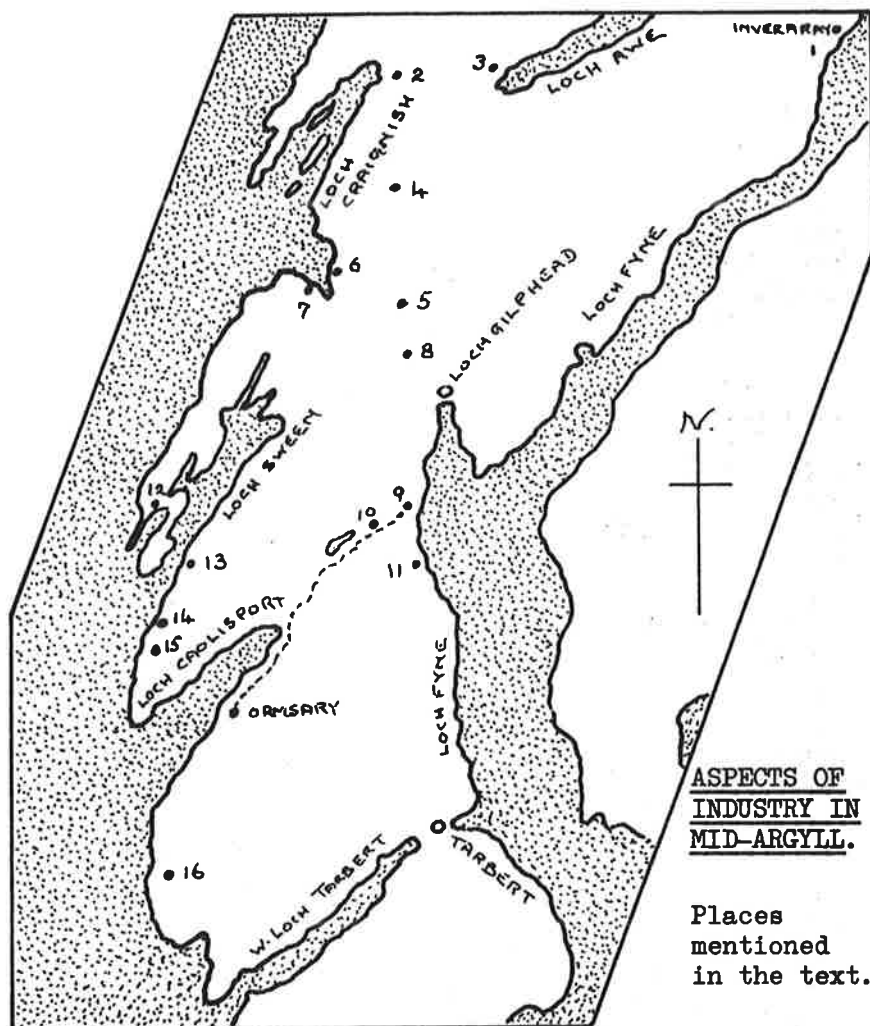
I would - not pretend but contend - that there was indeed: that apart from, or rather in addition to, agriculture and fishing, there have been several major industries within the area in former times and at least two major peaks of prosperity based on local resources, long before the Industrial Revolution.

How does one define "Industry"? I think it is a matter of degree - the scale of the enterprise, size of the workforce, volume of trade and so on. Looking back to the very beginnings of social development I suppose one has to picture a time when every human group made what it needed or did without, and when needs were very basic indeed. But even within the most primitive groups there are certain to have been varying skills - Mr Clumsy getting Mr Bright to make him a spear on the promise of the best meat from the spear's first kill - and that stage must have been reached and passed thousands of years before Scotland as we know it emerged from under the ice and snow of the last great glaciation, and bands of hunters and fishers began to explore up the coasts and across the tundra. These explorers were the remote descendants of the men who had painted the great caves of France and Spain - people with a heritage of skills we can only guess at, though we have samples of their magnificent flintwork, and though we must assume that they could make boats capable of at least short sea crossings. Still, the size of the boats may well have limited the size of the social group, and a hunting economy does not lead to any kind of large-scale settlement. What it does develop is keen attention to the environment and any assets it may hold; and adaptability is essential for its survival.

