



Robert Burns World Federation



1991

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BURNS CHRONICLE



1991



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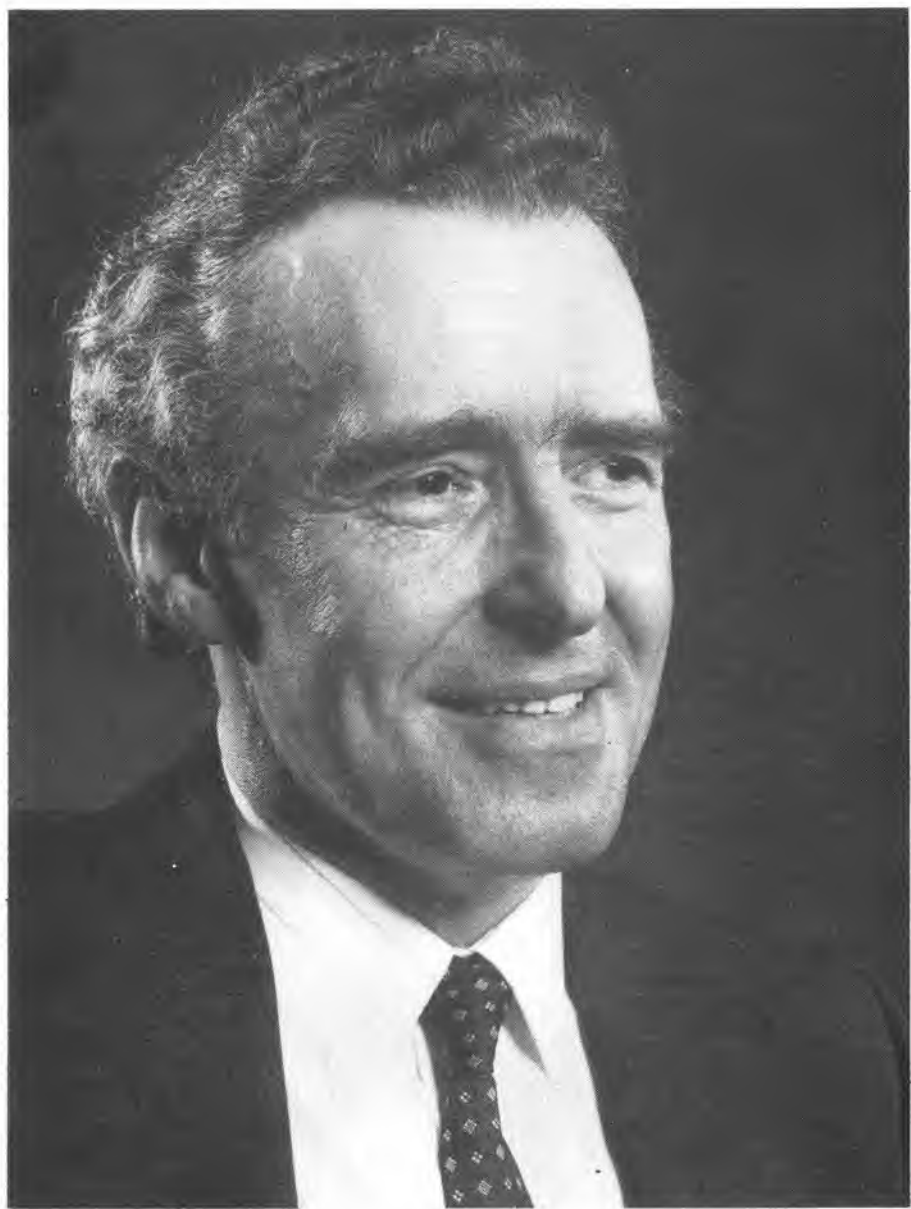
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JAMES ALEXANDER MACKAY

Although I am not a Burns enthusiast myself I can fairly claim to have introduced your Editor to the Burns Movement. Fourteen years ago he and I were in South-east Asia in pursuit of a coinage contract and just happened to find ourselves in Indonesia on Burns Night. A group of our associates decided to hold a Burns Supper and Jim, as the token Scot, was invited to propose the toast to the Immortal Memory. It was a polyglot and multiracial group, and I remember the master of ceremonies (a lieutenant-general no less) informing the gathering that the haggis would not offend Moslems, Hindus or Jews as it contained the flesh of neither pig nor cow. Then he told us that, in addition to rice and spices, it contained 'the engine-room parts' of a sheep. Jim carried off his part of the proceedings with great aplomb; it was only afterwards that he confessed that, not only was this his first Immortal Memory—it was the first time he'd ever attended such a function! Well, a lot of water has passed under the bridge since 1977 and I gather he has polished up his act in such exotic places as far afield as Calgary and Melbourne since then.

It doesn't need me to tell you about his activities in the Burns world; you will know a great deal more about that than I. In fact, I was quite astonished to hear him holding forth about Burns on Radio's Today programme as I was driving in to work recently. I had no idea that he was regarded as an authority on the subject.

I have known him for more than twenty years. In 1969 I produced medals for the first manned Moon landing and Jim was kind enough to single them out in one of his weekly articles in *The Financial Times*. We met for lunch soon afterwards, and this began a close and mutually profitable association that has endured to this day. I would go so far as to say that the Queen's Award for Export Achievement which was recently given to my company was due in no small respect to Jim's imagination and hard work in heading up the design team at the Pobjoy Mint. He has been intimately involved in devising the coinage for upwards of a score of countries, conceptualising the designs, checking detail for historical accuracy, assisting with the PR and even writing the advertising copy.

He has written numerous books and articles on all aspects of numismatics and is arguably the leading writer on this subject in Britain today, having recently been appointed to the editorship of the prestigious Seaby *Monthly Bulletin*. When it comes to philately, however, he is in a class of his own, having authored more than 70 books and 2,000 articles over the past 30 years on that subject alone. He edited the *New World Encyclopaedia of Stamps* (1969-72) and wrote most of it—a staggering one and a half million words. His philatelic writings have won many international awards, notably the highly coveted vermeil medal of the Cardinal Spellman Foundation of America which he was awarded twice.

His writings on the applied and decorative arts are almost as prolific and his books on bronzes and glass paperweights are widely regarded as the standard reference works. I don't know anyone (with the possible exception of the Pope) who has such an astonishing command of so many different languages, and his fluency in Demotic Greek and Japanese has got me out of a few scrapes, I can tell you! Funnily enough, he made his literary debut in 1959 with an article in *Gairm* about St. Kilda where he was then Officer Commanding the Guided Weapons unit, but he quickly realised that there was no money to be made by writing in Gaelic and has stuck to English ever since. It may come as a surprise to his Burns colleagues to know that he once wrote a book in Irish, and has also translated books from French, German and Dutch. His own books have appeared in over a dozen languages, from Finnish to Italian—still a long way to go before he equals Burns in that respect.

Considering how far he travels and how much he enjoys even the most primitive journeys (he has been to every state in the USA and every province in Canada by bus) it surprises me that he has never written a travel book. Perhaps some day he will do for Greyhound what Paul Theroux has done for the Old Patagonian Express. He has a flair for witty and amusing verse which he can produce straight off the cuff, but he is very dismissive about his poetic talents. I've been nagging him for years to write an Arthur Hailey-type novel exposing the shenanigans in the coin business; I've even supplied the title—*The MoneyMakers*—and I'm thoroughly disappointed that he hasn't made time to realise this project. I see that a recent review of his monumental history of Scottish post offices alluded to his 'hyperactive word-processor', but the plain truth is that Jim and his wife Joyce are a right pair of workaholics; and it's only fair to say that without her considerable organisational ability and capacity for hard work Jim would not have achieved a tithe of his prodigious output.

Derek Pobjoy

FROM THE EDITOR

It was on 4th September 1891 that *The Burns Chronicle* was instituted, so the actual centenary will not be celebrated until the 1991 Conference. The inaugural number, in fact, did not see the light of day until February 1892. Nevertheless, although we are only in our 99th year we have arrived at the magic number 100 and that in itself is cause for celebration.

By 1891 the infant Burns Federation was running out of steam and it was felt that something was needed to maintain communications between the affiliated clubs as well as stimulate fresh interest in the Burns movement. Colin Rae Brown proposed that the Federation should publish a yearly *Chronicle*, and this was seconded by Peter Sturrock. The aim was to publish the inaugural number in time for Burns Night, 1892 but due to the very short notice given it was not actually issued till the following month and therefore lost the opportunity to pick up impulse sales at Burns dinners. As a result, the Federation incurred a loss of £100 on the first issue.

John Muir resigned from the editorship and *The Chronicle* might have died there and then; but the job fell to Duncan McNaught (1844-1925), a Kilmaurs schoolmaster and one of the great stalwarts of the Federation in its early years. He held this position for 33 years (and for thirteen of these he was also the Federation's President). Under his vigorous editorship *The Chronicle* was transformed from its shaky beginnings and went from strength to strength. Remarkably it continued to appear at annual intervals throughout the First World War, even though the activities of many clubs, and indeed the Federation itself, had to be severely curtailed. His services to Scottish literary scholarship were recognised in 1921 when the University of Glasgow conferred on him an honorary doctorate.

Following Dr. McNaught's death in 1925, the editorship passed to James C. Ewing of the Mitchell Library, Glasgow. Concerned that he would soon run out of material about Burns, he began widening the scope of *The Chronicle*. The Twenties were a period of national rebirth all over Europe, from Ireland to the Baltic, and Scotland itself was swept up in the enthusiasm for a revival of the vernacular. This was reflected in many of the articles which appeared in *The Chronicle* at this time and, of course, in the Federation's preoccupation with the survival of the Scottish language. Ewing's fears that material directly relevant to Burns would soon run out proved to be unfounded; if anything, the range and quality of Burns scholarship improved under Ewing's editorship, and both he and his wife Elizabeth contributed many excellent articles in their own right.

In 1941 *The Chronicle* celebrated its Golden Jubilee, and James Ewing took the opportunity to review progress in a special editorial. In passing he stated of this unique periodical: 'It puts on record all aspects of the Federation's aim to disabuse the memory of the poet, to excite admiration for his works and honour for his name. More especially, it acts as a repository of facts relating to Burns and his writings. It likes to leave the facts to speak for themselves as far as possible, to narrate rather than explain, to put forward authenticated evidence and not wage ghostly wars among theories. Some of its material is specially directed to future writers upon, and critics of, Burns. In other items old ground is sometimes re-surveyed, to clear away confusion and error. Numerous inaccuracies in biographies of the poet have been corrected by articles in *The Chronicle*. Innumerable conjectures and misstatements have been investigated... In justification of this purpose, it is a fact that nearly every book on the subject of Burns published in the course of the last generation has been indebted for much of its information to articles in *The Burns Chronicle*. The function of being a comprehensive clearing-house for Burnsiana of all sorts had, indeed, proved a substantial part of *The Chronicle's* achievement, for which it is uniquely equipped.'

These words are as true today as they were fifty years ago. The world is a very different place from what it was a century ago but *The Burns Chronicle*, the Burns Federation and, indeed, the world-wide Burns movement itself are without parallel in the realms of literary activity.

In 1948, having edited 23 issues, James Ewing retired on a high note, *The Chronicle* of that year attaining record sales. The Federation having failed to find a successor by the time the deadline for the 1949 issue came up, the task of producing that number fell to an Editorial Board under the chairmanship of Sir Patrick Dollan, former Lord Provost of Glasgow and the leading Burnsian of his time. The following year, however, the Federation secured the services of William Montgomerie of Broughty Ferry to whom fell the task of dividing *The Chronicle* into two separate publications. In

1950 there appeared the renamed *Robert Burns Chronicle*, a brave attempt to inject material of more broadly Scottish literary interest. This was taken to its logical conclusion in 1951 when the Federation produced two separate works—*The Burns Federation Year Book* and *The Scots Chronicle*. The latter had very little Burns material and was unpopular with the Burns movement while failing to find a niche in the wider literary context. At the 1951 Conference it was decided to revert to the previous arrangement. William Montgomerie disagreed strongly and resigned, his place being taken by James Veitch of Peebles, a novelist and writer on Border subjects.

Under James Veitch *The Chronicle* was restored to its former character. In the Sixties and Seventies it was frequently in crisis, due to the fact that the issue price invariably lagged far behind inflation; but somehow it managed to keep going. Under Veitch the publication date was brought forward from January to November so that it would be available for sale at St. Andrew's dinners. Considerable effort was put into modernising *The Chronicle* in order to make it more saleable and broaden its popular appeal. Sadly, James Veitch died on 6th January 1975, only weeks before the last old-style *Chronicle* made its appearance. Thus the task of bringing *The Chronicle* into the last quarter of the 20th century fell to Arthur Daw, recently retired Editor of *The Scots Magazine*. He revolutionised the appearance of the 1976 *Chronicle* issued late in 1975. Like other new editors before him, he doubted whether there was sufficient scope for a periodical devoted to Burns alone and therefore considerably broadened its scope.

From the outset, however, Mr. Daw regarded himself merely as an interim editor and resigned after the launch of the 1977 *Chronicle* late in 1976. In April 1977 I was approached with a view to taking over the job, largely as a result of the recommendation of my friend and neighbour Noel Dinwiddie who mistakenly assumed that because I lived in Dumfries I must know all about Burns. My only qualification for the job was 18 years as a freelance journalist and author with some experience of editing periodicals. Considering my abysmal ignorance of Burns, in retrospect it seems foolhardy to have taken on the job at all and I am afraid that in the early years at least I barely kept ahead of the punters. Fourteen years on, however, what had started as very much a part-time job has become a deep and abiding interest which now extends far beyond the normal bounds of editorship.

It is said that the first hundred years are the hardest, but there is no room for complacency. The present, far less the future, of *The Chronicle* is constantly in jeopardy. Production costs continue to rise inexorably, due to inflation, while the task of selling advertising, like the magazine itself, seems to become harder and my long-cherished ambition of seeing *The Chronicle* pay its way recedes from year to year. Its role is just as vital today as it was in 1892, a fact of which I have become increasingly aware in recent years as I have met Burnsians in many parts of the world and realise how much they appreciate it and depend on it. My early worries about maintaining the standards set by my predecessors have long since evaporated. The diversity and quality of material submitted for publication remain as high as ever, as a perusal of this issue will show. I should like to take this opportunity to pay a tribute to my contributors: regulars such as James Hempstead, R. Peel, Dr. John Strawhorn and Ross Roy as well as relative newcomers like David Skipper and Maurice Rattigan, and all those who perhaps only contribute occasionally yet in their own way enhance and enrich our knowledge and understanding of Robert Burns and his works. I take heart from the realisation that interest in Burns is greater today than ever before and is steadily spreading throughout the world. In this context, therefore, *The Burns Chronicle* has a vital role for the future.

James A. Mackay
11 Newall Terrace,
DUMFRIES DG1 1LN

To Robert Burns in Heaven

Saint Peter, kindly pass this letter
 tae ane o' yours (ye'll fin' nane better)
 wha, when alive, brak mony hairts
 an' drank - an' even played at cairts -
 a rhymin chiel wha wis seldom ceevil
 tae holy folk an' played the vera deevil
 wi' POETRY an' sic like leid
 tae scaud puir bodies - but noo he's deid,
 an' tho' the "warl's took mony turns"
 ah'm shair he's still ca'd Robert Burns.

Hail, Rab - frae John, a fellow poet
 (Though some folk say ye widnae know it
 fae lookin at ma MODERN VERSE -
 It disnae rhyme! an' what is worse
 it makes nae sense an's METAPHORICAL
 so jist tae prove ah ken the Doric ah'll
 speak tae you in honest Lallans
 so's no' tae vex thae Burnsian callans.)
 Ah thocht, at furst, ye micht be burnin'
 in Hell's daurk pit wi' elritch girmin'
 but feg! nae self-respectin' deil
 could thole the tongue o' Rab Mossgiel -
 an gin ye were fae Hades driven
 ah kenn't ye must reside in Heaven.
 Sae tell me, Rab - an' how's yersel?
 for whether you're in Heav'n or Hell
 e'en aw the wit in YOUR brow heid
 won't change the fact that YOU ARE DEID!
 D'ye no' find Heaven's unco quiet?
 an' God's nae time fur roister'n riot
 wad ye no' been better steyin' in Hell
 wi' bodies that ye ken sae well?
 E'en bardies must get awfy bored
 jist sittin', smilin' at the Lord.
 Eternity's a helluva time
 tae sit surveyin' THE SUBLIME —
 e'en eternity o' kissin' Jean
 wad mak' ye — well, ye ken jist whit ah mean.
 Things doon here are much the same
 ma weans wad eat me ooti hoose an' hame
 my wife's a gey cantak'rous besom
 that keeks at Life thro' a squinty prism
 an' cries "Ah wish ah'd married sumdy rich",
 then glares at me, the thrawn-gabbed bitch!
 Her nature's mean - an' in a tid
 she fired at me a dustbin-lid
 an' if ah hudnae ducked ma heid
 the morn's morn ah'd woke up deid!
 An' whit fur? Cos ah took the Giro
 an' hud a spree - ach, man! ye sometimes tire o'

scrimpin' wi yer beer
 an' Hogmanay wis drawin' near
 so rather than be an aul' wet blanket
 ah took the cheque, an' goat unco tankit!
 The jaud kenn't fine since first we met
 that poortith's dregs wis a' she'd get
 ye'd think she wad hae learnt by noo
 ah'm happiest when ah'm oan the Broo! -
 Work is but a ratton tyke - it
 worries men! Ah dinna like it!
 An ye'll ken there's no' much human pity
 In this God-forsaken No Mean City -
 an awfy toon for scruff an' hasslers
 wee chib-men an' chanty-wrasslers!
 Ye daurna point a body's lies
 unless ye fancy two black eyes.
 An' here's a thing ye wullnae credit
 thae brass-neckit keelies huv went an' made it
 Culture City - t'wad make ye laugh -
 the Provost's jist a baw-faced nyaff!
 The place is fulla foreign chancers
 like Pavarotti an' Cossack dancers
 Whit's happened tae oor Scottish pride?
 Ah'll tell ye whit - it's up an' died!
 Ye wastit yer time writin' Scots Wha Hae
 naebdy gives a tinker's curse the day
 an' (this'll spin ye in yer grave) -
 oor national anthem's Scotland the Brave!
 Mony things are as they were
 when you were here - the warl's no' fair;
 there's still they folk wha take delight in
 causin pain, an' fain wad cast a blight on
 oor Universe - but that's no' new
 an' wha could mark it, Rab, like you?
 Ah'm shair ye'll no' be too surprised -
 tae hear that WORTH's no' recognised -
 the fowk that get the maist rewarded
 wad seem tae be a wheen retarded
 a certain Prince that a'body knows
 sticks 'is toothpaste up 'is nose!
 an' spends 'is Royal leesyer oors
 talkin' tae a buncha floors!
 Wan thing we've goat tae help puir bodies
 an' stop them stoin' in their scuddies -
 the D.S.S. wha'll aye mak' siccar
 ye hiv at least a daimen icker -
 ah'm still held tight in poortith's fetters
 but I am spared the begging letters
 that sullied your immortal pen
 before you left the world o' men.
 Fareweel then, Rab - may your Parnassus

ring to the laughter of bonny lassies
 an' when my feet touch Heaven's heather
 we'll wander hill an' dale thegither
 twa boon companions hale an' happy
 then hame fur Poosie Nancy's nappy.
 But, until then, freen, don't be blate
 though your praenomen noo is 'Late',

your letters write, then Heaven speed them
 (Ah ken a guid Tarbolton medium)
 your words, as always, will inspire
 and light my kindling with your fire
 but, fur the noo, ah'll jist write 'Finis',
 your humble servant,

John McInnes.

THE BRIGS OF FORTH

by Katharine M.E. Liston

(With apologies to Robert Burns and 'The Brig of Ayr')

When requested to do so, the Poet Laureate was 'too busy' to compose a poem celebrating the centenary of the Forth Rail Bridge.

Had this celebration been taking place in the lifetime of Robert Burns, he would surely not have let us down.

Might he have written something like this?

'Twas 1990 on the fourth of March,
 When green of pine and still the brown of larch
 Clad hills and glens and valleys far remote,
 An Scotland struggled out her winter coat.
 Our feather'd frien's, deciding now to nest,
 Chirp'd cheerily about which place was best
 To set up house and raise the squawking brood
 With ever-open throats demanding food;
 And buds on tree and bush began to show,
 With promises of green in each hedgerow.

'Twas in that season, when a simple lass,
 Unknown and humble and of lowly class,
 That eve within th'environs of Queensferry,
 By whim inspir'd or haply feeling merry,
 She left her hame for a weel-kent avenue
 Down to the Firth, the Brigis o' Forth to view.

Lo! There they were, arms stretched out o'er the
 Firth -

The Rail and Road Brigis - wonders of this earth.
 The Rail Brig is a cantilever giant,
 The Road Brig a suspension brig reliant.
 To build them both, men met in howling wind,
 While 'neath them raged the Firth undisciplin'd.
 The task demanded superhuman skill.
 Such feats of engineering always thrill.

The chilly wind was sughing thro' the trees,
 As the lass tucked in her scarf against the breeze,
 When sudden as she stood there all alone,
 The evening air was full of sound wind-blown.

What could it be? What ever did she hear?

'Twas the two Forth Brigis conversing loud and
 clear.

RAIL BRIG

'I doubt na, frien', ye'll never see the day
 When ye're a hundred, as I am today,
 But gin ye be a brig as auld as me,
 Ye'll no' be hauf as beautiful to see.'

ROAD BRIG

'Aw, haud y'r wheesht, ye muckle lump o'
 metal!

I'll deal wi' you, Rail Brig, I'm in fine fettle.
 I'm streamlined, modern, young and elegant
 An' I can dae a lot o' things you can't.
 Tae carry cars and lorries make me proud -
 The heaviest loads on any roads allow'd.
 I've also got twa cycle tracks as weel,
 An' two footpaths complete my frame of steel.'

RAIL BRIG

'Conceited gowk! puff'd up wi' windy pride!
 These hundred years I've stood the flood and
 tide.

My thousands o' tons o' steel withstand the
 weather

An eight million rivets haud me thegither.

It's muckle trains I tak, no' dinky toys,
 My girders sound and resound wi' the noise,
 An' o'er these hundred years as I look back,
 I think o' a' the pennies on my track.'

ROAD BRIG

'Ye lumpy, humpy brig, let me tell you,
Ye're made o' girders just like Im-Bru,
But slenderness and elegance are mine,
My towers are high, my cables are divine.'

RAIL BRIG

'Ye skinny-lookin' twit, ye must be jealous
Because about mysel' I feel so zealous.
Today's a day o' lots o' celebrations -
Bonfires, fireworks an' many jubilations.
An' what think ye about my floodlit face?
That proves that amang brigs I've won my place.'

ROAD BRIG

'Now haud ye there! for faith ye've said enough.
For a centenarian I ken ye're tough.
So let me twitch my cables as a toast
To you, Rail Brig, whom you yoursel' love most.
I'll mak allowance for advancing years
An' show respect, auld brig, betwixt my tears.
Ye've got y'r job tae dae, an' I ha'e mine.
Let's stop our insults now, for auld lang syne.'

An' just as sudden as all the talk began,
The air was still, as hame the lassie ran.
The nicht's ongauns were far too strange to tell,
She told no one and kept a' tae hersel'.

BOOK REVIEWS

Reaching a Wider Audience

THE BEST OF ROBERT BURNS IN ENGLISH, Compiled by William Curran (271 pages. The Book Guild, 14.95).

The Burns Federation frequently gets enquiries from England and abroad regarding the availability of the poems and songs translated into English. After all, if it is worthwhile translating Burns into Esperanto, Latin or Faroese (to name just three that do exist), why not English? Burns himself was urged to abandon the vernacular and concentrate on English. Wisely, he ignored the advice, although a surprisingly high proportion of his poems is in English or has so few Scottish words as to be perfectly understandable to those without the benefit of Lallans. The notion of an English translation, however, is not new by any means. Alexander Corbett (1892) and W.K. Seymour (1954) both produced competent editions of selected dialect poems in translations which kept the flavour of the original. Incidentally, Seymour's excellent rendition has been out of print for many years and it seems a pity that no new edition is currently available.

This latest venture contains some 137 poems in no particular order (the volume commences with 'Tam o' Shanter' and ends with 'O Steer Her Up'). Up to 'Auld Lang Syne' on page 254 only the English translation is given, but there follow four poems with the vernacular version on the left and the translation on the right. I suspect that this was done to pad out the book - a suspicion reinforced by the inclusion of the odes addressed to Burns by John Greenleaf Whittier and Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, though why these particular American poets should have been chosen is a mystery.

The space would have been better utilised by offering us more of Burns himself. Only 137 poems are given and of these five are not by Burns at all. It would be interesting to know what edition of Burns was used by the translator, but as he quotes from the Blackie edition of 1887 in the foreword I suspect that this was the basis for his text. It is a great pity that Mr. Curran did not use a rather more up-to-date edition; within a decade there had been the great Henley-Henderson edition that revolutionised Burns scholarship and made a valiant attempt to sort the wheat from the chaff. Several excellent editions, from Kinsley's Oxford edition of 1968 to the Federation's own Bicentenary edition of the Complete Works, are surely even more readily available.

The 'Verses on the Destruction of Woods Near Drumlanrig', for example, have appeared in several 19th century editions, although it has long been known that Henry Mackenzie admitted to Dr. Currie that he was the author of the pastiche. Incidentally, Mackenzie wrote this poem entirely in English and Mr. Curran merely reprints it verbatim. 'To a Kiss', 'Verses to my Bed', the lines 'On the Poet's Daughter' and 'Happy Friendship', estimable though they may be, have all been conclusively shown to have had no hand of Burns in their composition. Had Mr. Curran used a 20th century edition he would have avoided this major pitfall. We end up with the ludicrous situation that the so-called Selkirk Grace appears in this book in Curran's English translation. It has been known since 1941 that what

Burns actually declaimed extempore at St. Mary's Isle in 1793 was in Standard English, being his very own translation of the much older vernacular lines, known as the Covenanters' Grace or the Galloway Grace long before the time of Burns. Incidentally, Burns's extempore version is infinitely more preferable than the Curran translation.

The avowed intention of the translator was to make Burns's work more widely available to an audience other than Lowland Scots. The argument that people are put off Burns through the obscurity of his language is often made, but it is a pretty specious argument. When one actually examines the poems one finds that Burns wrote in Standard English at least 60 per cent of the time, while many of the vernacular poems are so lightly sprinkled with dialect words that they present little or no trouble to their readers. Mr. Curran has been very selective indeed in that many of the poems he has chosen for this edition were already in Standard English. This may convey the impression to the unenlightened that Burns was not one of the greatest poets in the English language, which he assuredly was. In other cases, 'translation' has been confined to silly changes which alter the sense of the poem. Thus 'The Dumfries Volunteers' has 'The kettle of the Kirk and State' altered to 'The union of the Church and State', thus destroying the metaphor. Even worse, 'The Nith shall run to Corsincon' (implying that the river would run uphill) now becomes 'The Nith shall stop its seaward run'. Why make the change at all? Translation is one thing; meddling with the text and the sense is something else altogether.

Where Mr. Curran has tackled a vernacular poem, I'm afraid that his poetic craftsmanship is not up to the job, and either the rhyme or the metre (and usually both) suffer grievously. Nevertheless, with these reservations, this book will doubtless fill a gap and hopefully will stimulate the reader to turn to the original as soon as possible.

'A poor, damn'd, rascally Gager...'

ROBERT BURNS THE EXCISEMAN, by Graham Smith. (103 pages. Alloway Publishing, £4.95).

It is incredible that the profession which occupied the last seven years of Burns's life has had such scant examination. Almost a century has passed since John Sinton published *Burns, Excise Officer and Poet, a Vindication* (Carlisle, 1895). That this book was long overdue is borne out by the fact that it ran to four editions in three years, but it has been out of print since 1897. Such study of Burns's Excise career as has taken place in the interim has been almost entirely confined to the pages of the *Chronicle*. A notable contributor in this area was B.R. Leftwich, Librarian and Archivist of the Customs and Excise before the Second World War. One of his successors, Graham Smith, has now remedied the deficiency by producing this handy book which provides us with a succinct account of the poet's career in the Excise. This book was timed to coincide with the bicentenary of the poet's commencement of his Excise career, in September 1789.

Graham Smith, for twelve years Librarian and Archivist at King's Beam House in London, has drawn deeply on Excise records and documents, as well as the poet's letters and other contemporary material. It has to be said, however, that very few Excise records directly pertaining to the poet have survived; but what remains gives us a clear impression that Burns was a conscientious officer, highly thought of by his superiors and well liked by his colleagues.

Various stories have passed into Burns mythology testifying to the poet's tendency to bend the rules in the interests of common humanity (and, it might be added, common sense). Mr. Smith is less sympathetic towards what might seem to be a certain ambivalence on Burns's part. Poor Burns, according to Smith, is condemned by his own pen. Thus, when he writes to his uncle Samuel Brown on 4th May 1788, 'I engaged in the smuggling trade' (using the metaphor of smuggling as a confession of his ante-nuptial fornication with Jean Armour), Smith argues that, at the very least, Burns was most unwise to write in this vein, at a time when he was undergoing his Excise training, and that he would have had the greatest difficulty in explaining away such a letter had it fallen into the wrong hands. Even more compromising, however, are his letters to Mrs. Dunlop (January 1792) and Maria Riddell (April 1793), referring to Nantes brandy and French gloves - both articles being contraband. But from other sources (notably Robert Burns Junior's account of family life in Dumfries) we learn that an important perquisite of Excisemen was the smuggled spirits which they confiscated, while the letter

about French gloves is written in a jokey manner and should not be interpreted too literally.

Smith also has some trenchant comments on the 'unscrupulous side to Burns's character', with particular reference to his manipulation of the regulations in getting Leonard Smith transferred so that Burns could officiate in the district where he was domiciled (itself a breach of the regulations); but in fairness he points out that Leonard Smith was of independent means and was not highly regarded by the Excise. Interestingly, the official assessment of Leonard Smith was 'Pretty good, drinks'; no such comment was ever appended to Burns's own record of service. Smith was reprimanded in 1790 and dismissed in 1796 for laxity in the conduct of his duties. On the other hand, we have the clear evidence of the poet's communications with his Excise superiors (notably Graham of Fintry) that Burns was not content just to get on with the job, but applied a great deal of thought to ways and means of making it more efficient and cost effective.

There is no doubt that, had he lived, Burns would have risen to the top of his chosen profession. The question of his political leanings is thoroughly explored and put into proper perspective. Graham Smith is at pains to point out that Burns never received any reprimand on account of his radical outlook, and that the two minor admonitions recorded against him arose over trifling errors in his work.

This book is particularly welcome for its objective examination of the celebrated *Rosamond* incident and its aftermath. Many of the myths surrounding the poet's Excise career have now been exploded and many of the misconceptions about his professional work have been finally dispelled. This is a must for all serious students of Burns, but anyone looking for an account of life in the late 18th Century would also profit from it.

Burns in Gaelic

CEUD ORAN LE RAIBEART BURNS [A hundred songs of Burns] translated by the Rev. Roderick Macdonald. (110 pages, Cruisgean Press, Furnace, Argyll, £5.20).

In the 1990 *Chronicle* R. Peel contributed an article about the Gaelic translation of Burns published in 1911 by Charles MacPhater and lamented that a translation in Scotland's oldest language was not currently available. At that time, however, the Rev. Roderick Macdonald was about to bring to fruition the labours of many years and this has now appeared. Interestingly, in view of my strictures on the new English translation of Burns, this book has on the back cover the Selkirk Grace as Burns composed it, in Standard English, and below the Macdonald translation:

Tha biadh aig cuid, 's gun aca cail;
Acras air cuid, 's gun aca biadh;
Ach againne tha biadh is slaint';
Moladh mar sin a bhith don Triath.

This is not only an accurate translation that clings to the sense and spirit of the original, but also manages to preserve its rhythm.

The secret lies in the fact that Roderick Macdonald is trilingual, perfectly at home in Scots and English as well as his native Gaelic. He is an accomplished writer, contributing regular columns to *The Stornoway Gazette* and *Na Duilleagan Gaidhlig*, but more importantly he is a poet in his own right. Crowned at the National Mod in 1977, he has had two volumes of poetry published previously - *Leth-cheud Bliadhna* [fifty years] by Gairm (1978) and *Laoidhean Molaidh* [songs of praise] by Cruisgean (1983). Consequently he possesses the necessary craftsmanship to tackle a project as complex and difficult as this.

Considering the vast differences between English and Gaelic - not only are the words quite different in shape, stress and number of syllables, but the structure and word order are totally at variance - it might be expected that in any attempt at translation something would have to give way; but it is a tribute to Macdonald's ingenuity and tenacity that the end result is remarkably close to the original. Nor does he shy away from that ultimate complexity of Burns's work, the use of Standard Habbie. Take 'Do Luchaig' (To a Mouse) for example. The opening stanza runs:

A chreutair bhiig, air chrith le eagal,
Clisgeadh tha nad uchd gun teagamh,
Ach - cha leig thu leas bhith teicheadh

Cho luath air falbh,
Is cinnteach dhut nach dean mi d'eagad.
Le bioran garbh.

The rhythm is right, the metre is flawless, the idiosyncratic structure is beautifully preserved - even the rhyme works reasonably well.

In presenting 100 poems and songs, Roderick Macdonald has, perforce, had to be fairly selective, but all the firm favourites are included, with the longer poems well to the fore. Here we may find 'Urnaigh Uilleim Chrabhaich' (Holy Willie's Prayer), 'Oidhche Shatharna a' Choiteir' (The Cotter's Saturday Night), 'Tomas Shian-tir' (Tam o Shanter) and 'An Naomh-fheill' (The Holy Fair). Several of the verse epistles are included, as are the perennially popular nature poems. Nor does Macdonald shrink from tackling some of the more bawdy works. His rendering of 'An Da Mhnaoi' richly preserves the Rabelaisian flavour of the original ballad of the Twa Wives (and, I might add, I have picked up a few Gaelic words I never learned at my granpa's knee!) Roderick, in fact, recited this with immense gusto when toasting 'The Lasses' at an all-Gaelic Burns Supper in Oban last January.

Obviously this book will stimulate interest in Burns in the Highlands and Islands and make him truly the National Bard of all Caledonia; but I would also heartily recommend this translation to anyone who is learning Gaelic (a vast number by all accounts); and those not blessed with the language of the Garden of Eden may likewise be encouraged to extend their interest in Burns by looking at the poems from this fresh angle.

ROBERT BURNS: FARMER, by Gavin Sprott. (60 pages, National Museums of Scotland, £4.50).

This attractive and well-illustrated booklet does not set out to cover the farming career of Burns in the same depth as Graham Smith has dealt with the poet's life in the Excise. Rather it provides a background to the greater part of Burns's short life, when he was exposed to the rigours of farming. Agriculture in 18th century Scotland was in a state of flux. The revolution in farming methods, crops and livestock which took place between 1760 and 1810 was almost as dramatic as its industrial counterpart and the Burns family experienced the vicissitudes which these violent changes threw up.

Mr. Sprott contrasts the old unreformed agriculture with the many improvements which took place in Burns's time. There is much useful material on the farming methods and techniques with which the Burns family would have been familiar in the north-east. The farming activities of Burns and his father are touched upon. First as a laddie Burns would have helped to run the market garden at Alloway. All too soon he was pitched into the hardship and rigours of working the poor and badly drained soil at Mount Oliphant (1766-77) and later at Lochlie (1777-84). Following the death of his father Burns and his brother Gilbert shared the tenancy of Mossgiel (1784-88) and finally there was the attempt to make a go of dairy-farming at Ellisland (1788-91). Despite their long-established peasant background, the Burns family were moving out of farming. On the east coast, the Burness branch of the family had already moved out of tenant-farming and into the professions, beginning the long ascent to middle-class respectability. The change came later in the poet's family, but none of his sons ever returned to the land. Brother Gilbert alone maintained the farming tradition, but even he changed direction when he abandoned farming on his own account to become an estate factor in 1804. Moreover, it must never be forgotten that Gilbert's farming was heavily subsidised out of Robert's earnings as a poet.

Mr. Sprott draws heavily on the poems and letters of Burns to illustrate his attitudes towards the farming life and the inspiration which he derived from agricultural commonplaces. Although the text is slight, the range and choice of pictures amply compensate. One minor irritation is the misspelling of Mossgiel, rendered throughout this book as Mossgel (except once), while other farms, such as Bogjorgan and Brawlinmuir here appear as Bogjurgan and Brawliemuir which may, of course, be acceptable variants.

Burns Writ Large

A SELECTION OF THE POEMS & SONGS OF ROBERT BURNS, edited by Brian Osborne. (148 pages, available in paperback or hard cover, Magna Print Books, Long Preston, nr. Skipton, N. Yorks).

This volume was produced by Magna Print Books in conjunction with the Scottish Library

Association, with the laudable aim of presenting the poems in a very large font, suitable for those with impaired eyesight. Some 60 of the best-loved poems and songs have been chosen. Inevitably the emphasis has been laid on the most familiar works. I am sorry to note that 'Handsome Nell' has been omitted. Although not one of Burns's more sophisticated performances it is nevertheless his earliest and on that score alone deserves inclusion. The poems are listed in random order, so that the development of the poet's *oeuvre* is lost. The volume is prefaced by a brief account of Burns's life.

Widening Appeal

A BRIEF INTRODUCTION TO ROBERT BURNS, by Iain Gordon. (54 pages, PFL Trust, 24 Ave du General de Gaulle, Apt. 53, 06240 Beausoleil, France, Frs.30.00).

Elsewhere in this *Chronicle* appears an account of a Burns Supper on the Cote d'Azur and the formation of a Burns Club in Monaco. This booklet was produced by the prime mover in these activities, Iain Gordon with the laudable aim of making the works of Burns in particular and Scottish poets in general more widely available to a non-Scottish audience. The book commences with a concise life of the Bard, but only a third of the 36 poems and songs are actually by Burns and unfortunately no attempt is made to distinguish the various authors, so readers may get the impression that Rab also composed 'Scotland the Brave' or 'A Wee Deoch and Doris'. The inclusion of 'Mull of Kintyre' is a borderline case; though the subject is Scottish the composer is Liverpudlian. The very first entry, however, has nothing at all to do with Scotland - apart from the fact that it got to first place in the hit parade when it was recorded by the pipes and drums of the Scots Dragoon Guards. But actually 'Amazing Grace' was composed by an Englishman, John Newton, the ship's captain and slave-trader turned Anglican clergyman and rector of Olney, Buckinghamshire. Be that as it may, this is a handy little compendium of the most popular songs and poetry performed these days at Scottish gatherings.

Bridging the Language Gap

THE POCKET GUIDE TO SCOTTISH WORDS, compiled by Iseabail Macleod. (96 pages, £3.95, Richard Drew Publishing).

This is an extremely useful little book which fills a long felt want. The first part of it is a glossary of words and expressions in Scots (I use the term advisedly, for it embraces all the dialects from Galloway to Shetland which may be regarded as offshoots of English, together with quite a few English words which have a specifically Scottish meaning.

The second part is a glossary of about 700 of the most widely used Gaelic words, together with brief notes on the rudiments of Gaelic grammar and pronunciation. This will not get you out of a tight spot in Barvas or Barra, but it will make for a better appreciation of the placenames of Scotland, a large proportion of which are derived from Gaelic or rendered entirely in that language. This is amplified by a separate section devoted to the elements in placenames, although this naturally incorporates root words from Pictish, Norse and Old English as well.

Additional chapters deal with the meanings of first names and surnames and the book conclude with a brief canter through the culinary curiosities of Scotland, from Athole brose to tattie scones.

Burns in Pictures

IN THE LAND O' BURNS. (128 pages, Richard Drew Publishing, £3.95).

Richard Drew first produced this attractive book in 1981. It has now been revised and revamped in paperback form with a glossy card cover in full colour. Essentially it consists of 52 engravings which originally appeared in *The Land of Burns* published in 1851, and which were the work of the celebrated landscapist and pioneer photographer, David Octavius Hill. These have been married to selections from the poems, songs and letters of Burns, arranged with notes by Eileen Dunlop and Antony Kamm. The book carries a brief introduction by Maurice Lindsay giving the background to the original series of volumes which were published by Blackie and Son of Glasgow from the joint efforts of Professor Wilson ('Christopher North') and Robert Chambers.

BURNS A - Z: THE COMPLETE WORD FINDER, compiled by James A. Mackay (774 pages, available from James Mackay, 11 Newall Terrace, Dumfries DG1 1LN at £38.50 (inland) or £40 (overseas)).

This is the third part of James A. Mackay's trilogy of Burns and it is a worthy companion to his two previous major publications, *The Complete Works of Robert Burns* (1986) and *The Complete Letters of Robert Burns* (1987).

It was Duncan McNaught, an early President of the Burns Federation and editor of the Burns Chronicle for 33 years, who first mooted the idea of an updated and comprehensive Burns Concordance as long ago as 1913. It has taken almost 80 years to bring McNaught's idea to fruition. I am sure that great Burnsian and stalwart of the Federation would have approved of this work which is monumental in scope.

J.B. Reid's *A Complete Word and Phrase Concordance to the Poems and Songs of Robert Burns* published in 1889 was a great effort on the part of the Wigtown Free Church minister. Unfortunately, in Reid's Concordance 30 or so spurious pieces were included and over a hundred poems and songs overlooked. Another major defect was the use of titles which were at variance with many editions.

This new volume is a prodigious work involving 15,000 key words and 80,000 quotations. The search for that elusive quotation or phrase is simplified as it does not rely on archaic titles or first lines but on a straightforward, uncomplicated reference to page numbers in James A. Mackay's own edition of *The Complete Works of Robert Burns*. It may be argued that this reduces the scope and value of the 'A - Z' since it is essential to have a copy of *The Complete Works of Robert Burns* edited by James A. Mackay for maximum benefit, but there is an index of titles and first lines which serves as a cross-reference and readily identifies each poem, for those not possessing *The Complete Works*.

The editor has done a great service by including two separate appendices of 'Variant Lines' (25pp) and 'Dubious and Spurious Works' (68pp). The appendices have also been carefully indexed and are readily identified as such. In the former all the many known variations by the Poet have been meticulously collated, including details of the manuscripts or editions in which they appear. The latter lists no fewer than 111 pieces which are dubious or spurious. It is pointed out that it is still possible that some might yet be admitted to the canon if the necessary evidence is forthcoming. Much valuable detail has been included of where, when, how and by whom these dubious and spurious pieces were published.

This book is a must for all Burnsians, libraries and academic institutions. It is unfortunate that it was not fully subscribed but those who had faith and did subscribe are getting real value for their £30, the cost of the Subscribers' Edition. Due to escalating costs and the fact that the book proved to be much larger than first envisaged the ordinary edition costs £36 plus £2.50 p.p. (U.K.) or £4 (overseas). This is still a bargain and a book to be passed on to 'bairns, bairns'.

J.I.

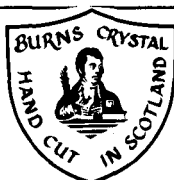
Note. A few copies of the de-luxe version, originally intended for Subscribers, are still available at £40, plus postage as above.

BURNS THE ENGLISH POET

I am indebted to Andrew Hall of the Glass Slipper (collectables) for a sight of an exceptionally rare and hitherto unrecorded label reproducing the Nasmyth portrait. This was one of a vast series produced many years ago by the Swiss chocolate manufacturer Tobler devoted to famous men and women through the ages. Series 31 comprised poets and philosophers, Shakespeare being number 361 and Robert Burns 362. Unfortunately the publishers of the label made the mistake of giving Burns's nationality as English, although perhaps they meant to convey that he wrote in the English language (occasionally!). Either way, it was an error. It is not known when Tobler produced this series but it probably dates around the early years of this century. The labels were printed by multicolour offset lithography and were gummed and perforated like postage stamps.



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OBITUARIES

Jean McMillan



Jean McMillan was born on 7th April 1913. She was the daughter of a Colmonell farmer, but after his death she was brought up in Prestwick.

She worked in the millinery and drapery trade in Ayr, Prestwick and Kilmarnock. Jean and her husband Ancil were stalwarts in the Cronies Burns Club, Kilmarnock.

She succeeded her husband as President of the Cronies Club in 1980 and continued to do so until her death. Following the death of her husband in 1983 she carried on raising money and organizing trips to places on the Burns Heritage Trail, also arranging coaches to transport her club members and friends to any outstanding Burns events such as Wauchope or Leglen Woods.

She ably supported her husband during his term of office as President of the Ayrshire Association and was made an Honorary President of the Ayrshire Association in 1987.

Her dedication to the Burns Movement was recognized by the award of Honorary President of the Burns Federation in Hamilton, Ontario 1988. She was a member of several Burns Clubs in Ayrshire.

Jean died in Ballochmyle Hospital on Friday, 4th May 1990. Her energy and effort on behalf of Burns will be well remembered over many happy years.

Peggy Thomson

William Kerr



As the Federation records will show, Mr. Kerr was the founder of our club 1070, and its President at the time of his death.

Bill's passing took place in St. Luke's hospital, Milwaukee, on 12th February 1990, shortly after open heart surgery. His memorial service and interment were both held in Wisconsin Memorial Park. He was laid to rest in his Kerr kilt, with his black jacket and white jabot, as we have seen him many times while he performed for us and others. He had in his hands a copy of the *Songs and Poems of Robert Burns* he loved, which he took with him, with two red roses, and a sprig of heather. The Chapel of the Chimes did not have an empty pew during the service, to which people came from every side of Milwaukee, to pay their respects.

This man was without a doubt one of auld Scotland's greatest sons, an ambassador of its culture. For many years he sang its songs, and did recite the poems of Burns. His wealth of knowledge in them will never be replaced, and saddest of all his renditions will not be heard again.

Bill Kerr was born in Rutherglen, Scotland, on 31st July 1921, where he graduated from Gallowflat Secondary School. At the age of eighteen he was conscripted into the Royal Artillery and served under Monty in North Africa. After the North African campaign, he had some leave, then took part in the D-Day invasion of Normandy, and he served in Europe till after the war was over.

