
Contents: A 527 page account of the ancient monuments and most curious transactions in that shire, from the Roman invasion of Scotland to the present times.

W.H. Bruce. *Historical Records of the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders of Canada (Princess Louise's)*. Hamilton: 1928.

Contents: An account of the history of the 91st Canadian Highlanders from its formation to the celebration of its 25th anniversary in 1928. 97 pages including many photographs.


Contents: A narrative of the trial of Mr. James Mitchel, who was executed for an attempt which he had made on the life of the Archbishop of St. Andrews. The volume includes an account of the trial of Major Thomas Weir, who was executed for adultery, incest and beastiality. 78 pages.


Contents: A philosophical essay by the author who was Lord Advocate of Scotland, and who, in his career as a public prosecutor, was known for his harsh treatment of the Covenanters. 95 pages.

Contents: A description of all aspects and features of the Blair-Adam estate.

*Presbyterian Pamphlets*. 19th century.

Contents: A collection of 49 pamphlets dealing with a variety of religious topics. 985 pages.


Contents: An interesting discussion on American and British agriculture, economics and emigration, by a Scottish land and wood Valuator. The author proposes placing the common and waste lands under the administration of local commissioners for improvement and production of grain to avoid the importation of food. 170 pages.


Contents: Five of six volumes of Burns' works, containing many poems published for the first time.


Contents: A Satire on Thomas Villiers, Earl of Clarendon. 12 pages.

James Home, Earl of Home. *The Lord Humes His Speech, Delivered in the presence of the Kings most Excellent Majesty, to the Honourable irt of Parliament... Then Assembled in Scotland, the 16th of This Present Moneth of August, 1641*. London: 1641.

Contents: A 281 page work containing descriptions of pharmaceuticals and their preparation, including a description of herbs and what part of them was believed of value, and the preparation of minerals and chemicals for treating disorders. Also included in the work is a list of the Fellows of the Royal College of Physicians, Edinburgh.


Contents: A 1233 page reference book containing the titles of all works relating to Scotland held by the New York Public Library on December 31st, 1914. It is an invaluable reference book for anyone researching a wide range of Scottish topics.


Contents: These works were first collected in 1720-30, and later printed for private circulation in Edinburgh. The book contains rules of good deportment, or of good breeding, rules of good deportment for church officers, advice to them, and the basics of etiquette.

Contents: A collection of poems by the author. 135 pages.


Contents: A two volume series based upon "The Bailie, the Scottish Humorous Journal." It contains 33 plate illustrations. 79 pages.


*The Harps of Renfrewshire*. Published by William Turnbull in Glasgow: 1820.

Contents: A collection of 275 songs, many of which are original; includes notes and a short essay on the poets of Renfrewshire. 454 pages.


Contents: Noxiana: The collection includes 6 plates satirizing Robert Knox, professor of anatomy at Edinburgh, who was involved in the purchasing of bodies for dissection. Plates of William Burke, who was convicted and hung for the murder of people which he would then sell to Knox, are also included.
Apocrypha Combatants: A series of 12 caricatures and 24 lithographs illustrating the controversy over which of the apocrypha should be included in the bible.

A rare collection of 40 chapbooks, 20 of which are printed for the book sellers in Edinburgh, the remainder being printed in Kilmarnock. c. 1847.

NEWS FROM HISTORIC SCOTLAND*

STIRLING’S TRIUMPHAL ARCH

Historic buildings inspectors now believe they have found Scotland’s first Renaissance building -- the inner gateway at Stirling Castle. Built about 1500-1510 by James IV who was killed at Flodden in 1513, the gateway came under scrutiny recently during an architectural re-assessment of Historic Scotland properties.

Historic Buildings Inspector Aonghus MacKechnie, noted "the similarity of its design to the triumphal arch of the Roman and Renaissance periods. Stirling has a round arched main gateway in a flat front, flanked by pedestrian entrances on each side, straddling a main roadway. It also has flanking drum towers, a design commonly used both in ancient Roman and Italian Renaissance city gates. There were links between the Scots court and Italy but closer links through the Auld Alliance with France; the idea could well have filtered through Italy via France."

The upper walling of the Stirling gateway has been simplified, but early views show it to have been originally finished like the French-style frontal turrets at Falkland and Holyrood, with conical roofs set above parapets.

So the next time you visit Stirling castle, take a moment to study the inner gateway.

* The editors would like to thank Historic Scotland for allowing reproduction of this material from their quarterly newsletter, Welcome, 1991-1992. For more information on Historic Scotland write to: Historic Scotland, 20 Brandon Street, Edinburgh EH3 5RA.
MAES HOWE: NO STONE LEFT STANDING

A recent geophysical survey of Maes Howe in Orkney, Scotland's finest Neolithic chambered tomb, suggested there might be buried traces of features, perhaps holes for standing stones or areas of burning, on the platform around the cairn.

Colin Richards of Glasgow University, who organized the excavation, hoped to prove that the platform around the cairn was the centre of ritual activity. Although this expectation was not realized, his team did, however, locate the outer end of the original entrance passage below the rebuilt one in use today.

