

late 17th Century

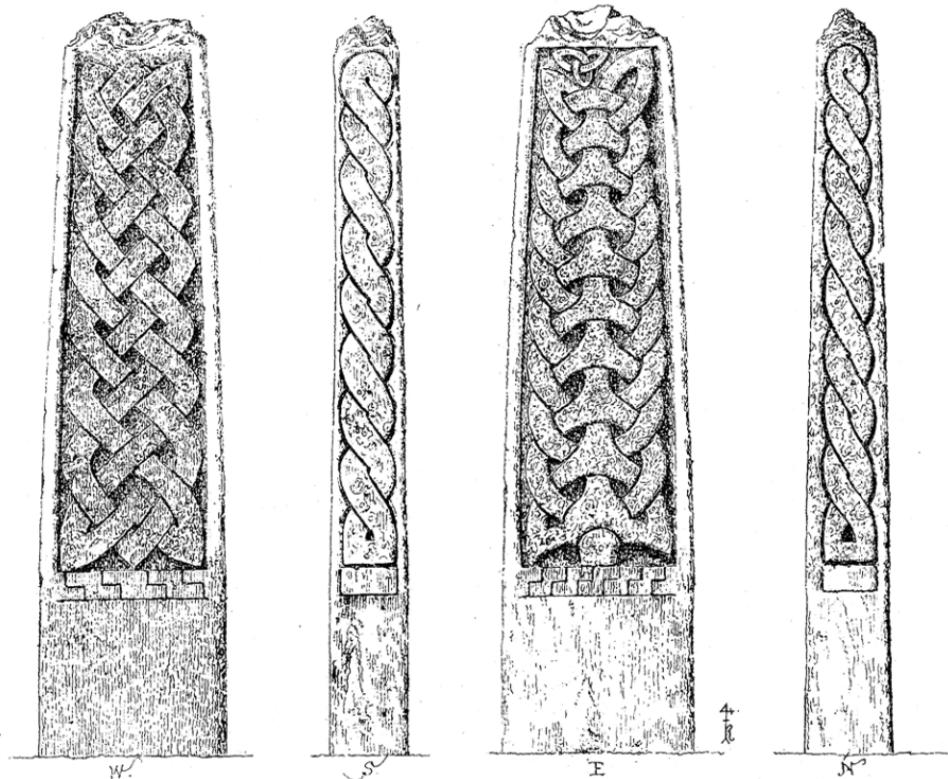
Waberthwaite



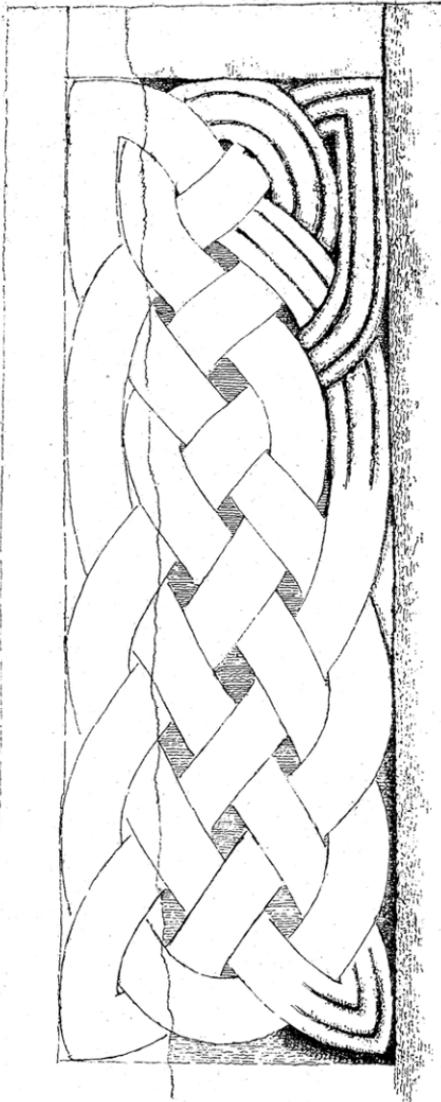
underside

af. 6'





Muncaster. { ? Xth Century }

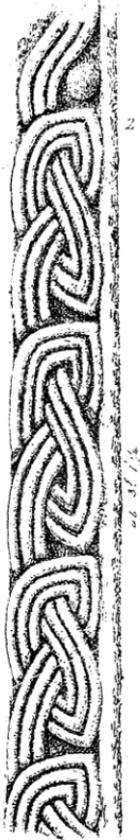


Tracing of worn fragment
of Cross at Hale.

