



PAST

Peeblesshire Archaeological Society Times
Winter 2005

Iron Age 'bog bodies' unveiled in Ireland

Archaeologists have unveiled two Iron Age 'bog bodies' which were found in the Republic of Ireland. The bodies, which are both male and have been dated to more than 2,000 years ago, probably belong to the victims of a ritual sacrifice.

In common with other prehistoric bog bodies, they show signs of having been tortured before their deaths.

Details of the finds are to be outlined in a BBC Timewatch documentary to be screened on BBC2 on Friday, January 20 at 9pm.

The first body dropped off a peat cutting machine in February 2003 in **Clonycavan**, near Dublin. The forearms, hands and lower abdomen are missing, believed to have been hacked off by the machine.

The second was found in May the same year in **Croghan**, just 25 miles (40km) from Clonycavan.

Old Croghan Man, as it has become known, was missing a head and lower limbs. It was discovered by workmen clearing a drainage ditch through a peat bog.

Although the police were initially called in, an inspection by the state pathologist confirmed that this was an archaeological case. Both bodies were subsequently taken to the National Museum of Ireland in Dublin. Over the last 18 months, an international team of experts has been examining the bodies to learn when and how they lived and died. The team includes Dr Don Brothwell, who led the scientific investigation of Lindow Man (aka Pete Marsh) the well-known bog body found in Cheshire in 1984.

Radiocarbon dating showed that the men were killed around 2,300 years ago. The C14 dates show that the Clonycavan man died between 392-201 BC and the Oldcroghan man between 362-175 BC.

The Clonycavan man was a young male no more than 5ft 2in tall. Beneath his hair, which retains its unusual 'raised' style, was a massive wound. This had been caused by a heavy cutting object that smashed open his skull. Chemical analysis of the hair showed that Clonycavan man's diet was rich in vegetables in the months leading up to his death, suggesting he died in summer. It also revealed that he had been using a type of Iron Age hair gel; this appears to have been composed of vegetable plant oil mixed with a resin that had probably come from south-western France or Spain.

Old Croghan man was also young - probably in his early to mid 20s - but he was much taller than his counterpart from 25 miles away. Scientists worked out from the length of his arms that he would have stood an estimated 198cm (6ft 6 in) tall.

Continues p4 [not for squeamish!]



Digging vehicles out of the snow near Leadburn in 1958 (Scotsman publications)

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A final glimpse at 17th century Peeblesshire

This is the sixth and final set of extracts from the Kirk Session records for West Linton Parish Church from 1657 to 1661, transcribed by Douglas Speirs and edited by Trevor Cowie.

Beyond redemption?: ‘... trilaps in fornicatione...’

3 July 1660

delated this day a scandle of fornicatione betwixt James Rid in blyth and kath clark who are ordained to be summoned before the sessione against the next day

17 July

compeared kathrine clark confessed fornicatione with James Rid and that shee was relapse yet hir injunccione for taking away the scandale is continued till the mans compearance and confessione

24 July

Kath. clark yet continued till the mans [com]pearance

31 July

kath clark yet continued upone the former reasone

14 August

compeared James Rid and confessed fornicatione with Kathrine clark and that he had not fallen in fornicatione before therefore he is ordained to stand thrie severall dayes in the publik place for penitents for taking away the scandale and that he in the mean time have his recourse severall times to the minister and some elders for evidencing signs of repentance

26 August

kath clark enjoined to appear for hir relapse in fornicatione sex severall sabbaths in the publik place appointed for penitents

20 November

The censure is taken off James Rid who in the thrid day (haveing obeyed the former injuncciones) was received from the publik place appointed for these professed penitent

4 December

Kathrine clark delated guilty not only of relaps in fornicatione acording to hir confessione but of trilaps the delators are ordained to try the trueth

11 December

nothing could be done this day becaus few elders wer present the weather being so foull

18 December

This day the elders of blyth wer not present to declare anything concerning kathrine clark

25 December

It is declared by the elders of blyth that they heard of some elders of the parochin of kirkurd that kath. clark was trilaps in fornicatione but that shee had removed from them and gone to ed[inburg]h with out any testimoniall and they know not where shee wus but should strive to get knowledge

1 January 1661

The minister declared to the sessione that in face of the pr[is]b[ite]rie mr alex[ande]r dickson who had bene minister at kirkurd at kirkurd andro Brown one of the elders of the sessione at kirkurd and one other elder whose name he had forgotten affirmed that kathrine clark was trilaps in fornicatione. No knowledge as yet in what house at ed[inburg]h kath clark is

8 January

The sessione not able to get knowledge whither kath. clark is gone some saying shee is gone out of ed[inburg]h over the watter of forth some that shee is yet in ed[inburg]h resolve not to speak any more of hir in their book till ther hear concerning hir

Marione Currie’s ‘scandalous scolding’ - and other misdemeanours

14 August 1660

Marione Currie delated for scandalous scolding and other miscariage is ordained to be summoned.

