

MINISTRY OF FINANCE.

FILE No. A.S. *SM 59:6*

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF NORTHERN IRELAND

SUBJECT:

EXCAVATION AT BRIGAL KEEROGUE.

AND

REFERENCE NO.

FILE No. A.

Free

1. ERRIBAL KEEROGUE CHURCH

2. OS TYR 59:6

3.

4. Outside N. wall

5. 80/544

Æ Geo II coin 1760.

1. ERRIGAL

2. OS TYR 59:6

3.

4. IV

5. 80/707

7 Fe coffin nails with wood attached

1. ERRIGAL

2. OS TYR 59:6

3.

4. III

5. 80/710

Fe nail

1. ERRIGAL

2. OS TYR 59:6

3.

4. III

5. 80/709

Fe coffin nail with wood attached.



Work for Enrijal Jan - Feb '81

- a) surface E. side N. wall flattish
- b) pick out mortar, deep pointing, some stone insertion W. side N. wall
- c) remove wall face to trace earlier kerb
- d) deep pointing of large stones
- e) insertion of core for stone masonry

May 1982 - tombstone copy inserted

work on porch roof discuss with AH man GR
and provide as to pitch

Maria needs to measure up and prepare
new roof.

WRITING UP

Site, history ALL PSAMNI DS Mems AH theories
Water Museum - Sheila-na-gigg

Ballynacougart

Did Ros's book ever appear?

EXCAVATIONS - theories for background
results/stratigraphy etc
discussion of builds

QUERNSTONES - details, statistics (AH article)

BULLANN STONES - comment?

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Title ERRIGAL KEEROGUE CHURCH

pre - conservation photographs
excavation

Date _____
Copyright _____



(inter)
NE corner to left



N. wall (inter) + shed



N. wall (inter) + shed



corner (inter)



W. wall (inter)



SW. corner (inter)



wall (inter)



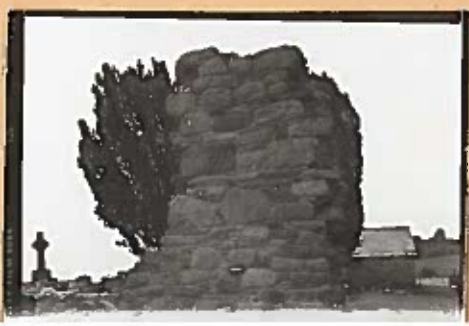
S. wall (inter) E. half + door



S. wall (inter) W. half



E. wall
(inter)



E. wall (NE. corner)
(inter)

N. wall conserved

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Title ERRICAL KEEROGUE CHURCH

pre-conservation photographs
excavation

Date

Copyright



rior to W. end



W. wall (inner)



*ll (inner)
SE. corner*



S. wall (inner) to door



S. wall, (inner) door



*all (inner)
way to left*



S. wall (inner)



*S. wall (inner)
sw. corner*

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Title ERRIGAL KEEROGUE CHURCH

pre-conservation photographs
excavation

Date

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corner (inner)



NW. corner (inner)



N. wall (inner)



N. wall (inner)



N. wall (inner)
W. side N. door/break



N. wall to NE. corner
(inner)



NE. corner (inner)



NE. corner (inner)
from NW.



E. wall (inner)



Commentary on Conservation Work, Errigal Kierogue, Co. Tyrone.

Inside S. wall, W. of door. Stones immediately at corner were retained. 3 m. to E. of corner (this material all new) lies a large stone at modern ground level which was not moved. Through middle section to $\frac{2}{3}$ along this stretch the lower course stones were retained. The last $\frac{1}{3}$ was built new up to the 2 large conglomerate stones which form the W. side of the S. door. The W. most of these two stones is set back slightly from the other. The line of the wall was aligned to this, rather than the larger stone, thus causing a narrowing of the wall. This has been corrected.

~~Suggestion rebuild wall from keram tie of old facing to W. edge of S. door, align on large stone.~~

Outside face, S. wall, W of door. Alignment correct, repointing only.

SE. corner; S. wall, E. of door. External face, SE. corner, rebuilt
Internal face, " " "
Both rebuilt on existing line of old building.

NE corner, E. gable. Tall masonry fragment basically repointed, occasional small stone addition. Quern stone apparently found in upper fabric.

W. gable, internal face: central part, facing rebuilt; poor quality caused by slippage of footings.

W. gable, external face lower 2 courses above ground level are original. Rebuilt above this level.

NW. corner, external face rebuilt on old line, above original courses.

