

THE CROSS

An Overview

Compiled by
Campbell M Gold
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(This material was compiled from various unverified sources)

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Introduction

The word "cross" is derived from the Latin "*crux*", a Roman torture device used for crucifixion. The use of cross symbols long predates the Christian era, and was often used as an esoteric symbol of universal power.

(Picture right - Marble Sacral Cross from the Temple Repositories of Knossos - 1600 BC (Heraclion Archaeological Museum, Greece))

In esoteric terms the cross was the "sign of the four", and represented the four universal elements of Earth, Water, Fire, and Air. Additionally, the sign of the four represented the experiential realities of physical, emotional, mental, and spirit, in association with the four experiential bodies (physical, etheric, mental, and conscious).



- In Carthage ^[1], the cross was used for ornamental purposes
- Runic crosses were set up by Scandinavians as boundary marks, and were also erected over the graves of kings and heroes
- In ancient Chaldea the cross was the symbol of the god Tammuz (being in the shape of the mystic Tau, the initial of his name) - Picture right.
- In ancient Phoenicia the cross was a symbol of power and authority (See Appendix).
- Cicero reports (44 BC - "*De Divinatione*", ii, 27, and 80, 81) that the Augur's ^[2] staff with which they marked out the heaven with a cross
- The Egyptians employed the cross as a sacred symbol
- Two buns, marked with a cross, were discovered at Herculaneum ^[3]
- The cross was a sacred symbol among the Aztecs ^[4] long before the landing of Cortes in AD 1521



- In Cozumel (Mayan: "*Island of the Swallows*" is an island in the Caribbean Sea off the eastern coast of Mexico's Yucatan Peninsula) the cross was an object of non-Christian worship - 1st century AD
- In Tabasco the cross symbolised the god of rain
- In Palinque the cross is sculptured on the walls with a child held up adoring it
- The cross was one of the emblems of Quetzalcoatl - the Mesoamerican, "feathered serpent", sky and life god)
- The cross of the Christian crucifixion is legendarily said to have been made of four different types of wood (palm, cedar, cypress, and olive), to signify the four quarters of the globe - "*Ligna cruces palma, cedrus, cupressus, oliva*".

Notes:

[1] Carthage - Settlement Period (814-480 BC); Carthage - Early Republic (480 - 272 BC); Carthage - Late Republic (265 - 146 BC); Fall of Carthage - 146 BC (Carthage falls to Scipio Aemilianus. City burnt to the ground. "*Carthago delenda est*" - "Carthage must be destroyed").

[2] The Augur was a priest and official in the classical world, especially in ancient Rome and Etruria. His primary role was to interpret "the will of the gods" by studying the flight of birds.

[3] Herculaneum (in modern Ercolano in Italy) was an ancient Roman town destroyed by volcanic superheated gas (which can reach temperatures of about 1,000 °C) and rock flows from Mt. Vesuvius in AD 79.

[4] The Aztecs were a Pre-Columbian Mesoamerican people of central Mexico in the 14th, 15th and 16th centuries - they called themselves "Mexico".

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Some Specific Crosses

The Sun Cross

The Sun cross is also known as the Bolgar cross, Sunwheel, solar cross or as Woden's cross. It has been used in Europe since the Neolithic era and by ancient and Native American culture to represent Neopagan beliefs and the great Medicine Wheel of life.



The Greek cross

The Greek cross is found on Assyrian tablets, Egyptian and Persian monuments, and on Etruscan pottery. This includes the "*crux decussate*", which is generally called the "St. Andrew's" cross, and is also a common depiction in ancient sculpture.



The Swastika

Archaeological evidence of the swastika symbol dates from the Neolithic period. Today, it occurs in the culture of India - sometimes as a geometrical motif, and sometimes as a religious symbol. Additionally, it remains widely used in Eastern and Dharmic religions such as Hinduism, Buddhism, and Jainism. In western culture this symbol is linked with Nazism and the Jewish holocaust.



The Latin cross

The Latin cross or "*crux immissa*" is found on coins, monuments, and medals, long before the Christian era. However, this is one of the most popular Christian symbols.



The Tau cross

The Tau, or "*crux commissa*", is very ancient, and is believed to be a phallic emblem. The tau cross with a handle is common to several Egyptian deities - Isis, Osiris, etc.; and is the emblem of immortality and life generally.



The *Crux Ansata* (Ankh)

The *Crux Ansata* ("handled cross", Ankh) is a Tau cross with an added circle. In this form the circle represents the eternal preserver of the world, and the "T" is the monogram of Thoth, the Egyptian Mercury, who signifies wisdom.



The Ankh

The Ankh is also known as the Egyptian cross, the Key of the Nile, the Looped Tau cross, and the Ansate cross. The Ankh was an Ancient Egyptian symbol of life and fertility, predating the modern cross. The Ankh is sometimes given a Latin name if it appears in specifically Christian contexts, such as the *crux ansata* ("handled cross").



The Coptic Cross

This is the original Coptic cross used by early Gnostic Christians in Egypt.



The Calvary Cross

The Calvary cross is a Latin cross set on three steps, and is the representation of the structure on which Jesus was crucified. This cross is typically used as an emblem of Christianity.



The Celtic Cross

The simplified Celtic cross is a symbol that combines a Greek cross with a ring surrounding the intersection.



In the Celtic Christian world the circle is combined with the Latin cross, and this design is often used for "high crosses". Celtic crosses are often decorated with interlace and other motifs. In Ireland, there is a popular legend that the Celtic Catholic cross was introduced by either Saint Patrick or Saint Declan.



The Cross of Lorraine

The Cross of Lorraine is part of the heraldic arms of Lorraine in eastern France. It was originally held to be a symbol of Joan of Arc, who was from Lorraine. This cross is also known as the Patriarchal or the Archbishopal cross. Additionally, this cross is related to the Crusader's cross, the standard of Joan of Arc, and the six globes of the Medici family.



The Papal Cross

The Papal cross has three bars which represent the pope's three realms of authority: 1) the church, 2) the world, and 3) heaven, and 1) temporal, 2) spiritual, and 3) material.



The Russian or Orthodox Cross

In the Russian or Orthodox cross the upper bar represents the inscription, abbreviated *INRI, that Pilate had placed above the head of Jesus, and the slanted lower bar represents either his foot rest, a balance scale, or the St. Andrew cross.