He came to Milwaukee in 1956, where he worked for the Falk Corporation for 30 years as a Production Control Supervisor. During his 34 years in the Milwaukee area, Bill worked consistently for the Scottish, British and Irish organizations, whenever called for. He joined the Saint Andrew's Society of the City of Milwaukee as soon as he came to this city, became and remained one of its anchors, gaining this recognition by doing all manner of tasks for it. He filled the office of President twice, was Secretary twice, was the director of the Society Burns Banquet several times, and at our banquets he often addressed the Haggis like the devoted Burnsian he was, and gave the Immortal Memory as a devoted Burnsian would. He sang and recited Burns at many of our dinners.

This Robert Burns Club of Milwaukee was his idea. When I think of it, it was probably a dream going around in his head for a few years before it became a reality, and each of us, I know, are truly grateful he did get to enjoy its success, for these first three and a half years. He loved it very much, and was proud of it. I can still see his face glow each time he said to me 'Got another member, Ian'. He put the club to good use too, it was yet another way for him to spread the word of Burns.

The void he has left is huge, but for Bill, and with his inspiration, we must hold this club together, in the true Scottish tradition he intended it to be steeped in. The memories he has left us, and the things he has taught us, will help keep us going.

Fare weel yer aye-kent face.
Fare weel yer poetic Scottish grace.
No more yer words, no more yer story

Eternal now in Scotia's lyric glory.
It's peace and happiness in yer lowland hame
For ever now in Scotland's fame.

Ian Day
Vice President

Allan Stoddart

Everyone was deeply shocked and saddened by the news of the untimely death of Allan Stoddart on Monday 7th May 1990 after a serious illness, bravely and patiently borne. The funeral service at Masonhill Crematorium, Ayr on Thursday 10th May was attended by a very large number of mourners from many walks of life, the Burns Federation being represented by President Hutchison Sneddon and many of the officials. The Rev. J. Walter McGinty, B.A., a Past President of Alloway Burns Club, conducted the service and paid glowing tribute to Allan's many fine qualities stating that he had been an enthusiastic Burnsian 'by conviction'. This was patently true for he had been an ardent devotee of Robert Burns from an early age and was totally dedicated to the study of the Bard's life and works. In constant demand as a speaker on Burns, he thrilled and delighted a host of audiences in many parts of the country. His command of the Scots tongue, his prodigious memory and skill of presentation made his readings of Scots poetry something to wonder at and to savour and enjoy.

He had a great fondness for amateur drama, and made a special point of seeking out theatres in any places he visited whilst on holiday. A natural actor himself, he delighted in costume portrayals of Burns characters. For a number of years he played to perfection the part of Souter Johnnie in the annual re-enactment of Tam o' Shanter's Ride in the Burns Festival Week in Ayr, that of Holy Willie at the Holy Fair at Rozelle in Alloway, and gave a superlative performance as James Armour in the 200th anniversary of the wedding of Robert Burns and Jean Armour held in Mauchline. Anyone witnessing these characterisations might well be forgiven for surmising that Allan had missed his vocation.

After the death of Mr. John Gray, Curator of the Tam o' Shanter Museum in Ayr, his mantle fell on the shoulders of Allan, who ran it most efficiently for many years, taking great pleasure in meeting visitors and in arranging to talk to pupils on an educational visit to Ayr. His pride and joy, however, was his own personal museum in an upstairs room in his home. This was an unique treasure store of Burns memorabilia, culled from many sources during his lifetime, the items being lovingly and carefully indexed. He was in his element when displaying and explaining the source and significance of the exhibits.

He did yeoman service in the Federation Schools Competitions Committee and was a most faithful attendee at the National Burns Competitions and many other local and area ones. He was fulsome in his praise of the children's performance and went out of his way to encourage them.

The depth of his involvement in the Burns scene may be gauged from the numerous official posts he held. These included the following: President and Hon. President of Ayr Burns Club, President and Hon. President of the Ayrshire Association of Burns Clubs, Hon. President of Alloway Burns Club, Federation District Representative for Australia and the one he prized most of all, that of Hon. President of the Burns Federation.

The possessor of an effervescent and irrepressible sense of humour, his character and disposition are most aptly summed up in this quotation from the Second Epistle to J. Lapraik;

"The Social, friendly honest man,
Whate'er he be,
'Tis he fulfils great Nature's plan,
And none but he."

The Burns Federation salutes the memory of a true Burnsian, a most worthy ambassador who gave unstintingly of his time, energy and talents to further the aims of the Federation and in so doing won universal respect and esteem.

Sincere and heart-felt sympathy is extended to his devoted and understanding wife, Betty, his daughters Lesley and Eileen and their husbands and families.

James Glass.

A VERY HUMBLE PLACEMAN

by James A. Mackay

(Based on a paper given at Stirling University, 16th September 1989).

I have chosen the subject of Burns and the Excise because of its topicality; it was on 7th September 1789 - exactly 200 years ago - that Robert Burns took up his appointment as an officer of the Excise and commenced his duties in Upper Nithsdale.

Burns, bred to the farming life, had demonstrated in 1786-7 that he could earn a very respectable living as a writer; so why should he enter the Civil Service - and the least popular branch at that? It is difficult for us to comprehend just how unpopular the Excise was in the late 18th century.

In the same year as the Kilmarnock Edition the tenth edition of Blackstone appeared with the memorable comment on the Excise: 'From its first original to the present time its very name has been odious to the people of England'.¹ The definition of Excise gravely inserted by Dr. Johnson in his Dictionary, at the imminent risk of subjecting the eminent author to a prosecution for libel, was:

'A hateful tax levied upon commodities, and adjudged not by the common judges of property, but wretches hired by those to whom excise is paid.'²

Excise had existed for about a century in Roman Imperial times, when it was levied on domestic products at a flat rate of 1 per cent. When it was abolished by Caligula in 38AD coins were struck to celebrate the event. It was revived in its modern form by the Dutch who held a public competition, a prize being awarded to the person who devised the most ingenious and effective form of taxation. It was promptly adopted by the Parliamentarians at the beginning of the Civil War. The preamble to the Act of 1649 establishing the Excise described it as 'the most easy and indifferent levy that can be laid upon the people'.³

It was originally intended merely as a temporary measure. Like that other temporary measure, income tax, which Pitt devised in 1799 at the rate of threepence in the pound as a means of raising money to defray the costs of the French War, it soon became a permanent fixture and was expanded and refined as time passed.

In 1854 the Board of Excise was brought under the control of the Board of Stamps and Taxes in a new department known as the Inland Revenue, but in 1909 it was detached from the Revenue and amalgamated with the Board of Customs, a body which had hitherto been entirely separate. While Customs - then as now - dealt exclusively with the duty liable on the importation of goods, Excise was concerned mainly with the taxation of home industry. Both services maintained their own fleets of patrol vessels to curb the smuggling of goods from abroad and the illegal movement of domestic goods from one part of the country to another. Occasionally Customs and Excise acted together, as in the celebrated affair of the brandy smuggler *Rosamond* at Gretna, but they more often acted separately and, indeed, sometimes acted in opposition. Incidentally, it is worth noting that the father of 'Highland' Mary Campbell, Archibald Campbell of Achamore, was for many years in the Customs service as a cuttersman.⁴

In the latter part of the 18th century the Excise was the one system of taxation which affected everyone, directly or indirectly. It had more than the disagreeableness of other direct taxation, and though not more inquisitorial than income tax, it established a system of espionage and control over premises and processes of manufacture which were more offensive as well as sometimes injurious. Even a century later, memory of the rough and arbitrary nature of the Excise rankled. In the course of the 19th century, under successive Liberal administrations, many of the old Excise duties were abolished. Their abolition stimulated trade and invention and most of the technological advances in many industries were only made after these hateful imposts, with their attendant controls and petty bureaucracy, had been eliminated.

In 1792 the amount of duties raised on all commodities in Scotland amounted to under £900,000, of which the duty on British spirits alone was a mere £52,470. In 1822 the duty on British spirits had risen to £740,709. The gross receipts that year for the United Kingdom as a whole, amounted to £27,955,810. By 1877, when all but the duties on British spirits and malted liquors had been abolished, the gross receipts amounted to £27,681,523.⁵ In other words, much the same result was

achieved by concentrating on a very few commodities which, it could be argued, were not exactly vital to life and, indeed, could be regarded as positively harmful in excess.

In 1788, when Burns was contemplating the Excise as a career, Excise duty was imposed on the following commodities: auctions, bricks and tiles, beer, candles, coaches, cocoanuts, cider, perry and verjuice, glass, hops, hides and skins, malt, mead or metheglin, paper, pepper, printed goods (silks and calicos), soap, British spirits, foreign spirits, starch, salt, stone bottles, sweets, tea, tobacco and snuff, wine and wire. The duty was charged during the manufacture and the surveillance of the processes entailed frequent visits by the Exciseman, both day and night, including Saturdays and Sundays.

Soap-boilers were surveyed every four hours, candle-makers every six hours and brick-makers twice a day. Each article attracted several rates of duty, depending on the circumstances of manufacture and the type of commodity. Tanners had to pay fourteen different rates, levied per pound, per skin, per dozen skins, or according to the type and quality of hide. Papermakers were more grievously put upon; there were no fewer than 78 different rates of paper duty, according to size, kind and quality. To be sure, no Exciseman had the full range of dutiable commodities to contend with, but he generally had a number of them. On his shoulders rested the heavy responsibility of ensuring that nothing within his district was made without the proper and full amount due to His Majesty's revenue being paid.

Digressing a moment, I should point out that, in addition to Excise duty, which was passed on to the consumer in increased prices, there was an even greater range of goods on which taxes were denoted by means of stamps. In Burns's day Stamp duty was paid on cheques, promissory notes, contracts and legal documents of all kinds, on playing cards and dice, on hats and gloves, on windows and armorial bearings, on newspapers and almanacks. It was the Stamp Duty on newspapers and the Excise on tea which provoked the revolt of the American colonies.

Burns contemplates an Excise career

The Excise, with its myriad regulations and pettifogging controls, which applied as much to the Exciseman himself as to the manufacturers on whom he spied, seems the least likely occupation for a free and independent spirit like Burns. Clearly, there must have been some factor, hitherto undefined and undetected, which lay behind the poet's decision. That, at least, is the theme of a recent novel.⁶ In this, the author postulates the view that Burns was manoeuvred and manipulated into the Excise as a means of curbing his freedom of speech and action. This complex plot was allegedly engineered by Henry Dundas, the uncrowned 'Henry the Ninth' who ruled Scotland autocratically in the interests of the Pitt administration. The story goes that Dundas ordered his minion, Robert Graham of Fintry, to induce Burns to enter the Excise and the genesis of this move is said to have taken place at Blair Atholl in August 1787, during the poet's Highland Tour.

Burns met Robert Graham at Atholl House on 31st August 1787 when both were guests of the Duke of Atholl. Graham had recently been appointed a Commissioner of the Scottish Board of Excise, but at the time of their first meeting it seems doubtful whether anything so positive as a job offer was made or even suggested. There is no mention of the Excise in any of the poet's letters at that time, nor in his admittedly cryptic journal of the Highland Tour. The tenor of the correspondence in the latter part of 1787 shows that Burns was primarily interested in furthering and expanding his poetic avocation, and secondarily giving thought to returning to farming⁷.

That the initiative may actually have been taken by Burns himself, rather than by Graham, however, is suggested by a letter which Burns wrote to Robert Aiken, about 8th October 1786. Wilson had just turned down the offer of a second edition of the Poems at Kilmarnock. The letter reveals Burns's disappointment at this; but goes on: 'I have been feeling all the various rotations and movements within, respecting the excise. There are many things plead strongly against it; the uncertainty getting soon into business, the consequence of my follies, which may perhaps make it impracticable for me to stay at home...'⁸

Early in December 1786 Sir John Whitefoord wrote to Burns, presumably in reply to a letter from the poet, and in it he referred to 'your wish to be made a Gager'.

At this juncture Burns had not entirely given up plans to emigrate to Jamaica, but obviously he was also feeling that he ought to settle down with Jean Armour who had borne him twins a month earlier;

and the Excise seemed to offer a measure of security which farming did not. Detested as the Excise generally was, it was the only branch of government which extended into every district and parish. By contrast, for example, the first post office was not established at Mauchline till early in 1788, and the salary of the postmaster amounted to a little over £10 a year. Excise officers at that time earned £35 a year, but various perquisites could augment that very considerably.

There is no further mention of the Excise in the poet's correspondence until 7th January 1788 when he wrote to Robert Graham: 'When I had the honour of being introduced to you at Athole-house, I did not think of putting that acquaintance so soon to the test.—When Lear, in Shakespeare, asks old Kent why he wished to be in his service, he answers, "Because you have that in your face I could like to call Master:" for some such similar reason, Sir, do I now solicit your Patronage.—You know, I dare say, of an application I lately made to your Board, to be admitted an Officer of Excise.—I have, according to form, been examined by a Supervisor, and today I give in his Certificate with a request for an Order for instructions.' The letter closes: 'I know, Sir, that to need your goodness is to have a claim on it; may I therefore beg your Patronage to forward me in this affair till I be appointed to a Division...'⁹

The certificate (which has not been preserved) had to be attested by the parish minister and certified that the candidate was over 21 and under 30. If married, he had to have no more than two children. At this time Burns was just short of his 29th birthday. Although he had two children—Bess (1784) and Robert (1786)—neither was relevant as Burns was technically a bachelor.

Unfortunately a great deal of archival material pertaining to the Scottish Board of Excise was destroyed about 1857, and therefore Burns's application and subsequent documents, such as the Supervisor's report and the poet's request for instructions have not survived. The existence of these documents might at least have clarified the chronology of events in the closing months of 1787. As it is we have no more than an apocryphal tale that Alexander 'Lang Sandy' Wood, the surgeon who attended Burns when he injured his knee in a fall from a coach, recommended the poet for a post to the Excise Commissioners¹⁰.

Graham's response to this is not recorded. On 27th January 1788 Burns wrote to Mrs. McLehose: 'I have almost given up the excise idea'¹¹. He goes on to say that he had just had an interview with Miss Nimmo's friend Mrs. Stewart who appears to have been employed on this occasion to subject Burns to what would nowadays be termed 'positive vetting'. 'I have been question'd like a child about my matters, and blamed and schooled for my Inscription on Stirling window...' This was a reference to the lines scratched by Burns on 27th August 1787, on a window of the inn at Stirling ending:

'A race outlandish fills their throne;
An idiot race, to honor lost —
Who know them best despise them most.'¹²

If Burns's politics were at all suspect at this time, it was his attachment to the Jacobite cause, more sentimental than real. Barely forty years had elapsed since the great Rebellion of 1745-6 and though there were few who still believed in the claim of Henry, Cardinal of York (the younger brother of Prince Charles Edward Stuart), the government could take no chances. The novel I mentioned earlier, however, takes the line that Burns was, even then, highly suspect of dangerous radicalism¹³.

On 1st February Burns wrote to his patron, the Earl of Glencairn: 'I wish to get into the Excise; I am told that your Lordship's interest will easily procure me the grant from the Commissioners'¹⁴. After reviewing his current situation at length, he continues: 'These, my Lord, are my views; I have resolved on the maturest deliberation; and now I am fixed, I shall leave no stone unturned to carry my resolve into execution. Your Lordship's Patronage is by far the strength of my hopes; nor have I yet applied to any body else.—Indeed I know not how to apply to any body else.—I am ill qualified to dog the heels of Greatness with the impertinence of Solicitation, and tremble nearly as much at the idea of the cold promise as the cold denial...'

Interestingly, this letter begins with a self-deprecating note—'I know your Lordship will disapprove of my ideas...' The same under-current may be detected in Burns's letter to Margaret Chalmers on 17th February: 'You will condemn me for the next step I have taken. I have entered into the excise. I stay in the west about three weeks, and then return to Edinburgh for six weeks instructions... I have chosen this, my dear friend, after mature deliberation. The question is not at what door of fortune's

palace shall we enter in; but what doors does she open to us?... I got this without any hanging on, or mortifying solicitation; it is immediate bread, and though poor in comparison of the last eighteen months of my existence 'tis luxury in comparison of all my preceding life: besides, the commissioners are some of them my acquaintances, and all of them my firm friends.'¹⁵

By March 1788 Burns was facing up to the two alternatives of farming and the Excise. While he was negotiating with Patrick Miller for the lease of Ellisland he was taking instruction at Tarbolton from James Findlay. A letter to Graham of Fintry from Mauchline on 25th March indicates that Burns was originally to be instructed by a Mr. Dickson at Ayr, but he persuaded Dickson to assign the task to Findlay, for the poet's greater convenience. Even this matter was entangled in red tape. '...it seems the Supervisor in Ayr, who must examine me, is superstitiously strict, and to make all things fast I trouble you, as you were so very good as give me permission, to order the Secretary to make out a new Order for my instruction...'¹⁶ The original order for instructions was issued on Monday 17th March, as Burns mentions this fact in a note of that date to Mrs. McLehose.¹⁷ Another letter, written to Clarinda the following morning, begins 'I am just hurrying away to wait on the Great Man.'¹⁸ This was Thomas Wharton, Chairman of the Excise Board.

In April 1788 he embarked on *mon grand but* as he described it to Margaret Chalmers¹⁹. In the same letter, as well as in a letter of the same date addressed to William Dunbar²⁰, he refers to 'the sober science of life'. Skill in this had become his 'most serious and hourly study. I have dropt all conversation, all reading (prose reading) but what tends in some way or other to my serious aim.' And he concludes 'I have scarcely made a single Distic since I saw you.'

The year after Burns's death James Huie, a Collector of Excise, published *An Abridgement of all the Statutes now in Force Relative to the Revenue of the Excise in Great Britain*. This digest ran to almost 900 octavo pages and it was regarded as so invaluable that the Board of Excise purchased a copy for every officer in the country. This estimable tome superseded two earlier works which cover the subject far less effectively. These were *An Index to the Excise Laws* by Jelinger Symons, and *The Royal Gauger* by Charles Leadbetter. Prior to 1797, however, an Exciseman had to acquire most of the necessary legal and practical knowledge from fragmentary instructions and general orders, and many officers spent a lifetime in the service without fully grasping the intricacies of the Excise regulations. Yet entrants to the service were expected - at their own expense - to acquire a sufficient grounding in the rules and regulations to pass a written and oral examination before a certificate of fitness could be issued. Burns underwent this crash course under James Findlay and evidently passed with flying colours, for an interim certificate of fitness was issued by 28th April 1788.

This matter was mentioned in a letter to Mrs. Dunlop on that date: '... which Commission lies by me, and at any future period on my simple petition can be resumed;'²¹ This is inaccurate, for the certificate of fitness was not the same as the commission. From this letter it is evident that, though the certificate had been granted, Burns was still undergoing instruction at Tarbolton, which he expected to complete before Whitsunday. This was confirmed in a letter to Robert Ainslie from Mauchline on 26th May in which he refers to 'the plague of my Excise Instructions which this week will finish'.²² The commission itself, signed by three Commissioners, Thomas Wharton, George Brown and James Stoddard, was issued on 14th July 1788.²³

At that time the salary applicable to Excise officers on entering the service was £35 a year—'no bad dernier resort for a poor Poet' is how he jocularly describes it. That he regarded it as a last resort is borne out by the fact that he took no immediate steps to implement the commission, but at first pinned all his hopes on his farm at Ellisland, whose lease he took up at Whitsun that year.

Incidentally, another forthcoming publication²⁴, by the Archivist of the Customs and Excise no less, originally made heavy weather of a letter by Burns written about this time. On 4th May Robert wrote to his mother's brother, Samuel Broun. Burns lodged with his uncle at Kirkoswald in 1775 while studying mathematics under Hugh Rodger and was well aware of Broun's sideline activities. Kirkoswald was a notorious centre of the smuggling trade at that time, and Samuel Broun was one of the ring-leaders. Burns's letter uses terminology based on Broun's nefarious activities, as well as some of the jargon he was no doubt picking up in the course of his instruction from Findlay. 'It would be a vain attempt for me to enumerate the various transactions I have been engaged in since I saw you last.—But this know.—I engaged in the smuggling Trade and God knows if every any poor man experienced bettern returns—two for one.—But as freight and Delivery has turned out so Damned

Dear I am thinking about taking out a Licence and beginning in a Fair trade.²⁵

Incredibly the author of the new book interpreted this as an admission on Burns's part that he had himself been a smuggler! I had the greatest difficulty in persuading him that Burns was using smuggling as a metaphor for his 'antenuptial fornication' (a charge which had been laid against Samuel Broun and Margaret Nevin in 1765) with Jean Armour. The 'two for one' of course refers to the two sets of twins, born on 3rd September 1786 and 3rd March 1788. An entire chapter based on this false premise and speculating on the outcome, had Burns's prospective Excise employers been aware of his own felonious doings, had to be recast as a result.

On the subject of palpable errors I have been forced to disagree with the author of the recent novel on a crucial point. He claims that Burns had, not one, but three children living with him at the time he moved to Ellisland in June 1788. The generally accepted facts are that Jean, the girl in the first set of twins, died in September 1786, while the second set of twins died on 10th and 22nd March 1788 respectively. Alastair Campsie maintains that the second set of twins survived and moved with Jean and Robert Junior to Nithsdale late in 1788. He avers that Burns suppressed the existence of the twins in order to get around the Excise regulation which insisted that new recruits had to be under 30 years of age and have no more than two children at the time of their candidature.

In support of this contention, he cites a statistical survey of Excise officers dated 10th October 1789²⁶ which shows the Burns family as having swollen to six (including Burns and Jean Armour). This does not mean, as Campsie maintains, that Burns had four children. In fact his family at that date consisted of Robert Junior, Francis Wallace (born August 1789) and his young cousins John and Fanny Burns - a fact mentioned by Burns in a letter to James Burness dated 9th February 1789. A second survey is undated but as it states that the poet had been three years in the service it belongs to late 1792. This gives the Burns family as seven. This would account for five children then living: Robert Junior (1786), Francis Wallace (1789), Betty (1791), William Nicol (1791) and Elizabeth Riddell (1792).²⁷ Every living child of Burns appears at some time or another in his correspondence, and there is even a laconic reference to the death of Jean Junior²⁸, but I consider it significant that no reference to the second set of twins appears anywhere.

Although he had obtained his commission Burns did nothing further in applying for an Excise appointment for several months. He concentrated instead on his farm; but by harvest-time 1788 he was beginning to realise that it was not 'such a Pennyworth' as he had been led to expect. He now fell back on his 'sheet anchor', the Excise and wrote to Robert Graham on 10th September. Not only did he seek an appointment, but he presumed on the good offices and influence of Graham to secure for him an appointment in his own locality, which was strictly against the regulations. What he proposed was quite outrageous. The present incumbent, Leonard Smith, was to be ousted to make way for Burns, so that he would have the convenience of combining the Excise job with his farm. As he explained, 'as the gentleman, owing to some legacies, is quite opulent, a removal could do him no manner of injury; and on a month's warning, to give me a little time to look again over my Instructions, I would not be afraid to enter on business... It would suit me to enter on it, beginning of next Summer; but I shall be in Edinr to wait upon you about the affair, sometime in the ensuing winter.'²⁹

The *Hardiesse* of this rather unscrupulous letter was mitigated by the inclusion of the verse epistle beginning 'When Nature her great masterpiece designed'³⁰, an absurd piece of poetic flattery, given the fact that he and Graham were, as yet, but slightly acquainted, with the incongruous thread of an independent posture thrown in for good measure. In particular, I find the following lines unpalatable:

Why shrinks my soul, half-blushing, half-afraid,
Backward abash'd to ask thy friendly aid?
I know my need, I know thy giving hand,
I tax thy friendship at thy kind command...

That both the letter and the verse-epistle cost Burns a considerable amount of thought and effort is borne out in a reference he made to having written 'my long-thought-on letter to Mr. Graham', in one of the few letters he ever wrote to Jean Armour³¹. He obviously considered the verse-epistle a fine piece of work and sent a draft of it to Mrs. Dunlop as early as 2nd August³², despatching the final version to her on 5th September—five days before he sent it to Graham himself. He later sent copies

to William Dunbar, Dr. John Moore, Dugald Stewart, Lady Elizabeth Cunningham and Henry Erskine³³.

Graham replied on 14th September in terms of kindness mingled with politeness. Because of the harvest, compounded by an attack of influenza, Burns did not get to Dumfries to collect his mail till 22nd September and wrote to Graham the following day. After thanking his new benefactor most effusively for his 'friendly assurances of patronage and protection' he took the bull by the horns. Regarding his wish for an Excise division the following summer, he wondered whether 'as I am only a little more than five miles from Dumfries, I might perhaps officiate there, if any of these Officers could be removed with more propriety than Mr. Smith; but besides the monstrous inconvenience of it me, I could not bear to injure a poor fellow by ousting him to make way for myself: to a wealthy Son of good-fortune like Smith, the injury is imaginary, where the propriety of your rules admit.' He ended by promising to call on Graham when he came to Edinburgh about February 1789.³⁴

Ironically, more than a year was to elapse before Burns's wishes were fulfilled. Increasingly Burns regarded the Excise commission in his pocket as a guarantee of security and peace of mind, as the ruinous bargain of his farming venture became more and more apparent. There are numerous references to this in his letters in the ensuing months³⁵. To Dr. Moore he confided his ambitions: 'If I were very sanguine, I might hope that some of my Great Patrons might procure me a Treasury-warrant for Supervisor, Surveyor-General, &c.'³⁶. He came swiftly down to earth in the next sentence: 'If farming will not do, a simple petition will get me into employ in the Excise somewhere; & poor as the salary comparatively is, it is luxury to what either my wife or I were in early life taught to expect.—Thus, secure of a livelihood, "to thee sweet Poetry, delightful maid," I consecrate my future days.'

Burns was in Edinburgh from 16th to 27th February 1789, settling accounts with his publisher Creech, dealing with the embarrassing matter of the paternity suit raised by Clarinda's maidservant, Jenny Clow (who had borne him a son) and, of course, attempting to further his future career in the Excise. As regards the lastnamed, however, he was not as successful as he had wished. To Mrs. Dunlop³⁷ he confessed that his hope of an Excise division in his own locality had been thwarted by the regulations of the Excise Board, 'notwithstanding Mr. Graham's warmest exertions'. Mrs. Dunlop had offered to write to Graham herself on the poet's behalf and sent Burns a draft of the proposed letter. He approved of her petition but warned her that 'I must not seem to know any thing of the matter'. People might solicit patronage quite shamelessly, but there were still some limits.

Unfortunately the Excise archives are silent on the matter; but we may assume that Mrs. Dunlop wrote to Robert Graham at the beginning of April 1789 on the poet's behalf. Graham pulled strings, and early the following month was able to write to Burns enclosing a letter to John Mitchell, Collector of Excise at Dumfries. Although Mitchell was very busy on the day Burns called on him he received the poet with the utmost politeness and made Burns promise to call on him again soon. Burns wrote to Graham on 13th May reporting progress. He noted that Graham and his cousin, Sir William Murray of Ochtertyre (whom Burns had met during his Clackmannan tour in 1787), were proposing to visit Dumfries during the summer and he extended an invitation to them to visit his 'humble domicile' and partake of a Farmer's dinner of 'good old beef, a chicken, or perhaps a Nith salmon fresh from the ware'.³⁸ It is not known whether the visit actually took place.

Graham wrote on 19th July and Burns replied at the end of the month.³⁹ He reported that Mitchell had not waited for him to call, 'but sent me a kind letter giving me a hint of the business, and on my waiting on him yesterday, he entered with the most friendly ardour into my views and interests.' Mitchell apparently agreed with Burns that Leonard Smith could be removed from his post without disadvantage to the Revenue or detriment to him. He posed the two alternatives. Should the Board accede to his importuning and appoint him to the division in which he lived he would be 'at the top of my wishes'. Alternatively, 'should it be judged improper to place me in this Division, I am deliberating whether I had not better give up farming altogether, and go into the Excise wherever I can find employment.'

The prospect of an Excise appointment was now made more attractive because the salary had been raised to £50 a year. This seems paltry, but it is necessary to multiply this by 150-200 to get a rough approximation of its worth, relative to the depreciated currency of the present day. Meanwhile the

friendship between Burns and Graham, though largely on paper, was growing. They shared interests in poetry and the theatre. Burns was to play a leading role in the foundation of the Theatre Royal in Dumfries (1792) and had ambitions to become a playwright; Graham, on the other hand was an enthusiastic devotee of amateur theatricals. It was Graham's copy of Adam Smith's *Wealth of Nations* which Burns read in the summer of 1789. It is evident from the poet's letters that Graham lent him several books.⁴⁰

By the end of July 1789 Burns was set on an Excise career. He told Graham that 'I do not think that I must trouble you for another cargo [of books], at least for some time, as I am going to apply to Leadbetter and Symon on Gaging, and to study my Sliding rule, Branan's rule &c, with all possible attention.'³⁹

Eventually the Board acceded to his wishes and he was appointed to the position of riding-officer of the First Dumfriesshire Itinerary responsible for surveying the ten parishes of Upper Nithsdale. He heard unofficially from Graham about 7th August and responded immediately with the sonnet beginning 'I call no Goddess to inspire my strains' which he sent to his benefactor on 10th August.⁴¹ The appointment dated from 7th September 1789 and from then until July 1790 he was riding up to 200 miles a week in all weathers, then working far into the night writing up his reports, keeping four different sets of books.⁴² To Ainslie⁴³ he had admitted his good luck in having cut corners and gained an appointment as a fully-fledged Exciseman without having had to serve as an Expectant or probationer. The rigours of the business were spelled out to Richard Brown. Moreover he had no prospect of snatching a day off to meet his old friend on his home ground. 'I cannot meet you anywhere; no less than an order from the Board of Excise at Edinr is necessary before I can have so much time as meet you in Ayr-Shire,—But, do you come and see me!'⁴⁴

With the onset of winter, however, the hardships of riding work began to tell. On 10th November 1789 Burns wrote to his brother William, then working as a saddler in Newcastle. He complained 'I am so hurried and fatigued with my Excise-business, that I can scarcely pluck up resolution to go through the effort of a letter to any body.'⁴⁵ His physique, which was never robust, was further aggravated by a psychosomatic ailment which he explained to Mrs. Dunlop on 13th December: 'I am groaning under the miseries of a diseased nervous System; a System of all others the most essential to our happiness—or the most productive of our Misery. For now near three weeks I have been so ill with a nervous head-ach, that I have been obliged to give up for a time my Excise books, being scarce able to lift my head, much less to ride once a week over ten muir Parishes ...'⁴⁶ This rather pathetic letter is oddly at variance with the lengthy epistle to Robert Graham two days earlier, accompanying a veritable parcel of his latest effusions. 'I have found the Excise business go on a great deal smoother with me than I apprehended; owing a good deal to the generous friendship of Mr. Mitchell my Collector, and the kind assistance and instruction of Mr. Findlater my Supervisor.'⁴⁷

Having bent the rules by obtaining a position in his own locality, Burns next engineered a transfer to the much more lucrative Dumfries Third (Port) Division. Graham was apparently in Dumfries in December 1789, for Burns entrusted to him a letter addressed to Provost Maxwell of Lochmaben. It is tempting to speculate that during Graham's visit to Dumfries Burns propositioned the Commissioner about the transfer. He confided to Mrs. Dunlop as early as 6th March 1790 'I can have in the Excise-line what they call a foot-walk whenever I chuse; that is an appointment to a Division where I am under no necessity of keeping a horse. There is in every Sea-port town, one or two Officers, called Port-Officers, whose income is at least seventy pounds per annum. I will petition Mr. Graham & stretch all my interest, to get one of these; and if possible on Clyde. Greenock & Port Glasgow are both lucrative places in that way & to them my views are bent.'⁴⁸ This letter also graphically illustrates the alacrity with which Burns was ready to utilise whatever connections Mrs. Dunlop possessed; in this instance the friendship of a Mrs. Corbet whose husband just happened to be William Corbet, one of the Supervisors-General of Excise. 'Were he to interest himself properly for me, he could easily by Martinmass 1791 transport me to Port Glasgow port Division, which would be the ultimatum of my present Excise hopes.' He was prudent enough to remind Mrs. Dunlop that this was for her most private ear. 'It would be of considerable prejudice to me to have it known at present.'

The work of the Dumfries Third Division was confined to the town itself. It was a much more lucrative position, attracting a salary of £70 a year. The salary, however, represented only a part of

the Exciseman's income and the various perquisites and emoluments could multiply that sum several times.

In Burns's day and for some years thereafter, the detecting officer was entitled not only to one-half of all fines imposed in court, but also to one-half of the produce of seizures. Furthermore, officers were entitled to perquisites on seizures which were subsequently ordered to be destroyed. Thus payments of 2s6d a pound on tea seized and destroyed were regularly made. Other payments of this kind ranged from 22s7d for a still-head and worm, to £50 for apprehending a smuggler. The prospect of doubling one's salary by arresting a smuggler must have been a real incentive to vigilance!

On 4th September 1790 Burns wrote to Graham that he had just convicted a band of smugglers and estimated that his share of the fines would amount to between £50 and £60 - 'double the amount of any Division in the district'.⁴⁹ Doubtless this coup confirmed his decision to give up farming. Sadly the war with France eventually curbed trade to such an extent that Burns found his emoluments cut by a third. Presumably Customs officers, whose work depended on imports from abroad, were very much more hard hit. Nevertheless the popular notion that Burns died in poverty does not bear examination. Sir Andrew Gilchrist⁵⁰ has estimated that Burns's salary and emoluments in the last year of his life were the equivalent of £18,000 in modern currency. Robert Burns Junior has left a vivid picture of the relative comfort of his parents, enhanced by the spoils of smugglers and gifts from county gentry and Edinburgh friends⁵¹. The poet's fears of bankruptcy were but the irrational delusion of a man in the last throes of an agonising and debilitating illness. Taking into account the large sum of money still owing to him by his brother Gilbert, the poet's estate was comparatively substantial.

Ambivalence and Reconciliation

Under this heading I propose to examine what has been regarded as Burns's ambivalent attitude towards the Excise and to what extent he reconciled his radical views with the practical exigencies of the service. The forthcoming book on Burns and the Excise adopts a somewhat unsympathetic view of the poet-gauger. The well-worn chestnuts about Burns turning a blind eye to illegal brewing have been trotted out again. The stories of Jean Dunn of Kirkpatrick Durham and Kate Watson of Thornhill⁵² were quoted by early biographers to illustrate his essential humanity, compassion and good sense. In the late nineteenth century, however, a different interpretation was placed on such incidents and in the centenary year of his death letters appeared in the national press condemning Burns for his action in these cases, saying that he was false to the interests of the revenue he had sworn to uphold when he accepted the King's commission.

Other writers put the matter in perspective. From the 1660s anyone could brew beer without a licence, for sale at fairs in Scotland, provided the proper duty had been paid in advance. Such persons whose brewing was confined to fairs were known as bye-brewers (as distinguished from common brewers who made a full-time living from this occupation). By a general order of 25th October 1740, bye-brewers were required to give notice of their intention to sell beer at a fair. The officers were instructed to insist on their paying the duty before selling any part of the beer. If they sold more than they had paid duty for they were liable to prosecution. It should also be noted that, prior to 1880, anyone could brew beer for domestic consumption without a licence or the need to pay duty. In light of this, therefore, Burns's treatment of Kate Watson and Jean Dunn (probably well-known as old offenders) was fair. He had no proof of sale, and in the case of such poor persons his instructions were to prevent evasion of the law, hence the friendly warnings. As a conscientious, energetic officer he did his duty effectively and, at the same time, mercifully, by these domiciliary visits on the morning of the fair.⁵³

More serious are the allegations of conspiracy with smugglers, levelled at Burns by Graham Smith in his book. In support of this he cites the letter of 3rd February 1792 to Mrs. Dunlop which he sent along with 'a very small jar, sealed full of as genuine Nantz as ever I tasted'.⁵⁴ Taking this statement out of context, Burns might seem to be guilty of handling contraband goods on his own account; but the bulk of the letter explains the circumstances. Among the perquisites of a Port Division were 'as much rum and brandy as will easily supply an ordinary family'; and the specific circumstances in which Burns obtained the French brandy were described.

The other case concerns the pair of French gloves which Burns found for Maria Riddell in April

1793. Bearing in mind that this occurred about two months after France declared war on Britain Burns has been pictured as lacking in patriotism as well as guilty of dereliction of duty. The letter, if taken literally, smacks of sedition; but it seems to me to be a matter of interpretation, and I feel that Burns had his tongue in his cheek when he wrote it.⁵⁵

On the other hand we have the evidence of the energetic manner in which Burns carried out his duties. In the letter of 4th September 1790 to Robert Graham, previously cited, he explained his methods: 'I recorded every Defaulter; but at the Court, I myself begged off every poor body that was unable to pay, which seeming candour gave me so much implicit credit with the Hon. Bench that with high Compliments they gave me such ample vengeance on the rest that my Decreet is double the amount of any Division in the District.'⁵⁶

How Burns was regarded by his superiors can be gauged by the tantalisingly few documentary scraps which have survived, as well as the poet's record of service. There exists a list of Excise officers in the Dumfries Collection, drawn up some time after 26th April 1792.⁵⁷ Twelve names appear on this list and above their names Alexander Findlater, the Supervisor, had added cryptic comments. The letter (a) appears above the names of Burns, William Penn, John Lewars and John Crawford, denoting the officers regarded as above average in ability. James McQuaker and Alexander Easton are marked 'weak', James Hosack is marked 'In' (indifferent), John McCulloch is 'doubtfull' and Peter Warwick 'does his best'. The Character Book of the Scottish Excise Board contains an alphabetical list of all officers. Many of the names have no annotation, but others were singled out as 'a good officer', 'a carefull officer' or, occasionally, even 'a carefull good officer'. Burns alone was annotated 'The Poet, does pretty well'.⁵⁸ Even this has been the subject of controversy, and while the consensus of opinion regards this as highly complimentary there have been adverse interpretations put upon it, 'pretty well' being equated with 'not very good at all'!

One of the canards which has surfaced yet again recently is that Burns was censured by the Board of Excise on account of his political leanings. The facts are quite different. Two volumes are still extant in the Archives which show that Burns was admonished on two occasions, in 1792 and 1795. On 10th May 1792 Burns entered a grocer's stock of green tea as 160 lbs instead of 16 lbs, causing an apparent increase of 144 lbs. He rectified this error on his next visit. On 25th May he neglected to visit a tanner and the omission was detected the very next day by Alexander Findlater. That these were very minor errors is indicated by the fact that admonitions were recorded only at local level and not reported to Edinburgh until 1804. In 1806 a table of discipline contained the following entry:

6 admonishments = 1 reprimand
3 reprimands = 1 suspension
2 suspensions = dismissal

In a general order of 1815 the rules for the promotion of officers put this into perspective by stating that selection was to be made from the most senior officers, and the officer with the fewest censures was to be appointed. 'An admonishment shall not be deemed a censure.'⁵⁹

Incidentally, in 1815 the regulations were modified to permit the promotion of officers to the rank of Examiner or Supervisor after seven years' service, instead of nine as heretofore. As Burns completed only seven years service before his untimely death, one cannot put any adverse interpretation on the fact that he had not been promoted. In fact he had been selected for accelerated promotion and had served as Acting Supervisor in place of Findlater between 22nd December 1794 and April 1795. In the Character Book previously mentioned Burns's name also appears in a list of officers recommended for the post of Examiner, showing that he would have attained this rank late in 1796 or early in 1797.⁶⁰

There is no doubt that Burns overcame his natural distaste for a job which smacked of authoritarianism because of the security it provided - a matter which, as a family man, was uppermost in his mind. This is a recurring theme in many of the semi-apologetic letters written when he was contemplating an Excise career, but he never expressed his feelings more succinctly than he did in the six lines:

Searching auld wives' barrels,
Ochon, the day!
That clarty barm should stain my laurels!
But, what'll ye say?
These movin things ca'd wives and weans
Wad move the very hearts o stanes!⁶¹

Undoubtedly the most serious setback to Burns, a calamity that drove him to distraction bordering on hysteria, was the charge of 'disaffection' levelled against him. The fall of the Bastille in July 1789 seems to have had little effect on Burns. Certainly, neither in his letters nor his poetry, did it excite much comment at the time. The more radical events of 1792, however, by which the French Revolution moved to the left, stirred Burns to his very core. The quixotic gesture of sending carronades from the smuggler ship *Rosamond* to the National Assembly has been hotly debated and continues to be a matter of controversy to this day; but there can be no doubt that the poet's sympathies lay with the republicans. Indeed, it was an intemperate outburst against the late King and Queen of France which ruptured the long-running correspondence with Mrs. Dunlop in January 1795.⁶²

In view of the trouble he had got into two years earlier, this outburst is all the more reprehensible. It was in another letter to Mrs. Dunlop, on 6th December 1792, that Burns innocently described the political climate of Dumfries. 'We, in this country, here have many alarms of the Reform, or rather the Republican spirit, of your part of the kingdom. Indeed, we are a good deal in commotion ourselves, & in our Theatre here "God save the king" has met with some groans & hisses, while *Ca Ira* has been repeatedly called for. For me, I am a *Placeman*, you know; a very humble one indeed, Heaven knows, but still so much as to gag me from joining in the cry. What my private sentiments are, you will find out without an Interpreter. In the mean time, I have taken up the subject in another view, and the other day, for a pretty Actress's benefit-night, I wrote an Address, which I will give on the other page, called *The Rights of Woman*.'⁶³

The incident at the Theatre was soon magnified, and one version which won an all too ready acceptance was that Burns himself had instigated the uproar. From this it was but a short step to report back to the powers that be in Edinburgh that Burns was a person disaffected to Government. The Board of Excise communicated with Collector Mitchell and he, in turn, informed Burns of the charge on 31st December. Burns wrote to Rober Graham immediately.

This letter verges on hysteria and shows only too well the poet's state of mind at this shattering news. Significantly, he appeals to Graham as a husband and father - 'you know what you would feel, to see the much-loved wife of your bosom, & your helpless, prattling little ones, turned adrift into the world, degraded & disgraced from a situation in which they had been respectable & respected.' He railed against 'the damned, dark insinuations of hellish, groundless Envy' and stoutly maintained that 'the allegation, whatever villain has made it, is a LIE! To the British Constitution, on Revolution principles next after my God, I am most devoutly attached!'⁶⁴

A letter to Mrs. Dunlop, begun the same day, was not completed till 2nd January 1793, presumably interrupted by Mitchell's bombshell. Ironically, this was in response to Mrs. Dunlop's offer to use her influence with Supervisor-General Corbet to get him promoted to Supervisor. After pointing out that he would not be eligible for promotion for several years, he continued, 'Besides, some envious, malicious devil has raised a little demur on my political principles, & I wish to let that matter settle before I offer myself too much in the eye of my Superiors...'⁶⁵

Before he despatched this letter, however, he got a courteous and kindly response from Graham of Fintry (5th January) who outlined the charges which had been made against him. Burns replied at once rebutting the charges in more reasoned, measured language than his initial outburst. Burns was charged with heading a disaffected party, that he led hissing and booing against the National Anthem, that he uttered invectives against the King and espoused Republican principles. More specifically he was questioned about his association with a seditious publisher named Johnston in Edinburgh. Burns admitted that he had subscribed to Johnston's *Gazetteer* but stoutly denied that he had ever written a line of prose for it. He conceded that he had sent some poetry to that paper, and enclosed copies of 'The Rights of Woman' and extempore stanzas on the Commemoration of Thomson to show that they were entirely innocent and apolitical. 'As to France', he concluded, 'I was her enthusiastic votary in the beginning of the business. When she came to shew her old avidity for conquest, in annexing Savoy, &c. to her dominions, & invading the rights of Holland, I altered my sentiments.'⁶⁶

The trouble blew over, doubtless as a result of Graham's commonsense intervention. But there was a rather poignant tailpiece to this episode. John Francis Erskine, later 27th Earl of Mar, heard a rumour that Burns had been dismissed from his post. Immediately he wrote to Robert Riddell of Glenriddell offering to start a subscription on behalf of the poet. The details of this generous—and politically

dangerous—act were set out in the preamble to the copy of Burns's letter to Erskine in the Glenriddell Manuscript. In this letter, however, Burns indicated what a close-run business it had been. Some members of the Board had been angered by the poet's claim that every patriotic Briton must wish to see [our glorious Constitution] amended. Mr. Corbet himself was ordered to interview Burns and to advise him that it was his business to act, not to think. 'Between Mr. Graham and him I have been partly forgiven: only, I understand that all hopes of my getting officially forward are blasted.'⁶⁷

Burns probably exaggerated the incident. No record of any admonition, far less a reprimand, was made, and as he was selected to act as Supervisor a few months later, it clearly had no effect on his career. Of course, a political maverick like Burns could never repress his fiercely independent views all the time, and injudicious toasts and at least one inscription on the fly-leaf of a book occasioned soul-searching and second thoughts when he remembered that he had a wife and children to consider. But at least he kept his head down and never again attracted adverse comment.