The late Professor Gordon Childe, at the peak of his Marxist phase, used to maintain that specialisation of skills came with the Bronze Age, some four thousand years ago, and that the first specialists were the metal-workers; whence cities, bourgeoisie, princes, greed, warfare and the growth of The State. But I think the present generation of archaeologists would push specialisation back in

time, at least in our area, and they would look to the Neolithic, the Late Stone Age, when people had begun to settle down and plant crops of grain developed over the centuries by selection from wild grasses (a selection carried out first in south-east Europe), and to herd cattle and sheep likewise developed by selective breeding. Around Kilmartin we can still see their communal works - standing-stones, and enormous burial places such as the South Cairn at Nether Largie - and from these works alone one can deduce a lot of people who could come together to work on large projects, as well as the presence of some individuals with considerable mechanical ability and - probably - quite advanced mathematical knowledge applied to the lay-out of the tombs and stone-settings. But still this is not "Industry". What looks much more like Industry to me is the presence in this area of stone axes made from materials not locally available - axes identifiable by geologists as coming from Killin, from Westmorland, and from Antrim. A century ago a stack of fifty stone and flint axeheads was found in peat near Cairnbaan - all but one have now been lost, and that one is of Antirim porcellanite; "stone and flint" axeheads are mentioned in the report of the find. Now, nobody needs fifty axes for his own use; so what do we have? I reckon that we have an importer. I suspect that we have a descendant of the old mobile hunters rather than one of the new settled farmers - but that takes us into the realms of guesswork, and into another story altogether. Still - an importer of finished goods, not yet a local manufacturer.

Be that as it may, the next stage is the introduction of metal, in the form of small knives and axe-heads made of copper and found in graves of a different design from the big tombs - suggesting the arrival of a new group of people, which indeed is borne out by finds of a new kind of pottery as well. (I should have mentioned before that the farming settlers used pottery, handmade without a potter's wheel as all local prehistoric pottery is.) A few hundred years after the appearance of copper objects made elsewhere, we begin to find copper and bronze objects and the means of making them - moulds for casting, crucibles for pouring metal into moulds - and here we reach Gordon Childe's "age of specialisation". Mid Argyll is beyond argument the area of Scotland richest in Early and Middle



ASPECTS OF
INDUSTRY IN
MID-ARGYLL.

Places
mentioned
in the text.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1. Eas a'Chosain, Inveraray | 9. Inverneill |
| 2. Kintraw | 10. Inverneill-Ormsary Road |
| 3. Loch Awe, Torran | 11. Stronachullin |
| 4. Kilmartin | 12. Keills |
| 5. Dunadd | 13. Castle Sween |
| 6. Duntroon | 14. Doide |
| 7. Crinan | 15. Kilmory Knap |
| 8. Cairnbaan | 16. Kilberry |

Bronze Age sites; and one is bound to ask why this is so. The answer is quite simple; we have the copper.

West of Kilmartin, through the hills from near Duntroon to near Kintraw, runs the Crinan Lode, worked in the 18th and 19th centuries; there are other ore-bodies, Silvercraigs with silver and lead, Stronachullin Mine with lead and gold, others near the Inverneill-Ormsary road, copper mines between Stronachullin and Tarbert - and nickel at Eas a'Chosain by Inveraray (usually miscalled a "silver mine"). The recent workings have been re-assessed in the last fifteen years - the spoil-heaps at Inverneill contain uranium - but no work has been done as yet to determine if there are recognisable signs of primitive workings. It is all too likely that the later workings may have destroyed them, though I have been told that evidence was found at one site on the Crinan Lode. (Unfortunately the discoverer died before he could publish this evidence). Copper is relatively easy to locate and work - its presence is shown by plants and mosses on the surface; it may outcrop, and it is likely to lie in veins of copper oxide fairly close to the surface. But it does need roasting and smelting before it can be made into tools; and this presupposes a group of skilled workmen and a fair amount of equipment, and specialised equipment at that. Before copper-working reached Scotland, it had been brought to a high level of skill in eastern Europe, and very probably the first prospectors to come here were already masters of their trade. But copper, good serviceable metal though it is, is not as excellent as bronze; for bronze you need tin - and the nearest tin is in Ireland, in the Wicklow mountains, or (in greater supply) Cornwall. Later in the Bronze Age, lead was used to reduce the amount of tin needed and to produce heavier tools and weapons.

A business that involves mining, smelting, and importing from the other end of the British Isles, is not to be dismissed as mere "arts and crafts", in my submission. Whether the workmen were regarded as magicians or as captains of industry we are unlikely to know - but I reckon they made our area a focus of development and wealth some three thousand years ago. The products were probably traded by travelling craftsmen who could repair tools as well, and who bought scrap metal - a small cache of new and old axeheads and some lumps of bronze was found on

Loch Awe-side a few years back - but near the mines there must have been established production sites. One thing that archaeologists are now urgently seeking is a local Bronze Age settlement. We have one, in fact, on Dunadd - or so I hope - but it is buried under later developments. It may even come to light soon; work on Dunadd in 1980 has produced plenty of metal-working equipment, but all dating from the hill's occupation in the years around 500-800 AD when Dunadd was a major centre of the kingdom of Dalriada, and the kings employed craftsmen to produce both bronze and iron tools and weapons. Dunadd is not only a royal fort, it is also an industrial site, but we must see what the current excavations can tell us eventually.