[*INRI is an acronym of the Latin inscription "IESVS·NAZARENVS·REX·IVDÆORVM" (Jesus Nazarene, Rex Iudaeorum), which means "Jesus the Nazarene, King of the Jews (Judeans)"]

The Maltese or Amalfi Cross

The Maltese cross, also known as the Amalfi cross, is identified as the symbol of an order of Christian warriors known as the Knights Hospitaller or Knights of Malta, and through them it came to be identified with the Mediterranean island of Malta.



The eight points of the four arms are said to symbolize the eight points of courage: Loyalty, Piety, Generosity, Bravery, Glory and honour, Contempt of death, Helpfulness towards the poor and the sick, and Respect for the church. The Venerable Order of St John teaches that the eight points of the cross represent the eight Beatitudes.

The Cross of St Andrew

The Cross of St Andrew is so called because of the belief that Andrew, one of the twelve apostles of Jesus, was crucified upon a cross of this shape.



Alternative representation of the cross of St Andrew.



This symbol is also referred to as the "cross of Satan" and represents the denial of Christ and his Church.



The Satanic initiate takes a ceramic cross by the cross arms and strikes it downward, typically on an altar, breaking the cross arms - thus confirming their rejection of Christ and their acceptance of Satan. Ironically, another satanic symbol of the "breaking of the cross" is the so called "peace symbol".



The Furka Cross

The Furka (forked) or Upsilon cross (from the Greek letter "Y") is also called the "Thieves' Cross" where it symbolises the two robbers who were crucified on either side of Jesus. From antiquity the furka has symbolized the choice between good and evil.



The Pomme Cross

The Pomme cross is a heraldic symbol having the ends terminating in rounded protuberances or single balls. In the Christian tradition, the single ball on the end of each arm of the Pomme Cross represents an apple, which in turn represents the fruits and rewards of living a "good Christian life". "Apple" in French is "*pomme*".



The Botonné or Treflé Cross

The Botonné or Treflé cross is an heraldic symbol with the ends of the arms Bottony (or Bottonny), i.e. shaped like a trefoil - and so it is sometimes called a cross Trefly.



The Fleury Cross

The Fleury cross is an heraldic symbol which is adorned at the ends with flowers, generally with Fleur-de-lis, Trefoils, etc. Synonyms or minor variants include fleuretty, fleuronny, floriated, and flourished.



The Moline Cross

The Moline cross is an heraldic symbol and is so called because its shape resembles a millrind ("*Moline*" being the Old French for a mill), the iron clamp of the upper millstone. When used as a mark of cadency it signifies an eighth son.



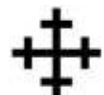
The Pattée Cross

The Pattée cross (pattee, patty), or formée (formy) is an heraldic symbol and has arms narrowing towards the centre, but with flat ends. It can also be shown with curved inside edges. This symbol is also known as the "Iron Cross".



The Crosslet Cross

The Crosslet cross is a heraldic symbol of Crusader families who took part in the Crusades.



The Quadrate Cross

The Quadrate cross is a heraldic symbol which is a cross with a square at the intersection point.



The Potent Cross

The Potent cross is a heraldic symbol which has a crossbar at the end of each of its arms. "Potent" is an old word for a crutch, and is used in heraldic terminology to describe a T shape.



The Voided Cross

The Voided cross is a heraldic symbol which is a "cross voided throughout" has the central parts of the limbs cut.



The Fitchy Cross

The Fitchy cross is a heraldic symbol and has the lower limb pointed, as if to be fixed in the ground. The example shown is a cross crosslet fitchy.



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Heraldry Note

In heraldry there are twelve crosses in ordinary use (from which all others are derived): 1) the ordinary cross; 2) the cross humetté, or coupé; 3) the cross urdé, or pointed; 4) the cross potent; 5) the cross crosslet; 6) the cross botonné, or treflé; 7) the cross moline; 8) the cross potence; 9) the cross fleury; 10) the cross patê; 11) the Maltese cross or eight-pointed cross; 12) the cross cleché and fitché. Some heraldic writers enumerate up to 285 different kinds of crosses.

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Appendix

Interesting Cross Symbols

The following material is from the book, "*The Phoenician Origin of Britons Scots & Anglo-Saxons*", LA Waddell, Orig. pub. by Williams & Norgate, 1924, 2nd ed., 1925, and is presented here as received by the author.

Some Phoenician Key Dates

2750 BC	Founding of Tyre, according to Herodotus
1500 BC	c. The Phoenicians settle Cyprus
1300 BC	They make commercial treaties with Egypt
854 BC	Phoenicians defeated by the Assyrians
813 BC	Carthage founded
636 BC	Phoenician cities escape from the weakened Assyrian empire
538 BC	Phoenicia becomes a Persian province; Carthage asserts its independence
480 BC	The Phoenician ships under Persian rule defeated by the Greeks at Salamis and the Carthaginians defeated at Himera
248 BC	Hamilcar repeatedly defeats the Romans in small battles in Sicily
236 BC	Hamilcar begins the building of an empire among the Phoenician cities in Spain
201 BC	Carthage submits to Rome
198 BC	Tyre came under the rule of the Seleucids
149 BC	The Carthaginians commanded to leave their city; they resist and withstand a two years
146 BC	Fall of Carthage and end of Punic wars
126 BC	Tyre obtains self-government from Seleucids and follows a Romanized path
29 BC	A Roman colony rebuilds Carthage under Augustus Caesar; and it becomes a great city