FOOTNOTES

- 1 Sir William Blackstone, *Commentaries*, 10th edition, 1786
- 2 Samuel Johnson, *Dictionary of the English Language*, 1755
- 3 B.R. Leftwich, *A History of the Excise*, 1908
- 4 J.W. MacFadzean, 'Burns's Excise Duties and Emoluments', BC VII, p53 (1898)
- 5 Parliamentary Statistics, 1792, 1822, 1878
- 6 Alastair Campsie, *The Clarinda Conspiracy*, Mainstream, 1989
- 7 Letter to Patrick Miller from Edinburgh, 20. 10. 1787 (CL p242)
- 8 Letter to Robert Aiken, c8.10.1786 (CL pp92-3)
- 9 Letter to Robert Graham, 7.1.1788 (CL p424)
- 10 Robert Heron, *A Memoir of the Life of the Late Robert Burns*, 1797
- 11 Letter to Mrs. McLehose, 27.1.1788 (CL p390)
- 12 'Lines written by Somebody' (CW p286)
- 13 *The Clarinda Conspiracy*
- 14 Letter to the Earl of Glencairn, 1.2.1788 (CL pp227-8)
- 15 Letter to Margaret Chalmers, 17.2.1788 (CL p236)
- 16 Letter to Robert Graham, 25.3.1788 (CL p425)
- 17 Letter to Mrs. McLehose, 17.3.1788 (CL pp404-5)
- 18 Letter to Mrs. McLehose, 18.3.1788 (CL p405)
- 19 Letter to Margaret Chalmers, 7.4.1788 (CL pp236-7)
- 20 Letter to William Dunbar, 7.4.1788 (CL p283)
- 21 Letter to Mrs. Dunlop, 28.4.1788 (CL pp143-4)
- 22 Letter to Robert Ainslie, 26.5.1788 (CL p332)
- 23 For the text of the Excise commission, see Maurice Lindsay, *The Burns Encyclopaedia*, 1988
- 24 Graham Smith, *Robert Burns the Exciseman*, Alloway, 1989
- 25 Letter to Samuel Broun, 4.5.1788 (CL p451)
- 26 See articles by Alastair Campsie in *The Glasgow Herald*, 28.1.1989 and by J.A. Mackay in *The Burnsian*, no. 10 (March 1989)
- 27 *Character Book of the Scottish Excise Board*, facsimile in BC, 2nd series, XXI, opp. p65 (1936)
- 28 Letter to John Richmond, 27.10.1787 (CL p81)
- 29 Letter to Robert Graham, 10.9.1788 (CL pp425-7)
- 30 'Epistle to Robert Graham of Fintry' (CW p330)
- 31 Letter to Jean Armour Burns, 12.9.1788 (CL pp477-8)
- 32 Letter to Mrs. Dunlop, 2.8.1788 (CL pp150-1)
- 33 Letters to Mrs. Dunlop, 5.9.1788 (CL p155), William Dunbar, 25.9.1788 (CL p284), Dugald Stewart, 20.1789 (CL pp448-9), Lady Elizabeth Cunningham, 22.1.1789 (CL pp496-7), Henry Erskine, 22.1.1789 (CL pp224-5) and Dr. John Moore, 4.1.1789 (CL pp 257-8). The last of these gives full details of the circumstances in which the verse-epistle was composed
- 34 Letter to Robert Graham, 23.9.1788 (CL pp428-8)
- 35 See, for example, the letters to Robert Ainslie, 16.10.1788 (CL p336), Bishop Geddes, 3.2.1789 (CL pp507-8) and James Burness, 9.2.1789. In particular the last states that Graham offered Burns an Excise commission
- 36 Letter to Dr. John Moore, 4.1.1789 (CL pp257-9)
- 37 Letter to Mrs. Dunlop, 25.3.1789 (CL pp169-71)
- 38 Letter to Robert Graham, 13.5.1789 (CL p428)
- 39 Letter to Robert Graham, 31.7.1789 (CL pp429-30)
- 40 The books borrowed by Burns included Marshal's *Yorkshire*, Moliere's *Angola*, Fontaine's *Contes* and two other French volumes, one of which was entitled *Chansons Joyeuses*
- 41 'Sonnet to Robert Graham of Fintry on Receiving a Favour' (CW p362)
- 42 Letter to Mrs. Dunlop, 2.10.1789 (CL pp179-80) mentions 'riding five days a week, up to 40 miles a day, etc I return; besides four different kinds of book-keeping'
- 43 Letter to Robert Ainslie, 1.11.1789 (CL pp338-9)
- 44 Letter to Richard Brown, 4.11.1789 (CL p422)
- 45 Letter to William Burns, 10.11.1789 (CL pp517-18)
- 46 Letter to Mrs. Dunlop, 13.12.1789 (CL pp181-2)
- 47 Letter to Robert Graham, 9.12.1789 (CL pp431-3)

- 48 Letter to Mrs. Dunlop, 6.3.1790 (CL pp184-5)
- 49 Letter to Robert Graham, 4.9.1790 (CL pp433-4)
- 50 Sir Andrew Gilchrist, *Scotland on Sunday*, 28.1.1989
- 51 J.A. Mackay, *Burns-Lore of Dumfries and Galloway*, 1988, pp46-7
- 52 Ibid. pp122, 150
- 53 R.W. MacFadzean, 'Burns's Excise Duties and Emoluments' BC, 1st series, VII, pp55-7
- 54 Letter to Mrs. Dunlop, 3.2.1792 (CL pp197-8)
- 55 Letter to Maria Riddell, April 1793 (CL pp602-3)
- 56 Letter to Robert Graham, 4.9.90 (CL p433)
- 57 BC, 2nd series, XI, facsimile opp. p66
- 58 Third, facsimile opp. p65
- 59 BC, 1st series, V, pp144-5
- 60 BC, 2nd series, XI, facsimile opp. p64
- 61 'On Being Appointed to an Excise Division' (CW p306)
- 62 Letter to Mrs. Dunlop, 1.1.1795 (CL pp213-14)
- 63 Letter to Mrs. Dunlop, 6.12.1792 (CL pp201-2)
- 64 Letter to Robert Graham, 31.12.1792 (CL pp435-6)
- 65 Letter to Mrs. Dunlop, 31.12.1792 - 2.1.1793 (CL pp203-5)
- 66 Letter to Robert Graham, 5.1.1793 (CL pp436-8)
- 67 Letter to John Francis Erskine, 13.4.1793 (CL pp689-91)

IRVINE BURNS CLUB

Visit the Club Museum at Wellwood,
28A Eglinton Street, Irvine
(Open Saturday afternoon and by arrangement)

See the Irvine Collection of Original Burns Manuscripts, the pencil drawing of the Bard by Naysmith, our beautifully bound copy of the Kilmarnock Edition, the original oil painting 'Burns in Edinburgh, 1787 by Charles M. Hardie, A.R.S.A., the priceless collection of holograph letters, the Burns Mural and many other treasures.

Irvine was in the vanguard of the Agricultural and Industrial Revolution and the Royal Burgh Museum gives an insight into the town's history and its attraction to the Bard to become a Flax Dresser during the formative period of his life.

Enquiries to:

Samuel K. Gaw, Honorary Secretary, Irvine Burns Club, Camasunary, Kidsneuk, Irvine. KA12 8SR (Tel: 0294 79056)
or to the Custodian (Tel: 0294 74511).

THE BOWHILL PEOPLE'S BURNS CLUB 1940-1990

by Norman Watters

The Bowhill people's Burns Club began during the dark days of the Second World War when the local communist party decided to hold a Burns Supper and elected John Murdoch to organise and preside over it. John Murdoch was a remarkable man of great personal integrity and given to a pursuit of the arts, wherein his greatest love in musical taste for Scottish songs and Literature found their joyous fusion in the works of Robert Burns. He was given to surprises, which, at the first Burns Supper, led to the presence of two Russian sailors with a Polish interpreter. This was the precedent for an international flavour at most of the later Burns Suppers.

He had two very talented brothers, Ned and Jim, a modest but tireless vice-chairman, Sandy Mathieson, the only surviving founder member, and a colleague of matching integrity and love of Burns in James Balfour, who excelled everyone by the liquid tone of his voice for singing or reciting. Being miners, they had that determined trait for perfection, choosing to meet in one another's homes to entertain themselves by way of practice for the forthcoming suppers.

In 1954 the committee decided to open membership to anyone prepared to dedicate themselves to a knowledge and performance of the works of Robert Burns. 75 men enrolled at a Public Meeting, re-elected the Committee, approved an annual subscription of 2/6d, agreed to seven monthly Meetings per annum and decided that only men could be members.

This last rule was not made through fears of behaviour, John Murdoch, from the outset of his tenure, having instilled exemplary decorum on all occasions, preserved to this day, meaning, Bowhill Order. Also, at that time there were three ladies' and three men's clubs in Cardenden, though only the Auchterderran Jolly Beggars Burns Club, founded in 1912, and ours have survived the years.



Bowhill Peoples Burns Club Present Day Officials and Committee
Back Row: John Hopton; Robert Shepherd; Alex Thomson; Thomas Hopton; James Ewan.
Front Row: Wm. Anderson; Robert Garmory (Vice President); Norman Watters (President);
William Adie (Treasurer); Charles Kennedy (Secretary).
In absentia John Blarney.

The Club's members who could last the pace rapidly enhanced the reputation of the Club. At Club Meetings, talks on the life or some work of Robert Burns were given by members, who were kept on their toes during the harmony, for, unsuspecting, anyone would be called upon to render an item from the works of our Bard, prompting the need to become familiar with the words!

As usual, wives greatly sustained the social functions of the Club. At one outing to Ayrshire, in Kilmarnock, Alex. McMillan, Irvine then President of the Burns Federation, paid a compliment treasured by the Club when at the Social Evening he spoke of his regret that other Ayrshire representatives had not been present 'to have their eyes opened' as to how to commemorate Robert Burns. That was in 1957, the year the Club joined the Burns Federation with the number, 803.

James Gillies, then the Hon. Secretary, became President in 1964. No one ever in the Club possessed such a memory-store of the works of Burns with the talent also to sing, play and recite them. He started the local School Competitions sponsored by the Club, continued and increased the Club's Concert Party outings to run Burns Suppers or Scots Nights for organisations in and outwith Fife. Consequently, many people came to know truth from fiction about Robert Burns and respect his philosophy of international brotherhood.

He was elected fifth Honorary President of the Club in 1989 to join the elite few so honoured. The first was Hugh MacDiarmid, second was Norman MacCaig, third was Sir George Sharp and fourth Toshio Namba. All have been supportive to our Burnsian objectives and we are exceedingly proud of their valued association.

Hugh Docherty, a man of high stature in a dual sense, became President in 1977 and gave worthy service for eleven years, ably assisted for much of that time by James Ewan as Honorary Secretary from 1966 to 1982. Hugh preserved the Club Traditional formula, saw resuscitated a Fife District representative to the Federation in Charlie Kennedy. 40 years a Club member, Charlie also initiated a Young People's Burns Supper which has been held now for eight years, each better than the last with a display of avid enthusiasm to perform, and nearly all familiar with the words.

I became President in 1988 for a period of three years much orientated, as now, to celebrating our Golden Jubilee. Otherwise, the Club Meeting format remains the same as before. I inherited a superb Hon. Treasurer in Bill Adie and a dedicated Committee, whose shrewd stewardship has given us a chance to commemorate with a modicum of style.

A memorable Burns Supper of distinction by all present crowned the year for us all. However, the celebrations are far from over. We inaugurated a mixed Burns Supper in March, following the formal part with a Social, which was enjoyed so much that unanimous demand has caused us to have another next year. We are now organising the Golden Jubilee Dinner and Social Evening to be held on Friday, 19th October 1990, when we look forward to as many Burnsians coming from a' the airts to support us by their presence and taking part in the entertainment.

Thus, we of the Bowhill People's Burns Club can equate with the euphoria surrounding the Centenary of the Burns Chronicle, being like the producers, custodians of a rich inheritance. We congratulate you and wish you every success in upholding our patriarchal tradition in the words of our bard, while 'Glowing here on golden sands'...

'We'll ne'er forget the people'.

BRIDGING THE AGE GAP

by Charles Kennedy

*Would, in the way His wisdom sees best,
For them and for their little ones provide*

Annually, we read of the increasing number of competitors in the Schools Competitions —126,000 in 1989—yet, scarcely can one find a score of young men or women between the ages of 18 to 25 years old as active Members of Burns Clubs in Scotland.

Many deliberations over the fact of this age group's negotiation to active support of and participation in the Burns movement have been reviewed, perhaps perfunctorily, within the history of the Burns Federation. In my experience, the encouragement of young adults to participate in social integration at Burns Suppers and like events has borne fruit. Young people enjoy the stimulus of taking part with members of their own peer group and, whilst competition gives a keenness and an edge to learning, the relaxed atmosphere of social events, such as Burns Suppers, has a very stimulating and rewarding influence. Proof of this is the way that the young people, now young adults, have matured through their support for eight years of the Annual Burns Supper sponsored by the Bowhill People's Burns Club. I organise and present the Programme, which the young people themselves perform, encouraged by the presence of parents and friends and preservation on video.

Likewise, a supremely successful event was the first Young People's Burns Supper held in the hallowed rooms of the Bachelors' Club, Tarbolton, with a follow-up in the Irvine Burns Club premises at Wellwood.

The National School-Children's Competition has given the youngest another date in the competitive calendar, but sadly, as yet, there is a void betwixt the older pupils and the young adult.

It is borne out that young people of this age are engulfed by television, while the more studious are preparing for school examinations and pursuing career studies. Nonetheless, surely, the natural talent that shines at these Burns events has a need to be more fostered and encouraged before it dissipates into the void of apathy.

Many sceptics proffer that the works of Robert Burns are 'Too Deep' for young people. This can be readily refuted when one discovers no limitations on hearing young people recite, sing, act and play with joyful abandon at the aforesaid events.

When young people write with such productive spontaneity: 'I like Robert Burns's poetry because he mixes effective expressions like happy, sad, funny and scary.'

'I like Robert Burns's poetry because of the way he expresses his emotions, especially in his love of animals, people and his country.' 'When you recite his poems or sing his songs you feel that he is letting us feel the part.'

'I appreciate his love for the animals, birds and flowers of the Scottish countryside.' These comments surely disprove the sceptics who say that young people do not appreciate, understand or are disinterested.

While it is true that annually we have the world-wide outburst of what may be described as the harvest of the dormant fears of learning (that is, from school years to mature adult appreciation) around 25th January, it is still very evident that far too much 'borrowing' of talent is done to please the passive listener at the ritualistic Burns Suppers.

The preservation and continuity of the good work done by the faithful in the 194 years since Robert Burns's death lies with the young people. This work and the worth of Scotland's National poet surely validates much more support and mature co-operation from members of the Burns fraternity in Scotland, in particular, and all countries wherever there be a Burns Club or Society.

THE FIRST TWINNING OF BURNS CLUBS

The First Twinning between Burns Clubs in the Federation, took place on Saturday, 30th July 1988 at London, Ontario, Canada, in the Great Hall of the University of Western Ontario.

Dr. Jim Connor in the Chair introduced John Scoular the President of The London Ontario Burns Club No.561 who warmly welcomed those attending including Anne Gaw, President of the Burns Federation, Alex Wilson, President, and Tom Hodge, Secretary of the Burns Club of London No.1.

John presented to Alex a parchment which charged both Clubs to work together in promoting the works of Robert Burns. He also gave a beautiful soapstone carving of a loon as a lasting memento of the occasion and explained that the loon was very appropriate as it was a bird that frequented the lakes and mountains of Canada.

Jack Burghardt, the Deputy Mayor of London Ontario, in his words of welcome said that the city was honoured that such an historic event should take place in London and presented to Alex Wilson a City of London gilded plate, badge and flag.

In his reply Alex thanked John Scoular and the Deputy mayor for their very distinctive gifts and stated that they would be proudly displayed at future meetings of the Burns Club of London, England. Alex then presented a trinket box, an antique Mauchlinware thimble holder, a Robert Burns brooch, a memorial plaque and parchment which recorded inter alia the relevant words: "that man to man the world o'er shall brothers be for a' that."

The gifts were carefully chosen as the trinket box, surmounted by a cap badge of The London Scottish Regiment recorded the link this Regiment already had with the Royal Canadian Regiment of London Ontario, both having fought with distinction in France at Ypres in the First World War. The thimble holder served as a link with the Burns Country and the Burns Club of London as it was made in Mauchline Ayrshire about 1868 when the Burns Club of London, England, was founded.

The Robert Burns brooch in a silver mounting was given to Margaret Scoular, in recognition of the wonderful work put in by the lassies of London Ontario, in making the Twinning such an enjoyable occasion.

As Jim Connor said in his concluding remarks "Honours Even" in this unique event in the history of The Burns Federation.

Alex Wilson

ROBERT BURNS AND THE BOSWELL CONNECTION

by Dr. John Strawhorn

It seems hardly credible that two great literary figures—Robert Burns and James Boswell—should have their homes only a few miles apart, and yet never met. Boswell spent much of his early life at Auchinleck, and succeeded to the estate in 1782. Because his lands extended into adjoining parishes, he made a point of attending Mauchline church, sitting with his tenants in its Auchinleck loft, and between services dining with the parish minister. Rev. William Auld, in common with Boswell, had studied at Glasgow, Edinburgh and in Holland—which made him the best qualified Ayrshire minister of his time. Robert Burns did not become one of his parishioners till the family flitted into Mossgiel in 1784. It was in 1786 that Burns engaged the attention of 'Daddy Auld' and his kirk session, and gained a wider renown by the publication of the Kilmarnock edition of his Poems on 31st July. In its third poem Burns expressed the wish to 'like Montgomeries fight, Or gab like Boswell'. That year Boswell was at Auchinleck from 21st August till 20th September. We cannot know if he then heard of Burns, for he kept no journal during this visit. He was very much taken up with moving his family to London. He had abandoned his practice as an advocate and his house in Edinburgh, and in February had been called to the English bar. When Burns visited Edinburgh to prepare his second edition, and was feted by the literati, their numbers no longer included Boswell.

In 1787 Burns briefly returned to Mauchline in July; Boswell was at Auchinleck the following month, too late to meet him. Had he arrived before 25th July Boswell might well have attended a masonic lodge in Mauchline along with his neighbouring lairds, Claud Alexander of Ballochmyle, John Farquhar Gray of Gilmilncroft, and Dugald Stewart of Catrine. Professor Stewart recalled how fluently Burns welcomed the guests in an impromptu presidential address. In 1788 Burns came back to Mauchline and set up house with Jeán Armour, before moving to Ellisland later in the year. Boswell on 21st May brought back to Auchinleck House his ailing wife and did not return to London till 26th October. Burns that summer, listing Ayrshire's prospective parliamentary candidates, included 'him

wha led o'er Scotland a', The meikle Ursa major. Later, writing on 13th November from Mauchline to Bruce Campbell of Milrig, Burns enclosed some poems with a hope that they might 'procure me the honor of being introduced to Mr. Boswell'. Campbell, a cousin of Boswell who helped manage the estate, passed on the letter, which Boswell endorsed as from 'Mr. Robert Burns, *the Poet*, expressing very high sentiments of me'. Though Boswell on later trips north would pass by Ellisland and through Dumfries, the two men never met.

The letter just quoted is preserved among the Boswell Collection of Yale University at New Haven, Connecticut—a mass of documents relating not only to the Biographer, but to his family and their estate from the 16th till the 20th century—filling 4,032 folders in 195 boxes and occupying 101.25 linear feet of shelf space in the Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library. While working there and in the neighbouring Boswell Office, researching the correspondence of Boswell with his estate overseers, I was periodically diverted from that objective by references to people who were associated with Burns as well as Boswell.

Boswell corresponded with so many who occupied a prominent role in Burns's career. Robert Aiken, the Ayr lawyer who was one of Burns's patrons, advised Boswell on the legacy of Hugh Atkins, a local man who had become a successful merchant in Russia. John Ballantine to whom Burns dedicated his 'Brigs of Ayr' was unsuccessful in soliciting from Boswell a subscription for Ayr Academy. David McClure, owner of Lochlea, engaged Boswell to defend his brother who had been arrested as a smuggler. Rev. William Auld supplied Boswell with information about the Atkins inheritance, and there are some verses which the aged minister may himself have composed. Gavin Hamilton, the Mauchline lawyer, was frequently concerned in disputes involving Auchinleck and adjoining properties. James Armour, Burns's father-in-law, was called upon to give an estimate for repairs to a farmhouse. Dr. John Mackenzie's advice was sought during an epidemic. There were purchases of groceries for Auchinleck House from William Miller, whose wedding to one of the Belles of Mauchline was immortalised by Burns. John Ronald, the Mauchline carrier who brought Burns fifteen yards of silk for Jean Armour, more regularly served to convey letters and produce from Auchinleck House to Edinburgh.

Some of the women whom Burns knew also crossed Boswell's path. Mrs. Dunlop, Burns's constant correspondent, exchanged letters with Boswell (regarding a candidate for the vacancy at Auchinleck Kirk). Mrs. Dunlop's protegee Janet Little, the Loudoun milk-maid poetess, supplied both men with samples of her verse. When Boswell visited Robert Baillie of Mayville, his daughter (Burns's 'Bonie Lesley') was 'charmed, fascinated, bewitched' by their guest. After Boswell was widowed, he contemplated as a second wife Wilhelmina Alexander (celebrated by Burns as 'the bony Lass of Ballochmyle').

Margaret Chalmers, whom Burns seriously courted in Edinburgh and at Harvieston in 1787, has previously been known as his 'Dear Countrywoman', whose father had once occupied a farm somewhere near Mauchline, where Burns may first have met her. Auchinleck estate papers, and several of the letters between Boswell and James Bruce, his overseer, identify the farm as Braehead. James Chalmers of Fingland was impoverished and had to leave his little Kirkcudbrightshire property. In 1756 Lord Auchinleck leased him this farm in Mauchline parish on the south bank of the River Ayr. Margaret and a younger sister were born at Braehead, and Robert Burns may have made their acquaintance as relatives of Gavin Hamilton. In April 1783 Margaret Chalmers informed Boswell that her father had died, and her mother wished to continue the tenancy of Braehead. Boswell, who was now the laird, wrote a sympathetic reply to the request. But a dispute arose and continued into 1784 regarding terms. The widow's brother-in-law, John Tait of Harvieston, WS, was involved. He no doubt arranged for them to leave Braehead for Edinburgh and had them from time to time as his guests at Harvieston. From the details the Boswell papers afford us of Margaret Chalmers at Braehead, it seems impossible to identify her with 'a Lothian farmer's daughter, whom I have almost persuaded to accompany me to the west country' as mentioned in a letter to Gavin Hamilton, 7th January 1787.

One unexpected Burns-Boswell connection is to be derived from the laird of Auchinleck's correspondence with his estate overseers. James Bruce succeeded his father in that position, just as his mother who was housekeeper was followed by a daughter. Bruce's weekly reports to his master, and the regular replies, concerned principally with meticulous attention to management of the estate,

reveal numerous details of Bruce's family affairs. The eldest son, Alexander, worked as gardener before becoming a tenant farmer in St. Quivox. Though Boswell told his overseer that he 'always differed from him as to putting his sons out of the Gardener line', he agreed to help find a clerk's post in London for John Bruce, the second surviving son. Nevertheless, as Boswell noted, 'our Gardener's son has settled himself in Scotland... as a Hardware man'. That was in 1778, and some time later John was joined in Edinburgh by his younger brother Andrew. Williamson's *Edinburgh Directory* for 1786 confirms that John Bruce & Co. were hardware merchants in Bridge Street. From Kay's *Edinburgh Portraits* we learn that John and Andrew Bruce had become acquainted with the respected but now-notorious Deacon Brodie. By taking an impression of the keys of their Bridge Street shop, Brodie arranged for an accomplice to rob them of watches and jewellery valued at £350. That robbery occurred early in the morning of Christmas day 1786. Two days later Robert Burns, who had arrived in the city a month before, advised William Chalmers in Ayr that any reply should be 'Care of Andrew Bruce Merch Bridge-street'. Andrew Bruce and Robert Burns (who were both born in 1759) may have been earlier acquainted in Ayrshire. Burns knew the Auchinleck estate well enough to recommend to Captain Grose the inclusion of its ruined castle as one of the seventeen Ayrshire illustrations in his *Antiquities of Scotland*. In Edinburgh, Burns became closely associated with Andrew Bruce. On at least one occasion he dined with him at his home in Castlehill and wrote to Kilmarnock friend Robert Muir that 'I left Andrew Bruce and family all well'. According to one tradition, the 'Address to a Haggis' was first presented at a party in Bruce's home. In 1788 John and Andrew Bruce moved to more prestigious premises at No. 10 Princes Street. Burns in Dumfries three years later wrote to his Clarinda, 'I have sent in your hair, a part of the parcel you gave me, with a measure, to Mr. Bruce, the jeweller in Princes Street, to get a ring done for me'.

One final scrap of evidence confirms Gilbert Burns's account of how his brother in 1786 'agreed with Dr. Douglas to go out to Jamaica as an assistant overseer' until he decided to 'change his resolution of going to Jamaica, and... go to Edinburgh to publish a second edition.' It was known that among the papers at Auchinleck was a boxful brought there from Garrallan, formerly home of Dr. Patrick Douglas. That box was mislaid, and so not acquired by Yale. In 1989 Mrs. Patsy Boswell unearthed the box and another caseful of papers. Among the Garrallan papers I have found 167 letters sent from Jamaica to Dr. Patrick Douglas by his brother Charles, covering the years 1784 till 1813. 'I am never at a loss to get young Men into business,' Charles wrote (27th September 1784) and subsequently several young Ayrshiremen were sent out. A letter of 29th May 1786, replying to a letter of 23rd February, asked for a young lad who could write. The next letter (5th November 1786), replying to one from Dr. Douglas dated 27th August, may refer to Burns as 'The Man you mention to have engaged for me I dare Say will do very well'. A letter from Charles (4th March 1787) replying to Patrick (who had written 30th December 1786) contains one sentence which is conclusive, though not very complimentary: 'I am very well Satisfyd that you have Changed my Man, I want no Warm heads & Poets must have them; the other Lad will do for one.'

DR. JOHN MACKENZIE M.D.

by James L. Hempstead

The young doctor who was called to Lochlea Farm in 1783 to attend William Burnes in his final illness, was John Mackenzie of Mauchline. A native of Ayrshire, he had studied medicine at Edinburgh University and, on completion of his studies, was persuaded by Sir John Whitefoord of Ballochmyle to establish a medical practice in Mauchline.¹ He rented premises at the Cross, where he set up a consulting room and drug store, with a sign informing the public that he was both 'Doctor and Midwife'.²

It was on his first visit to Lochlea that Mackenzie met Robert Burns. He was about the same age as the poet and, despite what seemed an unfavourable start, a warm friendship followed their meeting. In a letter to Professor Josiah Walker, written in 1810, Mackenzie gave an interesting account of his visit to Lochlea and his impressions of the Burns family:

'When I first saw William Burns (*sic*) he was in very ill health, and his mind suffering from the embarrassed state of his affairs. His appearance certainly made me think him inferior, both in manner and intelligence, to the generality of those in his situation; but before leaving him, I found that I had been led to form a very false conclusion of his mental powers. After giving a short, but distinct account, of his indisposition he entered upon a detail of the various causes that had gradually led to the embarrassment of his affairs; and these he detailed in such earnest language, and in so simple, candid, and pathetic a manner, as to excite both my astonishment and sympathy. His wife spoke little but struck me as being a very sagacious woman, without any appearance of forwardness, or any of that awkwardness in her manner which many of these people show in the presence of a stranger. Upon further acquaintance with Mrs. Burns I had my first opinion of her character fully confirmed. Gilbert and Robert Burns were certainly very different in their appearance and manner, though they both possessed great abilities, and uncommon information. Gilbert partook more of the manner and appearance of the father, and Robert of the mother. Gilbert, in the first interview I had with him at Lochlea, was frank, modest, well informed and communicative. The poet seemed distant, suspicious, and without any wish to interest or please. He kept himself very silent in a dark corner of the room; and before he took part in the conversation, I frequently detected him scrutinising me during my conversation with his father and brother. But afterwards, when the conversation, which was on a medical subject, had taken the turn he wished, he began to engage in it, displaying a dexterity of reasoning, and ingenuity of reflection, and a familiarity with topics apparently beyond his reach, by which his visitor was no less gratified than astonished.'



Dr. John Mackenzie
By Willima Findlay, after an oil painting by James Tannock.

Mackenzie, like many others after him, was impressed by Burns's great intellect and his brilliant powers of conversation. In the same letter he continues:

'From the period of which I speak, I took a lively interest in Robert Burns; and, before I was acquainted with his poetical powers, I perceived that he possessed very great mental abilities, an uncommonly fertile and lively imagination, a thorough acquaintance with many of our Scottish poets, and an enthusiastic admiration of Ramsay and Ferguson. Even then, on subjects with which he was acquainted, his conversation was rich in well chosen figures, animated, and energetic. Indeed, I have always thought that no person could have a just idea of the extent of Burns's talents, who had not an opportunity to hear him converse. His discrimination of character was great beyond that of any person I ever knew; and I have often observed to him, that it seemed to be intuitive. I seldom ever knew him to make a false estimate of character, when he formed the opinion from his own observation, and not from the representation of persons to whom he was partial.'³

It seems obvious from the passage just quoted that the doctor admired Burns and enjoyed his company. No doubt their friendship was further cemented when the poet moved to Mossgiel farm early in 1784, as it lay just one mile north of the village. Mackenzie was shrewd enough to realise that Burns was something more than just a tenant farmer, and quick to recognise the man of genius under the rustic garb.

Burns was not long settled in Mossgiel when he suffered a recurrence of the heart complaint, which was to result finally in his death. Both Professor Snyder and Maurice Lindsay state that Mackenzie attended the poet in his illness, and although there is no documentary evidence to support their claim, in all probability he did. Maurice Lindsay goes further, however, and claims that Mackenzie 'has been much criticised for prescribing not only the wrong treatment for Robert's illness, but one which, in all probability, accelerated the progress of the disease. He instructed his patient to plunge into cold baths and to get rid of the melancholy by still harder farm work'.⁴

In view of the uncertainty of Mackenzie's involvement, it does seem to be taking an unfair liberty to place the responsibility for the treatment at Mackenzie's door. The poet was almost twenty-five years of age when he first met the Mauchline doctor, and since his early teens, had suffered periodically from palpitation of the heart and a threatening of fainting and suffocation in bed at night. It seems more likely that Burns had recourse to the cold water treatment long before he met Mackenzie. It may have been an 'auld wife's cure'.

The poet and doctor had a common interest. Both were enthusiastic Masons and were members of St. James Lodge, Tarbolton. Burns was elected Deputy Master at a meeting of the Lodge held on 27th July, 1784 in Manson's Inn. Each year a procession was held on St. John's Day, 24th June, and on the eve of the 1786 procession, Burns sent a rhyming invitation to Mackenzie:

Tuesday first's the day appointed
By the Right worshipful anointed,
To hold our grand procession;
To get a blad o' Johnie's morals,
And taste a swatch o' Manson's barrels
I' the way of our profession.
The Master and the Brotherhood
Would a' be glad to see you;
For me I would be mair than proud
To share the mercies wi' you.
If death, then, wi' skaith, then,
Some mortal heart is hechtin,
Inform him, and storm him,
That Saturday you'll fecht him.

Some explanation of the lines is necessary and this was given by 'Johnie' (Mackenzie himself) in a letter to Dr. Robert Chambers, when the biographer was collecting material for his life of the poet. He wrote, 'The phrase "Johnie's morals" originated for some correspondence Burns and I had on the origin of morals; and "Manson's Barrels" to the small beer of a very superior kind that the brethren got from him at the dinner. The lines "If Death, then, wi' skaith, then", etc. were in consequence of my expressing a doubt whether I could attend the lodge on that day, from the number of patients that

I had to visit at the period'.⁵ Unfortunately, the correspondence which Mackenzie had with Burns on the origin of morals has not survived.

Mackenzie is also credited with writing on some controversial topic under the title of Common Sense, and because of this his name has been linked with the following verse in 'The Holy Fair':

In guid times comes an antidote
Against sic poison'd nostrum;
For Peebles, frae the water-fit,
Ascends the holy rostrum:
See, up he's got the Word o' God,
An' meek an' mim has view'd it,
While 'Common-sense' has taen the road,
An' aff, an' up the Cowgate
Fast, fast that day.

Tradition has it that on the day of the Mauchline annual Communion held on the second Sunday of August, 1785, Mackenzie had arranged to meet Sir John Whitefoord and accompany him to Dumfries House, in Auchinleck parish, to dine with the Earl of Dumfries. Having taken Communion at an early 'table', and listened to some of the harangues from the 'tent', he was seen making his way up the Cowgate, en route for Ballochmyle, as the Rev. William Peebles, of Newton-on-Ayr ('the water fit'), was about to mount the rostrum.⁶

Mackenzie obtained a copy of 'The Holy Fair' from Burns and passed it to the Rev. Dr. Hugh Blair, the 'moderate' minister of the High Kirk of St. Giles, who also held the Chair of Rhetoric at Edinburgh University. He happened to be visiting Lord Barskimming, Lord Chief Justice of the Court of Session, at his country seat at Barskimming, just outside Mauchline. Blair was one of the Edinburgh literati and was the acknowledged arbiter of 'good taste' in the capital. He was partly responsible for the exclusion from Burns's Edinburgh Edition of 'The Jolly Beggars' and a poem called 'The Prophet and God's Complaint', with 'The Holy Fair' and 'said it was the production of a great genius, and that it contained some of the finest and justest description he had ever seen'.⁷ Burns altered the fourth line in the twelfth stanza and 'tidings o' salvation' to 'damnation' on Blair's suggestion.

Mackenzie's practice extended for a considerable distance around Mauchline and he was physician to such notable persons as Sir John Whitefoord of Ballochmyle and Colonel Hugh Montgomerie of Coilsfield, who later became the Earl of Eglinton. It is reported that he attended the Countess of Loudon, who was born in 1677 during the reign of Charles II, and whose life extended to over one hundred years.⁸ Mackenzie, however, was no ordinary physician. In addition to his skill as a doctor he seems to have been a man of considerable intelligence, a liberal thinker and an excellent conversationalist. He was a welcome guest in the homes of many of the gentry and nobility in the area, and a frequent visitor to Catrine House, the country home of Dugald Stewart, about two miles distant from Mauchline. Stewart was Professor of Moral Philosophy at Edinburgh University and spent most of his leisure time at Catrine whenever he was free of his University duties. During his visits, Mackenzie spoke so highly of Burns's accomplishments that the Professor expressed a desire to meet him. The meeting took place on 23rd October, 1786, when Mackenzie and Burns were invited to dine with the Professor at Catrine House. Also present on the occasion was Lord Daer, who was the second son of the fourth Earl of Selkirk. He was a radical Whig, whose political principles were very similar to those embraced by Burns. Burns commemorated the occasion in the humorous 'Lines on Meeting with Lord Daer'. Enclosing the poem in a letter to Mackenzie, he said,

'I never spent an afternoon among great folks with half that pleasure as when, in company with you, I had the honor of paying my devoirs to that plain, honest, worthy man, the Professor... I think his character, divided into ten parts, stands thus—four parts Socrates—four parts Nathaniel— and two parts Shakespeare's Brutus.

The foregoing verses were really extempore, but a little corrected since. They may entertain you a little with the help of that partiality with which you are so good as to favor the performances of... Robert Burns'.

In the poem the poet said of Lord Daer:

The fient a pride, nae pride had he,

Nor sauce, nor state, that I could see,
Mair than an honest ploughman.

Dugald Stewart, on his part, was struck with Burns's manners which he said were 'simple, manly, and independent; strongly expressive of conscious genius and worth'. He was also greatly impressed with the poet's command of language. On this point he noted, 'Nothing, perhaps, was more remarkable among his various attainments, than the fluency, and precision, and originality of his language'⁹

The Mauchline doctor not only introduced Burns to Professor Stewart and brought his works to the notice of the Rev. Dr. Blair, but when the poet went to Edinburgh in November, 1786, to try for a second edition of his poems, Mackenzie recommended him to Sir John Whitefoord and the Hon. Andrew Erskine, who became his patrons.¹⁰ Sir John had been forced to sell Ballochmyle in 1785, following the failure of the Ayr bank of Douglas and Heron, in which he was a shareholder, and had removed to Edinburgh with his family. He was a friend of Lord Glencairn, who became Burns's principal patron. The Hon. Andrew Erskine was the brother of the Earl of Kellie and a well known wit and versifier. He had settled in Edinburgh following a period of service in the army, and was on intimate terms with James Boswell, who was over generous when he described him as 'both a good poet and a good critic'. Erskine collaborated with George Thomson in the early stages of the *Select Scottish Airs*.¹¹

Burns was not long in Edinburgh when he learned that Sir John Whitefoord had spoken in defence of his moral character. The news was contained in a letter from Mackenzie. It appears that the poet had been maligned in the course of conversation by a detractor intent on raking up the story of his affair with Jean Armour. This prompted Burns to write to Sir John on 1st December, 1786. In his letter he said:

'Mr. Mackenzie, in Mauchline, my very warm and worthy friend has informed me how much you are pleased to interest yourself in my fate as a man, and, (what to me is incomparably dearer) my fame as a poet...

I was surprised to hear that anyone who pretended in the least to the manners of a gentleman should be so foolish, or worse, as to stoop to traduce the morals of such a one as I am, and so inhumanly cruel, too, as to meddle with that late most unfortunate, unhappy part of my story. With a tear of gratitude, I thank you, Sir, for the warmth with which you interposed in behalf of my conduct.'

Very few letters were exchanged between the poet and the doctor. This is understandable as they were in regular contact with each other after Burns moved to Mossgiel. The only letter which he sent to Mackenzie from Edinburgh was on 11th January, 1787, following a meeting with Sir John. He wrote:

'Yours gave me something like the pleasure of an old friend's face.

I saw *your* friend and my honoured patron, Sir John Whitefoord, just after I read your letter, and gave him your respectful compts. He was pleased to say many handsome things of you, which I heard with the more satisfaction, as I knew them to be just.'

When Burns returned to Mauchline at the end of February, 1788, after his second visit to Edinburgh, he found Jean Armour banished from her parents' home 'all for the good old cause'. She was about to give birth to the second twins, and had been given refuge by Willie Muir and his wife at Tarbolton Mill. Burns immediately rented an upstairs room in a house in the Back Causeway belonging to Archibald Muckle, a Mauchline tailor, and it was in this room that twin daughters were born on 3rd March.¹² Both girls died shortly afterwards. Some writers have suggested that Dr. Mackenzie was the first to give shelter to Jean when she was driven from her father's house. While this may be true, unfortunately it cannot be substantiated. We know from a rough set of doggerel verses by the Tarbolton tailor, Alexander Tait, that Mackenzie attended Jean at the births.¹³ In the following month of April, 1788, Burns acknowledged Jean Armour as his wife.

When Mackenzie first came to Mauchline and set up in practice he lodged in the Sun Inn, one of the most respectable inns in the village. It was owned by John Miller, 'auld John Trot' of Burns's 'Mauchline Wedding', and father of Helen and Elizabeth, two of the 'Mauchline Belles' immortalised by Burns. The young doctor paid court to Helen and in due course they were married on 29th August, 1791.¹⁴ Helen brought with her a considerable dowry which had been settled on her by her brother, who had made his fortune in India.¹⁵ It is almost certain that Mackenzie lodged in the Sun Inn until

his marriage. Thereafter it seems that he and his wife occupied a house in the Back Causeway, immediately adjoining Archibald Muckle's property and opposite Nance Tinnock's hostelry. He also used part of the building as a surgery, which was known locally as the 'Doctor's Shop'. In 1788 he acquired a bond on the property and became sole owner in 1815.¹⁶ It was probably about 1788 that he removed from his 'shop' at Mauchline Cross to the Back Causeway. It is interesting to note that one of the four tenants named in a title deed of 1831 was Dr. Dugald Stewart Hamilton (son of Gavin Hamilton) who bought Mackenzie's practice in 1801.¹⁷

As has already been stated, Mackenzie numbered among his patients Colonel Hugh Montgomerie of Coilsfield. He was Member of Parliament for Ayrshire from 1784 to 1789, and again in 1796, but almost immediately succeeded his cousin as twelfth Earl of Eglinton. Soon after his accession he rebuilt Eglinton Castle, laid out new roads and extended and landscaped the policies.¹⁸ About this time he removed from Coilsfield and took up residence in the Castle. He had formed a very high opinion of Mackenzie as a physician; so much so that he induced the doctor to leave Mauchline in 1801 and set up a practice in Irvine, which was conveniently near to Eglinton Castle. In consideration, the Earl agreed to pay Mackenzie a life rent annuity of £130, which the doctor accepted in lieu of all fees for his professional services to the Earl and his family. The bond of annuity makes interesting reading and shows the high regard which the Earl had for Mackenzie.

'...Mr. John Mackenzie, surgeon in Mauchline has for these several years past attended as my family surgeon, and that I have had the greatest reason to be highly satisfied with the professional abilities and the very great care and attention which the said John Mackenzie has shown to me in a dangerous and critical indisposition, and that therefore, anxious to have the benefit of the said Mackenzie's assistance, I proposed to him to remove from his present residence at Mauchline and settle himself and family in Irvine in my immediate neighbourhood, which he has accordingly agreed to do upon my making him a fair and reasonable compensation for the loss of his practice in Mauchline and the risk he runs in settling in a new place.'¹⁹

Mackenzie soon established himself in the busy seaport town of Irvine and his practice prospered. He took an active interest in town council affairs and held the offices of Treasurer and Dean of Guild and served at various times as a Bailie. In Irvine he made the acquaintance of Davie Sillar, friend of Burns and 'a brither poet', who had settled in the town in 1783. Mackenzie's great interest in Burns and his works never diminished in the long interval since the Mauchline days when he and the poet were in close contact with each other. In 1826 he helped to found the Irvine Burns Club. A meeting was held on 2nd June of that year at which it was resolved by the twelve gentlemen present to form a committee 'for the purpose of establishing a Club or Society for commemorating the birth of Robert Burns'. Mackenzie's name headed the signatories to the document. The first Burns celebration was held on 25th January, 1827, in the King's Arms Hotel, with Dr. Mackenzie in the chair and Davie Sillar as croupier.²⁰

John Mackenzie served the people of Irvine faithfully for twenty-six years. Although engaged in municipal affairs, he found time to keep abreast of the modern advances in medical science which were then being made. In 1824 he made his own contribution when he submitted a thesis on 'De Carcinomate' to his Alma Mater, for which he was awarded the degree of M.D.²¹ This suggests that, even then, doctors were trying to find a cure for this deadly disease.

On 2nd March, 1827, his wife, Helen, died at Seagate House, Irvine, and in the same year he retired from practice and removed to Edinburgh, where he spent his remaining years until his death on 3rd January, 1837, at an advanced age.

John Mackenzie was a man of liberal outlook and, like Burns, was a keen observer of contemporary life. He was among the first to recognise the genius of the young farmer at Lochlea and, following the publication of the Kilmarnock volume, introduced him to some of his influential patients and friends. Burns, for his part, liked and trusted Mackenzie and referred to him as 'his warm and worthy friend', which certainly reflects the true nature of their relationship. The Mauchline doctor did as much as anyone to ensure that Burns's entry into Edinburgh would be as easy and as successful as possible. For that he occupies a special niche in the life story of Robert Burns.

NOTES

- 1 Charles Rogers *The Book of Robert Burns*, 1889/91 (The Grampian Club) Vol.II, p28
- 2 Ayrshire Archaeological and Mauchline Memories of Robert Burns
Natural History Society 1985, p237
- 3 Josiah Walker *Poems of Robert Burns with an Account of his Life*, 1811, Vol.II, pp261/263
- 4 Maurice Lindsay *Robert Burns*, 1954, p43
- 5 William Wallace *The Life and Works of Robert Burns* edited by Robert Chambers, revised by William Wallace, 1896, Vol.I, p378(n)
- 6 *ibid* Vol.I, p363(n)
- 7 Josiah Walker op cit, p264
- 8 Charles Rogers op cit, p32
- 9 Dugald Stewart Letter to the Editor of *The Lounger* and printed by Dr. Currie in his *Life of Burns*, 1826
- 10 Josiah Walker op cit, p264
- 11 J. Cuthbert Hadden *The Life of George Thomson*, 1898, p29
- 12 J.C. Ewing 'Burns House in Mauchline', *Burns Chronicle*, 1916, p56
- 13 Franklin Bliss Snyder *The Life of Robert Burns*, 1968, Appendix B, p501
- 14 Mauchline Parish Register 1791
- 15 Ayrshire Archaeological and Natural History Society op cit, pp254/255
- 16 J.C. Ewing — 'The Mackenzie Extension', *Burns Chronicle*, 1920, p136
- 17 'Purchase of Dr. Mackenzie's House' *Burns Chronicle*, 1917, p117
- 18 Ayrshire Archaeological and Natural History Society *Ayrshire at the time of Burns*, 1959, p292
- 19 'Dr. John Mackenzie' *Burns Chronicle*, 1918, pp71/72
- 20 Henry Ranken, B.D. 'Burns and Irvine', *Burns Chronicle*, 1905 pp49/63
- 21 William Findlay, M.D. *Robert Burns and the Medical Profession*, 1898, p20
- 22 John McVie *Robert Burns and Edinburgh*, 1969, p42

THE MYSTERY SOLVED

by R. Peel

The three of us, Macpherson, Rafferty and myself, were seated in our usual corner enjoying the ebb and flow of the conversation and hoped we could avoid Simpson.

We all had a passing interest in Burns, but none of us could match the obsession of Simpson, and neither did we want to, for he introduced snatches of verse or turned the conversation around to Burns at every opportunity. He had the largest collection of Burnsiana in the area; mainly it seemed to be comprising items of little value such as bookmarks, whisky labels, postcards and pens. Simpson naturally saw it differently and among his prize possessions he claimed he had the poet's own porridge spoon emblazoned with the Nasmyth portrait on the handle and the motto 'A Man's a man for a' that' around the bowl.

Many of his knick-knacks were kept in a battered tartan box decorated with a thistle motif. On the lid was a confusing montage in which Bonnie Prince Charlie and Flora MacDonald seemed to be pursued by a troupe of kilted dancers. By way of banter I once asked him if this was the poet's lunch-box. Simpson gave me a withering look and stated anyone could see it was a short-cake tin, but he added significantly, it had once been in Poozie Nansie's hostelry.

It wasn't long before certain mischievous members began to tempt Simpson with a variety of so called relics of their own. Firstly there was the faded blue bonnet - no doubt rejected by a local jumble sale - which Simpson examined eagerly before reluctantly declaring he did not think it was the headgear worn by a certain Ayrshire gentleman on his fateful ride. Then there was the dilapidated dog collar bearing the name 'Luath' and the miniature bottle from Dr. Hornbook's shelf. By the time the withered handful of grasses appeared which purported to be a certain mouse's nest it was declared that enough was enough and regular members were once more left to their own pursuits.

So it remained for several weeks, but on this occasion our peaceful evening was broken when we were spotted by Simpson. He joined us with a manic gleam in his eye.

'Boys,' says he, 'this piece of research will upset the apple cart'.

There was no response, but undeterred he continued. 'I've found out the true identity of Highland Mary'.

'I didn't know she was in disguise,' was Macpherson's off-hand reply. Simpson however had no humour where the Bard was concerned. He became even more serious and hinted darkly about many a true work spoken in jest. He then added that he knew who she really was.

After a while I could hold my tongue no longer and had to ask, 'Well, who was she then?'

'Bonnie Jean of course,' cried Simpson, raising his hands triumphant gesture.