N. wall (post excavation)

N. door and E. of door, outer facing line retained, but stones lifted and set in mortar. Small section opened for investigation refilled with new material. Inner facing all new, based on line between NE. corner, inner face, and inner face of N. wall where surviving to W. of door.

N. door retained as previously - E. side rebuilt slightly but with "uncertainty" element.



ERRIGAL KEEBOGUE CHURCH. SM 74R 59:6.

Site notes from tape dictation

Trench VI (SW. outer corner of church). Wall outer face as reported follows line of original build, to basal level 35 cm. below modern topsoil; ~~which~~ it lies on a massive corner slab which supports the corner of the building. This supports ends of both S. + W. walls. Depth of grave soil on W. side is 55 cm.

Corner stone is approx. 15 cm. thick (deep). On S. side (see plan) the coursing of the wall drops to a level equal to the bottom of this stone. Beneath the wall proper on S. side are the footings. These lie under corner stone also, being 35 cm. total depth and of two extremely ~~coarse~~ crude courses of stones (not faced or shaped). Beneath this is the creamy coloured clay subsoil, grave soil commencing on a E.-W. line immediately to S. of footings.

On W. side insufficient work done to check footings proper;

N. wall, narrow trench completed by workmen prior to excavation (see plan) outside face

complementary (see site plan) based on commencement of E. end of trench at 6m. mark.

Massive red sandstone corner(?) stone approx. 14 cm thick, with ~~two~~ stones underneath same on W. side [Why?]. To W. - eight very large rectangular boulders forming the basal course of the wall. Seven of them are massive. Beneath these project the footings, irregularly laid, and in marked contrast to both the E. stretch of the N. wall but also the inner face of the N. wall.

Footings - a series of smaller stones, some of these edge set in groups.

(8.10m) - (9.0m) a gap of 10-15 cm. depth beneath the base of the wall, filled with small stones before footings are arrived at.

(9.0) - (9.80m) the base of the wall sits directly on the wall.

(10.05m) - (11.50) recurrence of 15-20 cm. depth of soil / small stones beneath wall base and footings.

(11.50) basal stone has slid outwards slightly to the N.

from here to hut is a good line of facing stones, beneath which are small stones and soil.

Trench III outside S. wall, to E. of S. door

Line of the standing wall bears no relation to the large boulders which have been called the footings, apart from E.-W. alignment. Basal course of wall in trench is five large stones with one or two smaller ones filling gaps. A 30 cm. gap filled with small stones, jagged and without coursing lies above, but only partially rests upon, the footings.



III continued. Some of the footings are set out so far to the W., and with this gap between them, that they can contribute very little to the stability of the wall. Footings sit in subsoil, with grave soil commencing on an E.-W. line 10-15 cm. to S. of footings edge. Total soil depth is 87-90 cm. Base of wall is 50 cm. below ground level, so 40 cm. comprising gap + footings.

Trench IV, outside battered E. gable of church.

Excavations (as shown on plan) down to level of footings with a possible zone of collapse on the E. side. Possibly a hiatus - soil changes from loose, mottled grave soil (above) to dark, compact, sandy soil (below). Lower level also contains burial remains (group of four skulls). No stones beneath massive footings presently noted, but there is a soil depth of 28-30 cm. Total soil depth 114 cm. as measured on N. section.

Slight grave indentations in subsoil. Single sherd of pottery (course-etched rim / souterrain ware / crannog ware).

Footings lie beneath a gap of 14 cm (max) from base of wall to footings; this comprises soil + loose stones jammed in. Footings edges do not lie under wall to a great extent - with the large flat stone the overlap is only four cm. Cannot be said to act as support for church gable. In NW corner of trench is an increase in stone quantity (see photo) beneath main wall.

Trench VII (?) inside N. wall or W. half.

Footings and base of wall very neat, coursing and regular stone sizes. W. end of footings have 3 courses, and E. end still three courses but middle one is very narrow. The stones are all face set, though the upper course has a group of 4 stones edge set though still providing a very neat face. Footings sit neatly on pink clay subsoil (~~not~~ note A.H.'s comment about wall above being fire-reddened). Random footing stones 47 x 30 x 17 cm. Small stones occasionally inserted into chinks.

Otherwise joints always good. Grave soil commences 20 cm. out from face at subsoil level. Stone used only rarely sandstone, mostly roughly shaped conglomerates and perhaps petrological (viz basalt?).



Trench VIII . S. wall (inner) to E. of door in S. wall.