{ ? 11th Century }

front of 1. { section not rectangular. }

4
R



a. b. 3. 7/4



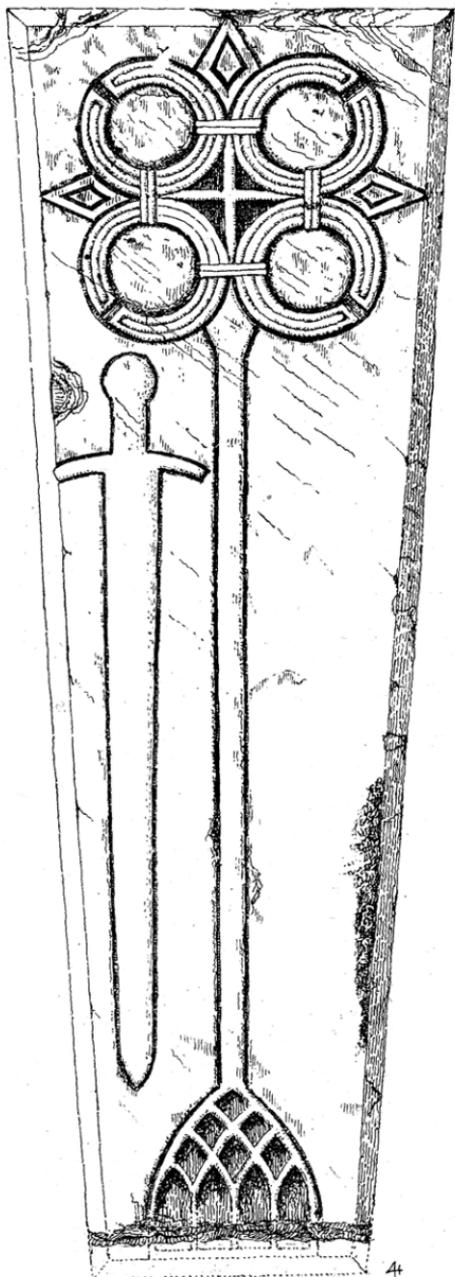
a. b. 3. 7/4

4
R



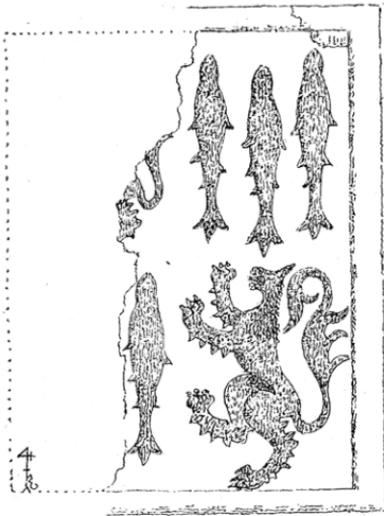
a. b. 3. 7/4

Hale. 6 fragments { 9th century }
 much mutilated & worn
 Pattern an ear-shaped GUILLOTTE. (British style)
 found at Iton, Aycliffe Co.



St. John's Beckermess.
late 13th Century.

4
R



Fragment of Percy Arms, on a stone panel in y^e Belfry St. Bees [16th Century.]

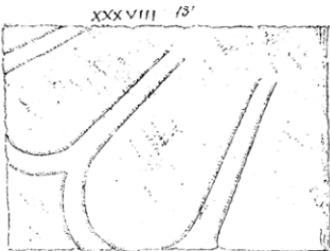
XXXV



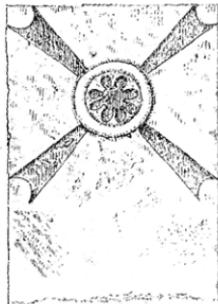
XXXVII



XXXIX. no. 16



XXXVIII 15'



XXXVI
 N ↓ X ↓ N — * † †
 Bankers' or Masons' marks.



XXXIV. rev. of XX.

St. Bees Fragments.

4
 1/2

ART. XI.—*A Miscellany of Notes on Fragments in and near St. Bees.* By the REV. CANON KNOWLES, M.A.

Read at Kendal, December 11th, 1876.

I WISH first to complete my illustrated list of fragments belonging to my own Church.*

XXXIV gives a very pretty cross on the reverse of XX, and of the same date. XXXV is a small panel of late 15th century work, or early 16th, bearing the Percy arms, built into the wall of the ringer's loft. XXXVI gives a few mason's marks found in our walls. XXXVII is a fragment of a very early (? 8th century) cross. XXXVIII is part, as I suppose, of an Ante-Norman dial. XXXIX is a very effective cross of about 1200, now built up in my garden wall, but the centre of the sketch is not quite accurate.