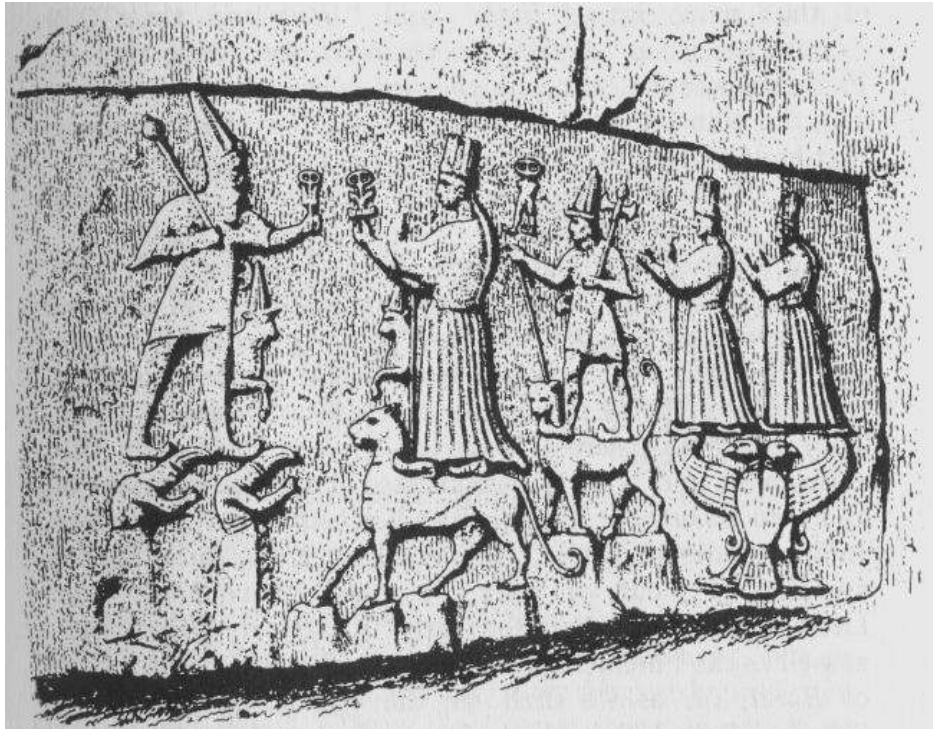


FIG. 4.—Early Khatti, "Catti" or Hitt-ites in their Rock-sculptures dating probably before 2000 B.C.

(After Perrot and Guillaume.)¹

Note "Gothic" dress and snow-boots. The scene is part of a religious procession.



FIG. 5A.—Briton prehistoric monument to Bel at
Craig-Narget, Wigtownshire.

With Hitto-Phœnician Sun Crosses, etc.

(After Proc. Soc. Antiq. Scotland 10.59, by kind permission.)

Details explained in Chaps. XVIII. and XX.

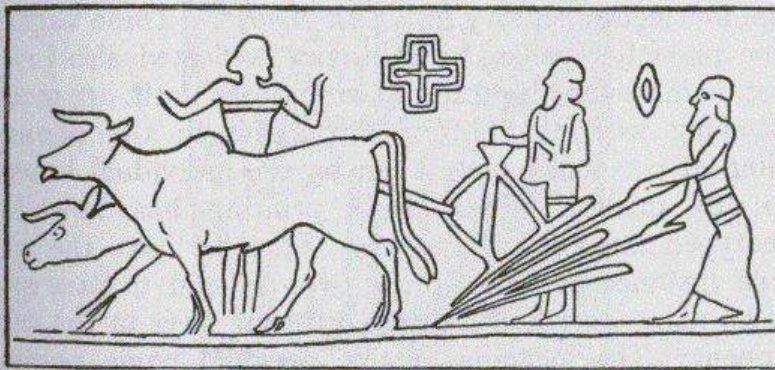


Fig. 12. Cassis of Early Babylonia ploughing and sowing under the Sign of the Cross.

From a Kassite official seal of about 1350 B.C.

(After Clay.)

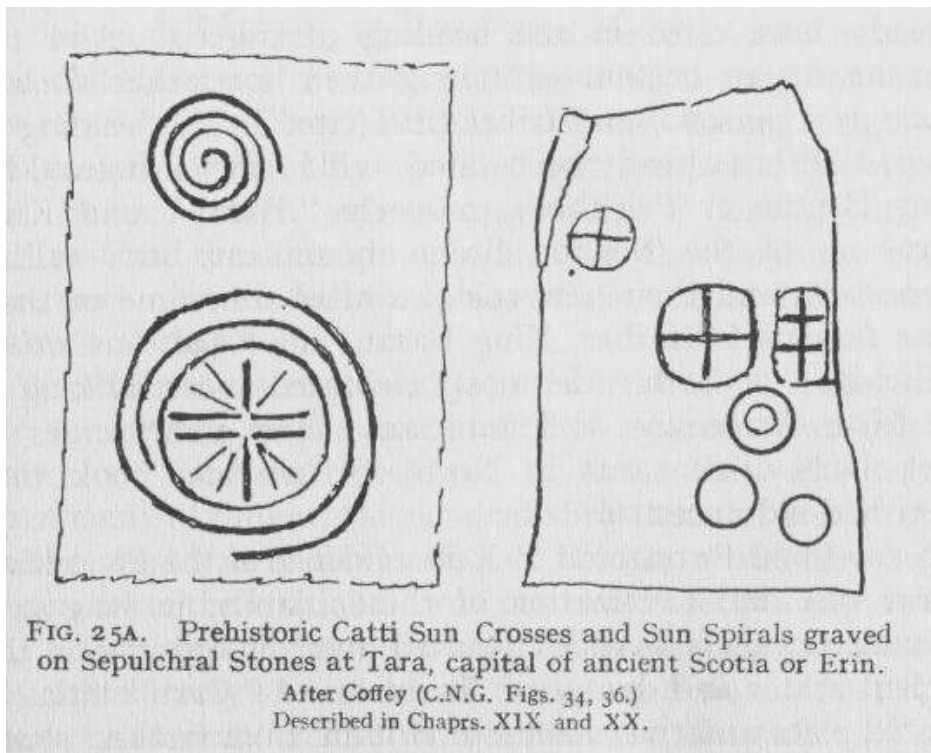
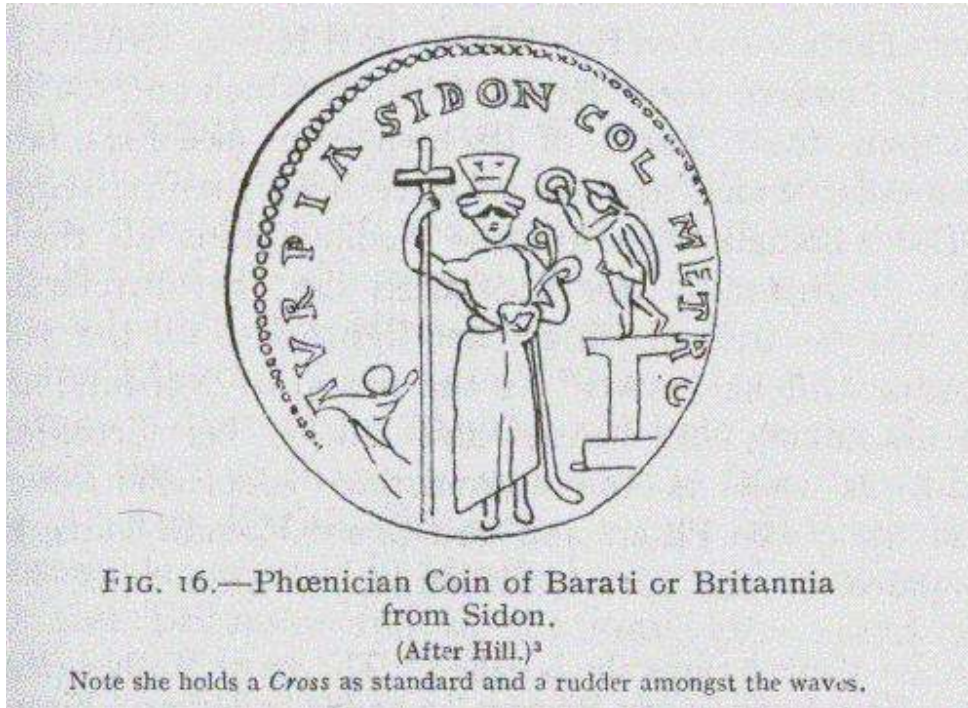
Note the plough is fitted with a drill, which is fed by the right hand of the sower from his bag, and the corn seed passes down directly into the fresh furrow opened by the plough.