21 August

compeared marione Currie and all made clear against hir is enjoined the nixt lords day to sit in a sait before the pulpit and there publikly confesse her scolding w[i]t[h] other misdemenors whilk shee promised to doe and enacted hirself never to doe the like under the paine of the high censure of the church

26 August

The censure taken off marione currie becaus shee obeyed as was ordained

Marion Currie in trouble again [note the references to ‘jogs’ - ie jogs. Ed]

22 September 1661

complaint given in by James duglas called of the hall against marione currie that shee had reviled him being ane elder and slandered him calling him ane adulterer therefore shee is ordained to be summoned against the next day.

29 September

compeared marione currie and denyde that shee had aiver reviled or slandered James duglas and therefore he offered to prove it by these witness John androw and James wilson who are ordained to be cited against the next day

6 October

compeared marione currie and also the witness shee enquiryed if shee had any thing against the witness admitted them and they wer taken sworne in hir presence shee was. removed with one of the witness the other according to his oath declared that he heard as was co[m]plained then he viz John androw was removed and James wilson called and remembred of his oath declared as the other and so the complaint was proven and she was enjoined to stand in the Jogs at the kirk dore on the lords day till the people convened and then goe up to the publik place appointed for penitents

13 October

This day before marione currie hid obeyed the injuncciones of the sessione John androw gave in a new complaint against marione currie and gave up his

witness to prove his bill viz Robert alex[ande]r, andro watson, Isobell porteous and Joane mure who are all ordained to be summoned against the next day the tenor of the complaint was that his father was hanged and called himself a land loppin loun

20 October

compeared marione curie and denyde yet admitted the witness q[uhai]rof Robert alex[ande]r Jeane moore and Isobell porteous wer sworne and all parties [who] have interest removed ther severall, deponed and did prove the Bill the sessione deferred the injunccione for all together untill tuysday the twentie and eight of this instant becaus now praise to god the harvest was done

28 October

The injunccione was delayed because of the infrequence of elders

5 November

the Injunccione yet delayed upone the former reason

12 November

compeared marione currie before the sessione w[i]t[h] many tears and desired the sessione wold pitie hir conditione upone this the sessione in hopes shee should amend contented themselves with the former injunccione which shee promised to obey and with hir owne consent enacted hirsself that if shee fell in the like againe shee should be lyable to the penalty of ten libs. scottes money and to be put in the Jogs as long as they pleased

19 November

reported to the sessione marrione currie hir obedience to their injunccione which is accepted

James Henderson falls foul of the session

7 October 1660

This day James henderson delated to the sessione to have spoken reproachfullie of th[e]m is ordained to be cited the next [lords day]

16 October

compeired James henderson and not denying what he said that there wer some in the parochin suffered to dwell this .10. years without testimoniall testi-

moniall and named James tait in carlipes and his brother and this being found a ly because James tait himself broght a testimoniall from the sessione of penicuik and his brother from the minister and sessione of twedemoore he is there in presence summoned to comper before the pr[is]b[ite]rie

23 October

compeared James henderson humbly desireing that the sessione wold enjone him themselves and not cause him goe down to peebles he confessed his guilt and wold submit himself to their censure. The sessione o[r]dain him to be present the next sessione day

30 October

few elders being present James henderson is ordained to compeir and receive his injuncciones the first sessione day after the synode which will be the 13 of november

13 November

James henderson called and not compeiring ordained to be summoned against the next day

20 November

James henderson called and not compeiring agane to be summoned

27 November

compeared James henderson and ordanied there by the sessione in his knies to be humbled and co[n]fess his offence to god and the minister and elders against whome he spoke which was done and he encated if the like be found in him againe he sall be more highly censured

A bad mark against George Mark!

7 May 1661

George mark given up to the sessione for breach of the sabbath that he should have bene met carrieing a sheep upone ane horse neck before him therefore is ordained to be summoned against the next day of sessione

14 May

Compeared George mark in lystone green and confessed q[uhai]rfore he is enjoned against the next lords day to humble himself before the congregation to the end [of the week] [so that] the scandale may be taken away

21 May

reported George mark his obedience which is accepted

And finally, some insights into an age old problem - the upkeep of the church!