'Bonnie Jean!' exclaimed Macpherson. Rafferty meanwhile muttered something about a pressing engagement and left.

'But Mary Campbell was a real person who worked as a maid for Gavin Hamilton or someone, wasn't she?' I lamely suggested.

'That's the clever part,' replied Simpson warming to his task. 'Gavin Hamilton had crossed swords with the kirk-session right?'

We nodded.

'And Burns was a pal of his, right?'

'Yes,' was the hesitating reply.

'Well then, Jean had to disappear once it was known she was pregnant and Holy Willie was after her, so Gavin Hamilton took her in as Mary Campbell. The whole thing was to put the kirk-session pack off the scent. She never went to Paisley at all.'

'Wait a minute,' interjected Macpherson, 'Highland Mary was Gaelic-speaking and blonde, wasn't she?'

'That made it easy,' exclaimed Simpson. 'Bonnie Jean simply had to cover her hair and speak with a funny accent'.

At this stage Macpherson and I exchanged glances, but he beat me to it and rose to his feet saying something about a phone call.

I protested, 'It all seems a bit far-fetched surely'.

'Look', said Simpson slowly, 'I've searched all the literature and there is no evidence of Jean ever being in Paisley. There are no letters to or from home and the only mention of Paisley is by her mother to the snoopers from the kirk-session'.

'Was Jean's mother part of the plot then? I thought the family were at loggerheads with Burns?'

'It is my contention,' continued Simpson confidently, 'that Jean's mother knew what was going on and was sympathetic to the plan since it would keep her daughter close-by for one thing. The father probably believed Jean was in Paisley.'

'The case seems a bit weak to me,' I said.

'Not at all, came the reply. 'You see no sooner does Jean disappear then up pops this Highland Mary. Where had she come from? There is no evidence of her coming to Mauchline from a neighbouring village. So what is her history? You'll not be able to find the answer to that and I've searched thoroughly. And when Jean supposedly returns from Paisley, Mary disappears again. Neat don't you think?'

'You'll notice of course that Burns didn't desert Jean and take up with someone else as all the books tell us. He remained faithful once he had gone through with the marriage ceremony because Jean and Mary were the same person. He was really seeing her all the time.'

'And another thing,' and here Simpson stabbed his finger into my ribs, 'Highland Mary was supposed to come from Argyll wasn't she? Well what is the most common name in that neck of the woods? Gavin Hamilton knew that if he called her Mary Campbell from Argyll it would be impossible to delve into her background.'

'Then who's buried at Greenock?' I prided myself on details of this kind.

'Anybody or nobody,' was the vague reply. 'It was a grave of someone else anyway.'

'Well what about the references to her in poems and songs?' I demanded.

'Do they mention her by name?' he answered patiently. 'And before you bring up the lines about "Will you go to the Indies my Mary" that was written much later and the place was teeming with Marys anyway. I've done my homework and this bit of research is watertight.'

'Ah, but wasn't there something about some bibles?' I queried.

'Of course,' he agreed, 'but remember the writing in the ones from Burns is mutilated and could have been given to anybody.'

'What about those to Burns?' I weakly asked.

'Never been found. And why not? Because,' and here he leaned forward, 'they never existed. The whole thing was a clever ploy. Don't you see Highland Mary simply appears and disappears to suit the occasion. She was invented by Gavin Hamilton to help Burns get one over on the kirk-session

boys.'

'And that's not all,' remarked Simpson after a lull in the conversation during which I was at a loss for something to say. 'Do you remember that during the Edinburgh period, Burns came home, got Jean pregnant and she was again shown the door?'

'I think so,' I answered nervously.

'Then who do you think was Clarinda?' he shouted excitedly.

I said I had better find out what had happened to Macpherson...

THE TIMES O' BURNS

by Maurice Rattigan

Nowadays we flick a switch or turn a tap and think nothing of it, but 200 years ago such now accepted normalities were still in the far distant future. Burns never had the luxury of a typewriter or even a fountain pen and writing in the evening he had to manage by the light of a flickering candle.

We would perhaps appreciate Burns better if we considered the hardships and habits of the times and the consequences of events in the 18th century. Who were his contemporaries who by writing, acting, inventing, discovering or even fighting helped propel mankind into the 19th century? What occurrences, events or tragedies, man-made or natural perhaps influenced Rabbie in his works? Let us take a closer look at the 18th century.

At the beginning there was no sanitary system. Streets were dustbins and dead bodies were placed in open graves until they were full. Disease was rampant. Life expectancy was low.

At the start of the century Scotland was in what was called the 'six dear years' when the harvests would not ripen. People just lay down and died. Some parishes were reduced by a third or even half. After the 'dear years' there followed a few 'fat years' and conditions improved but in 1709 there was again crop failure followed by famine. Unlike England, there was no Poor Law in Scotland and the hungry were at the mercy of the kirk.

In Britain, five-sixths of the cereal crop grown was barley for making beer. Beer was drunk at every meal. It was purer than water. In Scotland oats were grown for the staple diet along with kale, pease and beans. Barley provided scones and Scotch ale. Potatoes, if grown, were for the laird.

In the Highlands whisky was distilled from the barley but elsewhere there was a general move towards gin which was cheap. Drunkenness was rife, and death through drunken brawling was common. Gentlemen still wore swords and duelling was commonplace. But by the middle of the century tea began to rival alcohol and there was a significant fall in the death rate caused by alcohol-related diseases.

At the start of the 18th century there were few enclosed fields and very few trees in Scotland. Bushes and trees harboured birds and birds ate the sparse crops. Later that century Dr. Johnson was still joking about the absence of trees in Scotland, although the position had improved by the start of the 19th century.

Before the Union, Scots rarely visited England but were to be found in most of the capitals of Europe. Their only export was about 30,000 head of cattle a year to the fairs in northern England. English visitors were driven back by Scotland's slovenly inns.

The union of 1707 enabled Scotland at last to rid itself of its perennial poverty. Many Scots went south including doctors, engineers and farmers and taught the English many things. Scots took a large share in the commerce and colonising of the Empire and fought in the British wars. The genius of Scotland's sons and daughters gave a lead to the thoughts of an awakening world.

But at the start of the century poverty and ignorance prevailed. The only reading matter to many was the Bible and Prayer Book. In 1723 Parliament passed an act giving combined parishes permission to build workhouses. These were let to manufacturers and some kept the paupers' children manacled. A child caught stealing a loaf of bread could hang.

Roads were repaired by the parishes they ran through, and were poorly maintained. On the Great North Road in England, horses as well as men were drowned in potholes. Another hazard was highwaymen.

In 1754 it took a stagecoach 4 ½ days to get from Manchester to London. Road improvements by 1788 had reduced that time to 28 hours, but it was very expensive. Sir Walter Scott paid £50 to travel from Edinburgh to London.

The early years of the century had seen momentous events. James Stuart, 'the Old Pretender', had landed at Peterhead on 22nd December 1715 and five years later his son, who was to become the 'Young Pretender', Bonnie Prince Charlie, was born in Rome on the last day of 1720.

Robert Walpole became the first British Prime Minister on 3rd April 1721 and was to hold the office for 21 years. Christopher Wren died in 1723 and in 1732 Robert Arkwright was born. Arkwright was to invent the mechanical spinning process in 1769, but before then, in 1733, John Kay invented the first of the great textile innovations - the flying shuttle.

On 22nd September 1735, 10 Downing Street became the official residence of the Prime Minister. 19th January 1735 saw that the birth of James Watt at Greenock. Arkwright's first spinning machine had been driven by water but later in 1790 he incorporated Watt's steam engine into the design. It was James Watt who defined Horse Power (H.P.) as lifting 33,000 lbs one foot in one minute. Gabriel Fahrenheit died in 1736, and on 17th April 1739 Dick Turpin was hanged.

James Boswell was born in Edinburgh in 1740 and in 1743 George II beat the French at Dettingen and became the last British monarch to command his troops in battle. On 28th September 1745 the first public performance of the National Anthem, 'God Save the King', was made at the Drury Lane Theatre, and the following month the author of *Gulliver's Travels*, Jonathan Swift died aged 77.

1745 saw the Jacobite rebellion under Bonnie Prince Charlie and its initial success at Prestonpans and the march to Derby but the following year the Young Pretender's followers were massacred by Cumberland at Culloden.

John Paul was born at Kirkbean on 6th January 1747. He later added Jones to his name and became famous as John Paul Jones, founder of the United States Navy.

In 1750 Johann Sebastian Bach died. In 1752 Benjamin Franklin invented the lightning conductor. The same year brought a lot of unrest in Britain with the introduction of the Georgian calendar. Eleven days were lost between 3rd and 14th September and many thought they were losing eleven days off their life span.

In August 1754 William Murdock was born at Auchinleck, Ayrshire. In 1792 he introduced coal gas lighting. The same year William Bligh, who was destined to become captain of the *Bounty*, was born in Plymouth.

On the 1st November 1755 there was a violent earthquake in Portugal which devastated most of the country, killing 60,000 of the population.

Mozart was born at Salzburg on 27th January 1756 and in June, 146 British soldiers perished imprisoned in a cell measuring 18 ft by 15 ft, the 'Black Hole of Calcutta'. The same year the Seven Years' War commenced. Great Britain and Prussia were allied against France, Austria and Russia.

1756 also brought the birth in Ayr of John McAdam who was to change the shape of our roads and the following year another future engineer was born at Westerkirk, near Langholm - Thomas Telford.

In 1757 Clive captured Bengal and began the foundation of the British Empire in India. Four months before Burns first saw the light of day, another man was born who was to become equally famous—Horatio Nelson. On 15th January the British Museum was opened.

Scotland's future bard, Robert Burns, was born in Alloway on 25th January 1759. 25th January is notable for other momentous happenings. On that date in 1583 Henry VIII married Anne Boleyn, in 1874 Somerset Maugham was born in Paris, and in 1947 Al Capone died almost penniless.

Just after Burns's birth, Handel died in London. Wee Rabbie was just four months old when William Pitt, the younger, was born. A lot of oak trees came under the axe in 1759 for at Chatham on the 23rd July, work commenced on the 104 gun battleship *Victory*. 2,200 oak trees were used in her construction.

Burns was seven months old when William Wilberforce was born at Hull.

On 13th September General James Wolfe was killed at Quebec defeating the French General Montcalm who died the following day. Wolfe was just 32 and must have been highly competent to hold such senior rank at that age. At the age of 19 he had been a junior officer under Cumberland at Culloden. The massacre then had sickened him but after his death at Quebec, prisoners were treated with honour and respect as would have been his wishes.

1759 also saw the birth of a new form of transport when James Brindley designed a canal from Wormsley to Manchester. The Bridgewater Canal, the first inland waterway, was opened two years later in 1761. The opening of the canals heralded the start of the industrial revolution. This new form of transport halved the price of coal which was now used to smelt iron. John Wilkinson (of Wilkinson Sword) was the first great Ironmaster. He built the first iron bridge in 1779, the first iron boat in 1787 and was buried in an iron coffin in 1807.

In 1760 the Carron Company was founded and they manufactured the short barrelled naval gun called the 'Carronade' and were the forerunners of the Scottish iron industry.

On 5th May 1760 Earl Ferrers had an unhappy first. The hangman's drop was introduced at Tyburn and he was the first villain to try it. Five months later in less violent circumstances George II died and was succeeded by his grandson who was crowned George III twelve months later. James Boswell, then 21, described in the London Journal that he celebrated the King's birthday by having three girls in Hyde Park for sixpence each. Boswell later was to be troubled by severe alcoholism. In those times one could get drunk on gin for a penny and blind drunk for tuppence.

On 10th February 1763, at the end of the Seven Years' War, Canada was ceded to Britain and four months later a girl was born on Martinique who was to become the Empress Josephine. The following year another lady with French royal connections, Madame Pompadour, mistress of Louis XV, died at Versailles.

At Ness, in Cheshire, Emily Lyon was born on 6th April 1765. The world knew her later as Lady Hamilton. Four months afterwards the man to be known as the 'Sailor King', William IV, was born at Buckingham Palace.

Robert Fulton, who developed the steam-boat in America was also born in 1765 in Pennsylvania, and a year later the old pretender, James Stuart, died in Rome.

The Royal Theatre opened in Bristol in 1766 and is the oldest theatre still in use in Britain today. The same year Christie's held their first sale. Also that year the inventor of waterproof fabrics, Charles Macintosh, was born in Glasgow. And some miles away William Burnes moved from Alloway and rented a farm at Mount Oliphant.

In 1767 the Mason-Dixon Line was established between Maryland and Pennsylvania, separating the free states from the slaves states.

In 1769 Arkwright erected his first spinning mill. Napoleon Bonaparte was also born that year and four months later, Arthur Wellesley, better known as the Duke of Wellington, was born in Dublin.

On 1st October of the same year, Captain Cook reached New Zealand and twelve months later, Australia. William Wordsworth was born on 7th April 1770 at Cockermouth, Cumbria, and on 4th November a British expedition led by James Bruce discovered Lake Tana in Ethiopia, the source of the Blue Nile. A month later, on 16th December, Beethoven was born in Bonn.

When Robert Burns was twelve years old, another famous writer and fellow countryman first saw the light of day. Walter Scott was born on 15th August 1771 and the following month Mungo Park was born. Park was to become famous as an explorer of West Africa where he eventually lost his life at the age of 35 when his expedition was attacked by natives.

1772 saw the birth of another poet, Samuel Coleridge, author of 'The Ancient Mariner' and 'Kubla Khan'. That year it was estimated there were 10,000 slaves in Britain.

In later life Burns was to be inspired into verse by countless women but in 1773 Burns, now 14, wrote his first poetic work, 'Handsome Nell' for Nellie Kilpatrick. Across the Atlantic, events were happening that were later to influence his less amorous thoughts and writings.

In the American colonies trouble was brewing over taxation without representation and on 16th December 1773 occurred the 'Boston Tea Party' which heralded the start of the War of Independence two years later.

Drug-taking we imagine to be a modern dilemma but it could have also been a problem 200 years ago when we learn that Clive (of India) died of an opium overdose in 1774 at the age of 49. In that year James Watt formed a partnership with Matthew Boulton to manufacture steam engines in Birmingham and by the turn of the century 500 stationary Watt engines were in use.

On 18th April 1775 Paul Revere made his famous ride from Charleston to Lexington to warn the colonists of the arrival of the British troops and the following day saw the opening engagement in the War of Independence, the Battle of Lexington.

In June the British troops under General Howe were victorious over the 'rebels' at the Battle of Bunker Hill, but twelve months later came the adoption in Philadelphia of the which was signed on 2nd August 1776. A week later Captain Cook sailed from Plymouth in *Resolution* on his third and final voyage. 1776 also saw the publication by Adam Smith of the *Wealth of Nations*.

The man Burns later referred to in 'Address of Beelzebub' and also wrote an ode on his birthday, was George Washington. As Commander-in-Chief of the American forces, he defeated Lord Cornwallis at the Battle of Princetown on 3rd January 1777 and five months later the US Congress adopted 'The Stars and Stripes' as the national banner. The same year the Burns family moved from Mount Oliphant to rent a more prosperous farm at Lochlie near Tarbolton.

Captain Cook discovered the Sandwich Islands (Hawaii) on 18th January 1778 and in May William Pitt the Elder died. Beau Brummell was born in London, and also born that year was the inventor of the miner's safety lamp, Humphrey Davy. La Scala Opera House opened in Milan. In Paris Voltaire died. In challenging accepted ideas and beliefs, he prepared the way for the forthcoming French Revolution. But in 1778 France entered the American War of Independence on the side of the colonists.

In 1779 Spain also joined the conflict and with the French laid siege to Gibraltar. Rabbie, now 20, was in conflict with his father when he joined a dancing class at Tarbolton against his wishes.

David Garrick, the famous actor and theatre manager died and was buried in Westminster Abbey. A more violent death had come to Captain Cook on 14th February when he was stabbed to death by natives at Kealahakia Bay, Hawaii.

The American war came nearer home on 23rd September when John Paul Jones in *Bonhomme Richard* engaged the British ship *Serapis* off Flamborough Head, Yorkshire.

In May 1780 also saw the 'Gordon Riots' in London, when Lord George Gordon, religious agitator, led Protestant opposition to government legislation favouring Roman Catholics, forcing the government to climb down.

1781 witnessed the birth of George Stephenson whose invention of the steam locomotive was to revolutionise transport. That year the British forces under Cornwallis surrendered to the Americans and French at Yorktown. Washington accepted the surrender. Robert Burns went to Irvine to learn flax dressing but before leaving Tarbolton he became an apprentice freemason at Lodge St. David.

In 1782 the battleship *Royal George* sank at Spithead with the loss of 900 lives, and Paganini was born in Genoa. Burns met Richard Brown in Irvine but returned to Lochlie when the flax dressing shop burned down.

On 6th February 1783 the landscape gardener Lancelot 'Capability' Brown died.

American Independence was recognised with the treaty of Versailles. Britain kept Canada, Louisiana went to the French, Florida to the Spanish and the American colonists had the remainder. Pitt the Younger became Prime Minister at the same age as Burns, 24.

And it was in 1783 that man first took to the air. The French Montgolfier brothers, Joseph and Jacques, constructed the first practical hot air balloon which flew six miles. Nowadays 21st November is known as 'Montgolfier Day' to the ballooning fraternity. Later the French physicist, Jacques Charles, followed with the first hydrogen gas balloon.

That year Burns commenced his first 'Common Place Book' containing 'Observations, hints, songs, scraps of poetry, etc.', and with his father seriously ill, made plans with his brother Gilbert to rent a farm at Mossgiel, near Mauchline.

Rabbie's father died on 13th February 1784 and the family moved to their new farm at Mossgiel.

On 2nd August the first specially constructed Royal Mail coach ran from Bristol to London, and the following month in the United States, the world's first successful daily newspaper, *The Pennsylvania Packet and General Advertiser* was published. Henry John Temple was born at Westminster in October. He was later to become Lord Palmerston and serve twice as Prime Minister. Two months later Samuel Johnson died and was buried in Westminster Abbey.

January 1785 saw the first crossing of the English Channel from Dover to Calais in a gas balloon. John Pierre Blanchard was accompanied by his U.S. sponsor, John Jeffries.

On 22nd May, Burns became a father with the birth of 'Dear bought Bess' by Elizabeth Paton, the family servant girl. That year was also one of his most prolific in poetical writing. Poems and satires on country life followed one another. Later in the year he met Jean Armour.

In April 1786 Jean Armour's father rejected him as a son-in-law and Burns planned to go to Jamaica but changed his mind when the first edition of his poems were published in Kilmarnock on 31st July, to be met with great public acclaim.

August brought the death of Frederick the Great at Potsdam and the birth of Davy Crockett in Tennessee. On 3rd September Jean Armour bore twins who were christened Robert and Jean. In November, Burns set out for Edinburgh to have an enlarged edition of his works published.

The German physicist, George Ohm was born in Bavaria in March 1787 and the following month, Burns, who had already been proclaimed 'Caledonia's Bard', had an Edinburgh edition of his poems published. He met James Johnson to whose *Scots Musical Museum* he was later to contribute many songs. In December he also met Agnes McLehose....

In January 1788, 18 years after Cook had discovered Australia, Britain at last found a use for the colony when the first shipment of convicts arrived at Sydney Cove. That same month Bonnie Prince Charlie died in Rome and Robert Peel was born at Bury. Lord Byron was also born that month but he, too, was to die young at the age of 36.

In March Jean gave birth to another set of twins who both died within the month. Burns set up home in Mauchline with Jean as his wife. He had been accepted as a candidate for the Excise and he underwent instructions for these duties. In June he took the tenancy of a farm at Ellisland, near Dumfries, and the following month his Excise commission was issued. Burns himself was an eyewitness, if not actually a passenger, on the world's first steam-boat which made its maiden voyage on Dalswinton Loch, Dumfriesshire, on 14th October 1788.

Lord Raglan, who was to be responsible for the Charge of the Light Brigade, was born in September, and in November in Edinburgh Jenny Clow bore Burns a son. May Cameron had also borne him a child there.

In 1789, as Robert Burns was celebrating his 30th birthday, the United States of America held its first General Election and on 4th March the first U.S. Congress was inaugurated at Federal Hall, New York. On 30th April George Washington was installed as President, with John Adams as Vice-President. Two days previously, there was trouble on the high seas, with mutiny on the *Bounty* off the Friendly Islands.

That summer Burns met Francis Grose, the antiquarian, which led to the poet writing 'Tam o' Shanter'. On 14th July the Bastille was stormed and so began the French Revolution with which Burns was to show much sympathy. In September, not being satisfied with his farm at Ellisland, Burns took up a position in the Excise. The same month saw the birth of James Fenimore Cooper, the adventure novelist, and in November the photographic pioneer, Louis Daguerre was born near Paris.

In January 1790 the first purpose-built lifeboat, *The Original*, was launched on the Tyne at South Shields.

That month Burns's name was placed on a list of those eligible for promotion in the Excise and he had an increase of salary from £50 to £70 an annum. Robert was finding his farm at Ellisland another ruinous proposition and devoted more time to his excise duties.

On 5th March Flora Macdonald died and the following month Benjamin Franklin expired at the age of 84, to be followed in July by Adam Smith, the author of *Wealth of Nations*.

In March 1791 Anna Park bore Burns a daughter (Betty Burns) and nine days later Jean Armour gave birth to William Nicol Burns. Jean nursed both children.

In April Burns's rollicking poem 'Tam o' Shanter' was published in Grose's *Antiquities of Scotland*.

Britain sent her first ambassador, George Hammond, to the United States in July and the following month Burns auctioned his stock and crops at Ellisland before finally renouncing the lease and moving with his family to Dumfries.

1791 also saw the birth of the inventor of the Morse code, Samuel Morse, and the physicist Michael Faraday. The first British Sunday newspaper, *The Observer* was published on 4th December. Burns was also in Edinburgh in December saying a final farewell to Agnes McLehose.

The Italian opera composer, Rossini, was born in February 1792 and that month, while on excise duty, Burns was involved in a swashbuckling adventure in the capture of the schooner *Rosamond*. The following month Robert Adam, the renowned Scottish architect, died.

On 2nd April the first US Mint was established in the then capital, Philadelphia, and a fortnight later Burns was allegedly involved in the sale of the captured *Rosamond's* carronades.

April also saw the introduction of the guillotine in France when highwayman Jacques Pelletier, was executed in Paris. And in France that same day, Rouget de Lisle completed 'The Marseillaise'. Also then in Paris was John Paul Jones who died there on 18th July. Other notables to pass away that year were Sir Richard Arkwright and Lord North.

Mid-September brought Burns an offer to contribute to George Thomson's *Select Scottish Airs*, and Burns was to devote much time to this request; at his death he had made over a hundred contributions in addition to the 160 he had made to Johnson's *Musical Museum*.

On 21st September France was declared a republic and November saw the laying of the corner stone of the White House in Washington.

In 1792 Denmark became the first country to prohibit the slave trade. The end of the year arrived with an enquiry into Burns's loyalty by the Commissioners of Excise.

1793 was not to be a good year for Louis XVI. On 21st September he was guillotined in the Place de la Revolution and on 1st February France declared war on Britain, the Netherlands and Spain. Later than month the second Edinburgh edition of Burns poems was published.

In April the Bank of England introduced the first £5 note; and in August the first metric weight, the kilogramme, was introduced in France. On 16th October Marie Antoinette was convicted of treason and sentenced to death and executed. Lord George Gordon who had led the 'Gordon Riots' died in Newgate prison on 1st November.

On 1st May 1794 Robert Burns declined a post on the London *Morning Chronicle*. Maximilien Robespierre, the French revolutionary and leader of the Jacobins, was guillotined on 28th July in Paris and the Reign of Terror drew to a close. In December Burns was appointed Acting Excise Supervisor in Dumfries.

Josiah Wedgwood died on 3rd January 1795 and four months later James Boswell, Dr. Johnson's Scottish biographer, died in London. In January, his loyalty no longer under question, Burns had helped organise the Royal Dumfries Volunteers, a local militia unit.

On 31st October was born John Keats, another romantic poet who, at 26, was also to die young. In December Rowland Hill, the penny post pioneer was born and also that month at Ecclefechan, Dumfriesshire, Thomas Carlyle the Scottish historian and writer. The close of the year saw Burns seriously ill with what was believed to be rheumatic fever.

In 1796 a Corsican, Napoleon Buonaparte, took command of the French Army. In May Edward Jenner made the first vaccination against smallpox and in early July Burns was at Brow Well, where on Dr. Maxwell's misguided instructions, he immersed himself in the Solway.

Mid July saw the birth of the man who was to become Czar of Russia, Nicholas I. On 18th July Burns returned to Dumfries and three days later he died, aged 37.

21st July is also notable for the birth of Reuter in 1816, and Ernest Hemingway at Illinois in 1899. Also on that date in 1969 Neil Armstrong set foot upon the Moon.

Robert Burns was buried on 25th July in St. Michael's churchyard, Dumfries. As a member of the Royal Dumfries Volunteers he was accorded full military honours and as ten thousand mourners joined the funeral procession, Jean Armour gave birth to a son, Maxwell.

Franz Schubert was born in January 1797 and the following month Admiral Jarvis defeated the Spanish fleet off the Portuguese coast at the Battle of St. Vincent. The same month the Bank of England issued the first £1 banknote. April saw the mutiny at Spithead.

On 22nd October a very brave man jumped from a balloon over Paris. Fifteen months after Burns's death, Andre Jacques Garnerin made the first parachute descent.

Casanova died in June 1798 and on 1st August came Nelson's victory at the Battle of the Nile.

In Ireland, the Vinegar Hill rebellion by the separatists was suppressed.

On 9th January 1799 William Pitt, the Younger, introduced something that is still with us today. To help pay for the Napoleonic wars he introduced income tax at threepence in the pound (or about 1 per cent).

The 18th century was drawing to a close and on 7th October the *Lutine* was sunk off Holland; later its salvaged bell was presented to Lloyd's and has been rung ever since whenever a major tragedy occurred at sea. On 14th December George Washington died.

In 1800 the first British census put the population at nine million. London was home to a million and Edinburgh and Glasgow a hundred thousand each out of a total Scottish population of 1,600,000.

In 1707 Glasgow's population had been 12.5 thousand with Scotland's total a million.

Robert Burns had lived in quite an eventful century. Britain had been at war in many periods of it, and indeed, wars were being fought in Europe constantly with most nations involved at one time or another.

The price of coal halved with the growth of the canal system giving birth to the industrial revolution and roads improved beyond recognition with the new macadammed surfaces. Scientists and inventors, many of them Scots, left their individual mark on the century and mankind still reaps the fruits of their labours and thinkings.

A new dimension beckoned when man first took to the air in a balloon and returned safely to earth in a parachute, but another complete century was to pass before man, in the shape of the Wright brothers, first flew in a heavier than air machine.

Soldiers, sailors, explorers, developers, missionaries and writers, again many of them Scots, numbered amongst the many who left a lasting impression in the history books of the 18th century and helped the progress of mankind.

The 18th century saw the voice of the people being heard not only in Europe but across the Atlantic in the American colonies. And the deprived and oppressed were willing to fight for their freedom and this brought much sympathy from Burns and manifested itself in his actions, writings and beliefs, writings and beliefs that in his life time, cried out against hypocrisy in the kirk and the establishment. Writings and beliefs that after his death, defied false biographical publications.

Two centuries later those writings are still widely-read and with the ultimate development from the balloon we have inter-continental air travel that can only enhance Robert Burns's passionate belief 'That man to man the world o'er, shall brithers be for a' that.'

JAMES HOGG ON ROBERT BURNS

by David Groves

James Hogg, the 'Ettrick Shepherd' (1770-1835), began writing his biography of Burns in 1832. An acquaintance describes Hogg that autumn as 'seated at his oak table with his dog sleeping at his feet,' 'a good fire,' and 'some proof sheets of the *Life of Burns*, his forthcoming work, before him.'¹ The biography was published in 1836 under the title '*Memoir of Burns*' in the final volume of *The Works of Robert Burns*, a series co-edited 'by the Ettrick Shepherd, and William Motherwell, Esq.' Although Hogg's poems, stories, and novels hold a high place in Scottish literature, his *Memoir of Burns* has mainly been neglected or misunderstood. The Motherwell-Hogg edition enjoyed a brief period of popularity, but has never been reprinted since the 1850s. Nor has Hogg's interest in Burns over many decades been adequately recognised.

Unfortunately the Ettrick Shepherd never met Robert Burns. When Hogg was in his twenties, 'an old man once mentioned his name, but all that he could or would tell me of him was, "Humph! where hae ye been a' your days that ye never heard o' Burns?"' It was not until the year after his great predecessor's death that he first heard Burns recited:

in the summer of 1797, there was a man named John Scott, a great original, but accounted 'rather harum-scarum ways,' came to me on the summer hill. He... thought nothing of coming five or six miles out to the wild hills to visit, and well did I like to see him coming, he had so many songs and stories of all sorts. Among other things he recited *Tam o' Shanter* to me one day, and it is impossible to describe the delight and amusement that I experienced. I made Jock sit down and repeat it over and over to me until I learned it by heart.²

Hogg was twenty-five when Burns died. Yet 'long before' this, Burns's songs were 'sung and admired' by Hogg and his friends in Ettrick Forest, even though they did not then know who the author was.³ During Hogg's early years as a shepherd and farm-labourer, 'song, song alone, was the sole enjoyment.'⁴ Winter evenings in farmhouses in the south of Scotland, as he explained in 1802, were often spent in the highest mirth and jollity. 'Singing, dancing, and drinking, alternatively ensue; and in very few families is the latter ever carried to excess. They delight greatly in poetry and music...

Burns's are the favourite songs, and the Scottish strathspeys the favourite music.⁵⁵

In his spare time, the young James Hogg sang and played the fiddle at local fairs and dances. Since 'Burns' [were] the favourite songs,' he probably sang many pieces by Burns during these formative years. 'The attachment of the people of Scotland, and particularly of the peasantry, to dancing and singing 'is very strong,' according to a journalist in 1800; 'After the labours of the day are over, young men and women walk many miles in the cold and dreary nights of winter... and the instant that the violin sounds a Scottish air, fatigue seems to vanish'.⁵⁶ The lyrics of Burns would have helped the young, isolated shepherd to meet new people and exchange ideas about poetry.

Burns's songs also helped to inspire Hogg to become a writer himself. In the summer of 1797, Hogg apparently 'resolved to be a poet, and to follow in the steps of Burns.'⁵⁷ Fifteen years later, he told an Edinburgh minister that he had an 'inward consciousness that I should yet live to be compared with Burns; and although I might never equal [Burns] in some things, I... might excel him in others.' The minister merely laughed in Hogg's face and repeated the story 'as a bitter jest against me in a party that same evening.' Hogg was of course 'mortified'.⁵⁸

Yet in 1813, following the publication of his long poem *The Queen's Wake*, Hogg suddenly gained wide recognition as the natural successor to Robert Burns. At a Burns Night in Edinburgh in 1815, he mixed whisky toddy in Burns's punch bowl, before celebrating Burns's genius with a poem of his own:

O wha is it says that a bard is neglected
When the cup of high honour o'erflows to his fame?
O wha is it says that the bard is neglected,
When hearts so congenial honour his name?⁵⁹

On 25th January 1819, Hogg was the guest of honour at another Burns Dinner, held in the lavish Assembly Rooms on George Street in the capital. The Ettrick Shepherd had tears in his eyes and was 'flushed... deeper than scarlet,'⁶⁰ when he stood up to make a short speech on Burns. He vowed his long interest in Burns's poetry, and his honest pride at being a Scottish poet himself. Hogg presided at many more Burns Dinners, including a famous one in London in January 1832.

After the death of Robert Burns in 1796, a number of controversies began to shroud his character and his poems. The battles began with the appearance of Dr. James Currie's *Works of Burns, with a Life and Criticism* in 1800. Although published for the benefit of Burns's widow and children, this edition caused outrage by discussing Burns's love affairs with some frankness, and by suggesting that the poet had died from too much alcohol. Puritanical and respectable readers were greatly offended, and, on the other hand, so were those who wanted to idealise Burns by ignoring the faults, contradictions, or complexity of his character. Controversial defences of Burns's personality were published in 1820 by a schoolteacher named James Gray (who happened to be Hogg's brother-in-law) and a clergyman named Hamilton Paul. '[W]hat a noise has been made about this new addition of Burns, by... the Reverend Hamilton Paul', wrote John Lockhart in *Blackwood's Edinburgh Magazine*:

'It seems, there was some idea of bringing this unhappy edition before the last General Assembly [of the Church of Scotland]... Drinking and many other of Burns's faults, are sure to find enough defenders in the world, without the interference of parish-priests — and as to the blasphemy of many of Burns's allusions, it is already quite an insult to common sense to attempt their defence.'⁶¹

Another combatant in this debate was none other than William Wordsworth. Wordsworth's pamphlet *Letter to a Friend of Burns* argued that the details of a poet's life should be kept secret if they went against common morality. In the 1832 *Memoirs of Burns*, Hogg curtly dismisses Wordsworth's statement on Burns as 'the most uncalled-for ebullition of pompous absurdity that ever was penned' (V,5).

Considering the atmosphere of the time in which it was written, Hogg's *Memoir of Burns* shows considerable moderation and clear-sightedness. In a simple, fairly detached style, the Ettrick Shepherd tries to bring the real Robert Burns into focus, without surrendering to either of the withering extremes of moralistic disapproval or merely sentimental enthusiasm. Hogg would probably have enjoyed the perceptive caricature of the two extremes in the great Burns debate which appeared in a story by Jane Austen:

'Burns [cried Sir Edward Denham] is always on fire. .. His soul was the Altar in which lovely

Woman sat enshrined, his Spirit truly breathed the immortal Incense which is her Due. ... 'I have read several of Burns' Poems with great delight,' said Charlotte as soon as she had time to speak, 'but I am not poetic enough to separate a Man's Poetry entirely from his Character; .. and poor Burns's known Irregularities, greatly interrupt my enjoyment of his Lines...' 'Oh! no no' .. exclaimed Sir Edward in an extasy. 'He was all ardour and Truth! .. His Genius and his Susceptibilities might lead him into some Aberrations .. But who is perfect? .. It were Hyper-criticism, it were Pseudo-philosophy to expect from the soul of high toned Genius, the grovelling of a common mind. .. The Coruscations of Talent, elicited by impassioned feeling in the breast of Man, are perhaps incompatible with some of the prosaic Decencies of Life...' ¹²

Even Hogg's publisher, Archibald Fullarton, wanted Hogg to join the chorus of condescending, uncritical praise. Fullarton's suggestion (which Hogg fortunately declined) was that Hogg should add a fulsomely sentimental elegy to his *Memoir*:

'Do furnish us with [a poem] of this kind for the Edition - and something pathetic and tender to the Memory of his now departed Bonny Jean! — STOP — A thought just strikes me — I think I see Robin *leaning over the breast of a cloud*, watching the Angels conveying his Jean to Heaven! — Think of his feelings and his Soliloquy as he eyes their approach! — the manners and circumstances of *their Meeting!* — and what they would *respectively say to each other* when they had got *time and composure to speak* — What an admirable subject for the feeling Heart, and splendid Imagination, of The Ettrick Shepherd!' ¹³

In 1814, almost two decades before writing his *Memoir of Burns*, Hogg spent about three weeks in the English Lake District, where he discussed Burns's poetry with Wordsworth, Thomas De Quincey, and Robert Southey (the Poet Laureate). He then published, in his *Poetic Mirror*, exaggerated versions of these conversations, with a good dose of obvious satire to send up the insensitive response to Burns by the two poets Wordsworth and Southey. Southey, for instance, is presented as a slow-witted, over-emotional enthusiast heavily pondering one of Burns's most sentimental poems, 'To a Mountain-Daisy':

he could not ween
Of feeling for a flower, and yet he felt
A kind of sympathy, that overpowered
All his philosophy. .. He took a stone,
And placed it tall on end. .. Herbert, said he,
to the ploughman,
When thou ploughest down this ridge, spare me this flower.
I charge thee note it well; and for thy life
Do it no injury. .. Pugh! said [the ploughman],
Such stuff! I shall not mind it. .. He went on
Whistling his tune. .. Oh, Peter
(in other words, Southey)
was most wroth!
He ran in hasty guise around, and looked
For a convenient stone, that he might throw
And smite the ploughman's head. ¹⁴

To appreciate the fine comedy of this passage, we need to remember that Burns himself had been a ploughman, and that his inoffensive lines 'To a Mountain-Daisy' were endlessly praised and reprinted during the nineteenth century, despite their obvious inferiority to Burns's livelier poems.

Wordsworth apparently represented the opposite extreme, in Hogg's view, of a snobbish indifference to Robert Burns. After Hogg spoke of his sincere admiration for Burns, William Wordsworth replied (according to Hogg's caricature)

You must acknowledge this your favourite
Hath more outraged the purity of speech,
The innate beauties of our English tongue ...
Than all the land beside, and therefore he
Deserves the high neglect which he has met

From all the studious and thinking, — those
Unswayed by low caprices...¹⁵

More than many of his contemporaries, the Ettrick Shepherd was able to read Burns imaginatively, intelligently, and without being blinded to the many aspects of Burns's genius and personality. Hogg of course revered his predecessor, yet he read with a critical eye and made no secret of disagreeing with Burns's radical politics and occasional pessimism. Although both poets often wrote in a satirical vein, Hogg's satire is generally less extreme, as a result perhaps of a greater readiness to accept imperfection in life. In a poem written about the same time as his *Memoir of Burns*, Hogg takes issue with his predecessor to argue that, 'Though Burns says man was made to mourn,' nevertheless 'This world's an unco bonny place,' and

every honest heart must feel
That bliss lies in his own procuring.¹⁶

In another piece written in late 1832, Hogg lays aside these minor reservations to pay homage to Burns through an allegorical tale about a protagonist named Robin who happens to be married to a woman named Jean; with its setting near Dumfries, and its theme of literary creativity, the allegory clearly refers to Robert Burns.¹⁷

James Hogg was facing tremendous financial problems, at the time of writing his five-volume *Works of Robert Burns*. Two years before, he had been evicted from his farm at Mount Benger, and compelled to sell most of his belongings in a forced auction. The collapse of the *Edinburgh Literary Journal* in January 1832 meant that Hogg lost what had become perhaps the best market for his poems and stories. Hogg was deeply embittered by the class-conscious ridicule directed at him in the 'Noctes Ambrosianae' series, which ran in *Blackwood's Magazine* from 1822 to 1835; for several years *Blackwood's* had also been a lucrative market for Hogg's own writing, but in 1831 he finally informed the publisher, sarcastically, that *Blackwood's* would 'be much more uniform without my motley productions which nobody reads and after this you will please mention The Shepherd no more.'¹⁸ Nothing by James Hogg appeared in *Blackwood's Magazine* between November 1831 and June 1834. A contract with a London publisher to bring out a complete edition of Hogg's prose tales ended disastrously when the publisher went bankrupt after the first volume, in April 1832. By the end of that year, Hogg was desperately seeking to avoid his own bankruptcy, and looking for a way to provide for his wife and five children in the event of his death.

As well as these economic difficulties, Hogg endured a great humiliation over a book about his friend Sir Walter Scott, which he wrote at about the same time as his work on the first four volumes of *The Works of Robert Burns*. In the memoir of Scott, Hogg made the tactical error of commenting on some of Sir Walter's snobberies, and disclosing the fact that Lady Scott had taken opium as medicine during her last illness. The Shepherd's open, candid, and kaleidoscopic portrait of the recently-deceased Scott evoked horror from the respectable critics of the day. In their eyes, Hogg seemed to be betraying an old friend when, for example, he wrote of Sir Walter's 'too strong leaning to the old aristocracy,' which Hogg thought 'amounted almost to adoration.'¹⁹

The result of his memoir of Scott was that Hogg became unfairly vilified and ostracised by a powerful literary elite led by Scott's son-in-law John Lockhart, a very influential critic. As he wrote his *Memoir of Burns*, James Hogg knew that he was being laughed at in genteel literary circles for the 'bundle of lies,' 'such beastly and abominable things,'²⁰ which he had written about Scott. Unable to find a publisher in Britain, Hogg arranged for an American edition of his *Familiar Anecdotes of Sir Walter Scott*, only to find a Glasgow publisher bringing out a pirated edition two or three months later. Once again arrogant and snobbish critics had a field-day in denouncing the Shepherd for his inattention to social decorum. 'It is Hogg all over,' declared a London critic, '...coarse, egotistical, vain, regardless of truth, and ready to... break through the decencies and privacies of life.'²¹ Hogg had simply failed to paint a flattering portrait.

In the light of these devastations—his poverty and his public humiliation—it is not surprising that James Hogg was willing to submit to almost any condition his publisher Archibald Fullarton wished to impose. Before sending in the manuscript for the first volume of *The Works of Robert Burns*, the Shepherd gave Fullarton 'full power to alter any expression to which you... may object.' After so many disastrous confrontations with publishers and critics, he was now apparently concerned mainly

to see his work published, and to restore his credit as a writer.

But his relations with Fullarton went from bad to worse. In his letters to the publisher, Hogg invariably mis-spells Fullarton's name, and seems to express some doubts about his honesty. Finally, on 14th November 1832, in a letter addressed to 'Archibald Fullerton/Bookseller/Glasgow, 'Hogg informs his publisher that he has 'received yours with the promissory note for £50 safely,' adding, 'Send me a note for £50: in Janry at sixty days and I'll send you your missive [that is, a receipt for payment] but perhaps I should retain that till the bills be paid.' Some days later Hogg writes to say that he has 'received your note and discounted it at the British Linen Co. for which I thank you and when the bills are honoured of which I have no doubt I shall give you my receipt in full.'

There was also the question of a book on Highland history which had been part of the bargain. James Hogg was eager to obtain his promised copy of the *History of the Highland Clans*, but Fullarton at first ignored this promise, and then tried to fob him off with a much lesser work. 'Remember,' Hogg replies, 'you promised me Dr. Brown's History of the Highland Clans in the place of Bell's Geography which I returned.'²² Twelve months later the Shepherd was still trying to get one of the publisher's associates to 'Remind honest Fullarton to send me "The Highland Clans."²³

James Hogg felt he could be pleased with his editing of Burns's poetry and letters. In writing to Fullarton, he adds, 'I hope you will think that I have executed my part with spirit and originality.'²⁴ But in fact the Glasgow man was horrified at Hogg's iconoclastic, imaginative, and sometimes opinionated comments on Burns's life and writings. Fullarton quickly enlisted a respectable local journalist named Motherwell to act as co-editor. Unluckily the officious William Motherwell rewrote almost all of Hogg's notes to the first four volumes, leaving only a few paragraphs (signed 'H.') as relics of Hogg's original commentary. Motherwell's prudish, dainty pronouncements were exactly fitted to appease puritanical readers without offending Burns's ardent supporters. They consist mainly of quotations from other critics and moral exclamations. Motherwell expresses surprise that Burns 'still adhered to... ancient orthography' (III, 297), and stoutly reprimands those who 'affect to deny that Burns had a deep sympathy with external nature, or excelled in description' (I, 198). Burns's brilliant satire 'To a Louse' is primly dismissed by Motherwell as a homely enough subject for the muse... In his choice of subjects, Burns was by no means very fastidious, and more refined tastes would not have had the hardihood to introduce the

Ugly, creepin, blastit wonner,
Detested, shunn'd, by saunt and sinner,
as a vehicle for humourous sarcasm. (I, 157-58)

But 'When Burns employs his mind in giving rules for moral and prudential conduct,' Motherwell pontificates diplomatically, 'no man is a sounder philosopher' (I, 146).

The vast majority of Hogg's annotations to *The Works of Robert Burns* were simply destroyed, thanks to the thoroughness of William Motherwell and his helper Peter Buchan, a minor poet from Aberdeenshire. The notes by Hogg which survive are mostly confined to the first volume, and are far superior to Motherwell's, since they emphasise imaginative and humane aspects of Burns, rather than trying to decide whether the subject 'employs his mind' in 'moral,' 'refined,' or 'fastidious' ways. Simply superb is Hogg's introduction to Burns's 'Address to the Deil':

This has always been a great favourite with the country people, and deservedly so. The first two verses are quite inimitable. *Spairges* is the best Scots word in its place I ever saw. An Englishman can have no idea of the ludicrous image it conveys. The Deil is not standing flinging the liquid brimstone on his friends, but we see him standing at a large boiling vat, with something like a golf-bat, striking the liquid this way and that way aslant with all his might, making it fly through the whole apartment while the inmates are winking and holding up their arms to defend their faces. This is precisely the idea conveyed by *spairging*; flinging it in any other way would be *laving* or *splashing*. ..H. (I, 57)

By contrast, Motherwell lazily quotes from a previous critic to the effect that, in this poem, 'Humour and tenderness are... so happily intermixed, that it is impossible to say which preponderates' (I, 65). Motherwell's ultra-diplomatic comment about Burns's early satire 'The Calf' — 'those clever but certainly over-severe and wicked verses' — is in sad contrast to the Ettrick Shepherd's more spirited, humorous, informed response:

This is too bad! If all the preachers of Scotland had such hearers what would become of them?