Fig. 12A. "Cassite" Sun Cross on prehistoric monument at Sinnish, Wiltshire.

(From Proc. Soc. Antiquaries Scotland, by kind permission.)

For many other examples of "Cassite" Crosses in Britain see Chap. XX.



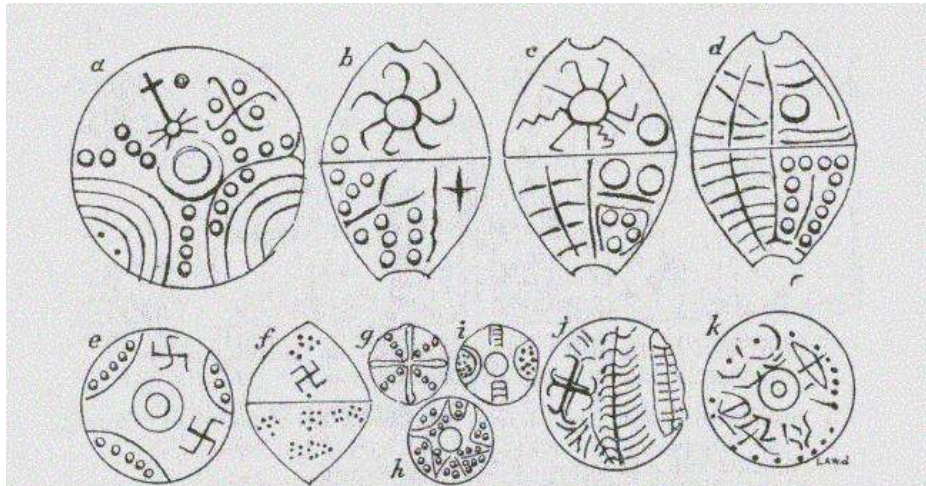


FIG. 31.—“Cup-markings” on Amulet Whorls from Troy, with explanatory Sumerian writing.

(From Schliemann.)¹

Note definite groups of “cups” and dots with Crosses and Swastikas and in *a* True Cross springing from Rayed Sun. The large central hole is for string attachment of amulet. Interpretation on p. 252.

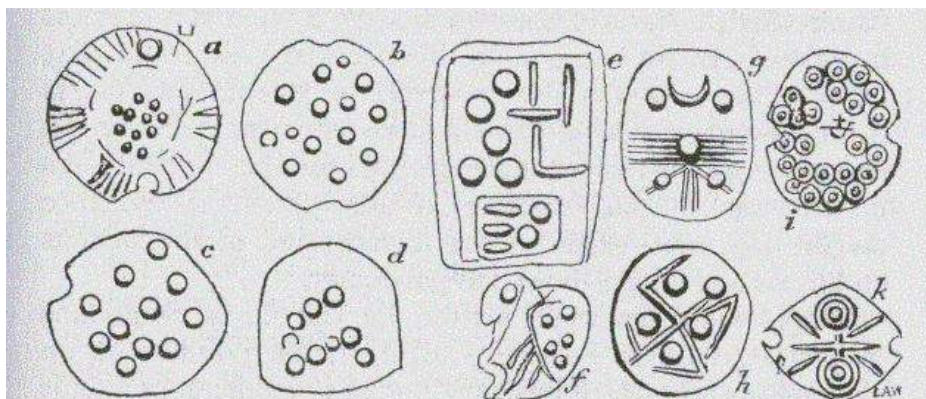


FIG. 32.—“Cup-marks” on archaic Hittite-Sumerian Seals and Amulets.

(After Delaporte.)

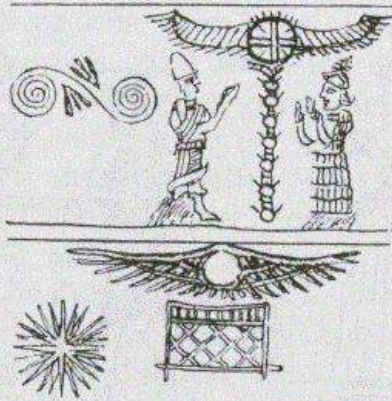


FIG. 37.—“Returning” or “Resurrecting” Sun entering the Gates of Night on Hittite seals.

(After Ward.)¹

Note in top Seal the Night Sun as Reversed Spiral, and the Winged Sun with its “Celtic” Cross, above a pillar of 7 fruits (= 7 days of week or 7 circles of Heaven).



FIG. 39.—Pentad Circles designate “Tašia” (Archangel) on Seal of 3rd millennium B.C.

(After Delaporte.)²

See description later. Note Cross above vase, horned head-dress, and Goat and Bull behind god.

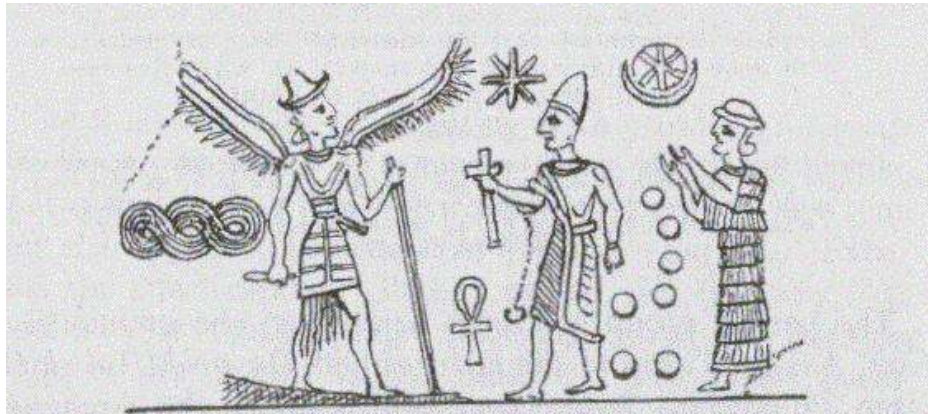


FIG. 40.—Archangel Tašia (winged) invoked by Mother (4 circles) for Dead (3 circles).