Excavation indicates that inner face of wall as planned drops straight down, with two courses of walling beneath ground level. No footings at base of wall - basically a gap filled by a damp pale brown gravelly soil with burial material. At W. end of trench this soil occupies the whole space between wall base and subsoil, being 65 cm. deep.

46 cm. to E. of W. end of trench are a small group of stones laid with long axes parallel to the wall. On long stone, 55 cm. long, end to end with a 23 cm. long stone. Above these are a few small angular stones and one slightly larger. To the E. of these the gap between wall base and subsoil resumes. Beneath the two long stones is one which sticks out into the trench, but this whole group is very loose and can be moved by hand vibration.

Contrast between this stone formation and those in trench III, on the other side of the wall is marked. The wall on this side therefore has no foundations and sits by its own weight. Would suggest a rebuild?

Not planned at 1:20 because small group of stones under wall are not visible when viewed from above.

Comparative trench in field - a small hole cut in field to N., on a line with outer face of E. gable, indicates a topsoil depth of 25 cm. or to subsoil. Suggests massive build-up due to burial in church area.

Other trenches not commented on as plans drawn are really self-explanatory. In no instance was a stratigraphy noted other than a general mélange resulting from repeated burial. Articulated skeletons only preserved as either v. late (in coffins,ugh!) or as very early in subsoil.

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Title ERRISLOR KEEROGUE CHURCH

EXCAVATIONS N. WALL + N. DOOR

Date MAR 80 Copyright



N. door
after face
from NE.



"



"
from NW.



N. door (foreground)
+ N. wall from
N.W.



← surviving footings



← surviving footings



← surviving footings
as face. This
'corner' angle should
be approximately where
wall would have been S.
had there been
evidence for an
earlier E. gable



← note quern stone
EK 33

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Title ERRIGAL KEEROGUE CHURCH

Date Mar 80 Copyright

EXCAVATIONS N. WALL



OUTER
late wall face →
late wall footings →
earlier wall face →



group showing N. wall & church. Facing and footings survive on outside (N.) face, inner face largely destroyed by burial disturbance. Subsequent conservation line for inner face taken by joining corner to surviving facing material

INNER



← N. door zone

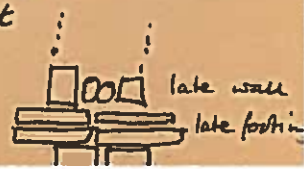
INNER



← surviving inner face at corner

← surviving footings

removal of section of wall to establish build and relation to footings was halted when an earlier wall was located beneath the N. wall. Footings of late wall rest upon it

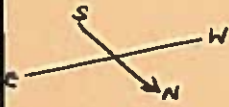


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Title ERRIGAL KEEROGUE CHURCH

EXCAVATIONS S. DOOR

Date May 80 Copyright



note steps down into church, evident lack of mortar beneath kerb stones. Lack of formal door arrangement as seen in wall finish



'collapse' of stone inside S. door. Little or no mortar traces. From E.



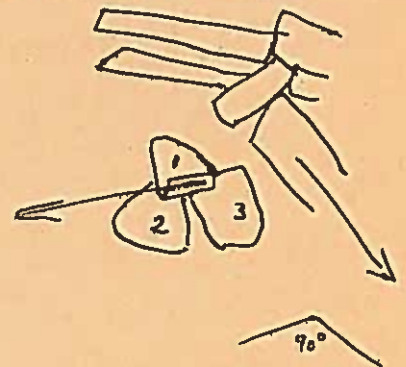
S. door interior from W.



This photo shows N. door from inside with hollow revealed in exact area of door passage. No apparent significance to this.



Poor photos. The three stone which give a 'suggestion' of a E. gable are not very clear. They consist of one upper stone and two lower stones with an apparent axis of 90° to S. wall



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Title EXCAVATIONS AT ERRIGAL
KEEGROGUE CHURCH N. WALL

Date MAR 80 Copyright



views from E. gable.

views from E. gable

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Trench IX inside W. gable

note concrete plank, inserted in this case beneath original facing.



slippage of foerings caused by burial, sections facing - repointed giving artificial appearance of W. door



- note insertion of modern concrete where facing replaced



TR. VII very fine foerings

N. wall, W. $\frac{1}{2}$.



Tr. IV



'Footings' - note gap between stones and base of wall - this is not a modern repointing feature.

Note spread of stone at into trench. Collapse?

Removal of pile of stones reveals soils levels of c. 20cm continued to contain human bones. Onto subsoil.