These satirical lines are understood to refer to the late Rev. James Steven, minister of Kilwinning; and it is one of those pieces which the poet at a later period of his life, regretted had even been written. — H. (I, 56)

Unlike his co-editor Hogg tries to understand Burns from within, instead of merely imposing preconceived standards of judgment. The Shepherd was touched by his predecessor's love of animals, writing of 'The Twa Dogs,' for example,

In how different a shape Burns shows his affection for a faithful and beloved dog compared with Byron! He certainly loses nothing by the comparison. H. (I, 1)²⁵

But at the same time Hogg's active sympathy for Burns is balanced by his healthy readiness to step back to a more objective standpoint from time to time:

Although Burns' jealousy of the rich and great sometimes led him to express himself regarding them in terms which seem to indicate a bitter, scornful, malignant spirit, yet he must have been an exceedingly good and kind-hearted being; for whenever he has occasion to address or mention any subordinate being, however mean, even a mouse or a flower, then there is a gentle pathos in his language that awakens the finest feelings of the heart. — H. (I, 109)

Admittedly some of his statements tell us more about Hogg than they do about Burns, as when he considers the famous 'Address to the Unco Guid':

'Burns has written more from his own heart and his own feelings than any other poet, of which this poem is an instance. With the secret fountains of passion in the human soul he was well acquainted, and deeply versed in their mysteries. The two last verses are above all praise. — H.' (I, 92)

or the 'Address to Edinburgh':

'I wish Burns had written a description of Edinburgh, such as [his] Holy Fair. There he would have had a noble field for satire in the law-courts, the synods [of the Church of Scotland], the college, and the periodical literature. What a hand he would have made of these! If Burns had written a Chaldean manuscript, it would have been a dirker'. (I, 159)²⁶

Yet even these lines convey Hogg's enjoyment and contemplation of Burns's work over many years, and give a sense of the Shepherd almost trying to set up a kind of dialogue with Burns through his poems. He says of 'Tam o' Shanter' that

'Of all the funny poems of Burns, this is my favourite one. It was the first of his that I ever heard, and it still remains highest in my estimation, which may in some measure be owing to the supreme youthful delight with which I first heard it'. (I, 203)

Hogg was more ambivalent (like several modern critics) in his note to 'Man was Made to Mourn':

'This poem is avowedly suggested by the old [anonymous] ballad entitled the 'Life and Age of Man,' although the management is quite different. The old poem is very affecting, and the management of it greatly superior to this, but in the poetry it falls far short. Why should it have been suggested that man was made to mourn? I deny the position. — H. (I, 318)

These remarks were neither the eulogy nor the moralising that critics of the 1830s had been expecting. One London reviewer charged Hogg with being a mere 'poetaster' with 'a complete contempt for Burns, 'whose ambition was to destroy Burns's reputation 'entirely and for ever.' No doubt as a result of the poor reception given to Volume One, Hogg's comments were almost completely extirpated from Volumes Two, Three and Four of *The Works of Robert Burns*. Only a dozen or so of his most innocuous statements were allowed to stand in these three intermediate volumes of the series. We can still catch, however, intriguing glimpses of the Ettrick Shepherd following in Burns's footsteps. Hogg recalls, for example, his own friendship with George Thomson, an Edinburgh publisher who had encouraged Burns during the 1790s: Thomson, Hogg says, is:

'a kind open hearted fellow, who entertains literary and musical people most liberally... I have written a good many songs for him myself, and it was not for want of remuneration that I did not write more; but then he is the most troublesome devil to write songs for that ever was created, for he is always either bothering one with alterations, or else popping them in himself. But, as to niggardliness in remuneration, I can bear testimony that he rather errs on the other side; and, as an instance, I was once out of pure shame obliged to return him a violin, which I was told was valued at £35, on pretence that I had a better one, and could not be plagued with another. Both Mrs. Hogg and I, had previously got presents of sterling value.' (III, 237)

Burns's letter to Robert Ainslie of April 26, 1793, brings a similar personal reminiscence from

Hogg:

'What a strange hipperty-skipper letter this is to AINSLIE! that is to say, to AINSLIE as we now know him... Ainslie, since ever I knew him, and that has been upwards of twenty years, has been much the same, ... a downright honest, sleepy-headed, kind-natured gentleman, and his good humour never failing him, not even in sleep, with which he generally favours the company once or twice in an evening... I have seen him fall asleep in the blue parlour at Ambrose's [Tavern]... Honest Ainslie! that is a constitutional failing which he cannot help; for a man of kinder or better intentions never was born. He is now, alas! the only relic that I know of, of the real intimate acquaintances of Burns.' H. (IV, 291-2)

In reading these notes to the poems and letters of Robert Burns, we should of course bear in mind that Hogg's more demanding or provocative statements were savagely deleted by Motherwell. The first four volumes contain only those comments by Hogg which were thought to be least controversial.

Hogg did not have a high opinion of William Motherwell. Apparently the two men almost came to blows when they met in London in January 1832. At that time Hogg was sixty-one, while Motherwell was a thirty-four-year-old journalist for *The Day*, a Glasgow newspaper. According to Motherwell's story in *The Day*, he began by objecting to 'the uncouth shape' of Hogg's poetry 'so far as orthography is concerned.' Hogg implied that Motherwell was not a poet, and therefore unqualified to judge poetry; '[J]uist do what I hae dune,' said Hogg (according to Motherwell), 'and then we'll alloo you to cavel, my Billy.' Motherwell replied in his usual effete and Anglicised tone:

'If so were the case,... then there was an end of criticism altogether ... there would be no distinction between the respective realms of genius and taste. "Neither there should," said the Shepherd, "... for the twa gang hand in hand..." To this proposition I of course objected, and claimed for the discriminative faculty, an existence separate and distinct from that of the creative...'

The two men (if Motherwell's reporting can be trusted) parted on less-than-friendly terms, after Hogg 'defended himself fiercely.' Whether this was a factual account, or entirely fictional, its appearance in a Scottish newspaper would not have endeared Motherwell to James Hogg.

Motherwell's newspaper reporting of Hogg's 1832 visit to London could scarcely have been less fair. His first account ends with a ballad which he fraudulently tried to pass off as something written jointly by Hogg, Sir Walter Scott, and Allan Cunningham. Although he later published this ballad under his own name, Motherwell pretended in his newspaper report that he had stolen the piece from Hogg when Hogg fell asleep in a drunken stupor: 'I fobbed the wonderful production, took it home with me, and, having nothing else to fill up my sheet, I transcribe it'.²⁸ Even worse was Motherwell's second report, which pretended that he made amends with Hogg by giving him a replacement 'ditty' to publish under his own name. Readers of *The Day* in Glasgow were given the false impression, first, that Hogg had actually written part of a very mediocre ballad, second, that he had been easily duped out of that ballad by Motherwell, and third, that he was dishonest enough to be willing to pretend to be the author of a 'ditty' written by Motherwell.²⁹

This, amazingly, was the man chosen to act as Hogg's co-editor for *The Works of Robert Burns*. Hogg's growing financial problems probably left him little choice but to submit to his publisher's decision.

But in fact the 38-year-old Motherwell was on the verge of insanity and death, when Fullarton recruited him to bowdlerise Hogg's study of Burns. After completing his work on the first four volumes, Motherwell was summoned to London to testify at a Parliamentary inquiry into his activities in the Orange Lodge. During the questioning he 'exhibited great mental infirmity' and 'broke down into tears'. Back in Glasgow in October 1835, he suffered 'a violent shock of apoplexy' and 'fell back on the pillow and awoke no more'.³⁰ Motherwell's unexpected death was a literary miracle, so to speak; it meant that he never had the time to obliterate Hogg's *Memoir of Burns*.

James Hogg acquiesced in Motherwell's revisions to the first four volumes of his *Works of Robert Burns*, although privately he expressed his dislike of the man and his interference. To Allan Cunningham he wrote sarcastically and revealingly that 'My coadjutor little Motherwell a genuine fellow has left out two thirds of all that I wrote for not being orthodox and I am sure there never were more honest notes put to a work in the world.'³¹ Cunningham's reply is a perceptive comment on the early volumes of the series:

'I have seen one or two of the numbers of Fullartons' Burns to which you allude: though I did not

concur with you in some of your notes I am quite of opinion that the edition has been spoilt by admitting other editors... the unity of the performance is broken in upon.³²

The Ettrick Shepherd died at sixty-four, three weeks after Motherwell, on 21st November 1835. At that time the first four volumes of *The Works of Robert Burns*, by the Ettrick Shepherd, and William Motherwell, Esq., had already appeared in print. When he died, Hogg probably expected that his *Memoir of Burns* either had been, or soon would be, chopped up in the same way as the previous volumes. But the *Memoir* shows no evidence of editing, and contains many passages that Motherwell would probably have wanted to remove. Motherwell's respect for 'the celebrated Wordsworth' (I, 41) would almost certainly have caused him to delete Hogg's flying of Wordsworth in the first chapter. Neither Motherwell, nor any other bowdlerising editor, would have allowed Hogg's statement that Burns had an uncontrollable passion for the other sex...; 'but what would have been the use of him without that? Without that, we should never have had either a Byron or a Burns, nor some others who shall be nameless. I hold it an incontrovertible apothegm, that exactly in proportion to a poet's veneration of the fair sex, so will be the order, the spirit, and the splendour of his verses.' (V, 186)

Nor would they have countenanced the Ettrick Shepherd's delightful retailing of Burns's love affairs:

'With regard to the amours of Burns, some may think the less that is said about them the better, but I think differently; for, as these form the principal features in the character of the man, and elicited many of his finest pieces, I intend to notice them freely.' (V, 72)

Even Hogg's valiant and patriotic defense of Scottish drinking was permitted to stand:

'Burns has by the greater part of his biographers been accused of inveterate dissipation and drunkenness. DRUNKENNESS! they know little about drunkenness who accuse poor Burns of it...

Burns was no more a drunkard than I am; nay, I could take a bet that, on an average, I drink double of what he did; and yet I am acknowledged, both in Scotland and England, as a most temperate and cautious man: and so I am...

The fact is, that those who accuse Burns of drunkenness, know nothing about the history of drunkenness in Scotland at all. Let them, then, look at the character of the Baron of Bradwardine in one age, and of high jinks in another by Sir Walter Scott, and he will find the epitome of drinking in those ages drawn to the very life.' (V, 187-90)

The subject-matter, the high spirits, and the occasional freedom from grammar, are characteristic of Hogg's writing. They indicate that these passages, surely, were not tampered with by the publisher's hirelings.

Reviewers either ignored the *Memoir of Burns*, or slandered it by once again attacking and ridiculing James Hogg. One angry London critic condescendingly claimed that 'Poor Hogg' had always a sort of hankering jealousy of Burns's superior fame and genius; and when he was engaged to annotate an edition of his poems, he deemed it a capital opportunity to decry [Burns's] poetic worth, and undervalue many of his best pieces... The patronising air with which the Ettrick Shepherd here addresses his great and unapproachable predecessor, is truly laughable.

In his 'outrageous' and 'ridiculous' commentary, Hogg had done little more than offer a 'strange and sweeping condemnation' of a rival poet,³³ according to this critic. Few modern readers will agree with such a supercilious and pompous assessment of the Ettrick Shepherd's work on Burns. Perhaps the best answer to these charges is Douglas Mack's reply to similar accusations which had been levelled against the 'twin' biography of Sir Walter Scott:

'Hogg does not write in a tone of reverential hagiography; he writes frankly and without equivocation about the friend he admired and loved. As a result, his reminiscences may sometimes be lacking in tact... but after a century and a half they have retained their ability to present a lively and convincing portrait.'³⁴

Hogg's portrait of Burns is human, respectful, and genuinely appreciative of all sides of Burns's personality. The work has some faults, however. Probably because of Hogg's discouraging personal and urgent financial problems at the time of writing, his *Memoir of Burns* is a little uneven in quality. Many of its chapters merely recapitulate earlier biographies. Nonetheless, Hogg is able to introduce some new material through his acquaintance with Ainslie, Jean Lorimer, Burns's widow, and others who had known Burns. Most importantly, however, Hogg's *Memoir of Burns*, and his other comments

about Burns, show James Hogg responding honestly and critically to the one previous Scottish poet who had the greatest influence on his own poetry.

NOTES

- 1 Anon.... 'Our Weekly Gossip on Literature and Art,' *Athenaeum*, 1 Dec. 1832, p779.
- 2 Hogg's note to 'Tam o' Shanter,' in *The Works of Robert Burns*, ed. Hogg and Motherwell, 5 vols. (Glasgow, 1834-36), I, 203. Subsequent references to this edition are in parentheses.
- 3 [James Hogg], 'A Journey Through the Highlands of Scotland,' *Scots Magazine*, Oct. 1802, pp815,816.
- 4 'On the Changes in the Habits, Amusements, and Conditions of the Scottish Peasantry; by the Ettrick Shepherd,' *Quarterly Journal of Agriculture*, Sept. 1832, p257.
- 5 Hogg, 'A Journey Through the Highlands of Scotland,' Oct. 1802, p815.
- 6 Anon., 'On the State of the Scotch Peasantry,' *Scots Magazine*, Sept. 1800, p485.
- 7 Hogg, *Memoir of the Author's Life and Familiar Anecdotes of Sir Walter Scott*, ed. Douglas S. Mack (Edinburgh, 1972), p11.
- 8 Hogg, 'Memoir of the Author's Life,' p12.
- 9 This untitled 'original song, written by Mr. Hogg, was sung by the bard himself,' and published in the *Edinburgh Weekly Journal*, 1 Feb. 1815, p38. The song is reprinted in full in *Notes and Queries*, Sept. 1984, pp443-44.
- 10 [John G. Lockhart], *Peter's Letters to his Kinsfolk*, 3 vols. (Edinburgh, 1819), I, 134.
- 11 'Extracts from Wastle's Diary,' *Blackwood's Magazine*, June 1820, p322.
- 12 Jane Austen, 'Sanditon' [an unfinished novel], in *Jane Austen: Northanger Abbey, Lady Susan, The Watsons, and Sanditon*, ed. Davie Oxford, 1971, p352.
- 13 Fullarton, letter to Hogg, 4 May 1834. Letters quoted from manuscript in this essay are the property of the National Library of Scotland, and are cited by permission of the Trustees of the NLS.
- 14 Hogg, 'Peter of Barnet,' in his *Poetic Mirror*, (Edinburgh, 1816), pp. 237-38.
- 15 Hogg, 'The Stranger,' in his *Poetic Mirror*, p. 146.
- 16 'This World's an Unco Bonny Place, by the Ettrick Shepherd,' *Fraser's Magazine*, Oct. 1832, p359.
- 17 Hogg's allegorical story 'Seeking the Houdu,' first published in 1832, is discussed and reprinted in my edition of *James Hogg: Tales of Love and Mystery* (Edinburgh, 1985).
- 18 Hogg, letter to Blackwood, 6 Dec. 1832.
- 19 Hogg, *Familiar Anecdotes of Sir Walter Scott*, p95.
- 20 William Blackwood, letter to his son Robert, 19 April 1833.
- 21 Anon. rev., 'Domestic Manners of Sir Walter Scott, by James Hogg,' *Fraser's Magazine*, Aug. 1834, p125
- 22 Hogg, letter to Fullarton, 5 Sept. 1833.
- 23 Hogg, letter to Motherwell, 23 Sept. 1834.
- 24 Hogg, letter to Fullarton, 14 Sept. 1832.
- 25 Hogg is probably referring to Byron's poem 'Inscription on the Monument of a Newfoundland Dog,' written in 1808.
- 26 The last sentence refers to the well-known 'Translation from an Ancient Chaldee Manuscript,' written by Hogg (but extensively revised by other hands) for publication in *Blackwood's Magazine*, Oct. 1817. The work was a satire on Edinburgh's literary establishment.
- 27 Anon. rev., 'Lady Sermons, by the Ettrick Shepherd,' *Fraser's Magazine*, July 1834, p10.
- 28 Anon., 'Hogg in London: Imitation of Old Scottish Ballads,' *The Day*, 20 Jan. 1832, pp65-67.
- 29 Anon., 'Hogg in London: More Imitations of Old Scottish Ballads,' *The Day*, 2 April 1832, pp13-16. Both the ballad and 'ditty' were found in Motherwell's private papers, in his own handwriting, after his death, and published in his *Poetical Works*.
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ROBERT BURNS'S ILLNESS REVISITED

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Summary. *A careful review of Robert Burns's terminal illness, especially as documented in his correspondence, supports the widely held contention that death may have been due to subacute bacterial endocarditis secondary to chronic rheumatic heart disease. However, it is also possible that death may have been caused by brucellosis or some non-infectious process such as malignant lymphoma. There is no evidence that Robert Burns suffered from either chronic alcoholism or venereal disease. The evidence that he may have died a doctor's martyr as a result of treatment with a mercury ointment is critically examined.*

'Burns, in particular, experienced fully the usual proportion of the world's goodness; and that the blame of his failure lies not chiefly with the world... Where, then does it lie? We are forced to answer; with himself; it is his inward, not his outward, misfortunes that bring him to the dust... A man like Burns might have divided his hours between poetry and virtuous industry... but to divide his hours between poetry and rich men's banquets was an ill-starred and inauspicious attempt. How could he be at ease at such banquets? What had he to do there, mingling his music with the coarse roar of altogether earthly voices, brightening the thick smoke of intoxication with fire lent him from heaven? Was it his aim to enjoy life?' T. Carlyle¹

The debauchery myth

It is an old saying 'that a prophet hath no honour in his own country'. Surprisingly this is only too true of Scotland's national bard and Europe's greatest song writer, Robert Burns. For although it is true that his memory is immortalised throughout the world at dinners on his birthday, the 25th January, there remains the popular belief that his death at the early age of 37 years resulted from alcoholism and debauchery. Thus, Heron², Currie³, Carlyle¹, Lockhart⁴ and Cunningham⁵ all subscribed to the belief that Burns drank himself to death. Heron, his first biographer, had only met Burns on a few occasions, and Currie his major biographer had only made Burns's acquaintance once, and that briefly. Cunningham was aged 12 years, and Lockhart and Carlyle two and one year old respectively when Burns died. Thus, none of these early biographers had intimate knowledge of their subject. Moreover, some, in particular Currie, had an axe to grind.

Currie was an appreciative admirer of the poet's verse and song, and was a friend of the family. He undertook his four volume biography without a fee or compensation in order to raise money for Mrs. Burns and her children. Currie was, however, an unrelenting foe of alcohol, and maintained that Burns would not have died so young had he not become an alcoholic.

'Perpetually stimulated by alcohol in one or other of its various forms... in his moments of thought he reflected with the deepest regret on his fatal progress, clearly foreseeing the goal towards which he was hastening, without the strength of mind necessarily to stop, or even slacken, his course. His temper became more irritable and gloomy; he fled from himself into society, often of the lowest kind. And in such company, that part of the convivial scene in which wine increases sensibility and excites benevolence, was hurried over, to reach the succeeding part, over which uncontrolled passion generally presided. He who suffers the pollution of inebriation, how shall he escape other pollution? But let us refrain from the mention of error over which the delicacy and humanity draw the veil'³. There was, of course, a certain justification that Burns indulged too freely in the delights of the bottle. He frequently referred to the effects of drink, as in his amusing narrative poem *Death and Dr. Hornbook* written at the age of 26 years in 1785.

'The clachan yill' had made me canty
I was no fou, but just had plenty'
Yet he was unable to determine the number of horns the moon had!
'But whether she had three or four,
I cou'dna tell',

In *Tam o' Shanter* the bacchanalian delights of the Scottish Tavern are clearly enjoyed by Tam and his 'ancient, trusty, drouthy cronie', Souter Johnny,

'While we sit bousing at the nappy,
An gettin fou and unco happy.'

The sensation of Tam's drunkenness is also conveyed.

'Kings may be blest, but Tam was glorious,
O'er a' the ills o' life victorious!'

Burns even went as far as writing an eulogy on *Scotch Drink* in which he implies that this is the source of his poetic inspiration:

'O thou, my muse! guid auld Scotch drink!
Inspire me, till I lisp an' wink,
To sing thy name!'

In addition, there are references in his letters^{6,7} to being intoxicated, and suffering the after effects. His company was welcome both in the taverns, such as the Globe Tavern in the High Street, Dumfries and at dinner parties at the houses of the local gentry. Burns recognised the serious danger to himself of over-indulgence in alcohol, and wrote to Mrs. Dunlop on 2nd January 1793⁸—'You must not think, as you seem to insinuate, that in my way of life I want exercise. Of that I have enough; but occasional hard drinking is the devil to me. — Against this I have again and again bent my resolution, and have greatly succeeded. — Taverns, I have totally abandoned; it is the private parties in the family way, among the hard drinking gentlemen of this country that does me the mischief—but even this, I have more than half given over.

Burns expressed in his letters his dislike of the 'savage hospitality of this country (the object of all hosts being) to send every guest drunk to bed if they can'⁹. In a letter to Mrs Agnes McLehose, dated 6th March 1788¹⁰ he complains that 'yesterday I dined at a friend's at some distance; the savage hospitality of this country spent me the most part of the night over the nauseous potion in the bowl; this day - sick headache - low spirits - miserable - fasting, except for a draught of water or small beer - now eight o'clock at night - only able to crawl ten minutes walk into Mauchline...' Dean Ramsay¹¹ has given a graphic description of the drinking excesses at Scottish dinner parties in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries in *Reminiscences of Scottish Life and Character*. The custom was to have the dinner or supper early in the evening, followed by long rounds of toasts and sentiments such as 'Mair friens and less need o' them', 'When we're gaun up the hill o' fortune may we ne'er meet a frien' comin down', 'Mair sense and mair siller', etc. Ramsay comments - 'One is astonished to look back and recall the scenes to which were attached associations of hilarity, conviviality, and enjoyment. Drinking parties were protracted beyond the whole Sunday, having begun by a dinner on Saturday; imbecility and prostrate helplessness were a common result of these bright and jovial scenes; and by what perversion of language, or by what obliquity of sentiment, the notions of pleasure could be attached to scenes of such excess - to the nausea, the disgust of sated appetite, and the racking headache - it is not easy to explain'.

Despite his awareness of the dangers of alcohol, as described in his letter to Mrs. Dunlop quoted above, it is clear that he continued to *over-indulge with, at times, serious social consequences and the loss of friends*. For example, it seems that excessive drinking was the cause of his estrangement with the Riddell family in Dumfries in 1793. The traditional story, which cannot be verified, is that after dinner, once the ladies had retired, the men decided to stage a mock Rape of the Sabine women by the Romans on the ladies' return to the drawing room. It appears that Burns's poetic imagination led him further in his stimulation, and as a consequence outraged the hostess. Burns was ignominiously shown the door and the whole Riddell family took umbrage. The following day Burns wrote the insulted Mrs. Robert Riddell a desperate apology for his drunken folly, but at the same time, with some justification, absolved himself from part of the blame.¹²

'Madam, I daresay that this is the first epistle you ever received from this nether world. I write you from the regions of Hell, amid the horrors of the damned. The time and manner of my leaving your earth I do not exactly know, as I took my departure in the heat of a fever of intoxication, contracted at your too hospitable mansion;... Here am I, laid on a bed of pitiless furze, with my aching head reclined on a pillow of ever-piercing thorn... To the men of the company I will make no apology. Your husband, who insisted on my drinking more than I chose, has no right to blame me; and the other gentlemen were partakers of my guilt. But to you, Madam, I have much to apologise.'

A widely quoted story of the poet's inebriation occurred after an evening's carousel at the Globe Inn in the High Street, Dumfries, in January 1796; and is described by Chambers¹³: 'Early in the month of January when his health was in the course of improvement, Burns tarried to a late hour at a jovial

party in the Globe Tavern. Before returning home, he unluckily remained for some time in the open air, and, overpowered by the effects of the liquor he had drunk, fell asleep. In these circumstances, and in the peculiar condition to which a severe medicine had reduced his constitution, a fatal chill penetrated to his bones; he reached home with the seeds of a rheumatic fever already in possession of his weakened frame. In this little accident, and not in the pressure of poverty or disrepute, or wounded feelings, or a broken heart, truly lay the determining cause of the sadly shortened days of our great national poet.'

It should be noted, however, that Burns's statements in his letters ^{14,15,16} indicate that he was confined to his home nearly all of this month. The inn is only at most a quarter of a mile from Burns's home, and it seems unlikely that he would have ventured forth at night and allowed himself to get drunk. Certainly Burns does not comment on the incident, which was first alluded briefly to by the untrustworthy Currie¹⁷. 'He dined at a tavern, and returned home about three o'clock on a very cold morning, benumbed and intoxicated.'

Was Burns an alcoholic?

The question then remains: was Burns a chronic alcoholic? Certainly he was wont to take excess from time to time and to suffer the consequences. *But there is no evidence of his being chronically addicted*, and indeed, there is everything to contradict such a view in his letters.¹⁸ What emerges from his correspondence is an extremely complex but honest personality, who time after time indicates his dislike of being forced to drink at dinner parties to which he had been invited. James Gray, who was an ordained minister and rector of Dumfries Academy, knew Burns intimately and was the first person to suggest that if the poet had been a chronic alcoholic he could hardly have written the number of songs during the last years of his life. His vindication of the poet's character to Alexander Peterkin, who issued a reprint of Dr. Currie's edition of Burns's works¹⁹ is worth citing:

'It came under my own view professionally, that he superintended the education of his children with a degree of care that I have never seen surpassed by any parent in any rank of life whatever. In the bosom of his family he spent many a delightful hour in directing the studies of his eldest son, a boy of uncommon talents. I have frequently found him explaining to this youth, then not more than nine years of age, the English poets, from Shakespeare to Gray, or storing his mind with examples of heroic virtue, as they live in the pages of our more celebrated English historians. I would ask any person of common candour, if employments like these are consistent with habitual drunkenness?'

Alexander Findlater, who was Burns's supervisor in the excise, also testified to the poet's good character²⁰ to Peterkin, as did Gilbert, the poet's brother. Gilbert, who was a quiet, somewhat timid man explained in his letter to Peterkin²¹:

Dr. Currie, knowing the events of the later years of my brother's life only from the reports which had been propagated, and thinking it necessary lest the candour of his work should be called in question to state the substance of these reports, *has given a very exaggerated view of the failings of my brother's life* at that period, which is certainly to be regretted; but as the Doctor's work was not submitted to me in manuscript, nor as far as I know to any of my brother's friends at Dumfries, I had not in my power to set him right in that particular; and considering the excellence of the Doctor's work upon the whole, and how much we owed him for that stupendous exertion of his benevolence, I never took any notice to him of my disapprobation, or of the inconsistency of this part of his work.'

It should be noted in defence of Gilbert's muted support of his brother's honour that he received two cheques, each for £250, for this edition of Currie's *Works of Robert Burns*. *The publishers warned Gilbert not to cast any aspersions on the accuracy of Currie's portrait*.

But perhaps the strongest support for Burns's moral character came from Maria Riddell in an article by 'Candidior' in the Dumfries Journal - August 1796²². She had known Burns well during the last five years of his life, and despite the estrangement between the poet and herself, she felt she could not continue to be 'wholly silent, had misrepresentation and calumny been less industrious; but a regard to truth, no less than affection for the memory of a friend' compelled to give her opinion.

All recent biographers who have thoroughly researched the evidence, conclude that Burns can in no way be considered a chronic alcoholic^{23,24,25}. This is also the view taken by James Barke²⁶ in his popular historical novel, *Wonder of all the Gay World*. However some Scots still remain unconvinced²⁷. *It is our conclusion, after reviewing the evidence, that Burns was a sober man in a drunk age.*

Venereal disease

Currie stated without citing his authority that 'from October 1795, to the January following, an accidental complaint confined (Burns) to the house.²⁸ The tradition that he had contracted venereal disease was thus set in motion. Burns was Scotland's answer to Don Juan. The effect women had on him is described by his brother Gilbert²⁹: 'Though when young he was bashful and awkward in his intercourse with women, yet when he approached manhood, his attachment to their society became very strong, and he was constantly the victim of some fair enslaver. The symptoms of his passion were often such as nearly to equal those of the celebrated Sappho. I never indeed knew that *he fainted, sunk, and died away*; but the agitation of his mind and body exceeded anything of the kind I ever knew in real life. He had always a particular jealousy of people who were richer than himself, or who had more consequence in life. His love, therefore, rarely settled on persons of this description. When he selected any one out of the sovereignty of his good pleasure to whom he should pay his particular attention, she was instantly invested with a sufficient stock of charms, out of the plentiful stores of his own imagination; and there was often a great disparity between his fair captivator, and her attributes'.

With women Burns subjected himself to no restraint, and even after his marriage in 1788, he frequently committed adultery. Of his 14 children, only five were born in wedlock³⁰. However, to his children he was a good father, and two of his illegitimate daughters were brought up in his own home.

It is impossible to prove or disprove whether Burns had a venereal infection. Apart from the insinuation by Currie²⁸, there is nothing in his own letters to suggest he suffered from gonorrhoea or syphilis. Whatever else he was, Burns was honest, and it might have been expected that he would have admitted to such a disease had he contracted it. More important, his wife Jean Armour, remained in good health and none of his surviving offspring are known to have borne the stigma of syphilis. None of the facts known of his terminal illness suggests that he died from either gonorrhoea (unless a gonococcal endocarditis is invoked) or the late sequelae of syphilis.

The Poet's terminal illness

Sir James Crichton-Browne of Dumfries³¹ first suggested in 1926 that the poet died of subacute bacterial endocarditis complicating chronic rheumatic heart disease. 'Burns', he wrote, 'died of endocarditis,... *At Mount Oliphant, from his thirteenth to his fifteenth year, the heart trouble was well declared...* At Mossgiel in 1784 there was an exacerbation of the disease... It is characteristic of mild types of this insidious form of heart disease from which Burns suffered, that its victims, until it is far advanced, are able to go about and take an active share in affairs as if there was nothing the matter with them. But they are visited at different intervals during its course of twenty to thirty years by feverish attacks, significant often of another milestone on the downward journey, in which, with a quickened pulse, they become weak and qualmish, and are highly strung, nervous, and easily agitated. It is attacks of this kind that are occasionally tabulated in (Burns's) correspondence'.

Sir James's gorgonesque account fails to provide clinical data to back up his conclusion that the poet died of bacterial endocarditis secondary to chronic rheumatic heart disease. Dr. Harry B. Anderson of Toronto also came to the same diagnosis³², but provides no source of many of the symptoms Burns was supposed to have, such as shortness of breath, and rapid, irregular pulse.

The following is an attempt to piece together the poet's illness from his letters.

Evidence from correspondence

The first indication of physical ill health occurs in a letter³³ to an elderly lady admirer of his poetry, Mrs. Frances Dunlop, dated 25th June 1794, when he apologises for neglecting to correspond with her:

'To tell you that I have been in poor health, will not be excuse enough though it is true. I am afraid that I am about to suffer for the follies of my youth. My medical friends threaten me with the flying gout; but I trust they are mistaken.'

In a letter³⁴ to his publisher, William Creech, in Edinburgh on 30 May 1795, Burns apologises for not writing a longer letter :

'I had intended to have troubled you with a long letter, but at present the delightful sensations of an omnipotent tooth-ach so engross all my inner man, as to put it out of my power even to write

nonsense.'

He enclosed some poems and a song but did 'not pretend that there is much merit in these Morceaux, but I have two reasons for sending them, primo, they are mostly ill-natured, so are in unison with my present feelings while fifty troops of infernal spirits are riding post from ear to ear along my jaw bones...'

Douglas³⁵ has suggested that it was the severity of this tooth ache which prompted Burns to write his *Address to the Toochange*:

My curse upon your venom'd stang
That shoots my tortur'd gums along;
And through my lugs gies mony a twang
Wi' gnawing vengeance,
Tearing my nerves wi' bitter pang,
Like racking engines!

The poem was published in *The Scots Magazine* in October 1777, and may, according to Henley and Henderson³⁶ have been published in the 1786 edition of the poet's works. We are unable to verify this. In addition, we have been unable to obtain information as to whether there was an associated dental abscess.

A letter to a Mr. Robert Cleghorn of Saughton Mills, Edinburgh, dated January 1796³⁷ described how he had been ill for many weeks in bed:

'Since I saw you, I have been much the child of disaster.—Scarcely began to recover the loss of an only daughter and darling child, I myself became the victim of a rheumatic fever, which brought me to the borders of the grave.—After many weeks of a sick-bed, I am just beginning to crawl about.'

The same is described in a letter³⁸ to Mrs. Dunlop dated 31st January of the same year:

'I have lately drank deep of the cup of affliction. The autumn robbed me of my only daughter and darling child, and that at a distance too and so rapidly as to put it out of my power to pay the last duties to her. - I had scarcely began to recover from that shock, when [I] became myself the victim of a most severe rheumatic fever, and long the die spun doubtful; until after many weeks of a sick-bed it seems to have turned up more life, and I am beginning to crawl across my room, and once indeed have been before my own door in the street.'

The next reference to his illness is in a letter to Mr. George Thomson³⁹ dated April 1796, when slightly more clinical detail is given:

'I have only known Existence by the pressure of the heavy hand of Sickness; and have counted time by the repercussions of Pain! Rheumatism, Cold and Fever have formed, to me, a terrible Trinity in Unity, which makes me close my eyes in misery, and open them without hope.'

In another letter dated May 1796 to Mr. George Thomson⁴⁰ he indicates the nature of his illness:

'I have now reason to believe that my complaint is a flying gout: —a damnable business!'

In a letter to Mr. James Johnson⁴¹ about 1st June, Burns again describes how his illness has weakened him, making it difficult for him to compose poetry:

'Alas, the hand of pain and sorrow, and care has these many months laid heavy with me! — Personal and domestic affliction have almost entirely banished that alacrity and life with which I used to woo the rural Muse of Scotia.'

In addition, he is none too optimistic of the future: 'This protracting, slow consuming illness which hangs over me, will, I doubt much, my ever dear friend, arrest my sun before he has well reached his middle career, and will turn over the Poet to far other and more important concerns than studying the brilliancy of Wit or the pathos of Sentiment.—However, Hope is the cordial of the human heart, and I endeavour to cherish it as well as I can.'

Much the same is said in a letter probably dated 1st June to Mrs. Riddell⁴²:

I am in such miserable health to be utterly incapable of showing my loyalty in any way. — Rackt as I am with rheumatisms I meet every face with a greeting like that of Balak to Balaam — 'Come, curse me Jacob; and come, defy me Israel!'

Late in the same month in a letter dated 26th June to Mr. James Clarke⁴³, he writes:

'Still, still the victim of affliction: were you to see the emaciated figure who now holds the pen to you, you would not know your old friend. - Whether I shall ever get about again is known only to HIM, the Great Unknown, whose creature I am. - Alas, Clarke, I begin to fear the worst! - As to my individual

Self, I am tranquil; - I would despise myself if I were not: but Burns's poor widow! and half a dozen of his dear little ones, helpless orphans, there I am as weak as a woman's tear. - enough of this! 'tis half my disease!'

The physician most closely associated with Burns during his last illness was a Dr. William Maxwell, who was a near neighbour and loyal friend. When Mrs. Burns gave birth to a child on the day of her husband's funeral, the boy was called Maxwell. Maxwell's skill as a doctor was poor but probably no worse than the average skill of a Scottish physician of the time. His advice to Burns was that he should bathe in the sea.

On 4th July at Brow on the Solway Firth, Burns wrote to thank George Thomson for some songs⁴⁴:

'I rec'd your songs: but my health being so precariously nay dangerously situated, that as a last effort I am here at sea-bathing quarters.—Besides my inveterate rheumatism, my appetite is quite gone, and I am so emaciated as to be scarce able to support myself on my own legs.'

Three days later, on 7th July, Burns wrote to Alexander Cunningham indicated that he had been ill for some eight to ten months⁴⁵. *This would date the onset of his illness around October of 1795, some four months after he had toothache*. However, it should be noted that the first mention of 'flying gout' is in his letter to Mrs. Dunlop in June 1794³³. In his letter to Alexander Cunningham, in addition to describing the drastic state of his health he also complains bitterly that his income has been reduced:

'Alas! my friend, I fear the voice of the Bard will soon be heard among you no more. For these eight to ten months I have been ailing, sometimes bedfast and sometimes not; but these last three months I have been tortured with an excruciating rheumatism, which has reduced me to nearly the last stage—You actually would not know (me) if you saw me. —Pale, emaciated, and so feeble as occasionally to need help from my chair—my spirits fled! fled!—but I can say no more on the subject—only the Medical folks tell me that my last and only chance is bathing and country quarters and riding. The deuce of the matter is this; when an Exciseman is off duty, his salary is reduced to £35 instead of £50—What way, in the name of thrift, shall I maintain myself and keep a horse in Country-quarters—with a wife and five children at home, on £35? I mention this, because I had intended to beg your interest and all your friends you can muster, to move our Commissrs of Excise to grant me the full salary — ... If they do not grant it to me, I must lay my account with an exit truly en poete, if I die not of disease I must perish with hunger.'

On 10th July he wrote to his father-in-law, James Armour, to send his wife to look after his wife Jean, who was expecting a baby in approximately two weeks. In this letter he expresses doubt as to the benefit of his sea-bathing⁴⁶:

'I have now been a week at salt water, and though I think I have got some good by it, I have some secret fears that this business will be dangerous if not fatal.'

On the same day he wrote to Mrs. Dunlop that he understood that his end was near⁴⁷:

'An illness which has long hung about me in all probability will speedily send me beyond that bourne whence no traveller returns,'

He wrote the same to his brother, Gilbert, on the same day⁴⁸:

'It will not be very pleasing news to you to be told that I am dangerously ill, and not likely to get better. - An inveterate rheumatism has reduced me to such a state of debility, and my appetite is totally gone, so that I can scarcely stand on my legs.'

For some time Burns had been concerned about his financial situation, and when in early July a merchant in Dumfries, one T. Williamson, demanded £7-6s, which Burns owed as payment for his Volunteer's uniform, the poet, aware that he was dying, became acutely alarmed and wrote to his cousin James Burness, for assistance⁴⁹: 'A rascal of a Haberdasher to whom I owe a considerable bill taking it into his head that I am dying, has commenced a process against me, and will infallibly put my emaciated body into jail.—Will you be so good as to accommodate me, and that by return of post, with ten pounds... Alas! I am not used to beg! The worst of it is my health was coming about finely; you know and my Physician assures me that melancholy and low spirits are half my disease, guess then my horrors since this business began... Save me from the horrors of a jail!... The subject is so horrible, I dare not look it over again.'

A similar request for money was also sent to George Thomson on the same day⁵⁰:

'After all my boasted independence, curst necessity compels me to implore you for five pounds — A cruel scoundrel of a Haberdasher to whom I owe an account, taking it into his head that I am dying,

has commenced a process, and will infallibly put me into jail.—Do, for God's sake, send me that sum, and that by return of post.—Forgive me this earnestness, but the horrors of a jail have made me half distracted. I do not ask all this gratuitously for upon returning health, I hereby promise and engage to furnish you with five pounds' worth of the neatest song-genius you have seen.'

Burns's illness and the knowledge that his end was near, and the memory of how his father's last days had been spent in fear of the debtor's prison, clearly heightened his own reaction to the state of his finances. Both his cousin, James Burness, and George Thomson promptly complied with his request, but the money did not arrive until he was in a terminal coma⁵¹. It may be noted in passing that, contrary to popular belief, Burns did not die in penury. At the time of his death he probably owed some £30 to £40, which were offset by the debts due to him by his brother, Gilbert, amounting to approximately £200 and other small amounts from other friends⁵¹.

On the 13th July in a letter to Mr. James Gracie, Burns conceded that sea-bathing had been of some good, but his appetite was still poor⁵².

'It would be doing high injustice to this place not to acknowledge that my rheumatisms have derived great benefit from it already, but alas, my loss of appetite still continues.'

The following day he wrote much the same to his wife⁵³:

'My dearest love,

I delayed writing until I could tell you what effect sea-bathing was likely to produce. It would be injustice to deny that it has eased my pains, and I think has strengthened me; but my appetite is still extremely bad. No flesh nor fish can I swallow: porridge and milk are the only things I can taste.'

On the 18th July, Burns returned to Dumfries as testified in what was to be his last letter. To his father-in-law, James Armour, he wrote⁵⁴:

'I returned from sea-bathing quarters today, and my medical friends would almost persuade me that I am better; but I think and feel that my strength is so gone that the disorder will prove fatal to me.'

Allan Cunningham⁵⁵ records that he last saw Burns on his return from sea-bathing:

'He had gone away very ill and returned worse. He was brought back, I think, in a covered spring cart, and when he alighted at the foot of the street in which he lived, he could scarcely stand upright. He reached his own door with difficulty, he stooped much, and there was a visible change in his looks.' However, 'his good humour', Cunningham added, 'was unruffled, and his wit never forsook him. He looked to one of his fellow volunteers with a smile as he stood by the bedside with his eyes wet, and said, 'John don't let the awkward squad fire over me'. It should be noted that Burns was an officer in the local militia, and as a result was given a military funeral.

His terminal condition was graphically described by Currie⁵⁶ on the authority of Dr. Maxwell who attended him: 'A tremor now pervaded his frame, his tongue was parched and his mind sank into delirium, when not roused by conversation. On the second and third day the fever increased and his strength diminished'. Cunningham⁵⁵ gave a description of his last moments: 'He had laid his head quietly on the pillow awaiting dissolution, when his attendant reminded him of his medicine and held the cup to his lips. He started suddenly up, drained the cup at a gulp, threw his hands before him like a man about to swim, and sprung from head to foot of the bed—fell with his face down, and expired with a groan'.

A description of the poet as he lay in his coffin is given by Cunningham⁵⁵: 'I went to see him laid out for the grave, several elder people were with me. He lay in a plain unadorned coffin, with a linen sheet drawn over his face; and on the bed, and around the body, herbs and flowers were thickly strewn, according to the usage of the country. He was wasted somewhat by long illness; but death had not increased the swarthy hue of his face, which was uncommonly dark and deeply marked—his broad and open brow was pale and serene, and around it his sable hair lay in masses, slightly touched in gray'.

It should be noted that Cunningham was only 12 years old when Burns died and both his essay⁵⁵ and eight volumes on the work and life of the poet⁵ are untrustworthy as regards certain facts²⁵. Cunningham wrote plausibly, but there is nothing to corroborate his evidence of the dying moments of the poet.

It may be 'ill wark chappin at a deid man's yett', but Robert Burns occupies such an important place in Scottish literature that the effort to determine the cause of his early death seems, to us at least, eminently warranted. It is, of course, extremely difficult, if not downright impossible, to make a diagnosis after nearly two centuries. However, what can be said with some assurance is that he did

not die of chronic alcoholism, venereal disease, or the result of extreme poverty or overwork, as suggested by recent lay writers⁵⁷: 'By the time he was writing poetry in early manhood, Burns had known such hard physical toil on uneconomic small farms that his health was damaged—this was to be the cause of his early death'.

Both Crichton-Browne⁵¹ and Anderson⁵² concluded that Burns's death was due to bacterial endocarditis complicating rheumatic heart disease. The clinical history is entirely consistent with this diagnosis, including presumed death in uraemia, if the testimony of his physician, Dr. Maxwell as recorded by Dr. Currie⁵⁶, is accepted. It is tempting to speculate that the severe bout of toothache described so vividly in the letter to his Edinburgh publisher, William Creech, in May 1795⁵⁴ may have been the source of the organisms which caused the endocarditis. However, it is worth bearing in mind that Burns's symptoms of 'flying gout' antedate this attack of toothache by nearly 11 months⁵³.

A diagnosis of bacterial endocarditis presupposes an already abnormal or damaged heart, the most likely cause of which is chronic rheumatic heart disease. But how good is the evidence that Burns suffered from rheumatic valvular disease. There is no history of acute rheumatic fever in childhood, although the absence of this does not exclude the diagnosis. The evidence that he had rheumatic valvular disease rests, as far as we can judge, on two frequently quoted pieces of evidence. The first is by his brother, Gilbert, who described Robert as a teenager at the farm at Mount Oliphant⁵⁸ 'At this time he was almost constantly affected in the evenings with a dull headache, which at a future period of his life, was exchanged for a palpitation of the heart, and a threatening of fainting and suffocation in the night time'. This is certainly suggestive of rheumatic heart disease, but in a person of the poet's disposition and nervousness the palpitations could be due to attacks of paroxysmal tachycardia, and breathless attacks at night to nocturnal asthma⁵⁹. The poet himself⁶⁰ wrote, at least before 1784; 'A prayer, when fainting fits, and other alarming symptoms of a Pleurisy or some other dangerous disorder, which indeed still threaten me, first put Nature on the alarm'. This provides insufficient detail to base a diagnosis of chronic rheumatic heart disease. Indeed, from our reading we can find no real evidence, other than that given by his brother Gilbert⁵⁸, which could substantiate the diagnosis of chronic rheumatic valvular disease of the heart.

It was stated by Snyder⁶¹ that it was during his stay at Ellisland (1788-1791) that Burns's health first gave serious concern. Certainly he had to work hard and long hours, both in his capacity as a farmer and as an Exciseman⁶², the latter requiring him to ride some 200 miles a week⁶³. To his youngest brother, William, he wrote⁶⁴: 'I would have written you sooner but I am so hurried and fatigued with my Excise-business, that I can scarcely pluck up resolution to go through the effort of a letter to any body'. To his brother, Gilbert, he complains⁶⁵ that: 'My nerves are in a damnable state. - I feel that horrid hypochondria pervading every atom of both body and soul. This Farm has undone my enjoyment of myself.—It is a ruinous affair on all hands'; and to Mrs. Dunlop⁶⁶ he writes: 'I am groaning under the miseries of a diseased nervous system;... For now near three weeks I have been so ill with a nervous head-ach,... being scarce able to lift my head...'. This suggests psychoneurosis rather than organic disease. The comment in another letter to Mrs. Dunlop⁶⁷: 'I have somehow got a most violent cold; and in the stupid, disagreeable predicament of a stuffed, aching head and an unsound, sickly crasis,... suggests that he might have even had farmer's lung or one of the other hypersensitivity pneumonitides, although simple coryza is more probable. The only other comment on ill-health we can find during this period are: first, that he is still troubled with his knee⁶⁸ which he had previously injured in Edinburgh on Friday, 7th December 1787: 'My knee, I believe, never will be entirely well; and an unlucky fall this winter has made it still worse'; and, secondly, that he sustained a fracture of his arm when his horse fell on him⁶⁹ 'my horse came down on me and broke my right arm'. Burns's reason for leaving Ellisland for Dumfries were not, as far as we can ascertain, due to ill health, but rather that he sought, 'a life of literary leisure with decent competence, is the summit of my wishes'⁷⁰. In 1792, when in Dumfries, he confided to Mrs. Dunlop⁷¹: 'upon the whole, I have every reason to believe that I shall be much more comfortable for my change.—Indeed CHANGE was, to me, become a matter of necessity. Ruin awaited me as a Farmer; though by that peculiar good luck that for some years past has attended all my notions, I have got rid of my farm with little, if any, loss'. Burns may have been overworked at Ellisland, but there is really little evidence to suggest his health was seriously impaired.

Burns described himself as being the victim of a rheumatic fever⁷¹. If we accept the evidence of

Creighton⁷² on the severity of scarlet fever, then the streptococcus was virulent at the end of the eighteenth century. Conceivably the poet's fever and migratory arthritis could have been due to acute rheumatic fever. However, there is no history of sore throat and had Burns died from acute rheumatic fever, one would have expected a terminal illness of congestive cardiac failure and not coma.

