SUMMARY

IS SLAB NO. 150 FOR A POSTULATED SON OF ANGUS MASTER, SON OF JOHN II?  **NO.**

A. NOTHING SUPPORTS THE SLAB AS VERY LATE 15TH CENTURY (ALMOST 16TH);
B. NOTHING SUPPORTS ANGUS MASTER HAVING A SON ANGUS;
C. NOTHING SUPPORTS ANGUS MASTER BEING A GENUINE “DE YLE” (THE SLAB’S FATHER);
D. NOTHING SUPPORTS THIS PRESUMPTIVE SON’S RIGHT OR TIMING OF BURIAL IN ST ORAN’S CHAPEL;
E. NOTHING SUPPORTS LOMBARDIC SCRIPT MATCHING A REALISTIC SLAB MAKING TIME FOR THE PRESUMPTIVE SON (FROM 1518 -?1550+);
F. NOTHING OF THE PERIOD DETAIL MATCHES THE PRESUMPTIVE SON’S DEATH, POST 1518 TO…..?1550+;
G. THE INSCRIPTION, AT BEST HYPOTHESIS, IS APPROX. 2% CORRECT FOR PRESUMPTIVE SON :– “HIC IACET” (JUST “HERE LIES…..!”)

IS SLAB NO. 150 FOR ANGUS OG, SON OF ANGUS MOR, SON OF DONALD (I)?  **YES.**

‘It is substantially more likely than not, that it is in fact true’ (Law test).

1. EVERYTHING SUPPORTS THE SLAB AS EARLY 14TH CENTURY = MATCH FOR DEATH OF ANGUS OG;
2. EVERYTHING SUPPORTS ANGUS MOR HAVING A SON ANGUS (OG);
3. EVERYTHING SUPPORTS ANGUS MOR BEING A GENUINE “DE YLE” (THE SLAB’S FATHER);
4. EVERYTHING SUPPORTS ANGUS OG’S RIGHT AND TIMING OF BURIAL IN ST ORAN’S CHAPEL;
5. EVERYTHING SUPPORTS LOMBARDIC SCRIPT MATCHING THE SLAB MAKING TIME FOR ANGUS OG;
6. EVERYTHING OF THE PERIOD DETAIL OF THE SLAB’S MAKING MATCHES ANGUS OG’S TIME OF DEATH.
7. THE INSCRIPTION, AT BEST HYPOTHESIS, IS APPROX. 98% CORRECT FOR ANGUS OG d.1318.

It is unreality for anyone to proposition that they know the precise order the words in a 1318 west highland inscription would be made, as though it is governed by some absolute law or exact science - and has a reliability and consistency of 100%.
6. ANGUS OG “DE YLE”
from 1299; k.14/10/1318.

“King of Airir Gaoidel (Argyll)” - k. 1318; Annals of Ulster (has 1315 but -3 years out)
“Prince of the Irish of Scotland” - k. 1318; Annals of Clonmacnoise. (A large bounty may have been required for the return of his body).

Angus Og, a Bannockburn hero of 1314, was at the head of 500 isles men with Robert The Bruce. He is said to have been a short, dark haired Man with a cheerful disposition.

St Columba’s most famous talisman to survive, the ‘Brecbennach”, was carried into battle by Kings of Dalriada and Scots. Most famously by Robert The Bruce. Better known as the Moneymusk Reliquary (Scot. Museum) it was possibly given to Kenneth McAlpine for Dunkeld, the head of the Scottish Columban church, founded in the early 9th century. (the other relics went to the head of the Irish Columban church at Kells and also Derry.)

Red Book of Clan Ranald: Angus Og, “The noble and renowned chief of the Innisgall”….. ( buried in the tomb of their ancestors in Iona, the sacred storehouse of their predecessors on the south side of the church of Oran, Teampull Odhrain.)

T. Pennant, 1772, on this slab in St Oran’s Chapel:- “Another of Macdonald of Ilay and Cantyre, commonly called Innus, or Angus Oig, the chief of the name. (slab No 150). He was a strong friend to Robert Bruce, and was with him at the battle of Bannockbourne. His inscription is, Hic jacet corpus Angufii filii Domini Angufii Mac Domhnill de Ilay”.

Another example of the custom of rotating burials in one family tomb in Relig Odhrain is No. 207/108; Chief Gilbride/Bricius MacKinnon and no less than five generations inscribed as resting underneath (not all together). He was reputedly at Bannockburn with Angus Og.

HIS GRAVESLAB : 150/86. Inscription No. 22. In Cloister : South wall by door to nave closest the crossing tower. It should be in St Oran’s Chapel as it was located “formerly in St Oran’s Chapel”; its original “find spot” near the door (?). No galley rudder is ever recorded on any images of it. Neither has the galley on the seal of his elder brother Alaxandair Og.