County TYRONE

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Title BERICAL KEEROGUE CHURCH

Sm TYR 59:6

Date MAR 80 Copyright



TR. V

note absence
of facing
material

inside N. wall
E. end.

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TR III S. wall outer



*bullau in
graveyard
to E. of
church*



*? bullau
adjacent field
to NW,
near Stream.*

TR VIII



*? bullau
adjacent field
to NW,
to S. of
? bullau
above*



*? bullau
2nd field to
NW of church
to W. of
? bullau
above*



*note
absence
of*

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Title ERRIGAL KEEROGUE CHURCH

SM TYR 59:6

Date Mar 80 Copyright

hed high cross



N. wall, all angles



N. wall, outer face



N. wall, outer face, to E. gable



N. wall, outer face

DIG FIELD SECTION ^{due see notes} Reference Ervilga

Nick

I understand on the eve of leaving but I want to add a couple of points after your visit.

Apologies again for our late arrival.

The dividing line between salvaging information (the intention) + going on to research (the temptation) is difficult to draw! You'd already achieved a lot in the time + I was impressed how much you'd opened.

① the South Wall. On reflection after you'd gone, we shared your doubt about the shape & thickness. It may well be a wrong reconstruction. Apart from the door area, the key I think may be the S.W. corner, where a few original stones of the S-wall survive. If possible (gram) please open up this corner at angle of W+S walls, + see if we can pick up a clue as to the S-wall's footings + true width.

② Opening up outside the W wall will be a big job, not strictly necessary for the project but potentially interesting. Open at the mid W wall inside first + reserve decision on a trench outside until you see what happens inside.

I agree it will be ^{wise} ~~wise~~ to fill in when records made so not too much is open at any one time.

Talk to men reinforced my desire for quite detailed account of what is new work + what old, where wall face survived + where it didn't.

I feel it is going very well + look forward to another visit soon after my return.

Am.
14.3.80.

ERRIGAL KEEROGUE (spell v. variable!) Church, Co Tyrone.

Conservation excavation

Reference

(Gail has pre-work photos)

Background. The church was desperately in-y-gram and dangerous and Drew agreed rather reluctantly to a conservation programme. It wasn't a site he was very keen on and resented using our resources. The work was not archaeologically closely supervised or recorded. I am anxious that

- 1) work on the N. wall (the remain^{to be done} part) be fully recorded.
- 2) information be gleaned from the work already done.

What I would like done in the near future.

N. wall.
photography

- ① Draw a plan of the church at a biggish scale and annotate it with the Beaghmore men's help about what work was done (eg. rebuilt from foundations, upper part demol^d, lower face repointed etc.) One patch inside w. wall at centre is differently treated + looks like a blocked W. door, but not lip outside. Try to find out from men why (it was perhaps collapsing at centre, but they've almost created a blocked W. door!). Anything you can glean.
- ② Excavate, clean, draw + photograph footings of N. wall, inside + out, as far as graves etc. allow (already partly done). Tree group in wall to be felled. Soil may be entirely burial disturbed, but leave some sections until you're sure (the men just trench along wall). Care needed re safety where any skin of wall face survives - potentially dangerous. Where no face visible (interior) excavate to see if any face or footing survives below ground level to guide us in conservation. Area of door important.
- ③ For walls already done S, W + E, get men to dig down to offset / footing level (already entirely disturbed so can be quickly done) + where original staves survive

Lock.

- ④ Liaise with Gail over photography of North wall (both sides) pre conservation, and any details you want her to do (as against your own record shots).

What lies behind this request.

Emgal Keerogue is the site of a pre-Viking monastery, probably an important one. The ground is obviously v-disturbed by long burial, but the poss^y always remains of hints of early activity.

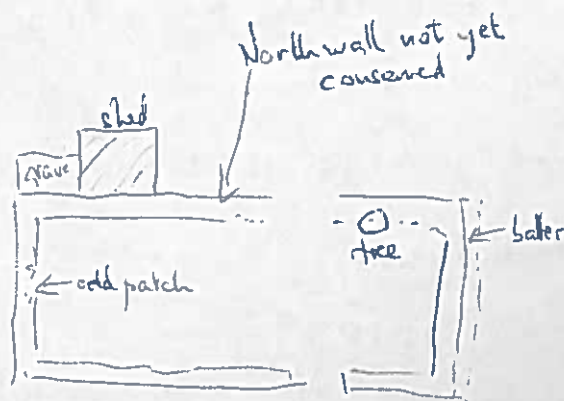
More particularly, the E end of the church looks v-different from the part further W - smaller stones, scattered plinths. I suspect a smaller, earlier church with an E \Rightarrow extension.