Colin was given a second opportunity to look at the platform around the tomb when the concrete dome capping the tomb, whose roof was breached by Viking pillagers in medieval times, sprang a leak. Water was penetrating the interior walls, including the famous slabs bearing the runes and the lion carving. New drainage is being provided which will involve taking the turf and earth off the dome, recapping it if need be, digging a drain down the side of the mound, and cutting a soakaway at the foot of the mound. In this process, they located the setting for a very large standing stone. This is in the form of a pit dug into the top of the bedrock and lined with blocks of stone to hold the upright in position.

Although the standing stone itself had been removed, probably in antiquity, the new discovery holds out the possibility that Maes Howe might have looked very different when built, with a ring of large stones encircling the mound.

PICTISH STONES IN NEW HOMES

The Knocknagel Boarstone has recently been moved to a new home in the foyer of Highland Regional Council's offices in Glenurquhart Road, Inverness. The stone has been moved indoors because the weather was causing the stone's carvings to deteriorate.

Work has also been completed to enclose the Pictish sculptured monument, Sueno's stone, at Forres. A protective glass and steel enclosure was erected around this 6.6m stone, the most remarkable
monument left behind by the Picts, dating from the end of the first millenium A.D. Because it was suffering from erosion by the elements, Historic Scotland decided to enclose the stone on site rather than move it indoors.

Historic Scotland looks after many important carved stones in outdoor locations, and their future care is currently under consideration.

VIKING BOAT BURIAL

Last year, when storms tore away the base of a grassy shoreline on the Orkney island of Sanday, a human skeleton was exposed, lying on small slabs. Subsequent excavations have revealed that the body was buried in a small wooden boat of Viking type called a "faering," a four-oared rowing boat. All that survived of the boat were the lines of rivets which originally held the wooden planks together. One end of the boat and part of one side had already been washed away by the sea. A stone wall had been built roughly one-third of the way along the inside of the boat forming a burial chamber of the other two-thirds of the boat's length. Within this chamber were three skeletons -- a man, woman, and child -- richly accompanied by grave goods for their journey to the Viking afterlife in Valhalla. The man had a sword, apparently still in its scabbard; probably a spear; a very fine bone comb, probably from Frisia; a gilded bronze object; and other iron objects. The woman was also an important person. She was buried with a magnificent carved whalebone plaque, decorated with stylized horses' heads. About forty of these plaques have been found in Norwegian graves, but this example is one of the finest. She was wearing a gilded bronze brooch elaborately decorated with gripping beasts and animal masks. She had 24 bone gaming pieces with her, probably for playing the Viking game of Hnefatafl; a bone comb; an iron weaving spit; two spindle whorls; a small sickle; and other iron objects. Unfortunately the skeleton of the child, who was probably about ten years old and lay next to the woman, had been mostly washed away. The finds are mostly Norwegian in origin and seem to date from the first half of the ninth century A.D. If so, this family may have been first-generation Norwegian Viking settlers on Orkney.
EARLY CHRISTIAN RECYCLING

Archaeologists working at a quarry at Hoddom, near Ecclefechan, Dumfries and Galloway, have discovered two Roman inscriptions built into what they believe may have been an early Christian oratory or baptistry. One seems to contain an invocation to the deity of the emperor; the other appears to have been set up by soldiers in Legions VIII Augusta and XXII Primigenia, who were probably undertaking building operations in Scotland. Both slabs probably date to the mid to late 2nd century A.D.

Both fragments had been used as building stone in the construction of a small rectangular structure, the footings of which were constructed from re-used Roman stone, possibly brought from the Roman fort at Birrens. This building is a relatively early feature at Hoddom. It was buried by a bank and ditch around the 7th century, and on this basis, together with the evidence of the inscriptions, it should date to the period A.D. 200-600. If a 5th or 6th century date can be maintained, then the very real possibility arises that the building could be contemporary with Kentigern, the saint with whom Hoddom is associated and who is said to have established a monastery there.

The building is an extremely rare find, well preserved because it was sunk below ground level, and, if the archaeologists are right about its date and function, an important contribution to the early Christian archaeology of Scotland.
SCOTTISH BOOK COLLECTOR
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SCOTTISH BOOK COLLECTOR consists of several elements pertaining to Scottish books old and new:

- Features on collecting Scottish books: by writers such as Stevenson, Buchan and Conan Doyle; about particular areas of Scotland; history; limited editions and fine printings; Scottish children's books, etc.


- Each issue contains an interview, usually with a writer of fiction who is Scottish by birth or who lives in Scotland; occasionally, the subject is someone who is otherwise connected with the contemporary Scottish publishing scene, or who works in the arts.

- Through a series of articles called "Scottish Writers," Hugh Macpherson examines the works of writers of quality, some well-known, others who deserve to be better known.

- "The Supernatural in Scottish Literature," "Andrew Lang," "Ephemera," "William and Robert Chambers," are a few of the subjects that have been covered by a regular contributor, David Fergus.

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