I want to move now to another kind of industrial development, one connected with the coming of Christianity in the 6th century AD. The long-established metalworkers brought their skills to the service of the Church in making church vessels and cases for precious books, and also, before long, in making chisels and gravers for stonemasons who began carving for the Church. When the first missionaries from Ireland were working in some danger among unconverted pagan tribes, there was no scope for putting up buildings or erecting carved crosses which might only incite violent reactions; but within the lifetime of Columba himself it was not only possible to erect crosses, there was actually a demand for them. The first Christian symbols were scratched on small gravestones or on the walls of caves, but very soon there were larger stones being quarried for carving - and here again Mid Argyll is fortunate in having the right material. Our fine-grained grey stones, epidiorite and the like, can be split out of a quarry in large level-surfaced blocks, and - as a mason said to me once - "while the quarry-sap is in it, it carves like butter". In prehistoric times the great slabs had been broken out (by means of wooden wedges) for erection as standing stones (sometimes carved) or for the sides and roofs of graves; whether the same quarries were still being worked is doubtful but possible. The finest quarry of all is on Loch Sween, at Doide near Kilmory Knap, and conveniently near the shore; and from here, it has now been proved, came the two huge stones (11'x2'x1' and 7'x5'x1', min.) which went to making the St John's Cross in Iona, carved around the year 790. How the stones got

from Loch Sween to Iona, with the quarry-sap in them, is another thing you might care to think about.

Doide was not the only quarry, and the St John's Cross was not the only 'export' - stones from the Loch Sween area went to Islay and Kintyre as well. There was a quarry at Kilberry near my own house too - also close to the shore; and gradually local schools of design evolved, to the point that a recent study of early medieval stone-carving can identify an Iona School, a Kintyre School, a Loch Sween School, a Loch Awe School, each with their own favoured techniques and patterns.

Finally, between 1350 and 1500, the Loch Sween carvers came under exalted patronage. The Lords of the Isles held all the western seaboard of Knapdale, as well as all Kintyre, and with control of the seaways gave great impetus to the growth of the Loch Sween stone carvers. Work on geological identification of the individual stones found elsewhere is still going on, but export as far as Ireland seems probable. Moreover, the local prosperity rested not only on the masons; if you go to Kilmory Knap and look at the carved stones preserved in the chapel there, you will see ships - some of them deep-hulled cargo vessels - and a series of gravestones commemorating one Christinus Faber - Christy the Blacksmith - and his kinsmen (Christy himself tried his hand, not very successfully, at carving a cross - the result is in Keills Church across the loch, with Christy's name on it). Moreover, on Christy's own gravestone are not only his anvil and hammer and tongs, but a pair of enormous cloth-shears with the name of one Henry Tulloch on their blade. Nearby is another with similar shears, and a small stone with the figure of a man in a pleated tunic and a little round 'hard hat', the dress of a town merchant of the time. His name is illegible - John somebody - but he and Henry were most probably Lowland cloth-merchants brought in by the Lord of the Isles to develop the textile trade. Cloth-merchants of those days saw the whole process through from woolbale to garment; the shears were for cropping the nap in finishing the cloth, - and perhaps the ships that carried the Doide stones also carried convenient padding in the form of wool or cloth. I knew the last Weaver of Knap - he died when I was seven or eight - and I like to think that he was the heir to a long tradition.

Political intervention ruined the whole set-up, of course; the Lord of the Isles fell foul of James IV - partly for using Castle Sween as a store for weapons, feared to be intended for some kind of "civil disobedience" - and James IV took possession of the Knapdale lands and put them into Campbell hands - and the Reformation came soon after and the carving of fine stones was banned. The area went into decline (though the 18th-century wars, with their demand for salt beef for the Fleet, brought a bright interval for the local cattle-trade). We don't know what breed of sheep produced the wool for Henry Tulloch & Co., though one might guess at a kind of unimproved Cheviot or yellow-face - but when the beef trade collapsed the Black-face, the Caora Mhór, came in and fulfilled the prophecy that "the sheep's jaw would put the plough on the rafters"; and now the sheep have gone and the trees have taken their place. One can only wonder whether the wheel will eventually go full circle and lead to the re-opening of the mines. I did mention uranium one can only wonder.