From Hittite seal amulet of about 2000 B.C. (after Lajard.)²
 Note dead man (? husband) carries Cross above a handled Cross, and tied to wrist an amulet (picturing this seal?). The Warrior-Angel has 8-rayed Sun and endless chain of Sun's revolutions at his side.



FIG. 43A.—Tascio or *Dias* horseman and horse of the Sun on Briton coins of 1st cent. B.C., with Cross and Circle marks.

(After Poste.)

This is the Horse invoked in last stanza of Amorite tablet, pp. 257-8. Note the 5 circles of Tascio, and *cp.* figs. on pp. xv., 285, etc.

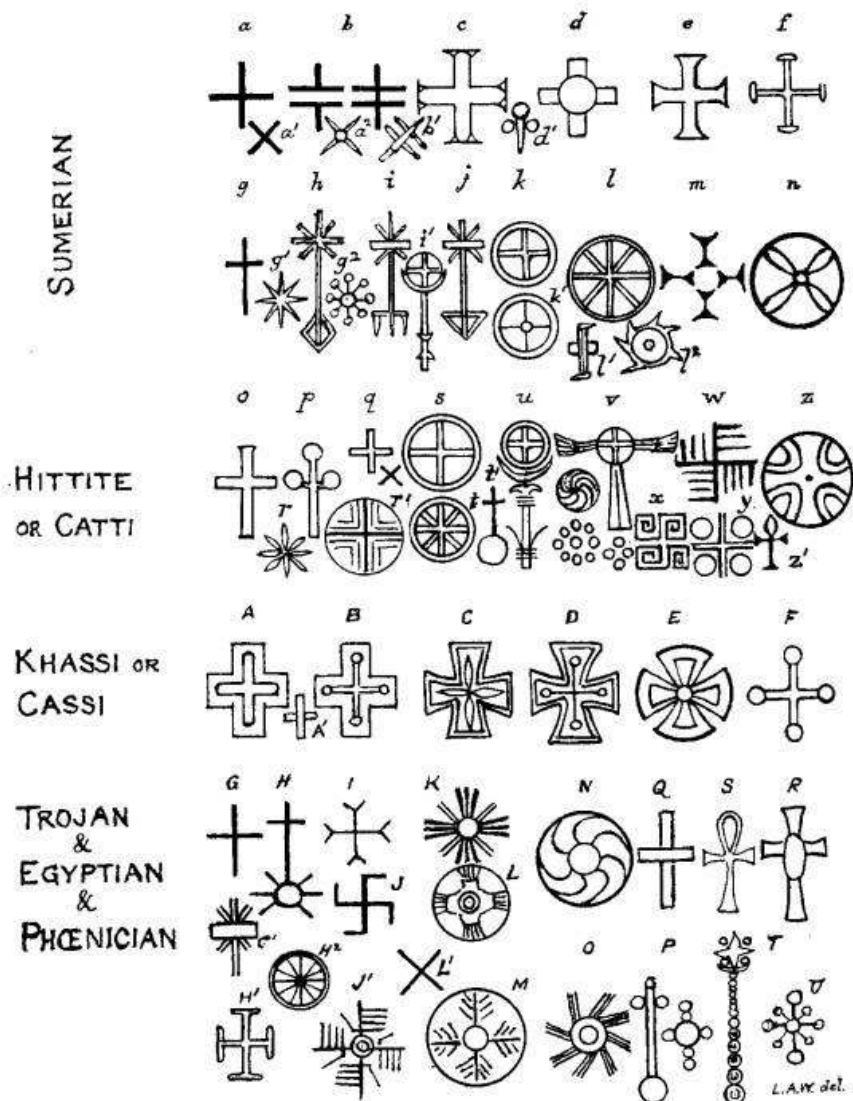


FIG. 46.—Sun Crosses, Hitto-Sumerian, Phœnician, Kassi and Trojan, plain, rayed, and decorated on seals, amulets, etc., 4000–1000 B.C.

NOTE.—Compare with Ancient Briton forms in Fig. 47; and note, *re* “Celtic” Cross, numbers *i*’, *k* to *n* and *r*’ to *v* and *z*. Detailed references in footnote on p. 296.

