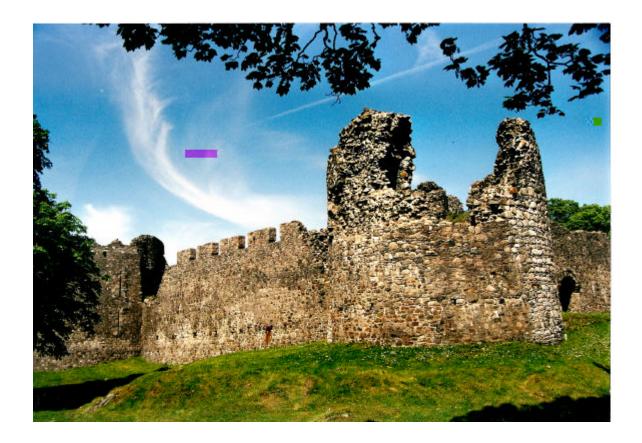
Pabay Philatelic News issue 22



This is the second of a series of new Pabay stamps and First Day Covers showing Scottish Castles.

History of Old Inverlochy Castle

The Castle was built in the 1200s by the Comyns of Badenoch. There is a legend it was sited on the remains of a fort of some sort dating back at least a further five hundred years.

The Comyns, modern name Cumming, were the rising stars of the Norman expansion in the 13th century. They had come out of the southern Lowlands to build an empire displacing Celtic families in the north. Inverlochy Castle was built by them as they sought to expand their own power by bringing Celtic Scotland to heel for the Scottish monarchy.

In the conflict that led up to the Battle of Bannockburn they supported the claim of the English crown to Scotland. However, after the defeat at Bannockburn, being on the losing side, they lost their lands in the northwest primarily to the Clan Donald. Their main allies in the Highlands, the MacDougalls, had their lands divided between the MacDonalds and the Campbells, setting the stage for the Jacobite conflict here more than 300 years later.

Like most Scottish castles of any value or importance, Inverlochy Castle passed through a number of hands, usually by force. The Comyns fell victim to Robert the Bruce's royal ambitions, who passed it on to his supporters, and so on.

The first Battle of Inverlochy 1431. Alasdair Carrach, won a victory here for Clan Donald against the Earls of Mar and Caithness in their attempt to pacify the Lordship of the Isles in the name of the Scottish monarch.

Though Alasdair Carrach's archers made short work of the royal army, this battle was ultimately a rear guard action in the wake of the debacle of the Battle of Harlaw, which was the beginning of the end for the Lordship.

The Second Battle of Inverlochy 1645. Inverlochy Castle last played a part in Scottish history during the Civil Wars of 1642-1649. In 1645, the Campbells under the Earl of Argyll, who was holding it, were defeated by the royalist Marquis of Montrose, a victory that was followed by the wholesale massacre of 1,300 of the Campbell defenders who were taken out of the Castle and put to the sword.

Shortly after this the castle was abandoned in favour of a new fortification further down the River Lochy at its mouth where it joins Loch Linnhe. The town that grew up around this has become the modern Fort William.

Today the battlefields around the Castle are much changed, but the setting of the castle on the banks of the River Lochy are still evocative and it is easy to imagine the clansmen fleeing the battle by sailing away down the river to the Loch.

Location of Old Inverlochy Castle, Fort William

Old Inverlochy Castle is located about a mile away from the centre of Fort William, on the A82 road out of the town towards Inverness.

On leaving Fort William in a northerly direction, take the left turn at the small roundabout opposite the Nevis Bank Hotel. Carry on over the traffic lights and past the Ben Nevis Hotel on the left. Shortly before the Esso petrol station on the right there is a left hand turning, Follow the road round for about 100 metres and then turn right over the small bridge. There is a small amount of parking available.

Arriving from the North, pass over the traffic lights at the BP petrol station on the right; pass the Esso petrol station on the left and then take the next turning right. Follow the road round for about 100 metres, and then turn right over the small bridge. You can't miss the castle!

Entrance to the castle and parking is free of charge and is a lovely spot for a picnic.

The envelopes used for this unique C6 First Day Cover are made from hand-made paper designed and manufactured by the Scottish artist Joanne.B.Karr. For more information on her fascinating wotrk visit her web site at www.joannebkaar.com

The photographs in this series have been taken by Eleanor Moore. To see the full range other stunning photographs of Scotland and other locations look at her web site www.photosbyeleanor.com

Stamps and First Day Covers are available from:

Stamp Marketing Services, Pabay Sales, PO Box 34, Martock, Somerset TA12 6WG www.pabay.org

Stamp: Ref Number PS242 £2.00 First Day Cover: Ref Number PC102 £5.00

Add P&P Stamp only UK and Europe £1.50 other areas £3.50 First Day Cover UK and Europe £2.50 all other areas £4.00

Paypal ID jeff@pabay.org. Paypal using your Credit Card bpp@pabay.org Cheques payable to the Island of Pabay.

Email: pabayisland-enquiries@yahoo.co.ukTelephone: 07787565401