What has not been considered by any reviewer^{31,32,73} as a possible cause of the poet's death is brucellosis. This is surprising since all the clinical features could be explained on this basis^{74,75,76,77}. As a farmer Burns ran the well-known occupational risk of this disease^{76,77}. The mortality today is low with antibiotic therapy⁷⁸, but death was not uncommon in the past without antibiotic therapy⁷⁹. The flying gout is a particularly apt description of the severe painful migratory arthritis usually affecting large joints^{76,80} from which Burns clearly suffered. The duration of the illness from the first mention in June 1794³³, to his death in July 1796, is entirely in keeping with brucellosis. *B. melitensis* is usually contacted from sheep and goats⁸¹, and produces the most severe form of the illness, with a higher mortality than that caused by *B. suis* and *B. abortus*^{75,76}, and a bacterial endocarditis may supervene⁷⁶. There is no record that the poet kept goats, but he did have a pet ewe which nearly strangled herself on its tether, and as a result became immortalised in two poems. *The Death and Dying Words of poor Mailie, the Author's only pet Yowe* and *Poor Mailie's Elegy*, the former being praised highly by Carlyle! However, there is no way of proving that Burns suffered from brucellosis unless one were to disinter his remains and demonstrate brucellar organisms! Nor, indeed, is it possible to exclude the many other conditions which could account for his death, including: polyarteritis nodosa, systemic lupus erythematosus, carcinomatosis, hepatitis, leukaemia, tuberculosis, etc.⁸²

The poet's doctors threatened Burns according to his own testimony³³ with flying gout. His joint pains were severe and conceivably could have been due to recurrent attacks of acute gouty arthritis, with death resulting from renal involvement. However, one might suppose that a poet with the descriptive genius of Burns to have portrayed the caricature of gout with unequivocal clarity. With gout severe enough to cause renal failure, one would have expected a description of acute gouty arthritis affecting the first metatarsophalangeal joint, tophi, and the passage of renal calculi. Fever, however, is consistent with both acute and chronic gouty arthritis. Sir Walter Scott, the poet's contemporary noted, however, that gout was much less common among the Scots than the English.

The question arises as to how Burns's illness influenced his productivity as a poet and song-writer. The surprising fact is that he was able to keep up a correspondence with his friends and even a few weeks before his death compose a song *Oh wert thou in the cauld blast*, to his nurse, Jessie Lewars. From his own admission in his letters it is clear that Burns suffered from alternating moods of exaltation associated with intense energy, followed by depression and inactivity, with probably varying periods of normal behaviour in between. This is not unusual in creative persons, but also occurs in people who never write a poem or a song. We can find no evidence that Burns's creativity was related to his psychoneurosis and, indeed, there is no evidence of exceptional creativity among psychoneurotics in general⁸³. However, Burns's burst of mild hypermania would have facilitated his compositions. It was said by Lockhart⁸⁴ that *Tam o' Shanter* was written in one day while sitting on the banks of the Nith in 1790, but this has not been confirmed⁸⁵.

Unfortunately no description was given by Dr. Maxwell, his family doctor, or by any other of the doctors he knew⁸⁶, of his illness, to allow us after two centuries to arrive at a definite diagnosis. Medical knowledge at the time was very deficient, and although Pitcairn⁸⁷ and Jenner⁸⁸ made reference to rheumatism as a cause of cardiac disease in 1788 and 1789 respectively, the first publication on the subject was not until 1812 in Britain⁸⁹ and not until 1835 in France⁹⁰. Brucellosis was first described in 1861⁷⁴ and the organisms identified in 1887⁹¹. The stethoscope was invented by Laennec in 1819⁹², and the modern clinical thermometer by Allbutt in 1870⁹³, which David Livingstone was probably one of the first to use in clinical practice⁹⁴.

If the diagnostic skills of doctors were deficient at the time of Burns's death, how much more so were their therapeutic abilities. Indeed, it was Thomson⁹⁵ who first suggested that the poet's death might have been accelerated by the advice regarding sea bathing and treatment given to him by his doctors. 'I proclaim that Robert Burns died the doctor's martyr;... The truth stands thus— The Physician of Robert Burns (i.e. Dr. William Maxwell) believed that his liver was diseased, and placed him under a *course of mercury*. In these days a mercurial course was indeed a dreadful alternative.

I know well that his mercurial course was extremely severe... Among the last words I ever heard him speak were, 'Well, the doctor has made a finish of it now'.¹ Lenihan and his colleagues⁹⁶ examined a small sample of the poet's hair, provided by Mr. James F. Walker of Dundee, by neutron activation analysis. The mercury content was 8.02 parts per million, which is twice as high as the normal content, but much less than that found in dentists and laboratory workers (up to 200 parts per million). It should be noted that the poet's exposure to mercury could only have come from the medical profession, but the level found is very much below that associated with mercury poisoning. Lenihan *et al.*⁹⁶ were only able to examine a few hairs, none of which were very long, and had to use the whole sample to obtain sufficient sensitivity. Human hair grows at a rate of 20 cm per year, and the hair sample, therefore, could have reflected mercury treatments some time previously and not immediately prior to his death. The level of mercury in hair compared with other organs remains uncertain, and perhaps only the level in the hair root will correlate with blood concentrations. On the other hand, mercury is trapped in hair to sulphhydryl and disulphide groups in keratin like other heavy metals, so that normal concentrations in hair are much higher than in blood⁹⁷. Inorganic mercury salts, and to a lesser extent organic mercury, will lead to renal tubular damage.

Thus, a large dose of an inorganic mercury salt or a moderate dose resulting in insult to already damaged kidneys, could have precipitated the terminal event of uraemia and renal failure. Were this so, and, as Dr. Thomson suggested, Robert Burns died a martyr of the medical profession, it would be most ironic for one who had satirised iatrogenic disease in the poem, *Death and Doctor Hornbrook*:

Where I killed ane, a fair strae death,
By loss o' blood or want of breath,
This night I'm free to take my aith,
That Hornbook's skill
Has clad a score i' their last claiht,
By drap an pill.

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THE WILLIAM WILL MEMORIAL LECTURE

TO THE VERNACULAR CIRCLE OF THE BURNS CLUB OF LONDON:

11th January 1982

Major J. Fraser Morgan M.A., R.A.E.C.

When I was asked to speak to the Vernacular Circle of the Burns Club of London it was with some feelings of trepidation that I accepted because I was doubtful whether I was worthy of the honour. And the more I have thought about what I should say and the more I have learnt about William Will, whose memorial lecture it is, the less certain I am that I am qualified to say anything at all. I found one consolation during my research, however, and that is that while William Will was a Burns scholar of repute, he was born in the North East, at Huntly, and that is not so very far from where I spent a number of my formative years in Fochabers; so at least we heard and spoke the same form of vernacular as children - though admittedly William Will's experiences of the North East were about 70 years ahead of mine. But I am sure he would have agreed with me on Burns's view of Fochabers when he said in 'The Young Highland Rover':-

Sae I'll rejoice the lee-land day,
When by his mighty Warden
My youth's returned to fair Strathspey
And Bonnie Castle Gordon

— because Gordon Castle is in Fochabers and William Will was educated at the Gordon Schools in Huntly which were founded by the Duchess of Gordon.

If I may quote from William Will, he tells the story of a small boy, who on his first day at school looked blankly at his teacher when asked. 'Where do you stay?', but answered confidently when the foreign tongue was translated to the more familiar 'Far d'ye bide?'. That was nearly half a century ago and I wonder whether such an anecdote would be possible from the North East today? Even more so I wonder what would have happened to Robert Burns if he had been born at any other time. Just think, were Robert Burns a teenager now he would be more likely to talk with a mid-Atlantic accent and vocabulary rather than in the Doric: and he would be familiar with T.V. and C.B. Radio and spaceships and microchips and music centres and video and I doubt very much whether he would have the time or the inclination to observe in such minute detail the sufferings of that 'wee, sleekit, cowrin', tim'rous beastie' or to record the beauties of the 'crimson-tipped flower' - and as far as his thoughts on humanity are concerned, he might well have been conditioned to think otherwise.

Occasionally it is said of people that they were born before their time and this has been said of Burns also: what hasn't been said of him if we are honest! But I came across an account of an Immortal Memory on that theme, that he was born before his time: it was given in a village in Scotland, by an ex-patriate Scot especially imported from London.

However, during the speech auld Davie the local blacksmith clearly didn't agree with the speaker's point of view.

'He's whit did ye say? I never hear sich blethers in a' ma life!' His friends tried to keep Davie quiet but he continued, 'A'm tellin ye aince and fur a' that oor Rabbie wisna a man afore his time; ay! an' a' dinna gie a dockan whit yon Tammie Noddie frae London says. Noo a'll pit it tae ye yersel; had Rabbie been livin' the day, whit wid he hae found? He wis a ploo'man wis he nae? Ay! weel mebbe ye can see him perched up on wan o' these new fangled tractors, steering it wi' a wee bit wheel and fid-faddlin wi' a wheen levers - weel, I canna! Ay! an whit's mair: hoo in the name o' fortune could Rabbie hae written Tam o' Shanter, if a' the pubs had shut at nine o'clock and Tam awa' hame on his auld Ford larry?'

Well I feel sorry for the speaker but I do agree with auld Davie the blacksmith that all men are creatures of their own time, even though they be prophets. Burns was a creature of the second half of the 18th century in more ways than one. While I would agree with Rev. Robert Scott, a former minister of St. Columba's, who said in 1950, 'Think of that brilliant lively mind "cabined, cribbed, confined," in the narrow drudgery of rural life in Scotland as it was in the 18th century', I must also agree with Dr. Guthrie Rankin who said in 1902, 'The sadness and gladness of the work-a-day class

of society to which he belonged excited many of his finest efforts'. And one can argue that it is only because he was born when he was born that he was able to master and use the Scots tongue so very effectively and that his reputation is what it is. Yet the influences of his time permeate his work.

In the same year Robert Burns was born, General Wolfe captured Quebec and in the same year of 1759, William Pitt the Younger was born and both boys were one when George III came to throne. Culloden was but as yesterday to people of Burns's parents' age and the Treaty of Union of 1707 was still well within living memory of many of the older generation.

Burns was a ploughboy of seventeen when the Americans declared their independence in 1776 and the world first heard of George Washington. Burns was only thirty-three when the French revolutionaries established their Republic in 1792: and he was thirty-seven when Napoleon launched his first military campaign in Italy in 1796, the year of his death.

It is inevitable that some of these events, which still have repercussions today, affected him then and that evidence of them can be found in his thinking and writing. In fact Burns was born when Scotland was at its nadir politically, economically and spiritually. The Royal Court had long since left Edinburgh; the Scottish parliament was no more and Scotland's representatives had to hie themselves to Westminster. And educated Scotsmen were beginning to ape the English in manners and in speech and as I am sure we have all often heard, were having their literary works proof read to ensure that all traces of Scots were expunged. Scotland had lost its identity and through his writings one can see that Burns stood up for Scotland. He was not the first, nor will he be the last to do so, but I am sure we would agree that his influence has been of the greatest significance. But as I have said he was moulded by his time.

Among the thousands who immortalise the memory of Robert Burns at about this time every year there must be many who look at the 18th century through rose-coloured spectacles; and countless numbers of those who listen who would be hard put to it to name a single thing that happened in the 18th century. Then, as later, there was a vast gulf between the life of the rich and the poor in England; there was slightly less of a gulf in Scotland, because even the rich were relatively poor and uncivilised by English standards. Dr. Johnson was scathing about the primitive life style which he found during his tour of Scotland with Boswell. Instinctively the Scot, even today, will jump to the defence of his country, because Samuel Johnson was English; but if one looks at the evidence I believe that one has to swallow one's national pride and admit that Scotland in the mid-18th century was in very many ways a primitive backwater.

When one visits the Burns cottage at Alloway today it is hard to visualise it as it was in 1759: as it is preserved now, it looks quite a pleasant place to live in, but in those days as we know from Burns himself, it was an 'auld clay biggin'. There was no proper floor, no proper chimney, just a large black pot to cook in; there was no electricity and probably not even candles, just flickering tallow lamps; there was no central heating, no proper furniture, no bathroom, no running water: the hens probably shared the main room and roosted in a corner—and so on. Even the well-to-do had virtually none of the material things which we all take for granted, so imagine the condition of the agricultural poor!

As yet there were very few industrial poor in Scotland or anywhere else, because sources of power and improved technology were only beginning to come together in a way which made possible the period of gradual yet radical change which we call the industrial revolution. For instance at the Carron Works, between Stirling and Edinburgh, iron ore, coal and water power were found together and in 1760 John Smeaton invented a compressed air pump which could give an almost constant blast at a pressure of two or three atmospheres. The output of the furnaces was quadrupled. Burns, by the way, once tried to visit the iron works at Carron but was refused permission to enter, so he wrote the following on a window:

We cam here to view your warks,
In hopes to be mair wise,
But only, lest we gang to hell,
It may be nae surprise;
But whan we tirl'd at your door,
Your porter doubt na hear us;
Sae may, should we to hell's yetts come,
Your billy Satan sair us!

Also during Robert Burns's lifetime, Hargreaves invented his spinning jenny and Arkwright his water-frame, then Crompton his 'mule', all of which made possible the more efficient spinning of cotton. Then in 1785 Cartwright invented his power-loom which speeded up the weaving of cotton and it is ironic that it is at this time that the Burns family had sown flax for making linen in several fields and at one time Robert was thinking of turning the whole farm over to it.

Also while Burns was young James Watt was working on improvements to early steam engines and when Burns was twenty-four Watt developed an engine capable of rotary power, which could be harnessed to machines - and made the industrial revolution really possible. And ten years before the Kilmarnock edition was published, Adam Smith published his *Wealth of Nations*. He argued for Free Trade between nations and he believed that every man was the best judge of his own interest - that manufacturers, merchants and farmers should be left alone to achieve their own prosperity. He believed that with every man fending for himself the country would become rich and happy as never before.

Burns had read the *Wealth of Nations* and it is clear from his work that he believed in the value of individual enterprise and that each man is as good as his neighbour. But not even Adam Smith foresaw the later effects of his laissez-faire doctrine on the industrial poor, when the doctrine was distorted by human greed.

Robert Burns was forward-thinking too in the context of his times. In February 1784, on moving to Mossgiel, he says, 'I read farming books: I calculated crops; I attended markets!' But agriculture was only slowly changing for the better. There were no chemical fertilisers and not much natural manure. Farm implements were primitive and inefficient, animals were still fairly small and weak and the range of crops available to farmers was limited. Some individuals such as Townshend and Jethro Tull had begun agricultural experiments earlier in the 18th century, but they took time to permeate. Most farms grew only grains, beans, peas, rape and flax. Root vegetables were virtually unknown and it was not until Burns's time that potatoes were introduced into Scotland as a field crop for farmers - and began to reach the table of the ordinary man for the first time.

It is difficult to believe now but until the 1760s wheeled vehicles were virtually unknown in Ayrshire and even when William Burns died in 1784, Robert and Gilbert rode the twenty miles to Alloway Kirk yard with their dead father in the coffin lashed to two poles slipped through the stirrups of their saddle ponies. But this was a time when it took two weeks to travel from London to Edinburgh, and even two days from London to Bath: and that was good going. Some main roads were being improved through the Turnpike Acts, but elsewhere roads were terrible, where they existed at all in any form other than as narrow muddy tracks.

As far as farm implements are concerned, Burns in his poem *The Inventory* gives us a list of what he had at Mossgiel in February 1786. It was not much but I suspect it was more than some farmers could lay claim to - a plough drawn by 4 horses (it needed them because it would have been heavy and inefficient) and:

Three carts and twa are feckly new;
Ae auld whelbarrow, mair for token,
Ae leg and baith the trams are broken..!

No! It wasn't much. But at least the carts enabled the family to fetch coals for the fire and they were fortunate in being near enough coal to have it available because most Scots burnt peat, or dung, or whins as there was little proper wood in Scotland at the time.

These then were some of the physical things which affected Burns in his lifetime and which are reflected in his work: as he himself said, 'We lived very poorly' and as his brother Gilbert said, 'We lived very sparingly, for several years butcher's meat was a stranger in the house, while all the members of the family exerted themselves to the utmost of their strength, and rather beyond it, in the labour of the farm'. Even then it is difficult for us today to appreciate what living very poorly meant in the 18th century and I am reminded of a recent television programme on the problems of underdeveloped countries, where a Tanzanian politician said that if he could raise the standard of living of most of his people to that of the poorest of the poor in Britain today, he would be delighted. That is the sort of contrast there was between 18th century Scotland and Britain in the 20th century.

But there were other influences on Robert Burns: he was a sentimental Jacobite, yet he had a distinct contempt for the monarchy - particularly the House of Hanover and in a number of his poems he gives

vent to his feelings as in his 'Lines on viewing Stirling Palace'.

Here Stuarts once in glory reigned,
And laws for Scotland's weal ordained;
But now unroofed their palace stands,
Their sceptre's swayed by other hands:
The injured Stuart line is gone,
A race outlandish fills their throne—
An idiot race, to honour lost;
Who knows them best despise them most.

He was remarkably well informed considering his lowly situation and he mixes compliments with insults in 'A Dream' where one sees his true philosophy when he says:

For me! before a monarch's face,
Even there I winna flatter
For neither pension, post, nor place
Am I your humble debtor:

—this must have been written before he was an Exciseman; but even when he did hold that government job he was in trouble with his superiors because of his views on the French Revolution and liberty and freedom and the rights of the individual and for sending four carronades (which are short cast-iron cannons) to the French revolutionaries. But he changed his mind as quickly when the French turned anti-British and he did the mental jump from 'A man's a man for a' that' to 'Haughty Gaul's invasion threat...' with remarkable facility - at least publicly. And as William Will himself demonstrated in his book *Robert Burns as a Volunteer*, Burns was a true and loyal member of the Dumfries Volunteers, right up to the time of his death.

There is no denying that while Robert Burns may have strongly disapproved of the excesses of the French Revolution, he was very much a democrat, in the true Scottish tradition and I doubt that he would ever have reneged on:

The rank is but the guinea stamp;
The man's the gowd for a' that.

He hated tyranny and attempts to enslave the minds of men. Thus his message is as relevant right now when one thinks of Poland and so many other places in the world as it was in 18th century Britain. Human rights are still being denied. Freedom of speech is a thing unknown in many societies: whole nations are ordered how to think, act and speak. Nothing could suppress Burns when he said:

If I'm designed yon lordling's slave
By nature's law designed
Why was an independent wish
E'er planted in my mind?
If not, why am I subject to
His cruelty or scorn?
Or why has man the will and power
To make his fellow mourn.

As a champion of human rights what Burns had to say is almost more relevant now than it was when he wrote it.

Yet we must remember that all of this was superimposed on or to a considerable extent stemmed from his experiences as an Ayrshire laddie or loon. He lived at a time of great change for Scotland - and for Europe and America, though he benefitted little from it himself. This change is expressed in his writings, but without his experiences of poverty and hardship he could never have communed as he did with the common man - and much of what he wrote that has had most influence was in the vernacular—in his mother tongue.

The Rev. Robert Paterson when speaking of Robert Burns and his use of the Scots tongue said, 'His is a universal appeal in spite of the fact..., of the limitation of his medium of expression which was the vernacular—the hamely auld Scottish Doric, a form of speech familiar in only a small corner of the British Dominions'—uncouth, obscure, 'about to be swept away by the rising Anglo-Saxon flood'. Here I was mentally about to take issue with the Rev. Paterson, but he went on to say, 'The auld doric was to him what an ancient harp might be to a minstrel who, from its thumb-worn strings

awakens a new great heart-stirring melody. Burns new melody from the auld Scots harp reaches the heart of humanity and places him among those poets who are more than local, more than national: they are universal and for all time!’ Undoubtedly since the Union in 1707 Scotland’s language had been draining away through English influences, ‘but Burns threw a veritable dam across that sweeping torrent’ (Sir William Duthie 1960). Thus he did a great service to the vernacular: but the fact that his work is so highly valued even in translation, indicates that it is doubly worthy—once for helping preserve a language and culture and once as a service to mankind.

There is no doubt that Robert Burns felt very strongly about many subjects dear to our hearts and it is equally true that William Will felt equally strongly about Burns, for many of the same reasons that the rest of the world admires him, but also and perhaps just as important for William Will, because Burns preserved the vernacular. William Will was President of the Caledonian Society of London from 1924-25 and it says in the Chronicles of the Society for that year that, ‘It is no mere figure of words to say that Mr. Will has been the apostle of the Scottish vernacular in literature’.

William Will’s philosophy was I think summed up in a talk he gave in 1919, when he said (and I shall quote at length): ‘There is certainly no need to offer an apology for uttering a warning that if the decay of the Vernacular in speech and literature continues, it will soon be at a lower ebb than it was when Robert Burns burst upon Scotland, and infused life in our literature, and national pride in our language and institutions. ‘His candle is bright, but shut up in a dark lantern’, was the dictum of Wordsworth on the vernacular poems of Burns, and should the neglect of the vernacular continue as it has in some parts of Scotland since the Great Singer passed to his rest in 1796, the day will come when much of Burns will be shut up in a dark lantern, and will be read only by means of glossaries, even by Scotsmen. That is to say, it may be read, but it will not be understood, for there are in the Scots Vernacular - as indeed in all vernacular speech and literature - nuances of meaning and idioms whose significance cannot be conveyed by means of glossaries. The mere loss of the dialect is not, in my opinion, the most serious aspect of this matter. The decay and death of a language is a sadder thing than the decay and death of a city. It signifies the death of a people’s national character!’

That then was William Will’s philosophy: one which he sustained for the rest of his long life. He argued strongly for the use and study of the vernacular in Scottish schools - not as he said for political reasons, but because it reflected national character. Mr. Will said that the decay of Scots as a literary language began at the Reformation. The Reformation in Scotland was accomplished largely by John Knox and the Bible - and the language of both was English. But even in the 20th century there are Scots ministers who have used the vernacular from the pulpit; an example was a Mr. Robertson of Aberdeenshire, preaching on the condition of the Israelites in Egypt and the call of Moses. ‘Weel sirs, and far div ye think he faun God’s chosen people? He faun them in the Land o’ Goshen, wi their sark sleeves row’d up to the oxters, busy kirnin’ amo’ clay, and makin’ bricks’.

The Doric or the vernacular from any part of Scotland can be a wonderfully humorous language. Even a Frenchman admitted that. He was Auguste Angellier, who wrote a life of Burns in 1893 in which he called him, ‘One of the most joyous, if not the most joyous of modern poets, the one with the frankest and the most abundant laughter’. And of course so much that is joyous in Burns is written in the vernacular.

The Scots tongue is still valued by Scots: perhaps even more so than it was earlier this century. I have seen T.V. programmes in the North East which used the Scots tongue and which were hilarious and closely followed by local people: to be honest you had to be local to understand much of what was said.

Before I finish I am going to take the liberty of interpolating two stories in vernacular Scots which are not exactly literature but are the sort of thing that along with the poems of Burns will help keep the language alive for a while yet. The first is about an English commercial traveller who had occasion to call on a farm owned by two brothers. It was his first call, as he was taking the place of his predecessor who had died, and he introduced himself on that footing. It is reputed that the following conversation took place:

1st Brother: ‘Aye, aye, so Mr. Blank’s deid. Weel, weel, it’s the wye we maun a’ gang. Ftitdihedeeo?’

Commercial Traveller: ‘I beg your pardon?’

1st Brother: ‘I’m sayin’ ftitdihedeeo?’

Commercial Traveller: 'I'm afraid I don't understand'.

At this point the second brother tried to clear up the problem by explaining:

'My brither's speirin o' fittidhedee?' - which in case it needs translation was all about the brother asking the traveller what his predecessor had died of.

And there's another which could almost have been about Burns himself and concerns two farmers who met at their mutual boundary and after discussing the crops and the weather, the one said to the other:

'Jeems, they tell me my dochter's in the family way and they're blamin' your Jock for't', which brought the reply:

'Ach, a wadna wonder, the gowkit careless brute, he broke a graip o' min last week'!

But I shall give the last word to William Will who (metaphorically) said to the people of Scotland the following:

'Your language has been mangled by its enemies; they allowed it to be corrupted; they cannot kill it; we must see that by studying the best that it has produced, an opportunity is given of restoring it to its old time glory'. (8th November 1934) And to that I can only say to you, the members of the Vernacular Circle of the Burns Club of London—mair strength tae ye'r aims!

FINNISH TRANSLATION OF BURNS

**Outi Pickering
Turku, Finland**

The *New Cambridge Bibliography of English Literature* (Vol. 2, columns 1997-2000) gives a list of translations of Robert Burns's poetry. Unfortunately, there is no mention of translations into Finnish, and other works quoting the bibliography therefore do not recognize any either.

The only collection of Burns's works so far translated into Finnish and published appeared in Helsinki in 1918. This was a collection comprising 63 poems and included a short biography and notes written by the translator Valter Juva. The title was *Lauluja ja balladeja* ('Songs and ballads'). This work has long been out of print; the translation is probably now too dated to be properly enjoyed and appreciated by the present-day reader.

Translations of single poems published in anthologies include 'Of a' the airts the wind can blaw' and 'Ye banks and braes o' bonnie Doon' by Aale Tynni in *Tuhat laulujen vuotta* (1000 years of European poetry) (1957; revised enlarged edition 1974); a brilliant one of 'Tam o' Shanter' by Yrjö Jylhä in his anthology *Runon pursi* (narrative poetry) (2nd revised edition 1954); and several translations of 'Auld lang syne' in various song-books, sometimes without acknowledgement of Burns's authorship. My own translation of 'O my Luve's like a red, red rose' still awaits publication. This translation is intended to be sung to the melody which Burns wrote it for, unlike translations of his poems by Tynni and Juva, which are intended for reading.

It is perhaps worth mentioning in this context that the first Swedish translation of Burns's poetry appeared, not in Sweden, but in Finland in 1854, so that educated Finns of the day were able to read Burns (Swedish was the predominant language of culture in Finland in the nineteenth century). The present-day Finn has to content himself with the handful of poems available in Finnish - or else struggle with the original language. Much remains to be done before the poetry of Robert Burns is as widely known in Finland as it deserves to be.

HOW OLD IS GREENOCK BURNS CLUB?

**A century of honest doubt
By Clark Hunter**

When the first issue of the Burns Chronicle was published in January, 1892 it contained, at page 137, the following note:-

Mr. James Edward Campbell, Secretary of the Paisley Burns Club, writes us as follows:- 'Paisley, 8th January 1892. Dear Sir, I duly received your letter of the 12th ult, and submitted same to a meeting of this Club, held last night. I was instructed to protest on behalf of this Club— which I now do— against the Greenock Club being assigned the position of Senior Burns Club; and I shall rely on your

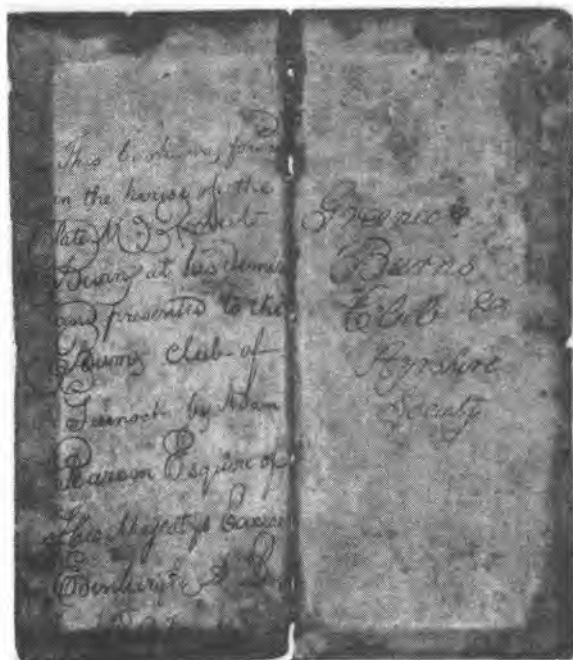
kindly giving publicity in the forthcoming Chronicle, however briefly, to the fact that we join issue with the Greenock Club, as to the alleged date of its institution. Yours etc.'

Paisley Burns Club has maintained this position ever since, but it was not until 1952 that I first became interested in the history of Greenock Burns Club. This followed a toast to 'The Mother Club' given at the 150th annual celebration of the Greenock Club in 1952 by the late Provost Robert Boyd of Greenock. The important points of the speech were reported in the *Greenock Telegraph* which paid tribute to Provost Boyd's carefully prepared toast. He had consulted the Club's minutes and revealed that they only went back to 1811, 'although the Club was founded in 1801.' He further pointed out that the minutes between 1811 and 1825 and between 1844 and 1847 were also missing, but that the Librarian in the Watt Library had been interested enough and industrious enough to write up the records of the anniversary meetings for these years from reports in the *Greenock Advertiser*. I thereupon resolved to investigate the origins of Greenock Burns Club but shortly afterwards business took me to Cheshire and I was not able to pursue the matter until 1955. In the spring of 1955 I wrote to William Christie, then secretary of the Greenock club, and among other questions asked if the Club possessed any newspaper references between 1801 and 1810. Mr. Christie replied that they had a copy of an advertisement which appeared in the *Greenock Advertiser* of 20th January, 1803 referring to a proposed trip to Alloway. He sent me a typewritten copy of the advertisement which read:

'CELEBRATIONS OF ROBERT BURNS' BIRTHDAY. The Members of the BURNS CLUB OF GREENOCK AND AYRSHIRE SOCIETY and Friends, who intend going to Alloway on Friday should book their seats at the White Hart Inn by Wednesday. A second coach will be run if necessary. The Coach starts at Nine o'clock in the morning on Friday and will return on Saturday afternoon at three o'clock. All seats must be booked at the White Hart Inn the day before. 20th Jan. 1803'.

In another letter Mr. Christie referred to the Club's lost minute book and wrote:

'The only record of its existence is a photo of the first leaves reproduced in the Centenary Booklet published in 1902.'

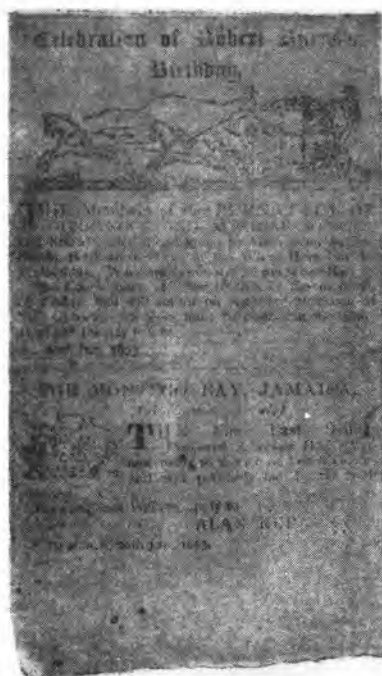


The illustration of two leaves and caption, which appeared in the Greenock Burns Club brochure of 1902. The same illustration with different wording was also used for Charles Brodie's article in the 1927 BURNS CHRONICLE.

He also told me about an article in the *Greenock Telegraph* of 24th January, 1902 in which an unnamed reporter narrated a visit to the club-room and described the treasured minute-book in its 'thick brown calf boards' and 'An old oaken brassbound chest' in which the Club's records were stored. With the help of the National Library of Scotland and Greenock Central Library I was able to obtain a copy of the *Greenock Telegraph* article of 1902 and to receive on extended loan the Greenock Centenary Booklet, the illustrations in which I fortunately photographed. I also corresponded with the Librarian of H.M. Customs & Excise regarding the Greenock Minute-book, said to have been formerly an Excise book. The Librarian expressed some surprise that the book 'lacked the characteristic red Excise stamp.'

Following this my researches became desultory as I had commenced work on a book about the life and letters of Alexander Wilson. I took the information I had received about the Greenock Burns Club at its face value and there the matter rested until Professor Rod Lyall's article in the *Glasgow Herald* of 21st January 1989 and the resultant correspondence. This induced me to resume my enquiries regarding Greenock Burns Club and its beginnings, with the following unexpected results.

A) I visited the Watt Library, Union Street, Greenock, where the local history collection is kept, in March of 1989 and asked the Librarian if they had any details, records etc. of Greenock Burns Club but she said they had nothing. At my request she provided me with the files of the *Greenock Advertiser* for 1802-3 and, with great care, I searched for the advertisement of 20th January 1803 described by Mr. Christie. The first thing I found was that there was no *Greenock Advertiser* for 20th January 1803 as the newspaper was only published on Tuesday and Fridays and 20th January 1803 did not fall on a Tuesday or Friday! I double checked the period from 30th November 1802 to 8th March 1803 but no advertisement by Greenock Burns Club could be found. Fortunately I had a photograph of the advertisement illustrated in the Centenary Booklet which I had taken in 1955 when the Booklet was loaned to me by Greenock Central Library. On showing this to the Librarian she informed me that



The mysterious faded cutting of which the source, and therefore the authenticity, has not been established despite the attribution in the Greenock 1902 brochure.

such an advertisement never appeared in the *Greenock Advertiser*. The advertisement was headed by a rough wood-cut of a coach and four and the Librarian was quite adamant that such a wood-cut had never been used in the *Advertiser*, then the only newspaper in Greenock. The lady hazarded the opinion that the advert might have appeared in a Glasgow newspaper so the following week I visited the Mitchell Library and, with the same care, searched the Glasgow newspapers of the time, namely the *Glasgow Courier* and the *Herald and Advertiser or Commercial Chronicle* but they did not contain the advert. Furthermore, my photograph also included an advertisement dated 20th January 1803 for the sailing of the schooner *Henry* from Greenock to Montego Bay, Jamaica but no reference to the sailing of this vessel occurs in either the Greenock or Glasgow newspapers, although most sailings had repeat notices. One is compelled to question whether or not a visit to Alloway by some members of Greenock Burns Club took place on 28th/29th January 1803 and the credibility of the cutting.

B) While searching the newspapers I found in the *Glasgow Courier* of 3rd February 1803 and *Greenock Advertiser* of 4th February 1803 a news item about one of the meetings at Alloway associated with the name of the Rev. Hamilton Paul and described in the *Burns Chronicle*, 1948 by Elizabeth Ewing in her article, 'The First Burns Night'. The two reports are virtually identical and read in part: 'Ayr. January 31 - on Saturday 29th inst, a select party of the patrons and admirers of our Ayrshire poet Robert Burns met to dinner at Alloway in the room in which he was born to celebrate his birthday, when the following ode, composed for the occasion by one of the company was read.' The three verse ode by Hamilton Paul is printed in full in the two newspapers and in the *Burns Chronicle*. The newspaper accounts go on to refer to doubt about Burns's birthday and the register at Ayr being searched confirmed that 25th January, not 29th, was correct. The Greenock Burns Club appears to have assumed that this report in the *Advertiser* referred to the proposed visit of the Greenock Club to Alloway but clearly this refers to the 1803 meeting of the Alloway Club, one of those alluded to in the appendix of Hamilton Paul's book *The Poems And Songs Of Robert Burns*, Ayr, 1819.

C) The Watt Librarian told me that Greenock Burns Club had an archives room within the Watt Library but admission could only be obtained when accompanied by a member. On 24th March 1989 I wrote to Mrs. Elizabeth Nock, then Secretary of Greenock Burns Club, and explained the problem about the 1803 advertisement and asked permission to view the cutting. Mrs. Nock responded very promptly and most kindly and arranged for me to visit the archives room with her father Mr. Robert Peat, the Club Librarian, which I did on Friday 31st March 1989. Mr. Peat showed me the framed cutting of the advertisement for the projected coach trip to Alloway now badly faded from the time of the illustration I photographed. He was quite unaware that the cutting was not from the *Greenock Advertiser* and could offer no explanation. It has been a long standing tradition in the Greenock Club that the advert was from the *Advertiser* but no one, until now, had thought to check although there is a complete file of the newspaper in the same building. Despite a search by Mr. Peat we could not find a copy of the Club's Centenary booklet of 1902. It appears that the Club does not now possess a copy. I later checked with the Greenock Central Library which loaned me its copy of the Centenary Booklet in 1955 but I was assured that all local material was now in the Watt Library. A further check at the Watt Library confirmed that they do not have it and that many items had 'walked' (their word) in the course of the thirty-four years since I saw the booklet.

D) So far my researches had only produced mainly negative findings and although interesting to me, I was looking for something more positive. Then, to my astonishment, I was shown an old envelope by Mr. Peat which contained the two inscribed title pages said to be from the Greenock Club's long lost minute-book. These two pages were illustrated in the late Charles L. Brodie's article 'Greenock Burns Club' printed in the 1927 *Burns Chronicle*. One page has the hand written inscription:- 'This book was found in the house of the late Mr. Robert Burns at his demise and presented to the Burns Club of Greenock by Adam Pearson Esquire of His Majesty's Excise Edinburgh AD 1801'. The facing page has, written in a different hand: 'Greenock Burns Club and Ayrshire Society'. There is no sign of the 'thick brown calf boards', nor any minutes, as described by the *Greenock Telegraph* reported on 24th January, 1902.

I have examined closely the illustration captioned 'Facsimile of inscription on first minute book of Greenock Burns Club' in the 1927 *Burns Chronicle* and I am convinced it is identical with the one I photographed in the centenary Booklet of 1902. I am equally convinced that the illustrations show that the inscription leaves were already detached from the remainder of the Excise Book in 1902. The

white background can be clearly seen through the binding holes between the two pages and there is no evidence of any additional pages. I cannot imagine the circumstances where anyone would detach the two inscription leaves from the minute pages and from within the leather binding.

It is perhaps worth noting that in one of the many Burnsiana books produced by John D. Ross, *A Little Book of Burns Lore*, Stirling 1926, he included an article 'Greenock Burns Club'. In fact the article, which describes the Greenock minute-book, is lifted holus-bolus, with the exception of a few words at the beginning and end, from the article by the anonymous *Greenock Telegraph* reporter of 1902.

The position of my researches at this stage may be summarised as follows:-

1. The advert of the proposed visit to Alloway on 28th/29th January, 1803 wherever, or if, it appeared it was certainly not in the *Greenock Advertiser* on any relevant date prior to 28th January 1803.
2. Greenock Burns Club has acknowledged for many years that they do not possess a minute-book before 1811. Now that I have apparently found the inscription pages of what was said to be the first minute-book, where have the actual minutes gone? Were they ever within the alleged Excise Book?
3. I found it quite remarkable that all of the evidence offered regarding the origins of Greenock Burns Club was flawed.

It was now obvious that the framed cutting advertising the Coach Trip to Alloway required further examination. I visited the Greenock Clubroom again on 18th May 1989 and, with the help of Mr. Peat, carefully took it out of its frame. My hope was that the reverse side of the cutting would give some clue either of date or provenance. What I found was surprising and cast serious doubts on the authenticity of the cutting. The news items on the reverse appeared to be local authority reports. The first read:-

'Total make of gas for present year,	17,647,290	(unit not stated)
For corresponding time last year,	17,393,700	
Increase for present year.	<hr/> 253,590'	

I can only presume that the gas referred to was coal gas. We know that the first successful application of coal gas for large scale lighting was by William Murdock. His experiments began at the end of the 18th century but it was not until 1812 that the Gas Light and Coke Co. was formed and gas lighting did not come to Greenock until 1828.

The next item read:-

'Applications for Relief.

The Inspector reported that during the month ending 14th February 1803 there had been 80 applications...'

Even if we exclude the perplexing reference to production of gas, a news item regarding applications for relief which could not have appeared in a newspaper until some time after 14th February, 1803 cannot be reconciled with an advertisement for a proposed coach journey on 28th/29th January 1803.

I also took the opportunity to re-examine the two leaves from what Greenock Burns Club believes to be its first minute book. Each leaf is 10 11/12" tall by 4 5/8" wide and there is no writing on the back of these pages. I also saw the minute-book written up by Mr. Shaw, then Librarian of the Watt Library, from articles in the *Greenock Advertiser*. These careful extracts begin in 1811 and the reason Mr. Shaw wrote up nothing prior to 1811 was simply because he found no reference to Greenock Burns Club before then.

At my request Mr. Peat looked yet again for the Club Dinner/Brochure of 1902, without success, but some time later Mr. Peter Westwood generously loaned me a copy which he possessed. This allowed me to check my transcript made in 1955. The booklet purports to quote the first three minutes 1802/3/4 but they are very brief and reveal inconsistencies. I shall only refer to one seeming disparity. The minute of the anniversary meeting of 29th January, 1803, which is stated to have taken place in the White Hart Hotel, Greenock makes no mention of any visit to Alloway on that date. When my investigations were nearing completion Dr. Jim Young, President of Paisley Burns Club (1989/90), drew to my attention an article regarding Greenock Burns Club celebrations at the centenary of

Burns's birth in 1859 contained in *The Burns Centenary* (page 117), published by William P. Nimmo, Edinburgh, MDCCCLX. I quote the appropriate part:- 'There was exhibited by the Club a strong oak chest of the kind formerly furnished to officers of the Excise for keeping their official papers and books, which was in the Thornhill office while Burns was a gauger there, and was used by him for that purpose. This had been lent to the Club by Mr. R.W. Train of H.M. Inland Revenue, by whose father, Mr. Joseph Train, Castle Douglas, the eminent antiquary and friend of Sir Walter Scott, it was purchased at the sale of Burns's effects. Mr. Train also contributed two leaves from the 'Fraud Register' (a register kept by Excise officers of all offences against the Revenue within their Division)...

Could this be the oak chest referred to in the *Greenock Telegraph* of 24th January, 1902 and could the two leaves from an Excise book be those I saw and now bearing the inscription I described earlier? If so these articles could not possibly have come into the custody of Greenock until long after 1811, far less 1801. The dates of Joseph Train's life confirm this. He was born on 6th November, 1779. He was apprenticed as a weaver in 1787, then joined the army in 1799. He returned to weaving in 1802 and married in 1803. He became an Exciseman in 1808. His son R.W. Train, even by 1811, could, at most, only have been then about 8 years of age. His father, Joseph Train, died in 1852 and I assume that it would be between 1852 and 1859 the son would give the relics into the care of Grenock Burns Club.

I visited the Watt Library, Greenock again on Monday, 23rd October 1989 and examined the *Greenock Advertiser* files for 1804. I saw more than one reference to Greenock Ayrshire Society but none to Greenock Burns Club. There was an account of the Ayrshire Society dinner held in the White Hart Inn, Greenock on Friday 4th February 1804 and the same issue of 7th February 1804 also described that year's meeting of Ayrshire devotees of the Bard in the Alloway Cottage on 28th January 1804. The report is the same as the one which had already appeared in the *Air Advertiser* of 2nd February 1804. It cannot be imagined that a newspaper which was going to the trouble of describing meetings of Greenock Ayrshire Society and 'the friends and admirers of our native bard' at Alloway would fail to report a similar celebration of Burns in Greenock, if any such had taken place.

Many may feel that, on the evidence here submitted, the formation of Greenock Burns Club must be brought back ten years to 1811, but I do not contest that there may have been ad hoc meetings of admirers of Burns in Greenock, as indeed there were elsewhere, prior to 1811. The Rev. Hamilton Paul made this clear in the appendix to his book when describing the first anniversary at the cottage in the summer of 1801. He wrote:- 'The posthumous fame of Burns is without parallel in the annals of poetry. Soon after his death, meetings were held in various parts of the British Empire, commemorative of his excellence as a son of inspiration. Among the earliest of the anniversaries that were celebrated in honour of his memory, was one which took place in the cottage where he was born...'

These meetings continued for a few years at Alloway and Hamilton Paul concluded the appendix to his book with a lively little valediction 'Farewell to the Allowa Club' and these words 'Recited at the ninth anniversary, being the last at which the author was present'. The 1810 meeting was held in the King's Arms Inn Ayr and thereafter petered out. The Rev. Hamilton Paul was called to Broughton in 1813 and that appears to have signalled the end of the line.

The submissions in this article should not detract from Greenock's record as one of the oldest and most venerable of Burns Clubs but, in my opinion, the appellation 'The Mother Club' cannot be sustained despite genuine and firmly held convictions within Greenock Burns Club. All that matters is the truth, for verity is fundamental and was the purpose of my quest. If Greenock wishes to maintain its claim to be the senior Burns Club then it has to prove where and when the cutting dated 20th January 1803 was published (if published it was) and produce detailed minutes for the period 1801-1810, preferably from the original script and not simply extracts from the Menu/Brochure of January, 1902. Local beliefs and two leaves of doubtful origin, bearing no minutes, are insufficient to uphold the Greenock tradition; a tradition which, until now, has not been critically examined.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS. I am indebted to the following for assistance in compiling this article:- Mr. Robert Peat, Librarian Greenock Burns Club; Watt Library, Greenock; Mitchell Library, Glasgow; Mr. John Manson, Curator, Burns's Cottage, Alloway; The Librarian, H.M. Customs & Excise, London; Carnegie Library, Ayr; National Library of Scotland and, of course, the volumes

of the *Burns Chronicle*.

EDITOR'S COMMENT

Anxious to establish the truth for once and for all, Clark Hunter furnished a copy of his manuscript to the Committee of the Greenock Burns Club and offered to meet with them and discuss the points which were raised therein. The Greenock Burns Club, however, declined this offer. On 12th February I offered the Greenock Burns Club an equal amount of space in this *Chronicle* to rebut the evidence produced by Mr. Hunter. Instead, I received the following statement dated 1st April 1990.

PRESIDENT AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE GREENOCK BURNS CLUB

The origins of Greenock Burns club have been raised 'again' by individuals who are merely 'seeking the truth' as to our founding date. This questions the integrity of Burnsians in Greenock for the last 188 years.

In the early years of the Burns Movement, it would be inconceivable that honourable gentlemen, through the years, including Colin Rae Brown of Federation fame, Past President of Greenock Burns Club 1844, 1845 and 1847, would have concocted and sustained any inaccuracies as to our inauguration. Could it be surmised that, for decades, we in Greenock have been 'economical with the truth'?

We refer Burnsians to *The History of the Burns Federation 1885-1985*, Chapter 2 by Mr. James Mackay, and to an article in the spring edition of the 1990 *Burnsian* by Mr. Robert Peat.

Any Burnsian who wishes to visit our 'little museum' in the James Watt Library, view our artifacts, examine our letters and records, will be made most welcome.'