Next, I offer a sketch of an interesting sepulchral stone from St. John's, Beckermeth. It is of late 13th century work at the earliest, and has some rarish window-tracery instead of the earlier calvary steps. The dimensions are nearly 6ft. by 2; the relief is but slight; and the centres of the horseshoe circles rise a little to give more emphasis to the main lines.

Lastly, I wish to draw attention to some differences of character in the old interlaced crosses of this neighbourhood, and to submit sketches of fragments at Hale, Muncaster, and Waberthwaite, which may be compared with our Saint Bees remains already published.

A slab-monolith in this freestone county would surely taper a little towards the head, yielding two broad sur-

* Confer, a paper on "Fragments at St. Bees."—Vol. II, Transactions, p. 27.

faces

faces for panel treatment, and two narrow ones for braid-work. The inscription (if any) being mostly on a front panel.

A pillar-monolith will have a square section, like those at Leeds and Collingham. *That* is, I believe, a later elaboration which works the stone from a round into a square, with a cartouche ending to each face, as at St. Bridget's, Beckermet, and at Gosforth.

Crosses of this character I place, therefore, and not for this reason only, provisionally very low in our series, and date them with 'late XI century.'

At Waberthwaite, besides the cross here figured, which is of unusual size, another of the same school and date has been laid down on the threshold of the church door, but the recovery of it from this degradation is promised.

My sketch is as accurate as the position and state of the great fragment would permit, and I think it will be considered to justify my opinion, that it must have been wrought when the Lindisfarne traditions had fallen into decay, possibly about 1200.

If the fragments at Hale which are, I think, six in number, but have all suffered much from weather and ill usage, be next examined; they shew what I call an ear-shaped guilloche, occurring also on the front of Irton Cross.

Of the interesting fragment at Muncaster, I submit a sketch, for the first time (so far as I know) giving the whole design with anything like accuracy. A distinct trace of Irish work is found on the eastern face, in the sacred triquetra or triangle. On the sides we have the simple braid-twist that, I believe, is found at Irton.

But I desire to draw your attention to the chain pattern on the east face, which is exactly the same, though reversed, as that of the Scandinavian Cross* at Kirk

* And also in two distinct fragments there—v. Cummings, plate II, fig. 3a, 3b, 4a,—and in one in St. John's church-yard, Tynwold. All these are probably of the 11th century.

Michael

Michael in Man, and its sister cross at Ballaugh. A ruder pattern of the same kind, but, I think, of later date occurs at Dearham; and a still ruder variety on the round of Gosforth shaft.

The church-yard cross at St. Bees has the triquetra repeated three or four times on that which is now the southern face. It shews a somewhat more free use of the pellet; but, I think, it may probably be assigned to the same middle date—say the end of the 10th, or beginning of the 11th century.

The venerable fragments, numbered III, IV, V, XXXVII in my series, belong to a much earlier style: they are all of a hard white stone, not of red freestone, and shew both a very rude interlacing and a free use of the pellet. The largest was found *under* the west front of our church when the warming chamber was excavated, and the others were, with the great door-impost, found in the Norman walls. They were all clearly brought from the neighbouring ruins of the Irish nunnery, which stood to the north of our church and church-yard, and traces of the road to which have been discovered in digging graves.

I, therefore, offer the following catalogue for correction:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1. St. Bees (fig. III, IV, V, XXXVII) | 7th or 8th century. |
| 2. St. Bees (fig II) | late 10th century or 11th. |
| Hale | |
| Irton | |
| Muncaster | |
| 3. | late 11th century or early
12th. |
| Beckermest | |
| Gosforth | |
| 4. Waberthwaite | 12th century late. |

I claim for the four earliest of our St. Bees fragments, designs directly imported from Ireland, with local workmen to execute them. This claim seems to be supported by the true Irish shape of the door-impost, and by our tradition of

St. Bega. All the others I assign, under correction, to the missionaries from Lindisfarne.

And I wish further to mention a little-known tract by Mr. Gilbert J. French, of Bolton, printed by Charles Simms & Co., of Manchester, 1858, in which he traces the interlaced work of these old crosses to the basket-work of the early inhabitants of these islands, who transferred to stone the wattle-work of their huts.

Let me add, in conclusion, that on a spandril, among Roman fragments found at Bath, in 1790, and figured in Carter's Ancient Architecture, plate VIII, we have a distinctly interlaced pattern, probably wrought by some native hand.