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CRINAN CANAL - an additional note:- Mrs Smith (Minard and St Andrews) has sent us the following note from The Scottish Genealogist, Dec. 1965.

"One of our Crinan Canal records is a book entitled 'Account showing the species and quantities of all Goods, Wares, Merchandise and Commodities whatsoever conveyed through the Crinan Canal.' This book gives tonnages and descriptions of goods and amounts of tolls collected, and shows the vessels' names and "From whence" and "Where bound", and covers the period 1845 to 1847. There, amidst a mass of entries dealing with puffers conveying cargoes of coal, meal, salt, etc. is a simple single-line entry under date 18th August 1847, which reads - "Royal Barge, 'Sunbeam'" - Ardrishaig to Crinan - and in the "Species of goods" column, the four words "Her Majesty and Suite".

Exactly a month later, on 18th September another similar entry records Her Majesty's return journey from Crinan to Ardrishaig. Notable as such a Royal occasion must have been to the Canal owners, these entries do not stand out in any way. Indeed, the only distinguishing feature is the fact that no Tolls were imposed."


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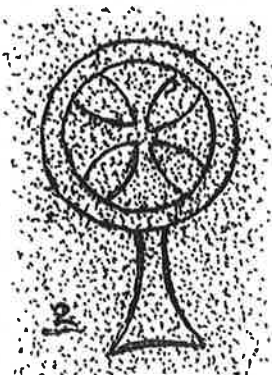
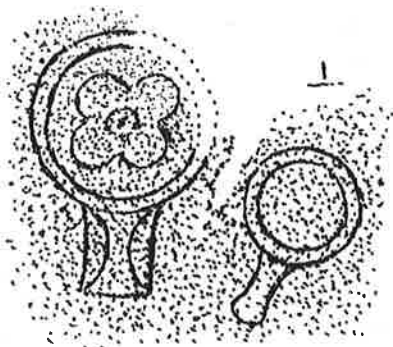
THE COVER: CARVED STONE AT DALTOT

F.S.Mackenna

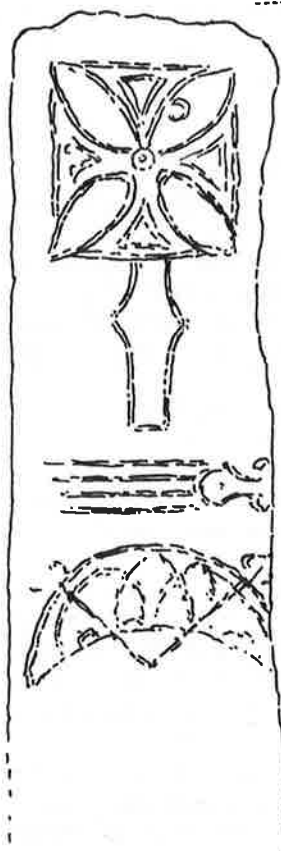
Despite the fact that this stone, of which the grid reference is NR745833, lies only a short distance from the road to Kilmory Knap, down the east side of Loch Sween, it is not by any means easy of access. A line of cliff separates it from the highway above, and there is now no path; a good sense of direction is a requisite, backed by determination. At one time an old road passed close by, but this has long since been submerged in forestry activities.

It will be realised at once that the design is distinctive, for although it is undoubtedly meant to represent a cross, it deviates markedly from what one might expect. In fact it seems to owe a great deal to one of the class of carvings known as 'Pictish symbols', the 'mirror' and 'mirror case' found on many carved stones, including one from Glen Urquhart (Fig.1).

A cross formed of intersecting arcs of a circle within a circle, such as that on the 'Peter Stone' from Whithorn in Galloway, (Fig.2), is not very common in Scotland, and is more often found in Ireland, dating to the second half of the seventh century; known also from ancient Gaul and the Christian East. They derived from a stylisation of the Chi Rho monogram -  -, with the cross representing the Chi and an R or comma-like appendage to an upper arm indicating the Rho. (see Note 1). Also seen well on the reverse of the Cladh a Bhile stone, near Ellary (see Kist 14). A variant occurs in the case of two carvings on Raasay, one of which is on an upright slab and the other on bed-rock close to the tide mark. The carving on the slab is



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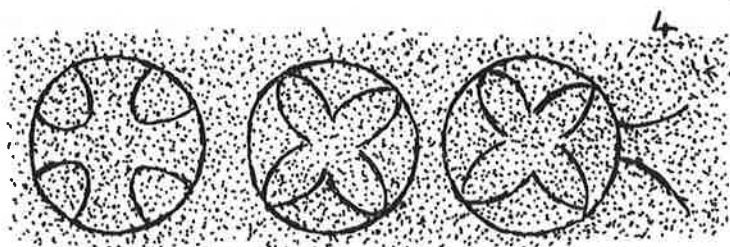


shown here in outline (Fig.3). It is known that St Patrick had crosses added to stones held in pagan reverence, but instances occur in which the whole design, cross and symbols, must have been carved at the same time, as a complete plan, not with a later-added cross. Such a stone as the Raasay one demonstrates this clearly.

