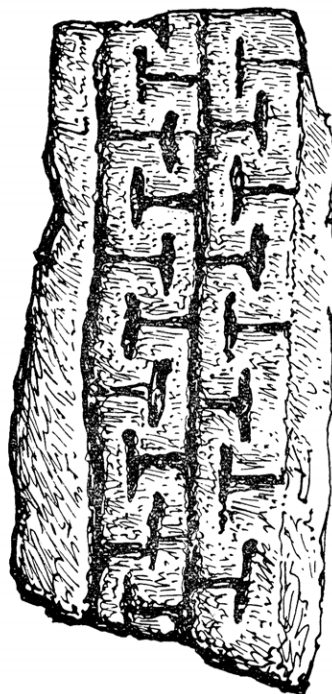


ART. XXIV.—*Pre-Norman Cross-fragment from Glassonby.*
By W. G. COLLINGWOOD.

Read at Carlisle, June 20th, 1900.

IN *Early Sculptured Crosses, &c., in the Diocese of Carlisle* (p. 137) this fragment is figured and described as far as possible while it was still in its old position. On May 17th, 1900, the owner, Mr. W. E. Rowley, most kindly had it taken out of the wall for presentation to Tullie House Museum. As the wall appears to be part of a seventeenth century house, the stone must have been built up in it for 200 years or more ; and there is no local tradition of its previous history, though the Standing Cross and the Anglian fragments at the church are said to have been brought from the old Addingham Church by the river, and this may have come from the same place. But this fragment is quite different from the others. It is of local soft red sandstone, measuring, as now detached, 19 by 8 by 7 inches over all, and showing one edge and two sides of a shaft, broken short and split lengthwise. The edge, as already described, bears the key-pattern, and key-patterns are not common in our district. Only two other of our pre-Norman stones have key-patterns on the edge,—the so-called Norse Cross at St. Bees, and the “First Curwen-Vault Fragment” at Workington (*Early Sculptured Crosses*, pp. 260 and 280) ; and these two are both of a late type. None of ours have this kind of pattern, a double band of shapes like a square capital T placed alternately ; but it occurs, better drawn, on the edge of a fragment in the Grosvenor Museum, Chester, and on the Maen-y-Chwyfan, Flintshire, a late cross which has some resemblance to our curious spiral crosses. It is seen also on a cross at St. Vigean’s, Forfarshire, with triquetra, dwarfed figures, and wheel-head.



THE GLASSONBY SHAFT.

The single band of T-pattern is found in Cheshire, Wales and Cornwall, and a grave-slab bearing it at Clonmacnois is dated 931 A.D. This seems to show that the pattern is not Welsh, but brought in from Ireland by the settlers who came to many places, especially to Cumberland, and to the mouth of the Dee, in the tenth and eleventh centuries.

The newly-revealed sides are much worn, but one, seen in a side-light, reveals a dragon with thick body and small head, biting its tail, among loose interlacing, rudely picked out and accentuated with a few deep drill-holes. On the other side there is what may be meant for a figure, like the most degenerate angels and evangelists of the North Lancashire group, but even clumsier in drawing and cutting. It has been doubted whether the texture described as picked or hacked is not merely the result of weathering; a doubt which, I think, may be set at rest by close examination of this stone. The drill-holes are such as occur in the Scandinavian work at Beckermest and Gosforth.

A bit of Greek fret over a window in Glassonby is pointed out as possibly part of this or another such cross; but it must be Renaissance work. Our stone is one of a series which I take to be the work of the Irish-Vikings.