One of the best clues is the footings / offset + this may show a break. If I'm right, there should be an earlier E-wall, so bear this in mind + explore if possible. Position of door may = the break.

- ⑤ You might care to combine this with a look at some towns in the Clogher Valley?

Att. 25.2.80

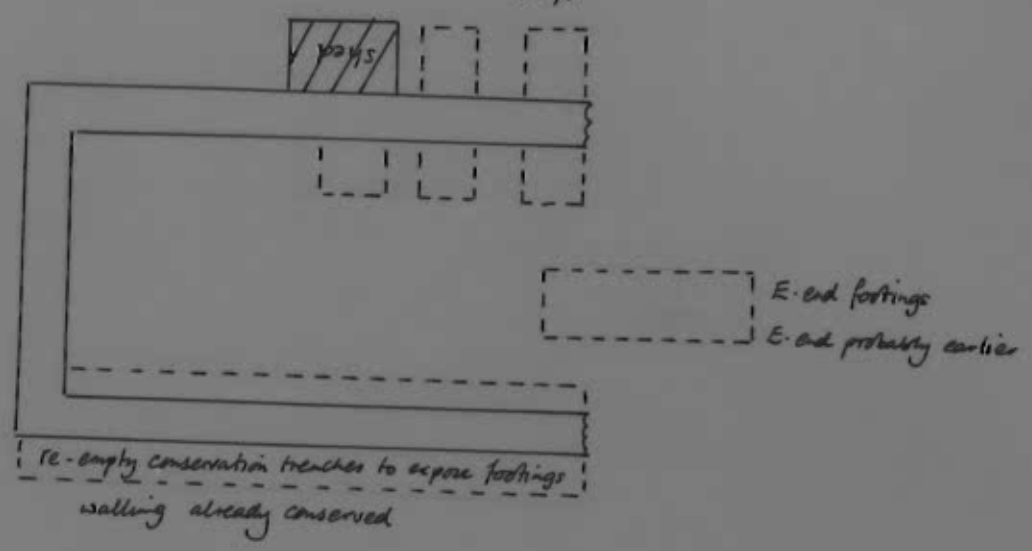
Cross



KEEROGUE (spell v. variable!) Church, G. Tyone
conservation excavation



check
archaeology
of level
using
before
conservation



ERRIGAL KEEROGUE CHURCH

^{Gore}
~~Errigal~~ Td, Errigal Keerogue parish, Clogher Barony. Grid ref. H585570
 OS 6" Tyrone sheet 59

PSAMNI, p 257. 1 mile W. of Ballynasaggart Bridge. Rectangular building, internal dimensions 60' x 20', walls 3½' thick. The NE. corner stands to the height of the gable, but there are no carved mullions of the E. window. The W. wall and adjoining portions of the N. + S. walls are about 9' high, but some stones seem to have been replaced on them in recent times, and there are no traces of windows. There was, perhaps, a door on the N., where there is a gap in the foundations. On the S. there is one carved jamb of a door with bolt socket, and several ashlar blocks which formed the other jamb, giving a door 3' 4" wide.

This church is thought to be a Franciscan foundation of 1489, but traces of a round tower show that the site is earlier. The friary may have been at Ballynasaggart where it is believed that an abbey stood before the construction of 1622 of the old church, which was abandoned for the modern church in 1832, and only the foundations are now visible; it is said to have been of brick, but cannot now be tested. In the modern church, but recently removed from the site of the older church, are two fonts. The lower one, inverted, has a drain and is nearly square; it is ornamented on each side with a circle and dot, these being connected by a single line. The upper is undrained and circular, ornamented with a frieze of heavy fleur-de-lis hanging from garlands, perhaps of 17th century workmanship. The lower font may well have come from Errigal Keerogue or from the Ballynasaggart friary
 refs:- Shaw Mason III, p. 154 Leslie, Arm. Clay, p. 300.

Gore Td, Errigal Keerogue Cross

To W. of church. Cross with solid ring, whence the arms project slightly, and the top slightly more. On the E. is apparently a circular border, on the N. a slightly raised boss in a square frame.... stands 6' from the ground, shaft disappeared. Top measures 1' 7".

^{THE} SM 59:6 pre-Norman monastic site, patron Ciaran or Dachtiarog
 AU 810 dit. scribe
 AU 838 dit. abbot
 medieval parish church destroyed 1380 (M.I.A.)
 Cross W. of church probably unfinished
 Claimed round tower not here

Many querns, carved stones; sheela-na-gig in Ulster Museum

UJA 4 (1941) 41.