“HIC IACET CORPUS ENGUSII FILII DOMINI ENGUSII MAC DOMNILL DE YLE”
(Incised inscription : possibly was finished in solid silver inlay).

This slab is tentatively and incorrectly attributed by RCAHMS to their only other identified possibility of an unknown, unhistorical, unproven and nonexistent son Angus of Angus Master, son of John II. They misused a brief 1517 reference to Angus Ileach (of Islay) first chief of the Sanda MacDonalds.

Amongst many other sound reasons, the ‘de Ylq’ (not later Yla) spelling dictates this slab is too early for their postulation (as per Register of Great Seal, No. 1246, 15/7/1476 – and in fact used by the Royal Commission to fix a year for Inscription No. 29). The royal charter of 1476 also shows no son exists then for the c.30 y.o. Angus Master regards the succession plan and lands to “be held” “failing by his natural son Angus”. Then he married Isabella a Campbell “soon after”, ie, c.1477, for further crown reconciliation. The first, and only son of this marriage was “the heir” Donald Dhu, born c.1479 (“imprisoned as a 3 y.o.” after the Battle of Bloody Bay). There is no Campbell record of any other son and there surely would be. This proves Angus Master was a very poor progenitor. There are simply no other historical candidates (all agree). The inscription “formula” cannot preclude Angus Og, son of Angus Mor from being a Lord. All the period detail of the slab and the inscription matches this Angus Og’s time of death. Conversely, none of it at all matches Steer & Bannerman’s presumptive son’s death, post 1517 to ?-1550-? (is ‘unknown’ of course.) As an afterthought, they have the making of the slab c.1495 when their “son” is only a baby or very young child, otherwise the Lombardic script is obsolete by up to 50 years.


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1 This is the pivotal year when Ile permanently changed to Ila –1476, the year Lord John II submitted and resigned the Earlom of Ross. All the court documents (rolls, charters, seals) began from that moment to consistently spell Ile as Ila:-- starting with, “Weik clerico et scriba dicti Joh. De Ilc:- Apud Ilc. 20 Aug 1476”: REGISTER OF The Great Seal of Scotland, 1424-1513; No 1277, p. 259. Ed J Balfour. 1882.

2 Acts of The lords of The Isles; Monro & Monro; 1986; Appendix A24, p.214.
Fuller submissions on my findings have been sent to Historic Scotland, first in 2006 and then June 2011 (through Doreen Grove to Peter Yeoman – see Appendix (A) as amended).

Angus Og’s mother was the daughter of Sir Colin Campbell of Lochow. Angus Og fathered: (A) the MacIain of Glencoe; and (B) Lord John (I), his Irish mother being Agnes O’Cathain of Limavady, near Derry. Agnes’ other son to her first marriage, Brian O’Neill, was Lord John I’s half brother. Angus Og married Áine Ní Cathán, Agnes O’Cathain (O’Cahen, O’Kane), daughter of the Irish Lord of Limavady, descendant of Niall of The Nine Hostages (Ui Neill) who ruled in Derry. Limavady is only 17 miles east of Derry. “The portion or tocher he had by her was seven score men out of every surname under O’Cathain” (incl. MacBeths/Beatons) – a continuation of the ancient Dalriada arrangements. Chiefs of Airghialla, Ulster (“sons of Conn”- Three Collas - “Clann Cholla”) provided troops to the “Scotti” Kings of Dalriada from the 6th century (ie, in AD 575: under the Druim Cett convention, at Limavady Ireland “chaired by” St Columba. He was certainly a regional power broker; king maker and peace maker.)

ANGUS OG (2) WITH EDWARD BRUCE (1), BROTHER OF KING ROBERT, AND SIR FERGUS OF ARDROSSAN (3) ON ANTRIM COAST, IRELAND IN 1315 TO “EXPELL THE GALLS FROM IRELAND” AND CREATE “NOSTRA NATIO” – OUR (PAN-GAELIC) NATION.

Painting © Osprey Publishing by Seán Ó’Brógáin for “GALLOGLASS 1250-1600”; author, Fergus Cannan; 2010
"The heir of mighty Somerled,
(Angus) from many a hero sprung,
The fair, the valiant, and the young,
Lord of The Isles, whose mighty name
A thousand bards have given to fame,
The mate of monarchs, and allied
On equal terms with England’s pride"

(The Lord of The Isles; W. Scott)

Note that the inscription is wrong :- “A’s” in both Angus’ should be “E’s” (Latin ENGUSII) and so should “A” in ILA be ILE (per the E in “DE”) which permanently became “A” from the 1476 forfeiture; see prior pages on Angus Og [RCAHMS Slab No 150. Abbey Museum No 86; 1.94m X 0.52m]. Three sides are extensively and superbly carved with two rows of nail-head ornament between three roll-mouldings. They were obviously designed to be seen and the slab was not inset with its carved face flush with the paving surface. An excellent full size replica slab is in the Clan Donald Museum of The Isles, Skye.