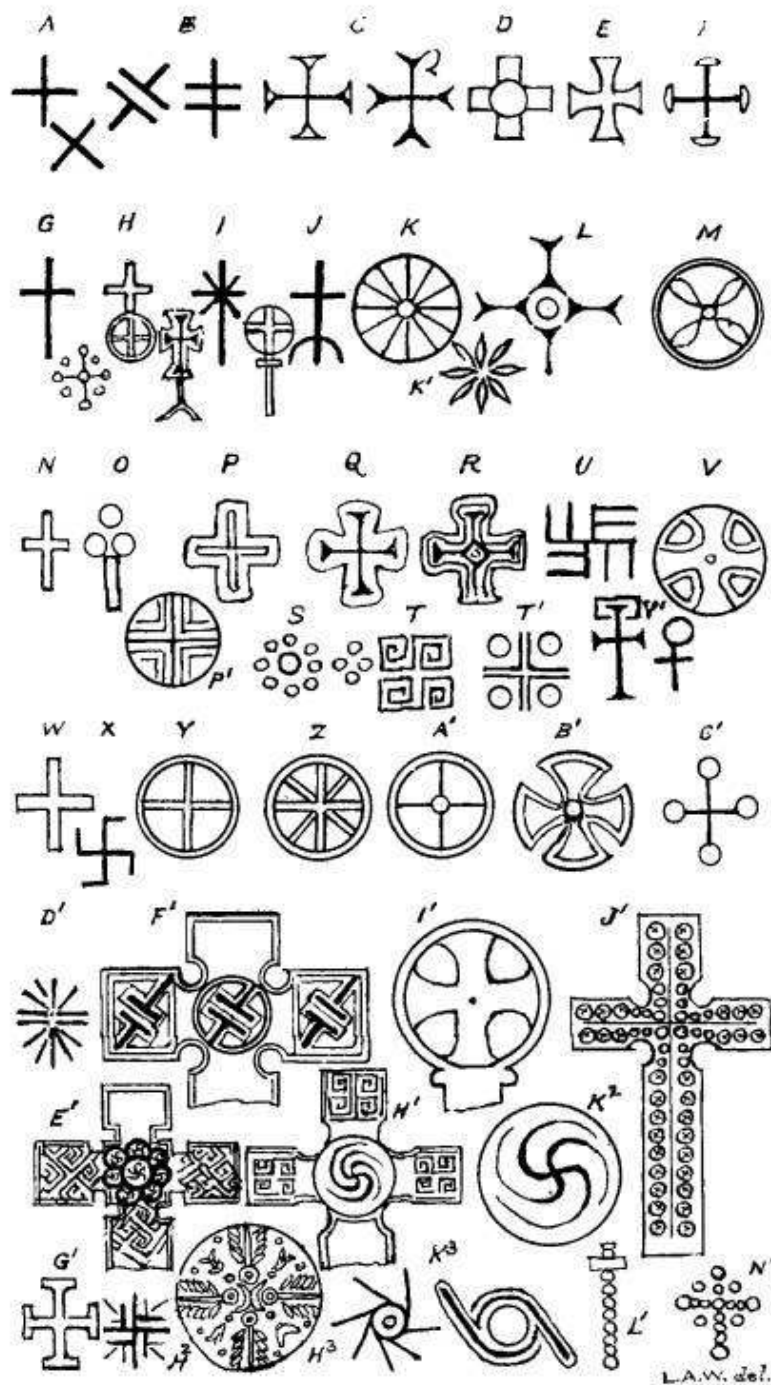
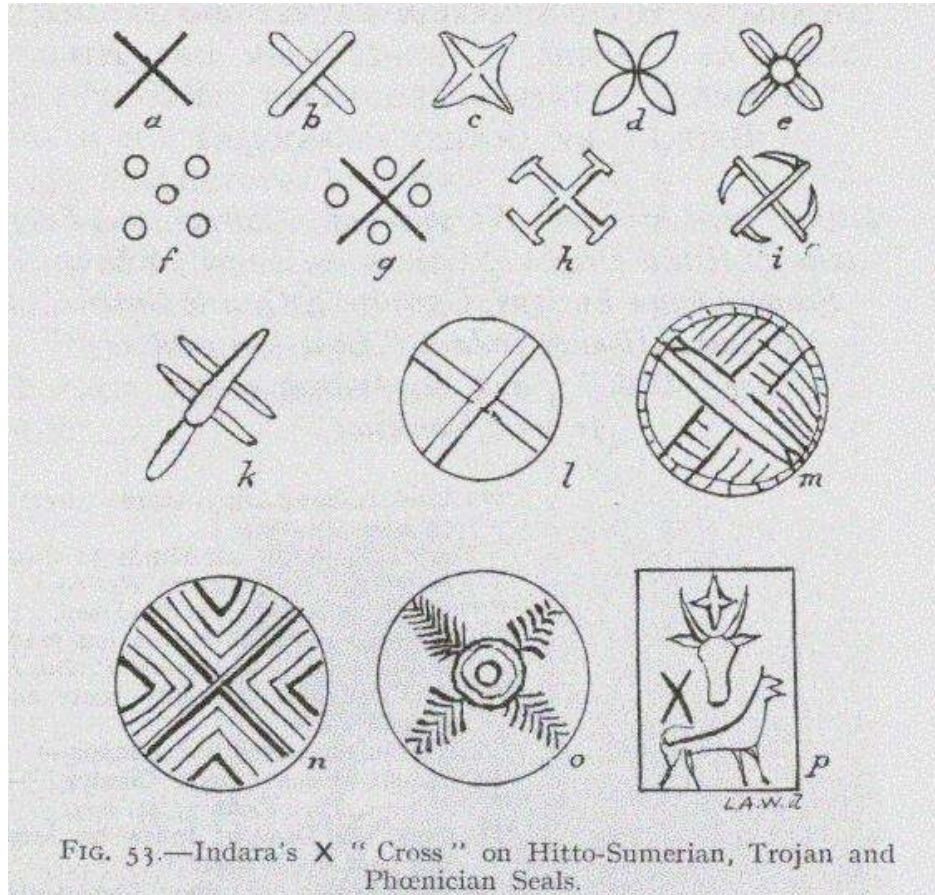
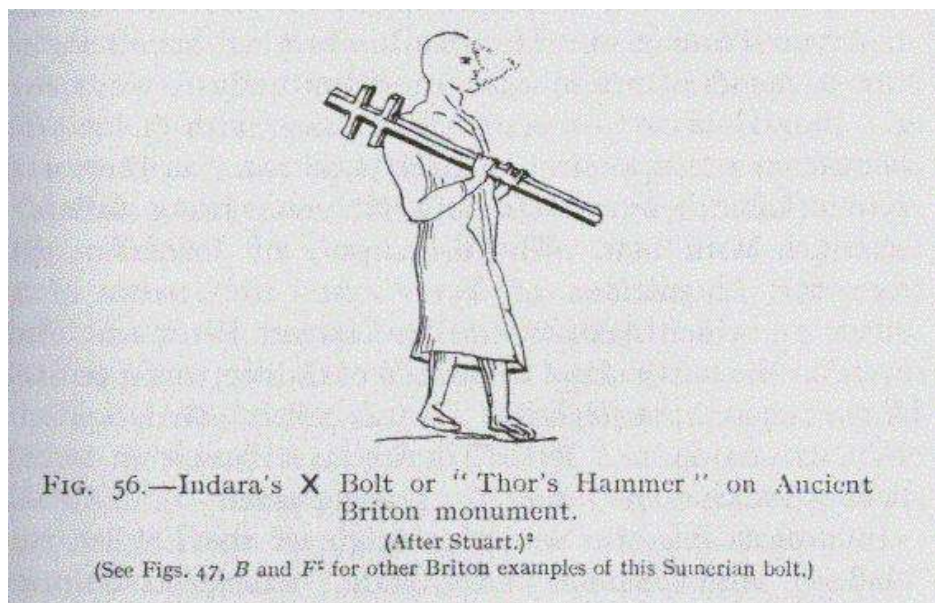