APRIL 1980 & subsequent 81

ERRIGAL KEEBOGNE CHURCH (STATE CARE)
Co TYRONE

MED. ECCLES

excavation in aid to conservation. Work consisted mainly of establishing wall and door lines and looking for building sequence. Wall footings exhibited a variety of styles but defied interpretation without destruction. ~~also~~ In the one section of ~~existing~~ surviving masonry a corbel wall was located.

Associated stratigraphy was in all cases disturbed by burials. A notable feature of the site is the ~~120 plus~~ fragments of ¹²⁰⁺ stony querns, including probable blanks, recovered from the site over ~~the~~ recent years. In two cases excavation located quern stones incorporated into masonry.

GORT
HS 85570

A MEDIEVAL CARVED STONE FROM ERRIGAL KEEROGUE CHURCH, CO. TYRONE

Early in 1980 ^{Dr} ~~Mr~~ Peter Harbison, archaeologist with Bord Fáilte, drew the writer's attention to the existence of an unusual 'tombstone', formerly located at Errigal Keerogue church, Gort townland (O.S. 6 in. Tyrone, sheet 59; grid reference H585570). Though seen at the site some years previously, the stone was no longer at this State Care monument and was feared stolen. Local enquiries, however, revealed that the stone had been removed for safekeeping by the parish priest, and, following his death, had been stored by a local schoolteacher. The stone has now been returned to the care of the Historic Monuments and Buildings Branch, Department of the Environment (N.I.) and a replica is to be placed at the church.

[The stone, approximately 46 cm. wide, 9 cm. deep and with a surviving length of 91 cm., depicts on one face a three-quarter length human figure carved in a very low relief, indeed almost incised^(Pl. 1). On both long sides are carved two shallow lines which run the full surviving length^(Pl. 2). There is no corresponding decoration on the probably original^(though partly damaged) lower end, whilst the upper end is damaged. The rear face is entirely rough, without dressing. In one corner of the carved face, against the head outline, is a small rectangular depression, 8 cm. by 3 cm., 0.75 cm. deep. This is not repeated elsewhere on the stone and may not be contemporary with the figure carving. No firm interpretation can be offered for it, though its regular shape suggests a socket for an iron bar, which would have risen perpendicularly from the stone.

[The figure lies within a poorly-defined border^{found} on the longer sides only, most clearly seen in the lower half of the slab, where it has a width of 8-9 cm. Its clarity here appears to be related to the definition of the lower arms, since around the upper arms and shoulders it is barely visible. ^{The border} ~~It~~ is undecorated,

and may have been intended to suggest the outline of a coffin.

[An immediate impression of the figure within is that it is meant to portray a knight, but apart from the general posture of the arms there are no features of clothing, armour or sword to support this. The area adjacent to the left arm was closely examined for traces of a sword^d either under it or parallel to it, but no evidence was found, ~~neither~~^{nor} can the shape of the border on this side ^e be taken as such a feature.

[The very low relief ^{might suggest} ~~has led to suggestions~~ that details of clothing have been abraded/ but, while damage marks are visible on the carving, abrasion on such an overall scale appears unlikely. Whilst the general smoothing out of 'soft' items of clothing, such as a surcoat or brigandine, or even chain-mail, might be possible, there are no traces of 'hard' items, such as buckles or plates. The line across the right shoulder is not a besagew (protecting plate) but damage to the stone.

[The outline of the hands, expressed in quite a severe triangulated form, is suggestive of chain-mail gloves, but there is no accompanying mail delineation on hands or arms. ^{(Pl. 1) * insert} The head of the figure is expressed as a sub-circular hollow, with an average diameter of 17 cm., and 2.5 cm. deep. Though the outline of this feature is fairly well defined, the junction with the shoulders, without a neck, is irregular. Since the feature appears original, it is suggested that some ~~of~~ facial representation, possibly in another medium (e.g., wood, brass, alabaster) was inserted. There are no dowel holes to aid attachment, but this form of embellishment, most commonly on incised figure carving of the 14th and 15th centuries, is not uncommon in a European context (Greenhill / 1976, passim). ^{ital.}

INSERT
OUT COPY
BELOW PL.