Chapter 2 of my book, entitled 'The First Burns Clubs', in fact gives the premier position to the Alloway Burns Club which first held an anniversary dinner on 29th January 1801 at the poet's birthplace. These dinners were faithfully reported in *The Glasgow Courier* from 1802 onwards and a detailed account was published by the Rev. Hamilton Paul in 1819. This club went out of existence in the 1820s and was not revived until 1908.

Pages 13-14 of the book discussed the long-running battle between Greenock and Paisley. At that time, on the basis of the evidence as it then existed, I was inclined to favour the Greenock claim. My view was based on (a) the existence, at one time, of a minute book covering the period 1801-10; and (b) the 25th anniversary dinner held in 1826 and itself well-documented. I added 'it seems unimaginable that everyone present would have conspired in a spurious celebration were the facts not well known to all concerned.'

I might add, however, that this chapter was entirely based on secondary material - the various articles published by the protagonists in the *Burns Chronicle* from its very inception, and most notably in the articles of 1927, together with the lengthy (and often extremely rancorous) correspondence in *The Glasgow Herald* in 1979. I did not have the opportunity to subject any of the claims and counter claims to a thorough scholarly examination.

Rather than take up the offer of space in this *Chronicle* for a reasoned refutation, Greenock made a pre-emptive strike. I did not, in fact, see Robert Peat's article in *The Burnsian* until 20th April, by which time *The Chronicle* was in preparation. I was extremely disappointed, however, to see that it merely repeated the traditional beliefs of the Greenock Burns Club without producing a single shred of hard evidence. I am now reluctantly forced to the conclusion that no such hard evidence exists. I have no doubt of the sincerity of later Greenock Burnsians, such as Colin Rae Brown. The tradition would have been well established by his time and no one in the mid-19th century would have thought to question the origins of the club at a period when it might still have been possible to get at the truth.

It has been said that an ounce of pure fact, in the form of hard evidence, is worth a ton of recollection and hearsay; and I am bound to say that only when the rival claims are thoroughly and impartially examined by independent parties (such as Rod Lyaal and Donald Low) with full access to such documentary material as is now extant and the professional skills to do so, will this contentious matter be resolved.

J.A.M.

ROBERT BURNS AND THE RUTHWELL CROSS

by Raymond J.S. Grant, University of Alberta

The Old English poem known as *The Dream of the Rood* or *The Vision of the Cross* is a surpassingly lovely mediaeval dream vision in which the unknown Anglo-Saxon poet tells the story of the Crucifixion from a unique point of view, that of the cross. At the midnight in the silence of the sleep time, when men and their voices are sunk in sleep, the poet has a wonderful dream in which he beholds the cross upon which Christ was crucified:

- | | | |
|----|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| | Hwæt, ic swefna cyst | secgan wylle, |
| | hwæt me gemætte | to midre nihte, |
| | syðpan reordberend | reste wunedon. |
| | puhte me pæt ic gesawe | syllicre treow |
| 5 | on lyft lædan | leohte bewunden, |
| | beama beorhtost. | Eall pæt beacen wæs |
| | begoten mid golde; | gimmas stödon |
| | fægere æt foldan sceatum, | swylce pær fife wæron |
| | uppe on pam eaxlgespanne. | Beheoldon pær engelydryhta |
| | feala | |
| 10 | fægere purh forðgescaft; | ne wæs ðær hūru fracodes |
| | gealga, | |
| | ac hine pær beheoldon | halige gastas, |
| | men ofer moldan, | and eall peos mære gescaft. |
| | Syllic wæs se sigebeam, | and ic synnum fah, |
| | forwundod mid wommum. ¹ | |

Lo, I wish to relate the finest of dreams, which I dreamed in the middle of the night, when men and their voices were silent abed. It seemed to me that I beheld a marvellous tree borne aloft enveloped in light, the brightest of beams. All that beacon was checked with gold; beautiful precious stones gleamed at the corners of the earth, and likewise there were five up along the cross-beam. Many orders of angels, beautiful by virtue of ancient decree, looked on there; verily that was not the gallows of a felon there, but holy spirits, men upon the earth, and all this wondrous creation there gazed upon Him. Splendid was the tree of victory, and I stained with sins, stricken with iniquities.

To the poet thus 'stained with sins, stricken with iniquities,' the marvellous vision is not static, but vibrant and alive, ever changing, now adorned with gold and treasure, now bleeding on the right side, now changing its coverings and its hues. As the troubled poet gazes for a long while at the vision, he hears the finest of woods begin to speak.

The cross describes how it was felled as a tree at the edge of the forest and was set by its enemies at the top of a hill to become a cross. Then it beheld the lord of mankind hastening with great zeal to climb upon it, and saw Christ, the *geong hæled*, in an inversion of the normal Germanic image of battle, strip himself for a type of encounter very different from usual:

- | | | |
|----|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| | Ongyrede hine pa geong hæled, | pæt wæs God ælmihtig, |
| 40 | strang and stiðmod; | gestah he on gealgan heanne, |
| | modig on manigra gesyhðe, | pa he wolde mancyn lisan. |
| | Bifode ic pa he se beorn ymbclypte; | ne dorste ic |
| | hwæðre bugan to eorðan, | |
| | feallan to foldan sceatum, | ac ic sceolde fæste standan. |
| | Rod wæs ic aræred, | ahof ic ricne cyning, |
| 45 | heofona hlaforð, | hyldan me ne dorste. |
| | purhðrifan hi me mid deorcan næglum; | on me syndon pa |
| | dolg gesiene, | |
| | opene inwidhlemmas; | ne dorste id hiraænigum sceððan. |
| | Bysmeredon hie unc butu ætgædere; | eall ic wæs mid |
| | blode bestemed, | |

begoten of pæs guman sidan,
onsended.²

siððan he hæfde his gast

Then the young warrior, who was almighty God, resolute and unflinching, stripped Himself; He mounted on the high gallows, brave in the sight of many, when He wished to redeem mankind. I trembled when the hero embraced me; yet I did not dare to bow to the earth, or to fall to the level of the ground, but I had to stand firm. I was raised up as a cross, I bore aloft the mighty king, the Lord of the Heavens, I durst not bow. They pierced me with dark nails; on me the wounds are still seen, gaping wounds of malice; I dared not injure any of them. They mocked us both together; I was all bedewed with blood, shed from the man's side, after He had sent forth His spirit.

After describing how it suffered along with its Lord, the cross tells how Christ was taken from the cross to the sepulchre for burials:

55

cwiðdon cyninges fyll:
Hwædere pær füse
to pam ædelinge;
Sare ic wæs mid sorgum gedrefed,
secgum to handa

Weop eal gesceaft,
Crist wæs on rode.
feorran cwoman
ic pæt eall beheold.
hnag ic hwæðre pam

60

eaðmod elne mycle.
ahofon hine of ðam hefian wite;
rincas
standan steame bedrifenne;
forwundod.
Äledon hie hine limwërgne,
behëoldon hie ðær heofenes Dryhten,
hwile reste
mede æfter ðam miclan gweinne.

Genamon hie pær ælmihtigne God,
forleton me pa hilde-
eall ic wæs mid strælum
gestödon him æt his lices
hëafdum;
an he hine ðær

All creation wept, bewailed the king's death: Christ was on the cross. Furthermore eager ones came there from afar to the lordly one; I beheld all that. I was sorely troubled with sorrows, but nevertheless I bowed to the hands of men, greatly humbled. There they took Almighty God, and lifted Him from the grievous torment; the warriors left me standing bespattered with blood; I was all wounded with arrows. They laid Him down limb-weary, and stood at the head of His body; there they looked down on the Lord of Heaven, and He rested Himself there for a while, exhausted by His great battle.

The cross tells the dreamer how it itself was buried and remained hidden until such time as it was found by St. Helena, decked with gold and silver, and exalted above all the trees of the forest.³ The cross charges the dreamer with the task of making known to men the vision and its message of redemption: the Lord, now ascended into Heaven, will return to earth on Doomsday to judge each and every one according as he shall have earned for himself here in this fleeting life, but there neednot any be afraid who has borne on his breast the finest of tokens; and through the cross each soul which intends to dwell with the Ruler shall from the earth seek out the kingdom of Heaven.

When the vision fades, the poet is left alone to express his feelings:

mæte werede.
125 afysed on forðwege,
langunhwila.

...ic anna wæs
Wæs modsefa
feala ealra gebad

I was all along and companionless. My mind was impelled to departure, and I experienced all of many times of longing.

Speaking in terms of exile, rather like the Wanderer or the Seafarer, the poet longs for his heavenly home where there is great gladness, where God's people are seated at the banquet, where there is perpetual bliss, and where he may hereafter dwell in glory, and partake of joy fully with the company of the saints when the Lord comes into his own land once again.

This beautiful and moving Anglo-Saxon poem is contained on folios 104v - 106r of the manuscript known as the Codex Vercellensis, or Vercelli Book, which is today preserved in the chapter library of the cathedral of St. Andrew in Vercelli, in North Italy. Speculation as to how this Old English

manuscript got to Vercelli need not detain us here, nor need the story of its rediscovery in the cathedral library by Friedrich Blume in 1822. It should, however, be noted that the manuscript is dated to the second half of the tenth century, is a plain and serviceable rather than a highly-decorated volume, and contains, in addition to the poem *The Dream of the Rood*, a selection of prose homilies, a prose life of St. Guthlac, and the poems *Andreas*, *The Fates of the Apostles*, *The Address of the Soul to the Body*, *The Falsehood of Men*, and *Elene*.⁴

The poem *The Dream of the Rood* has no immediate source known to scholars, nor has any literary parallel been discovered. The poet certainly would seem to be aware of liturgies and practices connected with the veneration of the cross in England in the late seventh and early eighth centuries, and this, together with certain Germanic characteristics of the text, point to the poem's date of composition being much earlier than that of the manuscript in which it is contained.⁵ One possible connection is with the discovery by Pope Sergius I of a fragment of the True Cross in 701, for Abbot Ceolfrith of Wearmouth and Jarrow was in Rome then and could well have introduced the cult of the veneration of the cross into Northumbria upon his arrival home;⁶ it has been noted the first celebration of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross in Northumbria took place in the early eighth century.⁷ It could well be, therefore, that the poem was first composed early in the eighth century, then was revised after King Alfred received a fragment of the True Cross from Pope Marinus in 885.⁸ The poem as it stands today in the Vercelli Codex may safely be taken to be a text of the second half of the ninth century, recorded in the late West Saxon Schriftsprache and written in the square Anglo-Saxon minuscule of later tenth-century West Saxon scriptoria.⁹

The original date of the first half of the eighth century is the very same as that ascribed on artistic, linguistic and epigraphical grounds to the splendid runic cross at Ruthwell, in Dumfries and Galloway, about ten miles from Dumfries. The visitor entering the Ruthwell and Mount Kedar Parish Church, the oldest building in the south of Scotland still in use as a parish church, is immediately struck by the huge cross (almost 18 feet high, or 5.28 metres) in its plinth beside the pulpit, and the



overwhelming impression is of *colour*. The black-and-white photographs and films scholars usually see do little justice to the warm tones of the Cross as discreetly floodlit in its proud situation, surrounded by the brightly-coloured walls of the specially constructed apse in the north wall of the church and further illuminated by the three stained glass windows [depicting Bishop Aidan, St. Cuthbert and the Abbess Hilde] and three stained glass skylights behind and above the sunken relic. The Cross is beautifully set in the memorial surround erected by the Dinwiddie family in memory of the Rev. Dr. John L. Dinwiddie, and the central and most fascinating panels are at eye-level. These panels depict John the Baptist bearing the Agnus Dei, Jesus in glory, the hermit saints Paulus and Antonius breaking bread, the flight into Egypt, remains perhaps of a Nativity scene, St. John with his eagle, the Visitation, Jesus with Mary Magdalene, Jesus healing the blind man, the Annunciation, and the Crucifixion.

In the margins on the east and west faces of the Ruthwell Cross are carved in runic characters and in the Northumbrian dialect four passages from *The Dream of the Rood*; these correspond to the central portions of the poem quoted and translated above, and are inscribed on the cross as follows:

- 39 + onðgeraðe hīnæ god alme3ttig
 40 pa he walde on galgu gistiga
 41 modig fore... men
 42 bug-
- 44 ...c riicnæ kynigc
 45 hēafunæs hlafard hælde ic ni dorstæ
 48 bismærædu ugket men ba ætgadre
 ic wæs mip blodæ bistemid
 49 bi-
- 56 + krist was on rodi
 57 hwepære per fusæ fēarran kwomu
 58 æppilæ til anum ic pæt al bihēald
 59 sar. ic wæs mip sorgum gidroef. d hnag
- 62 mip strelum giwundad
 63 alegdun hnæ limwoerignæ
 gistoddun him... licæs hēafdum
 64 bihēaldu hīe per

The correspondence between the poem and the runic fragments is not fully accurate, nor has their relationship been established. The carver of the runes, having only limited space available, has had of necessity to exercise greater verbal economy than the scribe, and his text is in the Northumbrian dialect where that of the later manuscript is predominantly West Saxon. It is unknown which text was composed the earlier, whether or not one text was derived from the other, and whether or not both had a common exemplar. What is certain is that in both the poem and the runic inscription on the Ruthwell Cross there is preserved a vital, meaningful and moving memory of early Western Christianity.

The connection between these eighth-century texts and the usual eighteenth-century concerns of readers of the *Burns Chronicle* is of course through mutual interest in Robert Burns. One of my sabbatical research trips in 1987 was to Ruthwell, where I very much wanted to see the famous runic cross with its four fragmentary passages from *The Dream of the Rood* poem depicting the conflict between the powers of darkness and the *geong hæled*, Christ. But on the trip I killed two birds with one stone, as my primary purpose in visiting the area was to carry out work on Robert Burns and to confer with my gracious host, the Dumfries bookseller and publisher Noel Dinwiddie, about sales of my book on Burns, *The Laughter of Love*. Now Noel's father, the Rev. Dr. John L. Dinwiddie, was minister of the Parish of Ruthwell 1890-1936, and Noel grew up in the old manse that is now the hotel in which we had lunch. I could, of course, find no better guide to Ruthwell and its environs, and I learned several interesting things from him and from the present incumbent of the parish, the Rev. Robert M. Nicol, minister since 1984.

The first point I wanted to settle was the etymology of the name 'Ruthwell'. Three adjoining

parishes in the district have names ending in *-wald*, viz., Mouswald, Torthorwald and Tinwald, so it is most likely that the name was originally 'Roodwald', 'the cross erected in a clearing of the primeval forest', corresponding to the parish on the opposite side of the Solway, Crosthwaite, near Keswick.¹⁰ The modern ending *-well* is probably popular etymological confusion with the Brow Well, Ruthwell's perennial spring whose mildly chalybeate and very cold water has long been supposed to have curative powers. It was, indeed, to this very well that the ailing Robert Burns repaired from 4th to 18th July 1796, before returning to Dumfries, where he died in poverty and misery on 21st July.

For information on the history of the parish and its famous runic monument I am heavily indebted to what Dr. J. Dinwiddie says on the subject in his scholarly and fascinating handbook on the Ruthwell Cross.¹¹ Noting that the Cross has always taken precedence over the church and indeed determined where the church was to stand, Dr. Dinwiddie notes, 'Prior to 1799, when the Rev. Henry Duncan was presented to the living of Ruthwell, the history of the parish was simply the history of its famous Runic Cross'.¹²

The General Assembly of the Kirk of Scotland convened in the great Cathedral of St. Machar in Old Aberdeen on 28th July 1640 passed an 'Act anent the demolishing of Idolatrous Monuments' and in 1642 issued specific and peremptory orders 'anent ane Idolatrous Monument in Ruthwall'. This latter act has never been rescinded, so the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland to this day is officially under the impression of 1642 that the Cross is still in pieces in the clay floor of the parish Kirk. Alexander Gordon, in his *Itinerarium Septentrionale* of 1726, talks of the Cross as follows: 'It lies flat on the ground within the Church of Ruthvel in the Stewartry of Annandale'. The next written references to the Cross are those by Thomas Pennant of Downing, Flintshire, in his account in his *Second Tour in Scotland* of his visit on May 18, 1772, and by the parish minister the Rev. John Craig when writing an account of the parish in 1794 for Sir John Sinclair's *Statistical Account of Scotland*.



It is to the Rev. Dr. Henry Duncan, minister of the Parish of Ruthwell 1799-1843, that posterity owes the reconstruction of the Cross in its present form. The fragments which had lain within the floor of the kirk since 1642 were removed to the churchyard when the building was refloored *circa* 1780, and they caught the eye of the young minister upon his ordination to Ruthwell some three years after the death of Burns. His account of his piecing together of the decaying fragments and of his substitution of modern materials for the missing transverse arms of the Cross make the fascinating narrative which is to be found in the report he prepared for the *New Statistical Account of Scotland* of 1841 and which scholars may read there with interest and profit. I quote only one of the opening sentences which makes me aware of something I don't think I knew before, namely, that the Cross stood elsewhere before being erected at Ruthwell:

In the former Statistical Account of this parish, mention is made of a report, which still prevails, of its having been set up in remote times at a place called Priestwoodside [now Priestside], near the sea, from whence it is said to have been drawn by a team of oxen.¹³

Never mind if the topmost stone is the wrong way round; such a minor consideration must not be allowed to detract from the considerable achievement of Dr. Duncan. His painstaking restoration of the fragments and reconstruction of the Cross led to its setting up at the gate of his manse in 1823 where it stood, once more a 'preaching Cross', until Queen Victoria's Jubilee Year of 1887 when it was taken inside the church to its present location. Both locally and internationally, Dr. Henry Duncan is also renowned as the founder in 1810 of the first savings bank, the Ruthwell Parish Bank, and memorials to him within and without the church and in Ruthwell Village and in Dumfries testify to an economic aspect of the history of Ruthwell Parish Church not always realized by students of the Anglo-Saxon runic Cross.

My professional involvement with Robert Burns as well as with Old English naturally prompted some investigation of the details of the Bard's visits to Ruthwell and to the Brow Well. During the fortnight the dying poet was there in July of 1796, did he visit the church as well as the manse and other homes in the vicinity? In 1796, as we have seen, the broken pieces of the Cross were outside in the churchyard, close to the walls of the church. Did the poet Burns, like the Anglo-Saxon poet of a thousand years before 'stained with sins, stricken with iniquities', gaze in his extremity on these memorials to the death of Him who died for the redemption of the sins of us all? It were fascinating to discover!

It was on or about 3rd July 1796 that the dying Robert Burns came to Brow, emaciated and debilitated by the last throes of the acute bacteriological endocarditis that was to kill him. Maurice Lindsay quotes the retrospective diagnosis of Sir James Crichton-Browne:

Burns's death was not an accidental event, but the natural consequence of a long series of events that had preceded it. ...Burns died of endocarditis, a disease of the substance and lining membrane of the heart, with the origination of which alcohol had nothing to do, though it is possibly that an injudicious use of alcohol may have hastened its progress. It was rheumatism that was the undoing of Burns. It attacked him in early years, damaged his heart, embittered his life, and cut short his career.¹⁴

And Crichton-Browne goes on as follows:

It will not, I think, be disputed that Burns died of rheumatic endocarditis, with the origin of which alcohol had nothing to do; nor will it be denied, that if he had had the advantage of the guidance which modern medical science and practice afford in cardiac disease, his life might have been freed from many disquietudes and considerably prolonged.¹⁵

This diagnosis has been confirmed by other experts, such as Dr. Harry B. Anderson of Toronto:

The case was an ordinary one of rheumatism with heart complications, shortness of breath, faintness, weakness, rapid, irregular pulse (auricular fibrillation), and towards the end, fever, parched tongue, and delirium, presumably due to a bacteriological endocarditis which developed as a terminal infection.¹⁶

It is eternally to be regretted that this diagnosis was not available to Burns's medical adviser, Dr. William Maxwell, whose treatment of his patient's 'flying gout' included having Burns wade up to the armpits in the frigid waters of the Solway Firth at Brow. One does not have to hold a medical degree to conclude that this would not be the best treatment to accord a patient in Burns's wretched condition! As Burns himself told Maxwell, 'What business has a physician to waste his time on me? I am a poor

pigeon, not worth plucking. Alas! I have not feathers enough upon me to carry me to my grave.¹⁷ Yet it should be noted that Burns greatly admired Maxwell as a friend and physician, and that Burns's widow Jean Armour named the Bard's posthumous baby son, born on the very day of the poet's funeral, Maxwell Burns (1796-99) in honour of the doctor.

The letters written from Brow by Burns in the last weeks of his short life reveal the misery of his situation and the spirit with which he faced the inevitable. On 4th July he writes to George Thomson from Brow as follows:

My Dear Sir,

I rec'd your songs, but my health being so precarious may dangerously situated, but as a last effort I am here at a sea-bathing quarters. ...Besides my inveterate rheumatism, my appetite is quite gone; & I am so emaciated as to be scarce able to support myself on my own legs. ...Alas! is this a time for me to woo the Muses! However, I am still anxiously willing to serve your work...¹⁸

His letter of 7th July from Brow to Alexander Cunningham at Edinburgh is in similar vein:

Alas! my friend, I fear the voice of the Bard will soon be heard among you no more! For these eight or ten months I have been ailing, sometimes bedfast & sometimes not; but these last three months I have been tortured with an excruciating rheumatism, which has reduced me to nearly the last stage. ...You actually would not know [me] if you saw me. ...Pale, emaciated, & so feeble as occasionally to need help from my chair ...my spirits fled! fled! .. but I can no more on the subject...only the Medical folks tell me that my last & only chance is bathing & country quarters & riding.¹⁹

The remainder of the letter includes a touching expression of concern about his reduced salary from the Excise and worry about his very pregnant wife, as does his letter of 10th July to his father-in-law, James Armour:

The Medical people order me, *as I value my existence*, to fly to sea-bathing & country quarters, so it is ten thousand chances to one that I shall not be within a dozen miles of her when her hour comes.²⁰

Also on 10th July a note to Mrs. Dunlop of Dunlop at Stewarton contains this grim forecast of his passing:

An illness which has long hung about me in all probability will speedily send me beyond that bourne whence no traveller returns.²¹

10th July, indeed, seems to have been a day of feverish letter-writing activity for the stricken poet, for also on the 10th is dated an appeal for help for his wife and children addressed to his brother Gilbert:

Dear Brother,

It will be no very pleasing news to you to be told that I am dangerously ill, & not likely to get better. ...An inveterate rheumatism has reduced me to such a state of debility, & my appetite is tottaly[sic] gone, so that I can scarce stand on my legs. ...I have been a week at sea-bathing, & I will continue there or in a friend's house in the country all the summer. ...God help my wife & children, if I am taken from their head!²²

Two letters from Brow dated 12th July are written in an agony of spirit caused by the threat of a lawsuit. 'A rascal of a Haberdasher to whom I owe a considerable bill taking it into his head that I am dying, has commenced a process against me & will infallibly put my emaciated body in jail,' he tells his cousin James Burness of Montrose, and the letter of the same date to George Thomson is in similar vein. Both correspondents sent the poet the sums he needed to stay out of the jail he feared so much.

And a few more letters about the state of his health end the sad Brow correspondence, the stream of wretched thought culminating in the poet's letter from Dumfries on 18th July to his father-in-law, James Armour in Mauchline:

My Dear Sir,

Do, for heaven's sake, send Mrs. Armour here immediately. My wife is hourly expecting to be put to bed. Good God! what a situation for her to be in, poor girl, without a friend! I returned from sea-bathing quarters today, and my medical friends would almost persuade me that I am better, but I think and feel that my strength is so gone that the disorder will prove fatal to me.

Your son-in-law,

R.B.²³

Burns died in misery three days later.

Yet amid the toils and the troubles of Burns's passing can be discerned a transcendent magnificence of spirit which deserves to be honoured by posterity, as Thomas Carlyle gruffly asserts:

Granted, the ship comes into harbour with shrouds and tackle damaged; the pilot is blameworthy; he has not been all-wise and all-powerful, but to know *how* blameworthy, tell us first whether his voyage has been round the globe, or only to Ramsgate and the Isle of Dogs.²⁴

There can be no doubt that while at Brow Burns was in extremity both of health and of spirit. When his friend Mrs. Maria Riddell of Woodley Park, residing at that time in the immediate neighbourhood, heard that the poet was at Brow, she invited him to visit her, and sent her carriage to fetch him on 5th July. She was horrorstruck to behold him so changed from the man she had known previously. In a private letter published subsequently by Currie, she records her impression of the dying poet and his gruff greeting to her:

I was struck with his appearance on entering the room. The stamp of death was imprinted on his features. He seemed already touching the brink of eternity. His first salutation was, 'Well, madam, have you any commands for the other world?' I replied that it seemed a doubtful case which of us should be there soonest, and that I hoped he would yet live to write my epitaph.²⁵

And there can be no doubt that, while staying at Brow, Burns was in exactly the state of mind shown by the Anglo-Saxon poet there a thousand years earlier:

	mæte werede.	...ic ana wæs
		Wæs modsefa
125	afysed on forðwege,	feala ealra gebad
	langunghwila.	

I was all alone and companionless. My mind was impelled to departure, and I experienced all of many times of longing.

It was in this frame of mind that Burns was entertained in the Ruthwell manse, a quarter of a mile from the Brow Well. Sir James Crichton-Browne imagines that Burns 'no doubt crawled there by the path through the fields, between hedgerows then decked with hawthorn and honeysuckle, his favourite flowers.'²⁶ Here is Dr. Dinwiddie's moving account of Burns's last visit to the manse:

As was natural, he was invited to the manse of the parish. The minister at the time was the Rev. John Craig, who was in feeble health. His wife and daughter did the honours of the house. It was here that the sweetly pathetic incident occurred which has brought the name of Miss Agnes Craig, the daughter of the manse, into pleasant connection with that of the dying, but still gallant, poet. Whilst the strong July sun was shining full into the manse drawing-room, the thoughtful girl went to put down the blind, lest the heat and the glare should be too much for the poor invalid. Quickly and gently the request came: 'Do not pull down the blind and shut out the sun, my dear young lady. *He hasna lang to shine for me.*' The heroine of this pathetic incident became, some years afterwards, the wife of the Rev. Henry Duncan, the successor of her father in the ministry of the parish.²⁷

One cannot, of course, *prove* that Burns went the extra few feet from the manse to the churchyard to gaze on the shattered fragments of the great runic cross nor can one assert, of course, that anyone could have made sense of the runic inscriptions for him although seventeenth and eighteenth-century transcriptions, engravings and drawings *were* made;²⁸ but it were not too fanciful to suggest that in the atmosphere of Ruthwell Burns had feelings closely akin to those of the dreamer in *The Dream of the Rood* after the fading of the vision:

Why am I loth to leave this earthly scene?
Have I so found it full of pleasing charms?
Some drops of joy with draughts of ill between;
Some gleams of sunshine mid renewing storms...²⁹
Or as his Muse Coila told him in the second duan of his own *Vision*:
I saw thy pulse's maddening play,
Wild-send thee Pleasure's devious way,
Mised by Fancy's *meteor-way*,
By Passion driven;
But yet the *light* that led astray,
Was *light* from Heaven.³⁰

In his *Lament for James, Earl of Glencairn*, Burns sounds exactly like the poet of *The Dream of*

the Rood speaking in Wandered-like terms of exile from his heavenly *patria*:

I've seen sae mony changefu' years,
On earth I am a stranger grown;
I wander in the ways of men,
Alike unknowing and unknown:
Unheard, unpitied, unreliev'd,
I bear alane my lade o' care,
For silent, low, on beds of dust,
Lie a' that would my sorrows share.³¹

But the Nithsdale Beadsman at Friars' Carse Hermitage has always known the answer, too:

Life is but a day at most,
Sprung from night, in darkness lost;
Hope not sunshine every hour,
Fear not clouds will always lour...
Reverence with lowly heart
Him whose wondrous work thou art;
Keep his Goodness still in view,
Thy trust...and thy example too...

Thus, resigned and quiet, creep
To thy bed of lasting sleep:
Sleep, whence thou shalt ne'er awake,
Night, where dawn shall never break,
Till Future Life, future no more,
To light and joy the Good restore,
To light and joy unknown before. ...

Stranger, go! Heaven be thy guide!
Quod, the BEADSMAN OF NITH-SIDE.³²

And so Rantin, rovin' Robin, the lad born in Kyle a thousand years after the Anglo-Saxon visionary, dies sharing the earlier poet's dream of a canty world spared by pain and care and sickness and where Wyrd or fortune favours worth and merit as they deserve:

Now Robin lies in his last lair,
He'll gabble rhyme, nor sing nae mair,
Cauld poverty, wi' hungry stare,
Nae mair shall fear him;
Nor anxious fear, nor cankert care
E'er mair come near him.

To tell the truth, they seldom fash't him,
Except the moment that they crush't him;
For sune as chance or fate had hush't 'em
Tho' e'er sae short,
Then wi' a rhyme or song he lash't 'em,
And thought it sport.

Tho' he was bred to kintra wark,
And counted was baith wight and stark,
Yet that was never Robin's mark
To mak a man;
But tell him, he was learn'd and clark,
Ye roos'd him then!³³

FOOTNOTES

- 1 Old English text from Dorothy Whitelock, ed., *Sweet's Anglo-Saxon Reader*, 15th ed. (Oxford, 1979), 153-9. The translation is my own.
 - 2 Whitelock, p. 274, draws attention to an inscription corresponding to lines 44 and 48 of the poem and found on the silver-work of a wooden reliquary cross in Brussels:
- ROD IS MIN NAMA GEO ID RICNE CYUNING
BÆR BYFIGYNDE BLODE BESTEMED.
- Whitelock refers the reader to H. Velge, *La Collegiale des saints Michel et Gudule à Bruxelles* (1925), pp.363 and p.93. A fuller discussion of the Brussels Cross may be found in Bruce Dickins and Alan S.C. Ross, eds., *The Dream of the Rood*, Methuen's Old English Library (London, 1934, 4th corr. ed., latest reprint New York, 1966), 13-16. The editors note on p.15, 'it is very probable that the Brussels Cross preserves the fragment of the True Cross sent to Alfred by Pope Marinus (Chronicle 885A).'
- 3 This is the theme of the Old English poem *Elene*, which is found in the same manuscript as *The Dream of the Rood*.
 - 4 For a full description of the manuscript Vercelli, Biblioteca Capitolare CXVII and its contents, see N.R. Ker, *Catalogue of Manuscripts Containing Anglo-Saxon* (Oxford, 1957), 460-4; the facsimile editions of Max Förster, *Il Codice Vercellese con Omelie e Poesie in Lingua Anglosassone* (Rome, 1913), and Celia Sisam, *The Vercelli Book*, Early English Manuscripts in Facsimile 19 (Copenhagen, 1976); and the article by D.G. Scragg, 'The Compilation of the Vercelli Book', *Anglo-Saxon England* 2 (1973), 189-207.
 - 5 Howard R. Patch, 'Liturgical Influence in 'The Dream of the Rood'', *PMLA* 24, 2 (1919), 233-257; Hans Bülow, *Das altenglische 'Traumgesicht vom Kreuz'* (Heidelberg, 1935), 151.
 - 6 Michael Swanton, ed., *The Dream of the Rood* (Manchester, 1970, repr. Exeter, 1987), 48, and A. Brandl, 'Zum ags. Gedichte *Traumgesicht vom Kreuz Christi*,' (Berlin, 1905, repr. 1936), translated by Dr. Charles Macpherson in *Scottish Historical Review* 9 (1912), 139-47.
 - 7 G. Sarrazin, *Von Kāðmon bis Kynewulf* (Berlin, 1913).
 - 8 J. Earle and C. Plummer, eds., *Two of the Saxon Chronicles Parallel*, 2 vols. (Oxford, 1892-9), *sub anno 885* [A] and *sub anno 883* [E].
 - 9 Swanton, I, and Ker, 464.
 - 10 Dickins and Ross, p. I, n. I, challenge the usual etymology of the place-name but offer no contrary evidence: 'Early forms give no support to the oft-expressed view that OE *rōd* was the first element of the name.'
 - 11 Rev. John L. Dinwiddie, *The Ruthwell Cross and the Ruthwell Savings Bank: A Handbook for Tourists and Students* (Dumfries: Robert Dinwiddie & Co. Ltd., 1927, 7th ed. 1984).
 - 12 *Handbook*, 55.
 - 13 *New Statistical Account of Scotland: Dumfriesshire* (1841), 223.
 - 14 Sir James Crichton-Browne, *Burns From a New Point of View* (London, 1926), 62, quoted in Maurice Lindsay, *The Burns Encyclopedia* (London, 1959, 3rd ed. 1980), 103.
 - 15 *Burns From a New Point of View*, 85.
 - 16 'Robert Burns, his medical friends, attendants, and bio-grapher,' *Annals of Medical History* 10 (1928), 47 ff., quoted in Franklin Bliss Snyder, *The Life of Robert Burns* (1932), 435, and in Lindsay, *Encyclopedia*, 103.
 - 17 James Currie, *The Works of Robert Burns*, 5th ed. (Liverpool, 1806), I, 228.
 - 18 James A. Mackay, ed., *The Complete Letters of Robert Burns*, (The Burns Federation: Kilmarnock, 1987), p.679.
 - 19 G. Ross Roy, ed., *The Letters of Robert Burns*, 2nd ed., vol. II (Oxford, 1985), 384. A single-volume edition of the poet's *Complete Letters* was also published in 1987 by the Burns Federation.
 - 19 CL p.473.
 - 20 CL p.722.
 - 21 CL p.215. The quotation is from *Hamlet*, III, I.
 - 22 CL p.358.
 - 23 CL p.722.
 - 24 Thomas Carlyle, in his review of J.G. Lockhart's *The Life of Robert Burns* in the *Edinburgh Review* 96 (1828), 52.
 - 25 Currie, *Works*, 221, quoted in Professor Wilson's *The Works of Robert Burns* (Glasgow, 1868), cxc, and widely available elsewhere, e.g. in Charles Annandale, ed., *The Works of Robert Burns*, vol. I (Glasgow, 1887), 126, from Lockhart's *The Life of Burns*.
 - 26 *Burns From a New Point of View*, 5-6.
 - 27 *Handbook*, 59. See also Lockhart's account in the words of Mr. McDiarmid in Annandale, ed., *Works*, 129.
 - 28 See Swanton, 10-11, and the references offered there: G. Baldwin Brown, *The Arts in Early England*, V (London, 1921), 206-11; G.B. Brown and A.B. Webster, *Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments... of Scotland*, VII (Edinburgh, 1920), 270-1; and W. Vektor, *Die Northumbrischen Runensteine* (Marburg, 1895), 6-12. Early transcripts include those of William Nicolson (1697) in G. Hickes, *Linguarum Veterum Septentrionalium Thesaurus* (Oxford, 1703-5), ii, 5, tab. iv, and A. Gordon, *Itinerarium Septentrionale* (London, 1726), 160-1, pls. 57-8.
 - 29 James Kinsley, ed., *Burns: Poems and Songs* (Oxford, 1969, latest reprint 1988), 16, 'A Prayer, in the Prospect of Death.... Stanzas on the same Occasion.' 11. 1-4.
 - 30 Kinsley, 89, 'The Vision: Duan Second', 11. 235-40.
 - 31 Kinsley, 462, 'Lament for James, Earl of Glencairn', 11. 33-40.
 - 32 Kinsley, 330-2, 'Written in Friars' Carse Hermitage on the banks of Nith... June...1788', [A] 11. 5-7, 27-30, [B] 11. 47-55.
 - 33 Kinsley, 257, 'Elegy on the Death of Robert Ruisseaux', 11. 1-18.

WHISPERS OF GENIUS: EDGAR ALLAN POE AND ROBERT BURNS

by David Scott Skipper



Little Boy Lost

Edgar Poe was not more than three-years-old when his beloved mother, Elizabeth Arnold Poe, died of pneumonia on 8th December 1811. Parentless, the young Poe was taken the following day to the home of John Allan, the Scottish merchant of Richmond. Allan yielded to pressure from his childless wife, Frances, to adopt the homeless boy. Rosalie Poe, Edgar's younger sister, was taken in by another Allan family friend, William Mackenzie.

Poe's adoption by the Allans would leave a permanent emotional scar upon the future poet which would haunt him relentlessly until his own untimely death at the age of 40 in 1849. But life with the Allans also took the young Poe across the Atlantic to England and Scotland, where the romantic landscape and culture left vivid marks of remembrance upon his memory. The works of Scotland's Poet of Common Humanity, Robert Burns, particularly, had a profound effect upon the impressionable lad, where the whisper of genius may have first entered the dark poet's soul.

The Allans

The family in which Edgar was received was that of John Allan, a wealthy Scottish merchant, his wife Frances, then twenty-five, and her elder sister, Anne Moore Valentine.

The Allans lived in affluent southern style in a spacious, solid, three-story, brick Georgian house at the corner of Fourteenth Street and Tobacco Alley in fashionable Richmond, Virginia.

Born in the seaport of Irvine, Scotland, in 1780, John Allan received a mediocre, though sufficient education. He would later chastise his foster son, Edgar, who by the age of 15 had already received better. The Allan house in Irvine was only a few doors from the printing house and bookshop of publisher David Macmillan. In the same square was Templeton's Bookshop, where Robert Burns spent many hours browsing through stacks of old sheet music and songs. It was in the year of 1781 that Burns went to Irvine to learn the flax trade, and the old shop was a stone's throw of where Allan was born. Beside the River Irvine stands the parish church and alongside it the graveyard, in which all the Allan ancestors are buried. The Allan section adjoins that of 'Dainty Davie,' the friend of Burns.

Orphaned early himself, Allan immigrated to America with his uncle, William Galt, a wealthy merchant with considerable interests in the European and American trade of colonial produce and tobacco. Galt eventually died as one of the richest men in Virginia.

Allan began as a clerk to his uncle, but he soon formed a partnership with a fellow clerk, Charles Ellis. With the financial backing of their respective uncles, they started their own business as carriers and shippers of tobacco, wheat, hay, wine, coffee, swine, horses and slaves, which the firm both bought and sold.

Visiting Scotland

The Peace of Ghent had ended the Napoleonic Wars when Allan decided to return to Scotland. American tobacco had been hit hard by the interruption of trade between Britain and America and he was owed a great deal of money for deliveries made prior to the war. He wanted to collect and rebuild his English connections.

After a voyage of thirty-six days, the Allans reached Liverpool on 18th July 1815 and continued on to Irvine, Scotland where most of the Allan relations lived. There, Edgar was packed off to school, but when the Allan entourage travelled on to Glasgow and Edinburgh, Edgar accompanied them. John Allan would have preferred otherwise.

By October the Allans had reached London and John finally had his way. Miserable Edgar was severed from the adoring women of the household, to go back to the bleak, Pre-Reformation Kailyard School at Irvine. There, at age seven, Poe experienced the first of his flights from immediate reality, which were to become his characteristic response to unhappiness of unbearable pressure. At Irvine discipline was endless. The schoolmaster tasked the rebellious Poe to copy the epitaphs from the tombstones in the local kirkyard. There was much about this old Scottish Kirkyard to inspire Poe with awe, and with his love for the odd, the rhyming tombstones and the lengthy funeral services must have made an indelible impression on his mind. The epitaphs on the tombstones are most original. Here is a sample which might have met with Poe's piercing gaze:

'A lovely Christian, spouse, and friend,
Pleasant life and at her end

A pale consumption dealt the blow
That laid her here with dust below.'

While in Irvine, Poe lived in Bridgegate house, a two-story tenement dwelling owned by the Allan family. At the time of Poe's visit, it was occupied by Mary Allan, who moved to the Seagate house, which had been previously tenanted by Dr. John Mackenzie, the friend of Burns, and who is reputed to have been a relation of William Mackenzie of Richmond, into whose family Poe's sister, Rosalie, was adopted.

Apart from endless readings and walks in Lord Kilmarnock's park, where the ghost of a lady was rumoured to be seen sometimes, Edgar found few pleasures in his exile from the women to whose adoration he was already addicted. Withdrawn, he grew ill and he planned to escape from the dreary school and return to London or America. Finally, his protests were successful and he was sent to the Allans in London, there to be entered as a 'day-boy' in a dame school.

But, to be in this school was no imposition for Edgar. He was back in the bosom of his dear 'Ma' and even though she was ill with some mysterious malady, he felt loved and protected by her presence.

As Mrs. Allan's health declined, Edgar began to blame the dominant, but irresistible John Allan for his beloved Mother's condition. Though she improved after a visit in 1817 to a spa, Edgar's dislike for Allan grew. The antipathy was mutual and Edgar was sent as a boarder to the Manor House School in Stoke Newington, then a misty village but now a teeming suburb of London. Later, Poe wrote of the old village:

'I feel the refreshing chillness of its deeply-shadowed avenues, inhale the fragrance of its thousand shrubberies, and thrill anew with undefinable delight, at the deep hollow note of the church bell, breaking, each hour, with sullen and sudden roar, upon the stillness of the dusky atmosphere in which the fretted Gothic steeple lay imbedded and asleep.'

Among Poe's boyhood journeys, no other scenes could have left a more deeper impression on his growing mind than what he saw and heard in Scotland. This must have been the happiest time of the poet's entire life.

Literary Influences.

In his bedroom at the Allan estate in Richmond, Edgar had a well supplied wardrobe and a shelf for his books, which he loved. His library consisted of the works of Homer, Virgil, Caesar, Horace, Cicero, English and French grammars, English and American history, 'Gothic' novels and a manual or two on military tactics. Byron, Moore, Burns, Wordsworth, Coleridge, Keats and Shelley were included. Publications read by Poe were *The Edinburgh Review*, *London Ladies Magazine*, *Blackwood's Magazine*, and the *London Critical Review of Annals of Literature*.

Poe's Biological Parents

Edgar Allan Poe was born in Boston on 19th January 1809, both parents members of a travelling acting company. His father, David Poe, was the son of 'General' David Poe of Baltimore, Maryland, Assistant Deputy-Quartermaster of the Continental Forces in 1778. The elder Poe had been brought to America as a child by his parents, Scottish Protestants established in Ireland. 'General' Poe was said to have rendered valuable assistance to Lafayette and was highly respected. His son, however, was both erratic and intractable.

The younger Poe, began by studying law, but a passion for the stage lured him at twenty-six to join the Charleston Players touring company. By 1804 he was with the Virginia Players touring the northern states and soon landed a permanent job at the Federal Theatre in Boston, where he met the young actress Elizabeth Arnold. The young couple fell in love, but soon found it difficult to make ends meet. The relationship was further irritated by Poe's tuberculosis and addiction to alcohol. Elizabeth's constitution was also weak and her health rapidly declined. Despite her illness, she would bear three children over the next four years. William Henry Leonard was born in Boston early in 1807, followed by the birth of Edgar in January 1809. The dire financial straits of the couple made it necessary to leave William Henry with his grandparents in Baltimore. Edgar, however, remained with his parents and shared in both their poverty and endless gypsy wanderings.

In July 1810, while the company was playing in New York, David Poe suddenly disappeared—literally and figuratively—from the scene. It is not known whether he deliberately abandoned his family, or simply died an unknown pauper. Accounts suggest he died of consumption soon after his disappearance.

Edgar, now eighteen months, was left alone with his frail mother, though the mutual companionship did not last long. Elizabeth returned to Richmond and Norfolk and performed, despite her pregnancy. In December, at Norfolk, a daughter, Rosalie, was born.

On 8th December 1811, Elizabeth Poe, at the age of twenty four died of pneumonia. She lay dying in a small, damp room, bare even of fuel to warm it. The James River had recently flooded Main Street and the air was thick with malarial mosquitoes. Drearly alone, with few possessions to her name, the heartsick woman slowly succumbed to death's lingering call.

The next morning, 9th December frightened little Edgar was pried crying from his mother's lifeless arms, to the care of John Allan and Rosalie to Mrs. William Mackenzie. Edgar's inheritance consisted of a small miniature painting of his mother and her painting of the Port of Boston, where he was born.

Poe and Burns

A comparison can be drawn between Robert Burns's father's death and the death of Edgar Allan Poe's natural mother. Both Burns and Poe suffered a vast emotional loss, which neither poet ever fully accepted. The death of their respective parents had a profound influence upon their lives, both psychologically and artistically. This subsequently resulted in an artistic outpouring of literature and song. It is fascinating to note that, while the isolated, dreary life of working sunup to sundown on a farm took its toll physically upon Burns, his writing was channeled to celebrating life, nature and the bright side of love and beauty. In contrast, the equally harsh and austere circumstances of Poe's early life, influenced him to become more introspective of the soul's sombre conditions and his compositions reflect the darker side of love and death.

'*Rise Infernal Spirits*' was composed by Poe in 1822 when he was thirteen-years-old and is probably the earliest known example of his youthful work. It draws a remarkable comparison and contrast to Burns's '*Flow Gently Sweet Afton*.'



Rise Infernal Spirits

Flow softly, gently, vital stream;
Ye crimson life drops, stay;
Indulge me with this pleasing dream
Thro' an internal day.

See—see—my soul, her agony!
See how her eyeballs glare!
Those shrieks delightful harmony
Proclaim her deep despair.

Rise—rise—infernal spirits, rise,
Swift dart across her brain
Thou horror with blood chilling cries
Lead on thy hideous train.

O, feast my soul revenge is sweet
Louisa, take my scorn —
Curs'd was the hour that saw us meet
The hour when we were born.

Burns composed 'Flow Gently Sweet Afton' before February of 1789, with entirely different romantic notions.

'Flow Gently Sweet Afton'

Flow gently, sweet Afton, among thy green braes!
Flow gently, I'll sing thee a song in thy praise!
My Mary's asleep by thy murmuring stream -
Flow gently, sweet Afton, disturb not her dream!

Thou stock dove whose echo resounds through the glen,
Ye wild whistling blackbirds in yon thorny den,
The green-crested lapwing, thy screaming forbear—
I charge you, disturb not my slumbering Fair.

How lofty, sweet Afton, thy neighbouring hills,
Far mark'd with the courses of clear, winding rills!
There daily I wander, as noon rises high,
My flocks and my Mary's sweet cot in my eye.

How pleasant thy banks and green vallies below,
Where wild in the woodlands the primroses blow
There oft, as mild Ev'ning weeps over the lea,
The sweet-scented birk shades my Mary and me.