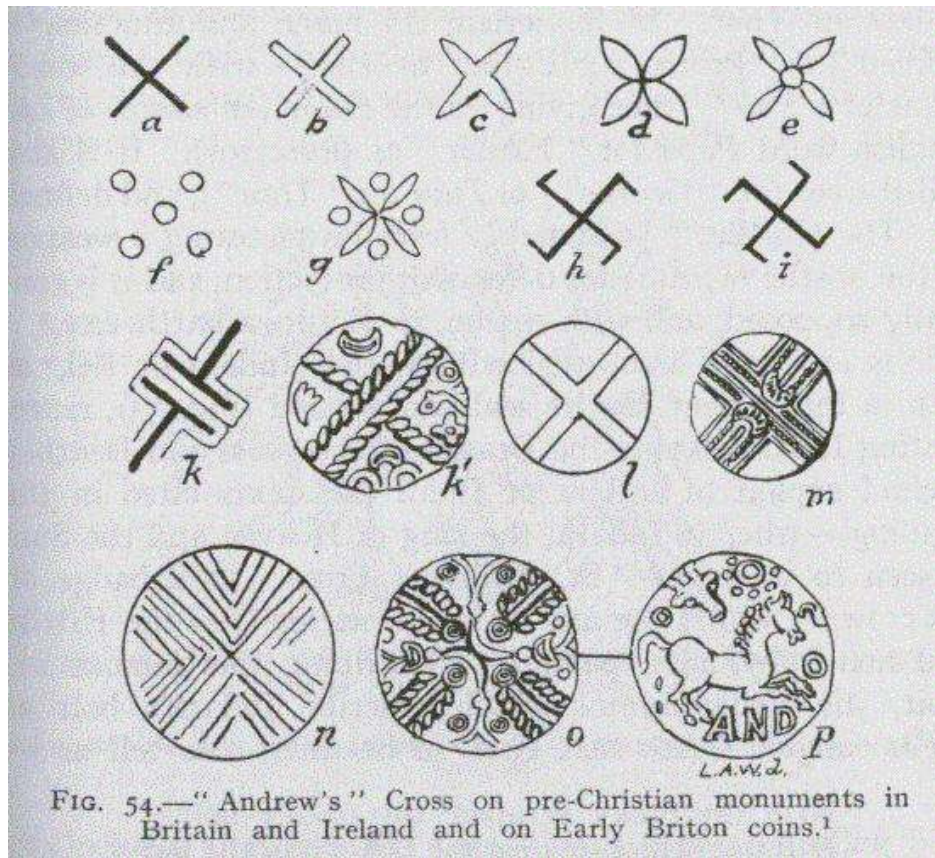
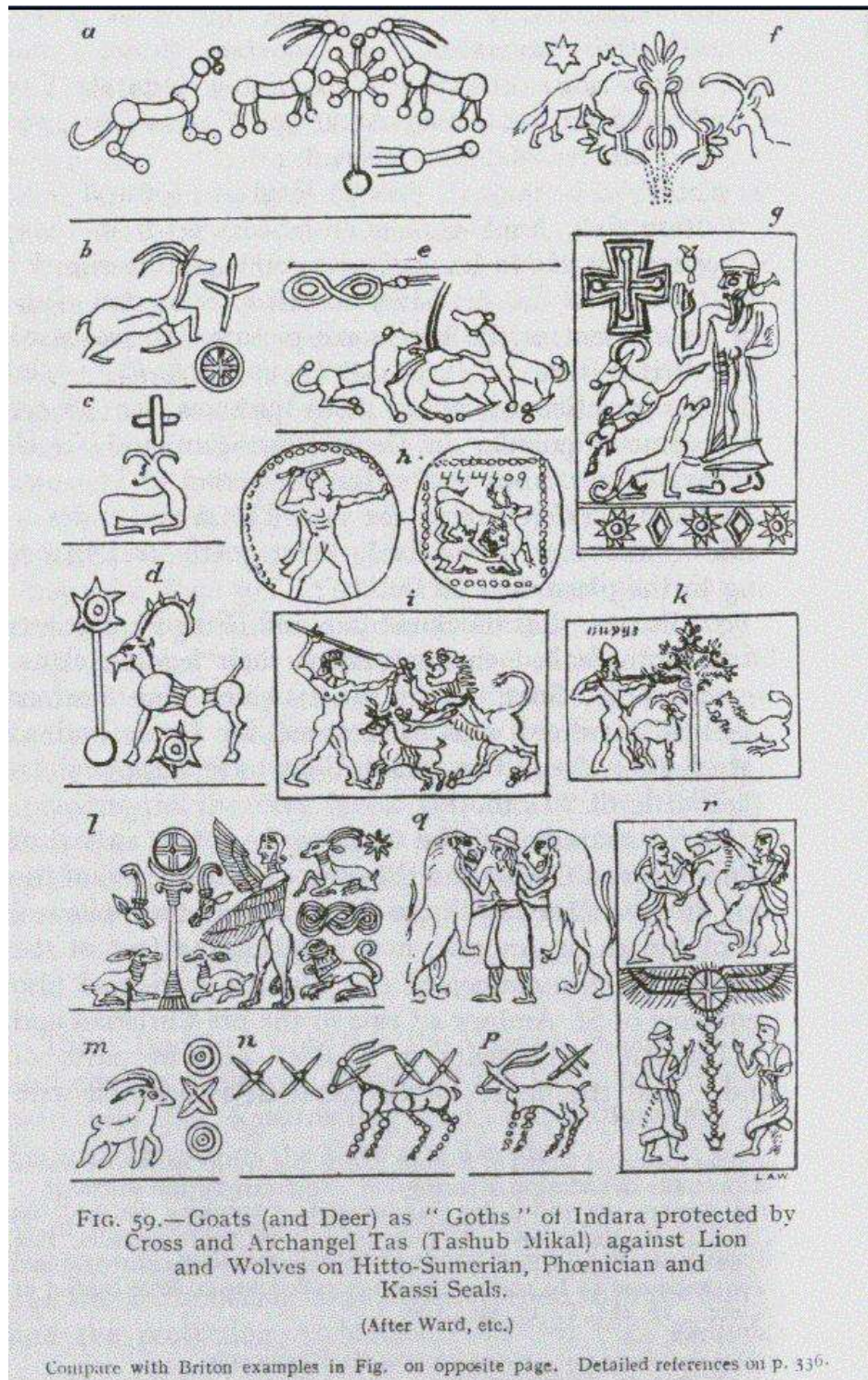