* insert. The passive position of the hands over the groin is not a common feature (the usual position is that of the hands raised in prayer over the chest). However, this does not appear to be a chronological feature or an aid to interpretation. /Taken

Taken in all, then, the absence of distinctive apparel, particularly a sword, suggests that although interpretation of the figure as a knight is the likely and conventional one, there is little detail to support this. Assuming such an interpretation for the sake of argument, ^{however,} the absence of plate armour (early 15th-century floruit (Greenhill / 1976, 158)) and the low relief of the carving (later carving has fuller relief (Hunt / 1974, passim)) suggests at the latest a 14th-century date for the work. *ital.*

No close parallels have been found for the piece, and its context at Errigal Keerogue is unexplained. There is nothing in the surviving church fabric to indicate the presence of a tomb niche, and the stone, a dark reddish-gray sandstone, is not common at the site. Though a full account of the site has yet to be published (Brannon and Hamlin, forthcoming), and despite some historical confusions between it and the nearby Ballynasaggart church (P.S.A.M.N.I., 254), there are no known historical personages associated with the site with whom the carving can be linked. *ital.*

N.F. BRANNON
Historic Monuments and Buildings Branch,
Department of the Environment (N.I.) *ital.*

cops
Acknowledgments Thanks are due to Peter Harbison for preventing the stone's continued 'loss', and to Helen Roe for her comments on the piece.

8 pt

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(1976). Incised Effigial Slabs, 2 vols (London, 1976) *ital.*
 Greenhill, F.A. / *(1974).*
 Hunt, J. / Irish Medieval Figure Sculpture 1200-1600, 2 vols (Dublin, 1974) *ital.*
 P.S.A.M.N.I. / ^A Preliminary Survey of Ancient Monuments of N. Ireland (Belfast, 1940) *ital.*

must above.

heaps

N.F. BRANNON

Historic Monuments and Buildings Branch, Department of the Environment (N.I)

~~NICK~~
For your Errigal file!
Ann

USING MILLS ON SUNDAY

Ann Hamlin

The *Cáin Domnaig* or Law of Sunday was one of the four main laws (*cána*) of Early Christian Ireland. It has been dated to both the eighth and ninth centuries and the 887 entry in the *Annals of Ulster* may not mark the Law's first introduction: 'An epistle came with the pilgrim to Ireland, with the "Cáin Domnaigh", and other good instructions'.¹ *Cáin Domnaig* is a composite three-part text, and this note is concerned mainly with provisions in the first part, the *Epistil Ísu* or Letter of Jesus.² This argues in detail for Sunday observance and sets out rewards and punishments for its keeping or for violations of its sanctity.

It is not in the nature of the source to give great detail, for it takes a huge range of everyday practice for granted, but in listing those activities which are and are not allowed on a Sunday it gives some valuable glimpses of ordinary life in perhaps the eighth and ninth centuries.

Amongst those activities forbidden on Sunday in *Epistil Ísu* is 'grinding in mill or quern' (chapter 17).³ In chapter 23 we find 'grinding in a mill on Sunday after the swearing of the law, if it be a mill of the laity, an ounce of silver [is the fine on the first occasion] for it, and five *seas* from that out. If, however, it be a church mill, a *cumhal* is the fine for grinding in it on Sunday. Whatsoever quern is ground with on Sunday, it shall be broken, and a half ounce of silver [imposed] on the man or woman who grinds with it. If it be a man-servant or woman-servant who grinds with it, his clothes shall be burned, and he himself driven out of the place.' Chapter 24 explains that it is the mill or quern owner's duty to enforce the law, and chapter 27 provides for a fine of 'five half-ounces of silver for drying in a kiln on the eve of Sunday, and the kiln to be burned', perhaps to guard against preparations for the illegal use of the mill next day? *Cáin Domnaig* itself, a technical legal tract, includes provisions for the 'supervision of Sunday with respect to mills and woods and roads'.⁴

The clear distinction drawn between lay and church mills is interesting, especially in considering the likely context of the Early Christian horizontal mills recently studied in detail by Dr M G L Baillie.⁵ Also interesting for archaeologists is the punishment of breaking stones illegally used on Sunday. During my field survey of pre-Norman ecclesiastical sites in Northern Ireland I have been impressed by how many fragments of broken querns can still be found, and this Law reminds us that wear was not the only reason for the breaking of quern stones.