A new door for the churchyard gate

3 May 1659

the sessione this day ordained Johne Andrew to veiw [th]e Church yerd Gate and to make ane doore for [th]e same

10 May

Johne Andrew declaird that he had veiwed [the] Church yard gate and had made ane dore [thai]rto according to [th]e sessions directione for [th]e which [th]e sessione allowed him to receive pay[men]t fra [th]e toxmoister

Church maintenance

17 April 1660

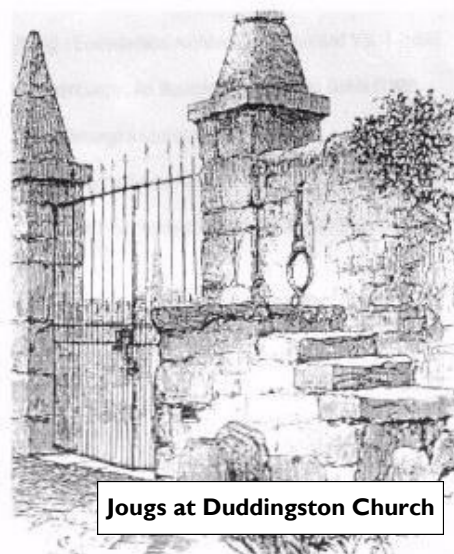
something was spoken about the thatching of the kirk and no further

June 1661

all the sessione dayes of Junij the elders convened and except penalties and collectiones which be long unto another register nothing heard

July 1661

The like may be said of the moneth of July onely they consulted about thatching and mending of the kirk and repairing of the windowes with glasse and wyre.



Jogs at Duddingston Church

Background to the Hilton of Cadboll Project

Our speaker in January will be Heather James of GUARD (Glasgow University Archaeological Research Division) who will be speaking about the results of the recent excavations on the chapel site at Hilton in Easter Ross—the original location of the superb Hilton of Cadboll Pictish cross-slab.

The upper portion of the Hilton of Cadboll cross-slab was presented to what is now the National Museums of Scotland in 1921. What originally would have been the side bearing a cross was defaced during the 17th century when it was converted into a tombstone for Alexander Duff and his three wives. Despite this later damage, what survives on prominent display in the Museum of Scotland in Edinburgh is one of most famous and accomplished of Pictish sculptures.

The significance of the sculpture was first recognised during the late 18th century, when it lay in the vicinity of the chapel site at Hilton in Easter Ross.

In the later 19th century, the cross-slab was removed to Invergordon Castle by the landowner. When he was selling the Castle in 1921, his descendant, Captain Macleod, gave the stone to the British Museum in London. Following a national outcry for it to be returned to Scotland, it was given to the National Museum of Antiquities of Scotland in Edinburgh and it is now on prominent display in the new Museum of Scotland.

The chapel site in Hilton, Easter Ross, from where the cross-slab was removed in the nineteenth century, came into the care of the Scottish Ministers in 1978 and is a Scheduled Ancient Monument.

The aim of the excavations here was initially to examine evidence for the defacement of the Pictish cross-slab, and in later seasons to recover all the fragments and to examine their archaeological context. The excavations have recovered the wonderfully preserved original lower portion of the cross-slab, and its original settings and have resulted in the retrieval of over 10,000 fragments. About 1,500 of these have some evidence of the original sculpted surface and an attempt is being made to piece these together to reconstruct the original cross-face.

Source:
Hilton of Cadboll Project website
(www.guard.arts.gla.ac.uk)

Irish Bog Bodies

(continued from p1)

He had been horrifically tortured before death. His nipples had been cut and he had been stabbed in the ribs. A cut on his arm suggested he had tried to defend himself during the attack that ended his life. The young man was later beheaded and dismembered. Hazel ropes were passed through his arms before he was buried in the bog. Food remains in his stomach show that the Old Croghan man had eaten milk and cereals before he died.

However electron microscope examination of his finger nails showed he did no physical labour whatsoever and chemical analysis of his nails showed that he had more meat in his diet than Clonycavan man. This suggests that he died in a colder season than Clonycavan man, when vegetables were more scarce. It may also explain why his remains are better preserved.

Ned Kelly, the museum's Keeper of Irish Antiquities, noted both bog bodies had been discovered along ancient tribal boundaries. Further research revealed that around 40 other bog body discoveries had been made along former boundaries.

Kelly believes that the explanation for this correlation with important political or royal boundaries may be that the burials are offerings to the gods of fertility by kings to ensure a successful reign.

Other finds of late Bronze and early Iron Age material — ranging from weaponry, horse gear and cauldrons to personal ornaments—also occur on tribal borders.

The two bog bodies are now at the National Museum of Ireland in Dublin. So far they have been seen only by archaeologists and scientists, but they will go on public display at the Museum in May.

Sources:
BBC News, Mirror.co.uk; Irish Times

LECTURE PROGRAMME 2005 – 2006

19 January 2006

Heather James, Glasgow University Archaeological Research Division
'The Hilton of Cadboll project'

16 February 2006

David Cowley, RCAHMS
'Aerial Photography'

16 March 2006

David Caldwell, National Museums of Scotland
'Rediscovering Alexander Selkirk. Archaeology on Robinson Crusoe Island'

20 April 2006

AGM followed by Members Night

Meetings start at 7.30 pm and will be held on Thursday evenings in the Peebles Community Centre, Walkershaugh, Peebles

Non-members welcome