The carving from Glen Urquhart shows the similarity between a 'handled' cross and the Pictish 'mirror' and 'case'. Indeed in this instance the addition of a quatrefoil shape on the 'case' serves to emphasise the close analogy.

In St Ninian's Cave at Glasserton, in Galloway, are three crosses with surrounding circles (Fig.4 and Note 2), one of which has a 'handle', while nearer home, at Rudh' na Fidhle, Kilmaha, on Loch Awe (MN938078), there is another 'handled' example, carved on bedrock and now much weathered. It was found by Miss Campbell of Kilberry and Miss Sandeman.


The Daltot carving occurs on the smaller of two massive upright slabs, 5' across at the base and 4' high. The carving is 27½" high and the circle 20" in diameter. It is in reasonable condition, the main deficiencies being









towards the outer end of the '9 o'clock' segment and in the outline of the circle between '10 and 2 o'clock'.

Old sources speak of a well in the vicinity but this has not been located. Quite possibly, as in other similar instances, the forestry work may have disturbed it and caused its disappearance.

Note 1. As the significance of the Chi-Rho symbol may not be fully understood by everyone a word of explanation will not come amiss.

The earliest advocates of the Christian religion found, when they reached the West, an already well-established system of life which included some very sophisticated artistic traditions. Amongst these was a motif composed of a conjoined modern-looking X and P, thus . This was a welcome discovery for the missionaries, who saw at once that the symbol could be interpreted as the first two letters of Christ's name in Greek - Χ (pronounced as CH) and Ρ (pronounced R); in fact Chi-Rho. In this way a bridging of the old religion to the new could be established.

However the matter did not end there, for in the course of time the  became modified to  and eventually by a gradual attrition the  lost its loop and the resultant shape developed into  - an equal-armed cross. Traces of the P remained for some time, as in the examples cited in the present paper.

The original  may have developed into  but it lost nothing of its pagan significance as a magical sign in the process, and it is from that period that we have the all-conquering 'sign of the cross', not only in visual intercommunication but also when carved on stone as an indication of powerful protection, either to a building or even to an area - hence the well-known cross-carved stones erected to delineate a place of refuge and/or sanctity.

The whole story of the evolvement of the Christian cross from a pagan motif shows well how alert the first promoters of Christianity were to the advantages of adapting rather than summarily changing the customs they found.

Note 2. The convention of enclosing a carved cross in a circle is in itself an interesting study. They occur

widely in Argyll and the Isles, in N.E.Scotland and in Ireland. In its final manifestation it is seen in crosses carved 'in the round', many of which are familiar to Kist readers. Adverting to the ✱ ornament cited in the preceding note, examples are known in which the symbol is encircled by a ring, possibly representing a wreath or 'glory'; this in time, according to some authorities, gave us ⊕, an equal-armed cross derived, as already explained, from the debased Chi-Rho plus the surrounding circle. Dissentients maintain that the circle is a representation of struts designed to support the arms of a wooden cross. This may betray a reluctance to admit that any pagan tradition could have been carried over into a Christian connotation.

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REVIEW: Exploring Arran's Past. Dr Horace Fairhurst. Those of us who attended the outings to Arran in 1980 and 1981 will have happy memories of the way in which we were shown many of the island's antiquities by Dr Fairhurst, sharing with us his unrivalled knowledge.

He has now written a small book which, in the compass of its 88 pages, contains more authoritative information than many volumes of greater pretensions. Its ten chapters deal with every facet of Arran's past, from the earliest colonists to the Clearances and later. Of particular interest to us are the sections dealing in detail with the monoliths, and the cairns and forts, although the castles and chapels are no less fully described in Dr Fairhurst's beautifully constructed text.

The plans and illustrations, by Miss Jean Forbes, are of exemplary clarity in the former and of great charm in the latter.

Both author and artist are to be unreservedly congratulated.

Copies may be obtained from Dr Horace Fairhurst, FSA, Hopefield, Lamblash, Arran - price £1.90 (postage extra).

F.S.M.