Much archaeological information remains to be "excavated" from *Cáin Domnaig*. Through it we can see an agricultural society about its daily business — business which it is the archaeologist's and historian's task to reconstruct from the surviving evidence: 'On Sunday there shall be no dispute, or law suit, or assembly, or strife, or bargain, or horse-driving, or sweeping the floor of a house, or shaving, or washing, or bathing or washing clothes, or grinding in mill or quern, or cooking, or churning, or yarn-weaving, or adultery, or journeying by anyone beyond the borders of his own territory, or racing, or shooting with spear or arrow, or riding on horse or ass, or boiling food, or swimming, or horse-riding, or splitting firewood, or coracle on water'.⁶

Notes

1. W. M. Hennessy, *Annals of Ulster*, I (Dublin, 1887), 404-5.
2. J. F. Kenney, *The Sources for the Early History of Ireland: Ecclesiastical* (Columbia, 1929), 476-7; K. Hughes, *Early Christian Ireland: Introduction to the Sources* (London, 1972), 80-2; D. Whitelock in *Ireland in Early Medieval Europe* (forthcoming, Cambridge, 1982).
3. J. G. O'Keeffe, 'Cáin Domnaig', *Ériu*, 2 (1905), 189-214 gives text and translation of *Epistil Ísu* and is the source of the translations used here.
4. V. Hull, 'Cáin Domnaig', *Ériu*, 20 (1966), 162-3.
5. M. Baillie, 'Dendrochronology — the Irish View', *Current Archaeology*, 73 (1980), 62-3.
6. O'Keeffe 1905 (see note 3), 200-203.

A.H. says law lasted certainly up to ①. Hela Roe recalls Sunday observances within RC church.
Write to Kevin Donaghy + Seamus Caulfield re. folk-love traditions.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS, ERRIGAL KEEROGUE CHURCH, CO TYRONE INTERIM SUMMARY

Work undertaken 3 March-3 April 1980; Beaghmore team. Objectives - to make a full record of previous conservation work; to complete photographic coverage of masonry; to examine foundations of all walls; to examine evidence for N and S doors; to test for a W door; to examine fully the N wall; to test for evidence that the E end of the church might be a later extension. To consider these factors for future conservation.

Trenches were opened at various points inside and outside the church. Due to intensive burial, soil stratigraphy was absent. Numerous human bones, coffin fragments and furniture were uncovered but reburied. A few sherds of everted rim coarse pottery were excavated and retained. More than one type of foundation structure was noted, varying from complete absence through to well faced coursed footings. In numerous instances foundations on one side of a wall differed in type from those on the other. Detailed drawings and photographs made. No floor levels inside the church were noted.

The N and S doors were previously presented as gaps within those walls. In the N door, one side (W) was defined by a large 'foundation' slab upon which the wall stood. Excavations found that the wall in fact ran beneath the door area and that traces of a formal opening were not surviving. The S door was previously defined by two steps. On the W side a large 'foundation' stone formed an apparent edge. The slabs forming the steps were shown to rest on soil as opposed to being part of a masonry build. This would suggest a late date, possibly a 'formalisation' of a gap in the wall. Inside the doorway excavations found a break in footings but the reasons for this were not clear. Complete excavation would have necessitated destruction of the present doorway and was therefore avoided.

Refacing of the W gable, central section interior face, gave the impression of a blocked W door. Excavations within the church noted that slippage of footings beneath this area (caused by burial) had weakened facing support. There was no evidence (change in footings, worked stone, density of occupation material) to indicate a W door. No work was done outside the W gable.

The N wall appeared to be one place where evidence for an E extension to the church might be obtained. There was a noticeable contrast between footings from W to E on the outer face of the wall. However, there was a similar contrast between inner and outer faces, confusing interpretation.

On the W side of the N door this distinction between inner and outer face was marked, but could not be used to indicate constructional phases. As well as this feature, it was frequently noted that a thin soil horizon intruded between base of wall and footings. In an attempt to resolve these inconsistencies, part of the N wall was demolished to obtain a section through it. However, this revealed traces of an earlier wall, and as such failed to answer this question.

Future Conservation

No evidence was recovered to date the surviving building. No evidence was found to date or accurately gauge the size or authenticity of N and S doors. As such, it would seem that the best approach would be to present them as they have previously been presented, although with a certain amount of tidying up.

A length of the W section of the S wall has been incorrectly restored. This should be demolished and realigned between the inner SW corner and the W edge of the S door.

Much of the inner face of the E half of the N wall has been disturbed by burial. A line may be established from the inner NE corner to the surviving inner facing adjacent to the N door. Facing should not be continued to a height greater than just above ground level. The N door can be presented as previously. Facing lines exist for the W half of the N wall and conservation in this area should be straightforward, although certain peculiarities of the inner face should be examined closely.

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