FIG. 47.—Ancient Briton Sun Crosses derived from Hittite-Sumerian, Phœnician and Trojan sources on prehistoric and pre-Christian Monuments and pre-Roman Coins in Britain.

Note, in comparing with "remote" originals in Fig 46 especially the pronged Cross for adoration (J) Cuneiform (Crosses C and L), "Cass" Crosses (P-R), Swastikas, key and curved (T and K²) Grain and Fruit Crosses (H²-J²); and "Ankh" or Handled Crosses (V²). Detailed reference in footnote ² on p. 297.







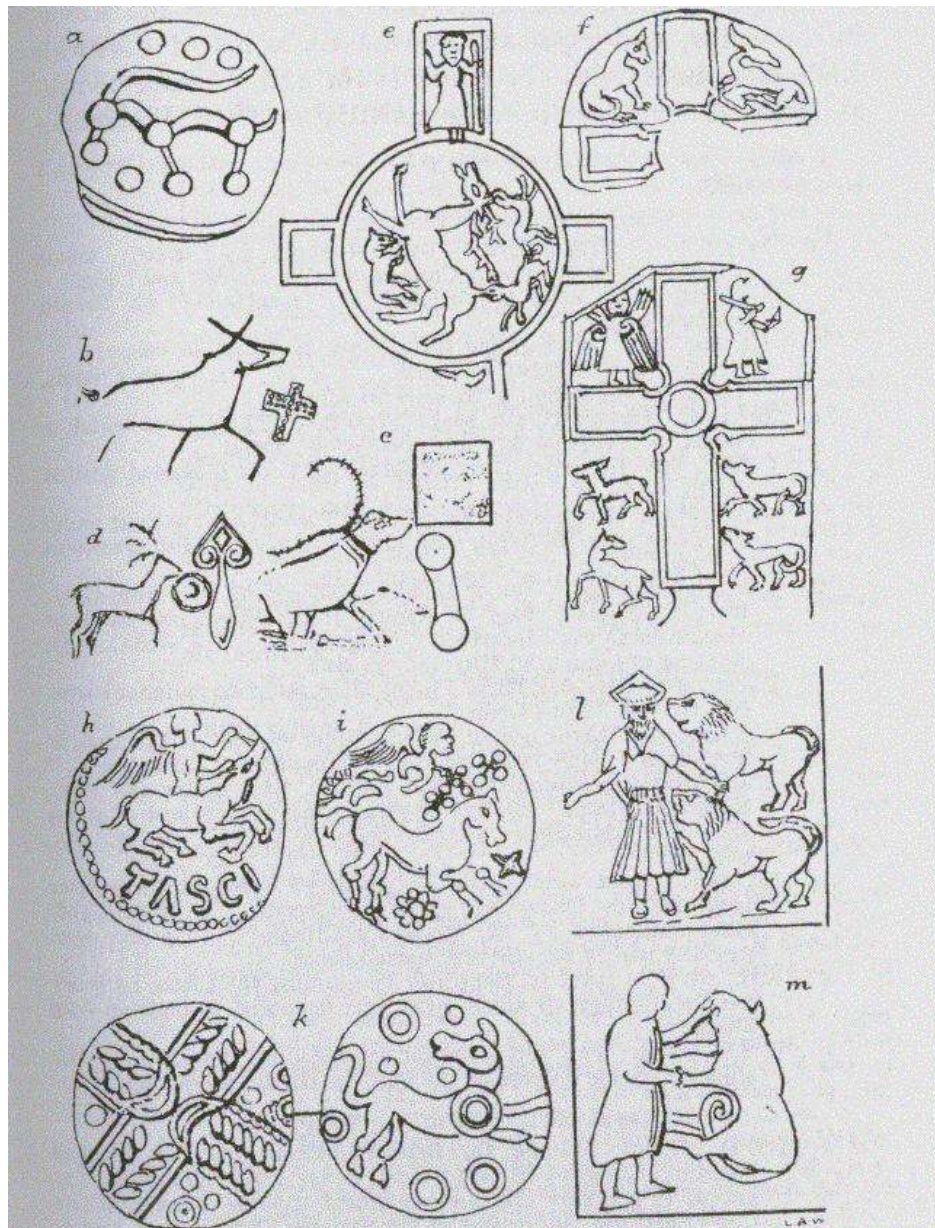


FIG. 60.—Ancient Briton Goats (and Deer) as "Goths" of Indara protected by Cross and Archangel Tascia (or Michael) against Lion and Wolves.

From ancient monuments, caves, pre-Christian Crosses, and Briton Coins. Compare with Hittite-Phoenician examples in Fig. on opposite page. Detailed references on pp. 336 and 337.

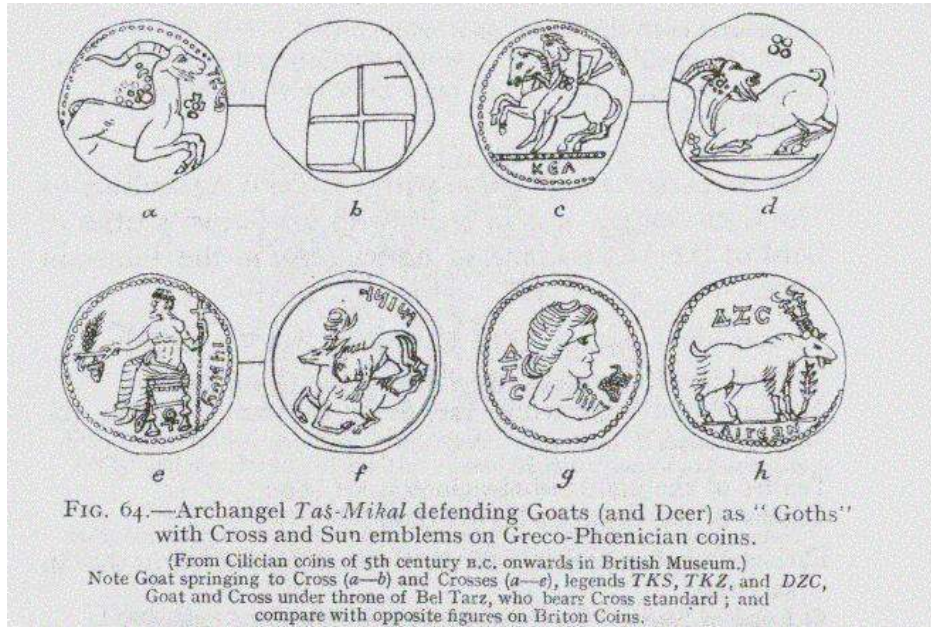


FIG. 73.—Early Bronze-Age Briton button-amulet Cross.
From barrow grave at Rudstone, Yorks.
(After Greenwell. *Brit. Barrows*, 54.)
It is of jet, with eyelet on under surface for attachment.

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