The crystal stream, Afton, how lovely it glides,
And winds by the cot where my Mary resides!
How wanton thy waters her snowy feet lave,
As, gathering sweet flowerets, she stems thy clear wave!

Flow gently, sweet Afton, among thy green braes!
Flow gently, sweet river, the theme of my lays!
My Mary's asleep by thy murmuring stream—
Flow gently, sweet Afton, disturb not her dream!

Burns's poem is a poignant, loving, tender and romantic scene of idyllic, pastoral sensitivity, while Poe's composition, strikingly similar in style to Burns, is a chilling excursion into the despair and anxiety of enduring love's loss.

Poe encountered Burns primarily through his critical essays and the few references tend to indicate that Poe respected Burns, though he seemed to feel the Scottish bard to be somewhat over-rated.

In his essay, 'The Literati of New York' which appeared in *Godey's Lady's Book* in 1846, Poe said, 'Burns, indeed, was the puppet of circumstance. As a poet, no person on the face of the earth has been more extravagantly, more absurdly over-rated.'

In the review of poet Fitz-Greene Halleck's collection of poems, *Alnwick Castle, with other Poems*, Poe analyzes Halleck's poem 'Burns'

The verses entitled 'Burns' consist of thirty eight quatrains - the three first lines of each quatrain being four feet, the fourth of three. This poem has many traits of 'Alnwick Castle', and bears a strong resemblance to some of the writings of Wordsworth. Its chief merit, and indeed the chief merit, so we think, of all the poems of Halleck, is the merit of expression. In the brief extracts from 'Burns' which follow, our readers will recognize the peculiar character of which we speak.

Extracts from 'Burns'

Wild Rose of Alloway! my thanks:
Tho mind'st me of that autumn noon
When first we met upon "the banks and braes o' bonny Doon"—

Like thine, beneath the thorn-tree's bough,
My sunny hour was glad and brief—
We've crossed the winter sea, and thou
Art withered—flower and leaf.

There have been loftier themes than this,
And longer scrolls and louder lyres
And lays lit up with Poesy's
Purer and holier fires.

And when he breathes his master-lay
Of Alloway's witch haunted wall
All passions in our frames of clay
Come thronging at his call.

Such graves as his pilgrim-shrines,
Shrines to no code or creed confined—
The Delphian vales, the Palestines,
The Meccas of the mind.

They linger by the Doon's low trees,
And pastoral Nith, and wooded Ayr.
And round thy Sepulchres, Dumfries!
The Poet's tomb is there!

The only other critical reference Poe made, with regard to Burns is found in his 1845 *Broadway Journal* review of Professor John Wilson's book, 'The Genius and Character of Robert Burns.' While he lauds Wilson (also writing under the *nom de plume* of Christopher North) as witty, humorous, imaginative and expressive, he charges that his criticism and scholarship is emphatically superficial:

'His "Genius and Character of Burns" will place Professor Wilson in a clear, but not (for him) in the most advantageous light. We may glean from this book, however, a very accurate conception, if not of Burns, at least of Christopher North. To the lovers of mere rhapsody we can recommend the volume as one likely to interest them: to those who seek, in good faith, a guide to the real Burns—to the merits and demerits, literary and personal—of a man whose merits at least have been more grossly—more preposterously exaggerated (through a series of purely adventitious circumstances) than those of any man that ever lived upon the earth—to those seekers of the simple truth, we say, you will look for it in vain in this volume by Christopher North.'

Included in Poe's highly selective list of 'imaginative' poems of the purest ideality is Burns's 'Tam o' Shanter'. 'Prometheus Vincit', by Aeschylus; 'The Inferno', by Dante; 'The Ancient Mariner', by Coleridge and 'The Sensitive Plant' by Shelley also join this list.

The ballad quality of some of Poe's lyrics, such as in his epic poem 'The Raven', makes one suspect his partiality. It is essential to note Poe's saying that 'Burns's profligacy and tipsiness are to be disregarded in judging his literary merits.' There tends to be an admission, or at least a recognition of kindred spirit in this statement.

'The Raven', composed in 1845, is perhaps like Burns's 'Tam o' Shanter', Poe's greatest narrative work'.

And the Raven, never flitting, still is sitting, still is sitting
On the pallid bust of Pallas just above my chamber door.
And his eyes have all the seeming of a demon that is dreaming,
And the lamp-light o'er him streaming throws his shadow on the floor
And my soul from out that shadow that lies floating on the floor
Shall be lifted—nevermore!

Burns's narrative witch tale was composed in 1790, for his good friend Captain Francis Grose, who was collecting material for his book, *The Antiquities of Scotland*.

Now, wha this tale o' truth shall read,
Ilk man, and mother's son, take heed:
When'er to drink you are inclin'd,
Or cutty sarks rin in your mind,
Think! ye may buy the joys o'er drear:
Remember Tam o' Shanter's mare.

A final poetic comparison can be drawn between the two poets' veneration of the 'water of life'. Poe, unfortunately, was the victim of severe substance abuse throughout his life. While Burns revelled in the 18th century custom of imbibing in drink with his friends, sometimes to excess, Poe was addicted to opium and was consumed with alcoholism. Yet, both poets venerated drink from two similar, and at the same time, different perspectives.

'Lines on Ale', composed in 1848 by Poe, interprets drink as a flight from life to 'quaintest thoughts' and 'queerest fancies', while Burns's 'Scotch Drink', written in 1786, inspires and celebrates life.

Lines on Ale

Fill with mingled cream and amber,
I will drain that glass again.
Such hilarious visions clamber

Through the chamber of my brain—
Quaintest thoughts—queerest fancies
Come to life and fade away,
What care I how time advances?
I am drinking ale today.

Scotch Drink

O thou, my Muse! guid auld Scotch drink!
Whether thou wimplin worms thou jink
Or richly brown, ream ore the brink,
In glorious faem
Inspire me, till I lisp and wink,
To sing thy name!

A final reflection upon Edgar Allan Poe and Robert Burns involves an incident which is alleged to have occurred in Baltimore in a reminiscence of Poe by Mary Deveraux. Her accounts of Poe written to Augustus van Cleef in *Harper's New Monthly Magazine* of December 1888, are probably fundamentally fictitious, although it is quite possible that Poe did meet her and even flirted with her. As with Burns, Poe idolized the women in his life and the females were attracted to him—dark moods and all.

'He was handsome; but intellectually so, not a pretty man. He had the way and power to draw anyone to him. He was very fascinating and any young girl would have fallen in love with him. Eddie and I never talked of his poetry. He used often to quote Burns, for whom he had great admiration. We used to go out walking together in the evenings—often out of the city and sat down in the hills,' Deveraux recounted.

There is no doubt, in the time Poe lived in Scotland and England, that it had a profound effect upon his development as a writer and poet. Burns's creative energy, somehow, was subconsciously planted into Poe's reflective mind. Even though the two poets, while strikingly similar in style, took two divergent paths to reflect to ends of the poetic spectrum—the joys and triumphs of life and nature, to the desperation and melancholy of loneliness and despair, the whisper of genius from Robert Burns to Edgar Allan Poe is indisputable.



TROTZ ALLEDEM UND ALLEDEM

(For a' that and a' that) by J.W. Peacock

The unearthing of collector's pieces for Burns-lovers was the last thing on my mind as I drove home from work that evening in October 1984—but that was one of the subsequent results!

To cut a long story short, I had just been 'sounded out' about the possibility of my spending the next 3 years ('or so') managing one of the company's factories in Germany—a few kilometers south of Heidelberg.

Following the compulsory 'crash' course in the German language my wife and I arrived in Deutschland early in 1985. I suppose we were a little apprehensive—but after all 'we had guid Scots tongues in oor heids'!

Within the first few weeks of arrival in Germany (the first non-German manager since the opening of the factory 21 years previously) I got the first of many hints that a 'Haggis Party' would be much appreciated! The source of these suggestions caused me some amusement and is worth explanation. As part of my introduction I had to meet the German 'establishment' within the company. At one of these meetings I was required to attend I met for the first time the Chairman of the Supervisory Board (let's call him Schmidt). An unusually interesting character...he had only one (badly deformed) finger on his right hand, and he took great pleasure in watching the reactions of people as he shook hands with them for the first time! During the meeting the conversation (as it always did on these occasions) got around to the Scots and the English, 'Haggis' and 'Rabbie Burns'. (During our stay in Germany we always took pains to point out that English speakers were not necessarily English and that the Scots and the English were races apart... I think we succeeded in opening a few eyes; by the end of our stay there our German colleagues were correcting those who still assumed otherwise!)

Schmidt asked if I could arrange what he liked to call a 'haggis party'. On questioning him about what he understood by that, I soon established that what he wanted was a full-blown Burns' Supper, with all the trappings. On enquiring further into his background it emerged that his injuries (he had others as well as his hand) had been received during World War 2. At the time of the Allied invasion he had been parachuted behind the lines in Normandy and had been shot to bits by the Scots! He maintains that he 'can still hear those bloody bag-pipes yet'! Nevertheless (a good Scots word) he had been invalided back to Scotland and developed an affinity for the Scots.

Another rather amusing aspect of the proposal was that I should arrange this 'haggis party' to coincide with Schmidt's birthday. (The Germans are strong on birthdays especially if they mark the end of a decade). I enquired when his birthday fell and was told '6th June!' I explained that this date was a little outside the normal season for celebrating Robert Burns's birth and certainly way outside the Haggis-shooting season, but that it could be done.

One of my own personal mottos is 'If in doubt—do nowt!' so I decided to do nothing and perhaps in the cold light of day the matter would be forgotten. It was—but not for too long! The issue was raised again the following year but by this time I had been in touch with the Federation in Kilmarnock and had established how I might get assistance to manage such a project. (I had a few telephone chats with Mrs. Turner and received good advice.) Eventually I succumbed—a full blown Burns Supper was held on 9th June 1987 in Frankfurt with 100 guests of the company; it was a great success and much appreciated by the Germans who constituted the bulk of the assembly. But that's another story for another time.

The point of this story is that during the period of preparation I began to investigate 'the German connection' to illustrate my Immortal Memory. The obvious connection of Hans Hecht's biography was all right, but I was looking for something more. It was not too difficult to find references to Burns in German literature nor to establish that Burns was greatly admired by Goethe, but I wanted something more tangible. Copies of Hecht's original work seemed a good idea, but a search of second-hand bookshops did not appeal. However, since Hecht had used the publishing firm of Carl Winter in Heidelberg for his original work and we were close to that romantic city, the publishers were contacted to establish whether or not any of the original copies of

ROBERT BURNS
Leben und Wirken

des schottischen Volksdichters
dargestellt von
HANS HECHT

were still in existence.

Much to our surprise and delight the publishers informed us that no copies of the original work remained *except* some 'uncut and unbound' copies which were located in their 'archives'. There began some negotiations about the cost of cutting and binding which resulted in us obtaining some hardback and some paperback versions of Hans Hecht's first and only edition of his biography of Robert Burns.

I was thus able to bring Robbie Burns home to my German guests in a very tangible way in that they were given a 'double-first edition' of a famous biography in their own language!

A year later another book was published, (again in Heidelberg) of Burns's songs and poems; the publication included all references to Burns in German literature, a short history of Burns's life and of Scotland at that time, as well as selected poems and songs in Burns's original language and the 'best' translations into German. The book even includes guitar chords for a few of the songs. A really useful addition to any Burns-lover's collection.¹

Had I procrastinated for a further year I could have saved a lot of literary search effort and also had a very tangible example for use at the Supper—but then I wouldn't have unearthed the original copies of Hans Hecht's work.

Just prior to leaving Germany in 1989 I was honoured by the Government of Baden Württemberg by the presentation of the *Wirtschafts-Medaille* or Economic Medal for 'outstanding contribution in the economy'. Part of the citation for the presentation concerned the way in which I had integrated the factory into the local community and had become involved in local culture, customs and festivals. Interestingly, the only other Scot to manage that factory (back in the early sixties) was also honoured—he was made a Freeman of the town. Thinking back, perhaps we have Robbie Burns to thank, since we both appear to have practised what he preached—

Dass Mensch und Mensch, so weit die Welt,
Einst Bruder sind trotz alledem.

That man to man the world o'er
Shall brithers be for a' that.

Robert Burns: *Liebe and Freiheit, Lieder und Gedichte*, Zweisprachig (bilingual), Heidelberg, Verlag Lambert Schneider.

AN AULD WEEDOW-WUMMAN BLETHERS ABOUT HER GUIDMAN

by Sarah Adam Crooks

When Jean Armour Burns was asked as an old woman what she most remembered about her husband, she replied, 'He aye ca'ed me his bonnie Jean.' The following is what I imagine she might also have said.

Aye, Ah'm Mistress Burns,
Jean Armour Burns,
the weedow o' the poet Robert.
Whit dae Ah remember o' Mister Burns?

Well — Ah aye ca'ed him Rab,
an' he aye ca'ed me—

or 'bonny lass o' Ballochmyle'—
although Ah was born only two, three miles frae
there
an' rin about its braes as a wee bairn
an' as a young lassie—rinnin' wi' Rab—
sometimes rinnin' awa',
but maist times lettin' him catch me.

Och, Ah ken fine Ah wisnae his 'red, red rose'

My, but he was the braw lad—

thae black, flashin' een—
an' a tongue that wad wile the birds
frae aff o' ony tree.
Can ye winner, then, that Ah was aye there
waitin' at the trystin' place,
the auld stane dyke ahint the kirk,
the rowan tree doon by the burn,
the hay loft in the stable o' Johnnie Doo's inn?

Ah wad jouk oot the house
when ma faither's back was turned,
dart across the vennel,
an' awa' tae Rab
whenever Ah heard his whistle.

He said we'd be mairrit,
an' we *were* mairrit,
but no' afore
that roguish e'e an' silver tongue
had wiled mair than me,

an' no afore ma faither,
mindfu' mair o' his ain pride an' place
in the exalted society o' the village o' Mauchline,
had denounced me an' Rab
as sinners beyond redemption
an no' afore we had knelt
on the cutty-stool o' Mauchline Kirk
pleadin' for oor un-redeemed souls,

an' no afore,
mair in pride than shame,
we had presented them,
the critics an' the bigots
an' them that had forgotten rough granite
again the shooters
on a nicht fu' o' sters,
or August rowan berries, red
as a lassie's mou'.
or the sweet saftness o' fresh hay
abune the horses
cloppin' a wee
on the cobbles,

no' afore
we had presented them wi'
twins!

Ah kennt fine
Ah was nae match for that wumman
in Edinburgh —
that 'Clarinda' (daft-like name!)
Ah never wrote a poem for him—
Ah hadnae the words—

but Ah sang the auld sangs o' Scotland
that Ah learnt frae ma mither,
an' she frae hers afore that,
an' Ah gi'ed them a' tae Rab
tae tak' an' use
if an' when he wantit them.

Oh, aye, there were ither lassies an' ither bairns,
no' a' mine
(oor Rab should hae had twa wives!)
an' some o' thae ither bairns Ah took an' reared
as ma ain,
for whit was Rab's was aye dear tae me.

An' then he left me,
his pair body defeated by its enemies,
fever an' pain,
an' worry for me an' the bairns,
the he'rt givin' up at last,
no' able tae keep alive that teemin' mind,
that great lovin' speerit.
Dead at thirty-seven
an' laid tae rest—
eventually—
in his marble tomb.

Aye, Ah've leaved a lang time
aall alane,
an' mony a lang an' dreary nicht Ah've had
withoot ma dearie.
Maybe Ah wad like tae go noo,
(nae marble mausoleum for me!)
an' we've nae kennin' whit's tae come
or even whar we're gaun.

But Ah keep thinkin' on whar the red sun
goes doon ower the Arran hills
an' glints on the sea,
like a lang, braid road
whaur ye could walk richt tae the end.

An' wha'll be there?
Will there be Anna Park,
Ellison Begbie, Mary Campbell,
Nancy MacLehose (Clarinda!)
an' a wheen o' ither's?

Maybe no'.
Maybe there'll be jist Rab an' me,
for Ah think he lo'ed me
best o' a'.

Ah mind he aye ca'ed me his
'Bonnie Jean'.

Motto — “A man’s a man for a’ that”

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DONALD URQUHART, Glebe House, 39 Glebe Street, Dumfries. DG1 2LQ

XXVIII. U.S.A.:

ALAN R. BOOTH, ARINC Research Corp, 2551 Riva Road, Annapolis Md. 21401, U.S.A.

Mrs. MARY M. DUNSMORE, 21 Lynwood Close, St Leonards on Sea, East Sussex. TN37 7HT

XXIX. Europe:

DAVE SMITH, 22 Cargenbridge, Troqueer, Dumfries. DG2 8LW

List of places at which the Annual Conference of the Council has been held.

1885-93	Kilmarnock	1928	Aberdeen	1963	Stirling
1894	Glasgow	1929	Troon	1964	London
1895	Dundee	1930	Greenock	1965	Hamilton
1896	Kilmarnock	1931	Hawick	1966	Troon
1897	Greenock	1932	Stirling	1967	Sheffield
1898	Mauchline	1933	London	1968	Falkirk
1899	Dumfries	1934	Glasgow	1969	Southport
1900	Kilmarnock	1935	Ayr and	1970	Arbroath
1901	Glasgow		Kilmarnock	1971	Coventry
1902	Greenock	1936	Elgin	1972	Aberdeen
1903	Edinburgh	1937	Newcastle-	1973	Dumfries
1904	Stirling		upon-Tyne	1974	Edinburgh
1905	Hamilton	1938	Dumfries	1975	Dundee
1906	Kilmarnock	1940-46	Glasgow	1976	Leeds
1907	Sunderland	1947	Dunoon	1977	Motherwell
1908	St. Andrews	1948	Stirling	1978	Glasgow
1909	Dunfermline	1949	Mauchline	1979	London,
1910	Lanark	1950	Bristol		Ontario
1911	Glasgow	1951	Montrose	1980	Leicester
1912	Carlisle	1952	Norwich	1981	Irvine
1913	Galashiels	1953	Paisley	1982	Dumfries
1915-19	Glasgow	1954	Sheffield	1983	Annapolis, USA
1920	London	1955	Edinburgh	1984	Stirling
1921	Dunfermline	1956	Cheltenham	1985	London
1922	Birmingham	1957	Aberdeen	1986	Kilmarnock
1923	Ayr	1958	Harrogate	1987	Edinburgh
1924	Dumfries	1959	Ayr	1988	Hamilton, Ontario
1925	Edinburgh	1960	Glasgow	1989	York
1926	Perth	1961	Dumfries	1990	Perth
1927	Derby	1962	Durham		

The Council did not meet in 1914 and in 1939.

FEDERATION MEMBERS

Affiliated during year 1989/90

Mrs. E. Young, 76 Silcoates Lane, Wrenthorpe, Wakefield.
 Robert Wardrop, 24 Jubilee Court, Nowton Road, Bury St. Edmunds.
 Bryan McKirgan, 4 Balmoral Drive, Cambuslang, Glasgow.
 Robert McDonald, 13 Albert Drive, Burnside, Glasgow.
 Charles Wilson, 105 Henderson Road, Roseacre, Johannesburg.
 William McAllister, 4 Tanbridge Gardens, Sanderstead, Surrey. CR2 9HU.
 Henry Thomson, 31 Green Avenue, Irvine.
 Alex C. Layhe, 61 Eastfield Avenue, Haxby, York.
 A. J. McKee, 27 Balfron Road, Ralston, Paisley.
 Mrs. L. A. Darlington, Upton Lodge 196 Goldhurst Terrace, London. NW6 3HB.
 John Young Hahhan, 1120 N Signal Street, Ojai, California. 93023.
 Margaret Kozakiewicz, 224 Golf Course Road, Spruce Pine, NC 28777.
 Edward Kozakiewicz, 224 Golf Course Road, Spruce Pine, NC 28777.

Ian A. Bennett, 9 Lowca Lane, Workington, Cumbria. CA14 1JF.
 Mrs. M. Parker, 8 Kirkland Road, Terregles, Dumfries.
 Mrs. S. Bell, Skyline Hotel, Dumfries.
 Mrs. E. Aldridge, Isa Cottage, Park Road, Dumfries.
 Mr. Mi you-Qiang, No 13 Middle School, Xining, Qinghai, China. 810000.
 Mr. T. D. Hunter, Auld Licht Manse, 16 Brechin Road, Kirriemuir, Angus. DD8 4BX.
 Mr. J. F. Walin, 4066 Germainder, Irvine, California.
 Mr. A. K. Findlay, 39 Overton Road, Strathaven, Lanarkshire.
 J. S. Oliphant, Albanach, 38 Audley Avenue, Newport, Shropshire. TF10 7DP.
 Mr. Thomas Keith, 237 Eldridge Street 13, New York. 10002.
 Mr. James P. Adamson, 6 Lorraine Drive, Cupar, Fife.

LIST OF DISTRICTS

I. Ayrshire — 41 Clubs: 4 Members

0 Kilmarnock	773 Cumnock Cronies
35 Dalry	811 Logangate, Cumnock
45 Cumnock	859 Irvine Eglinton
173 Irvine	908 'Brithers Be', Kilmarnock
179 Dailly Jolly Beggars	920 Trysting Thorn
192 Ayrshire B.C. Association	931 Beith Caledonia
252 Alloway	933 Busbiehill
275 Ayr	936 Irvine Lasses
310 Mauchline	948 Saltcoats Glencairn
349 'Howff', Kilmarnock	954 Newton, Ayr
370 Dundonald	982 Garnock
377 Kilbirnie Rosebery	995 Drongan
500 New Cumnock	996 Kilmarnock Lodge St. Andrew
593 Barrmill Jolly	1028 Mercat Hotel, Cumnock
632 Symington	1029 Kilwinning
664 West Kilbride	1042 Kilmaurs Glencairn
671 St. Andrew's Cronies (Irvine)	1064 Aftongrange
681 Cronies, Kilmarnock	1071 Rattlin Squad, Ochiltree
682 Cumnock Jolly Beggars	1079 Afton Lily
772 Prestwick	1083 Barr
	1090 Irvine Royal Academy

Secretary: J. H. Bull, 49 Annanhill Avenue, Kilmarnock.

II. Edinburgh — 25 Clubs: 3 Members

5 Ercildoune	740 Thorntree Mystic
22 Edinburgh	784 Kelso
96 Jedburgh	813 Tranent '25'
124 Ninety	825 Clarinda Ladies
212 Portobello	929 Bathgate
293 New Craighall	971 North Berwick
307 Edinburgh Ayrshire Association	976 Hopetoun Laddies
314 Edinburgh Scottish	979 Jewel Welfare
340 Balerno	992 Marchbank
341 Leith	998 Eyemouth Clachan
378 Edinburgh B.C. Association	1011 Haddington Golf Club
398 Colinton	1025 Newton Lads, Midlothian
516 The Airts	1031 Cramond Brig

Secretary: Gordon Innes, 38 Darnell Road, Edinburgh.

III. Glasgow — 14 Clubs: 1 Member

7 Thistle	74 National Burns Memorial Homes
9 Royalty	169 Glasgow Burns Club Association
33 Haggis	263 Masonic
36 Rosebery	581 Cumbernauld
49 Bridgeton	585 Queen's Park Clarinda
68 Sandyford	642 Rutherglen
72 Partick	

Secretary: David L. Stevenson, c/o Neil Clerk Solicitors, 6 Park Circus Place, Glasgow. G3 6AN.

IV. Dunbartonshire, Argyll and Bute — 5 Clubs: 1 Member

2 Alexandria	695 Kilmarnock
10 Dumbarton	831 Lochgoilhead
580 Cumbræ	

Secretary: T. Wilson, 111 Brucehill Road, Dumbarton. G82 4ER.

V. Fife — 12 Clubs: 1 Member

13 St. Andrews	803 Bowhill People's
62 Cupar	967 Earlsferry
85 Dunfermline	1013 Balmullo Burns
350 Markinch	1014 Traditional Music & Song Assoc.
688 Poosie Nansie Ladies, Kirkcaldy	1040 Cowdenbeath
768 Auchterderran Jolly Beggars	1074 Glenrothes

Secretary:

VI. Lanarkshire — 19 Clubs: 2 Members

20 Airdrie	809 Allanton Jolly Beggars
152 Hamilton	810 Thirty-seven Burns Club
237 Uddingston Masonic	889 Strathclyde Motherwell
348 Newton Jean Armour	907 Stonehouse Burns Club
356 Burnbank Masonic	937 East Kilbride
387 Cambuslang Mary Campbell	939 Griffin
390 Meikle Earnock	961 Larkhall
392 Whifflet	973 Salsburgh Miners
494 Motherwell United Services	1081 Ravenscraig
578 Lanarkshire B.C.A.	

Secretary: Ms. Ann Pickering, 95 Dyfrig St., Shotts, Lanarkshire

VII. Mid and East Lothians and Borders — 6 Clubs: 1 Member

187 Galashiels	1003 Whiteadder
239 Hawick	1026 Duns Burns Club
839 Coldstream	1067 Seton Burns Club

IX. Renfrewshire — 10 Clubs: 1 Member

21 Greenock	576 Fort Matilda
48 Paisley	748 Ouplaymuir
59 Gourrock Jolly Beggars	944 Alamo, Paisley
430 Gourrock	1034 Kilbarchan
472 Renfrewshire B.C.A.	1065 Erskine

Secretary: Mr. W. Williamson, 30 Ivanhoe Road, Foxbar, Paisley.

X. Stirling, Clackmannan and West Perth Shires — 35 Clubs: 3 Members

6 Alloa, Haggis	850 Dollar Masonic
37 Dollar	895 Westerton Burns Club
50 Stirling	902 Newmarket Burns Club
116 Greenloaning	911 Borestone Bowling Club
126 Falkirk	923 Old Manor Burns Club
399 St. Ringans	925 Laurieston
426 Sauchie	930 Wheatsheaf, Falkirk
469 Denny Cross	935 Torbrex, Stirling
503 Dunblane	993 Cambusbarron
543 Abbey Craig	1000 United Glass
630 Coalsnaughton	1022 Blane Valley
646 Clear Winding Devon, Alva	1055 Lhanbryde
657 Fallin Burns Club	1059 Dundas
665 Gartmorn Ladies	1062 Ashburn House
725 Ben Cleuch, Tillicouly	1069 Falkirk Friday Night Club
769 Robert Bruce (Clackmannan)	1085 Tartan Weavers
824 Stirling, Clackmannan & Perth	1093 Tualliallan
	1095 Wallace, Falkirk

Secretary: Douglas McEwan, 18 Auchenbaird, Sauchie, Alloa.

XI. Tayside Regional Area — 9 Clubs: 1 Member

14 Dundee	360 Lochee, Dundee
26 Perth	627 Kinross
42 Strathearn	955 Gartwhinzean
82 Arbroath	1049 Lodge Camperdown
242 Montrose	

Secretary: Frank Curran, 1 Sauchinblae Place, Dundee. DD3 9RS

XII. Northern Scottish Counties — 13 Clubs: 1 Member

40, Aberdeen	698 Turriff
149 Elgin	723 Strathpeffer
336 Peterhead	733 Aberdeen Study Circle
403 Fraserburgh	897 Glenbervie
458 Stonehaven	921 Northern Scottish Counties Association
470 St Giles (Elgin)	1066 Fochabers
691 Inverness	

Secretary: Miss Ethel Hall, 28 Whitehall Place, Aberdeen. AB2 4PA

XIII. Southern Scottish Counties — 25 Clubs: 2 Members

112 Dumfries Howff	660 The Langholm Ladies
217 Eskdale	693 Masonic, Kirkcudbright
226 Dumfries	730 Wigtown
323 Kirkcudbright	818 Dalbeattie and District
393 Annan Ladies	916 Hole I' the Wa' Burns Club
401 Brig-En (Waverley)	924 S.C.T.A. Dumfries
437 Dumfries Ladies	926 Rosamond
530 Southern Scottish Counties B.C.A.	985 New Galloway
536 Whithorn	999 Dumfries Round Table
562 Castle Douglas	1004 Gatehouse of Fleet
589 Solway	1057 Lochmaben Drouthy Neebors
629 Sanquhar	1058 Stranraer
	1076 Can-Du

Secretary: Donald R. Urquhart, Glebe House, 39 Glebe Street, Dumfries. DG1 1LQ.

XIV. London and South-Eastern England — 12 Clubs : 1 Member

1 Burns Club of London	918 Dover and East Kent
492 Harrow Cal. Society	952 Guildford
570 Scottish Clans Association	1032 Croydon
663 Bournemouth and Dist. Cal. Soc.	1047 Colchester
719 Chelmsford and District Scottish Society	1050 Hertfordshire
743 Romford Scottish Association	1063 Caledonian Club London
	1092 Bury St. Edmunds

Secretary: T. F. Hodge, 42 Elmroyd Avenue, Potters Bar, Herts. EN6 2EE.

XV. North-Eastern England — 7 Clubs: 1 Member

89 Sunderland	744 Durham and District Cal. Society
534 Bedlington and District	745 Northumberland and Durham Cal. Society
696 Whitley Bay	1030 Darlington Gaelic Society
699 Choppington	

Secretary: A. S. Thomson, 23 Salisbury Avenue, North Shields, Tyne & Wear. NE29 9PD.

XVI. North-Western England — 13 Clubs: 2 Members

95 Bolton	754 Thornton Cleveleys and District Scottish Society
236 Whitehaven	834 St. Andrew's Society (Altrincham, Sale and Dist.)
363 Barrow St. Andrew's Society	989 Holt Hill
366 Liverpool	1008 Caledonian Soc. of W. Cumberland
417 Burnley and District	1016 Leyland and District Burns Society
436 Walney Jolly Beggars Ladies	
572 Chester Cal. Association	
618 Altrincham and Sale Cal. Society	

Secretary: Mrs. W. G. Diggle, 24 Gorses Mount, Darcy Lever, Bolton, Lancs.

XVII. Yorkshire — 19 Clubs: 2 Members

405 Sheffield	812 Bradford St. Andrew's Society
454 Rotherham	880 Otley and District
548 Leeds Cal. Society	894 Beverley and District
551 Scarborough Cal. Society	943 Humberside Burns Society
555 Harrogate St. Andrew's Society	945 Kirklees Highland Society
556 Doncaster	969 Huddersfield St. Andrew
718 St. Andrew Society of York	972 Don Valley Caledonian Society
763 Wakefield Cal. Society	987 Hull Scots Society
808 Pontefract and Dist. Cal. Society	1023 Skipton and District
	1091 Harrogate Saltire S.C.D.C.

Secretary: Mr. Harry McGuffog, 30 South Edge, Shipley, W. Yorks

XVIII. North and East Midlands of England — 23 Clubs: 2 Members

11 Chesterfield Cal. Society	878 Worksop Burns and Cal. Club
17 Nottingham	887 Gainsborough District
55 Derby Scottish Assoc.	917 Scottish Presidents' Association
329 Newark and District	922 Clumber Burns Club
439 Barnsley Scottish Society	963 Cotgrave
461 Leicester Cal. Society	1015 Maltby
606 Corby	1037 Grimsby and Cleethorpes
706 North Lindsey Scots Society	1051 Northampton
720 Retford Cal. Society	1053 Corby Grampian
822 Mansfield Dist. Cal. Society	1072 Hazel Tree, Corby
866 Heanor and Dist. Cal. Society	1075 Sgian-Dhu, Corby
872 East Midland Scottish Society	

Secretary: A. McLarty, Cruachan, 5 Vicarage Lane, Beckingham, Doncaster. DN10 4PN.

XIX. West Midlands of England — 11 Clubs: 1 Member

167 Birmingham	683 Stratford Upon Avon
296 Walsall	777 Nuncaton Scottish Society
553 Wolverhampton	845 Tam o Shanter, Coventry
559 Coventry Cal. Society	1005 Tamworth & District Scot. Soc.
661 Leamington and Warwick Cal. Society	1036 West Midlands
	774 Gloucester Scottish Soc.

Secretary: D. Jones, 23 Aynho Close, Mount Nod, Coventry. CV5 7HH.

XX. South-Western England — 7 Clubs: 1 Member

120 Bristol	721 Plymouth Burns Club
446 Herefordshire	791 Swindon and District
462 Cheltenham Scottish Society	951 Birnbeck, Weston-super-Mare
535 Plymouth and Dist. Cal. Society	

Secretary: James Graham, 27 Collum End Rise, Cheltenham. GL53 0PA.

XXI. Wales — Club: 1 Member

940. Pembrokeshire Cal. Society

XXII. Ireland — 3 Clubs: 1 Member

15 Belfast	1010 H. & W. Burns Club, Belfast
1018 East Antrim Burns Association	

XXIII. Africa — 4 Clubs: 1 Member

896 Sierra Leone	964 Gambia Caledonian Society
962 Pretoria Caledonian Society	1052 Escom Club (Koeberg)

XXIV. Australia — 21 Clubs: 2 Members

523 N.S.W. Highland Society	977 Whyalla
566 Scottish Soc. and Burns Club of Australia	984 MacQuarie Stewart
711 Victorian Scottish Union	991 Cabra Vale
726 Melbourne	1002 McQuarrie Fields
864 Burnie Burns Club, Tasmania	1027 Scottish Australian Heritage Council
874 Melbourne Masonic	1038 Brisbane
882 Canberra Highland Society	1043 R. Burns Soc. of S. Australia
890 Wollongong Burns Society	1054 Hunter Valley
919 Orange and District	1056 Toowoomba
950 Drummoyne	1086 Mackay and District
965 Royal Cal. Society of S. Australia	

XXV. New Zealand — 3 Clubs: 1 Member

69 Dunedin	915 Canterbury Burns Club
851 Auckland Burns Association	

Secretary: William Scott, 'Oakfield', Ayr Road, Larkhall, Lanarkshire

XXVI. Canada — 20 Clubs: 2 Members

197 Winnipeg	946 Calgary
303 Victoria (B.C.) St. Andrew's Society	957 Ottawa
501 Galt	974 Elliot Lake
561 London (Ontario)	980 Niagara Falls
571 Edmonton Burns Club	983 Montreal General Hospital
710 Toronto	1009 Edmonton Scottish Soc.
841 Robert Burns Association of Montreal	1012 Edmonton Dundonald Burns Club
842 Robert Burns Society, Hamilton, Ontario	1041 Nanaimo
893 North Bay B.C., Ontario	1078 Vancouver
927 Tarbolton Club, Edmonton	1094 Brig o' Doon

XXVIII. U.S.A. — 26 Clubs: 2 Members

220 St. Louis	1006 St. Andrew's Soc. of Mexico
238 Atlanta	1007 Rhode Island
413 San Francisco	1017 Southwick Burns Club
701 Detroit	1035 Kansas City
826 Charlotte, N.C.	1045 Heather and Thistle Soc.
941 San Diego	1068 Central Kentucky
958 Toledo	1070 Milwaukee
966 Clan Rose Soc. of America	1073 Erie, P.A.
978 Dickeyville	1077 Tulsa
981 Berkshire, Mass.	1082 Tabard Inn
986 Annapolis	1087 Orange County
994 Midlands, Columbia	1088 United Scottish
1001 Mystic Highland Pipe Band	1096 Scottish Soc. Santa Barbara

Secretary: Alan Booth, 2251 Riva Road, Annapolis, Maryland, U.S.A.

XXIX. Asia — 5 Clubs: 1 Member

934 Manama Caledonian Society	1033 Java St. Andrew's Soc.
959 Bangkok St. Andrew Society	1048 Hong Kong
1021 Kuwait Caledonians	

XXX. Europe — 4 Clubs: 1 Member

717 The St. Andrew Society of Denmark	1080 Swiss Burns Soc.
1061 Brussels	1084 Benidorm



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TRADE ENQUIRIES WELCOME

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE, YORK

Saturday 9th September, 1989

WELCOME

President Anne Gaw welcomed the delegates to the 101st Annual General Meeting.

The President paid tribute to Peter Moyes of York, Stewart Thompson of Sunderland, Serge Hovey, Honorary President, and Jane Burgoyne, Past President, all of whom had died in the previous year. One Minute's silence was observed in their memory.

Overseas delegates were warmly welcomed and asked to identify themselves: Bill McCubbin, London, Ontario; Jim Connor, London, Ontario; Harry Morrison; Jim McDougall; Margaret and Edward Kozaciewicz, Detroit, John Little, Hamilton; Joan and Arthur Down, Houston; Graham Underwood, Calgary; Mr. Clark, Rhode Island; Mr. Anderson, New Zealand; Alex Waddell, Melbourne.

The President briefly reviewed her year in office. She had attended the St. Giles Service on St. Andrew's Day and services at Wauchope House, Brow Well and Leglen among many others. Outstanding events had been visits to Hamilton and London, Ontario; the Glasgow Garden Festival; the London Burns Club's dedication of the Thompson vase and various Burns celebrations in January. The highlight of her year was a visit to Houston, Texas. She had also met Russians, a Brazilian lady, Professor Luiza Lobo; Norwegians and Japanese.

It had been her intention of meeting as many groups and individual members of clubs as possible and she was happy to have achieved that aim. She felt that the Burns Federation was still a very healthy organisation but young people needed to be attracted and retained and she would welcome any ideas on how to get young people interested.

She had enjoyed her year in office and thanked everyone for their support.

APOLOGIES

Cliff Parr; Tom Paterson; Mr. & Mrs. Irvine; Alan Booth; Mrs. Dunlop; Alex Wilson; Mr. & Mrs. Simpson; Noel Dinwiddie; Bill Williamson; Lew Reid and Jim Mackay.

MINUTES

Adoption of the Minute of the Meeting of the Council held in Hamilton, Ontario, on 23rd July 1988, was moved by Mr. Jim Campbell, and seconded by Mr. Graham Underwood, Calgary Burns Club.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

I am pleased to present my first Annual Report as the Honorary Secretary and Treasurer of the Burns Federation.

During the year the Federation finally managed to get Burns' own Coat of Arms matriculated through the office of the Lord Lyon King of Arms. This was only achieved through the persistent efforts of Memorials Convenor, Sam Gaw. The Coat of Arms has already been incorporated in the Federation Club Charters and all Federation stationery. The Federation lapel badge has been completely redesigned to fully incorporate our new Arms.

In December 1989 a small computer was purchased to assist with the administration and keeping of records of the Federation. This will in time speed up some of the more time-consuming tasks.

Book sales continue to expand and I would urge Clubs and individuals where possible to purchase books through Federation Headquarters.

A never-ending stream of enquiries from people in all walks of life and from all parts of the globe is received about the Works, Life and Times of Burns etc. etc. All enquiries are promptly answered even if it only entails pointing the individual in the right direction with their studies. I find this work gratifying.

Another very pleasing aspect is the number of overseas visitors who take time and trouble to call at Federation headquarters, Dick Institute, Kilmarnock, and say a friendly hello and introduce themselves.

It has been reported elsewhere how the Federation Executive had to take the decision to withdraw from the financial commitment of the *Burns - A-Z Complete Word Finder*. Our worthy Editor of the Burns Chronicle, Jim Mackay, agreed to take over the publication in its entirety thus relieving the Federation of any financial commitment. This was very commendable. The book is much larger and more complex than was envisaged, and will be a real bargain at £30 to subscribers. It is on schedule for publication in March 1990.

I am delighted to report that the overall picture is one of continued interest and growth in the Federation. This augurs well for the future.

Finally I would like to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to all those too numerous to mention who have assisted me in settling in as Honorary Secretary and Treasurer of the Burns Federation.

JOHN INGLIS
Hon. Secretary and Treasurer

MEMBERSHIP FIGURES

Number of Clubs on Roll as at June 1988 379

Removed:

248 Philadelphia North Eastern Burns Club
444 Swansea and West Wales Caledonian Society
949 Fir Bank Burns Club
1020 Netherthird and Craighens Burns Club
1039 Troon Ladies Burns Club
1044 Lodge Burns Immortal

Re-affiliated:

6 The Haggis Club, Alloa
413 San Francisco St. Andrews Society
952 Guildford Burns Club

Affiliated:

1080 Swiss Burns Society
1081 Ravenscraig Burns Club
1082 The Tabard Inns Burns Club
1083 Barr Burns Club
1084 Benidorm Burns Club
1085 Tartan Weavers Burns and Social Club
1086 Mackay and District Robert Burns Society
1087 Orange Country Burns Club
1088 United Scottish Society Inc.

Net Total 385

Number of Federation Members on Roll as at June 1989 241

In conclusion the Secretary reported that Mrs. Rita Turner had retired as Assistant Secretary of the Federation on 1st September, 1989. Her husband had been in failing health for the past four years and this, together with the increasing workload of the Federation had proved too much for her, and she had taken early retirement. The Executive had wished her well and she had received a suitable compensation payment. A testimonial had also been raised on her behalf. Mrs. Turner had been 25 years with the Federation and had loyally served with four Secretaries: Tom Dalgleish, Jock Thomson, Bill Anderson and himself.

He said that this was the biggest attendance that he had ever seen at a business meeting. Many people had offered encouragement and advice and he looked forward to serving for at least a further year.

The President drew attention to the number of overseas Clubs affiliated and the re-affiliation of the San Francisco St Andrews Society.

Adoption of the Secretary's Report was moved by Elizabeth Train and seconded by Tom Riddock.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Mr. T. McIlwraith, Convener of the Finance Committee, reported that the Ordinary Fund at 30th April had a balance of £121.24. He asked all delegates to ensure that their annual subscriptions were paid as early as possible and pointed out quite a few Clubs were in arrears. He drew attention to the income of £1,062.00 from the 200 Club. He thanked Mr. Abe Train, Convener of the 200 Club for the past 11 years, for his hard work and said that his daughter, Mrs. Freda Buddie, had taken over. He wished her even greater success than her father in reaching the target figure of 200 members.

The Literature Fund balance at 30th April was £11,339.74. He said that as Mr. Jim Mackay had taken over the A - Z, £9,000 still had to be paid to him for this publication. The Federation were indebted to Esso Petroleum for their contribution to the National Schools Competition and he thanked all who had donated to the Literature Fund.

The Central Fund had a balance of £1,775.34; the General Appeals Fund £465.98; the Reserve Fund £1,949.14, the Overseas Visits Fund £1,522.84 and the J. Dyall Bequest £95.51.

The interest from investment of almost £55,000.00, went towards running expenses.

In response to a question from Past President Mrs. Mollie Rennie about the donation from Esso Petroleum for the Schools Competition, Secretary, John Inglis, said that this appeared in the Literature Fund accounts because this Fund and the Central Fund were regarded as charities by the tax authorities and the monies were not taxed. The President said that the total spent on the National Schools Competition was £1,441.19.

In response to a question from Mrs. Hilda Faulder about the transfer of funds from the Central Fund and the receipt of the transfer by the Literature Fund it was pointed out that the money transferred was the interest from an Investment.

Mr. Bob McGlashan queried the transfer of £2,500 from the Reserve Fund into the Ordinary Fund. The Finance Convener said that this amount had to be transferred to keep it going, one reason being the non-payment of subscriptions.

Mr. Brian McKirgan moved adoption of the Finance Report, seconded by Mr. Bob Clelland.

200 CLUB

The President had inserted this item into the Agenda as she felt it warranted a place, though it had not been done previously.

Mr. Abe Train thanked everyone who had supported the 200 Club throughout his 11 years in office during which time he had been able to hand over the total sum of approximately £10,000. He hoped his daughter, Mrs. Freda Buddie, would have better support so that she could achieve where he had failed, in selling 200 shares in any one year.

Mrs. Freda Buddie introduced herself and said that her first draw would be made at the Dinner that evening. Payments throughout the year would depend on the number of shares bought by that night.

The President said that, without the money raised by Mr. Train, over the previous 11 years, the Federation would not be in such a healthy situation.

SCHOOLS COMPETITIONS

The Schools Competitions continue to flourish, although this session there was a drop of thirty nine in the number of participating schools. This can probably be explained in part at least by the continuing decline of school rolls, staff changes and also by the industrial action taken by Post Office workers last September. Fortunately the printers had made delivery of the schedules in time for 1st September and these were despatched at once to the various Regions, but it would appear that in certain areas problems then arose. Some evidence of this is to be found in an abnormally high flood of late applications being received.

The Burns Federation Executive wishes to acknowledge the invaluable assistance given by the Education Authorities and by Head Teachers and Staffs, without whose willing co-operation it would be extremely difficult to administer the Schools Competitions.

STATISTICS	No. of Competitors
Recitation	83254
Scottish Literature (Written)	7736
Singing	19221
Accompanying	408
Scottish Music (Instrumental)	2631
Individual Project Work	5062
Total Number of Competitors	118312
Number of Schools	674
Number of Merit Certificates	12349

The numbers competing in the various Sections follow the usual pattern, the exception being instrumental Music, where there was a significant drop.

ESSO PETROLEUM COMPANY

The Burns Federation owes a debt of gratitude to the Esso Petroleum Company for the very generous donation of £1500 handed over at the Burns Centre, Dumfries, on 29th October 1988 by Mr. Murdo Morrison, Public Relations manager. This continuing sponsorship of the Schools Competitions is greatly appreciated.

ART COMPETITION

Subject for Primary Schools : 'An interesting scene, building, trade or occupation in Scotland, past or present' or 'A Daring Rescue'.

There was a healthy response from Primary Schools, although the number of individual entries dropped considerably, possibly for economic reasons, only a small number of the best class paintings being sent in for adjudication. Sadly no entries were received from Secondary Departments, despite the fine ones submitted last year.

The Primary entries fully maintained the high standard of previous years, several of them being singularly attractive and displaying a maturity and sureness of touch quite remarkable in young children.

The marked variety in topics chosen by individual pupils may be observed from the following selection of titles:

Edinburgh Castle	Old Parish Church, Peebles
Braemar Castle	Sorn Kirk
Stirling Castle	Old Kirk Cathedral
Linlithgow Palace	Glasgow Cathedral in the 13th Century
Castle Life	A Scottish Mine in the 18th Century
The Old Black Croft House	The Cloch Lighthouse
Shipwrecked	Tobacco Lords in Glasgow
Bringing in the Catch	The Village Dance
The Fishwife	The Dyker

Primary Schools

Prize-winners:

- 1st Paul McRoberts, Glenburn P.S., Prestwick
- 2nd Derek Farquhar, Longhaugh P.S., Dundee
- 3rd Angela Flaherty, George Watson's Junior School, Edinburgh
- 4th Gavin Currie, Glenburn P.S., Prestwick
- 5th Colin Din, Longhaugh P.S., Dundee

Commended:

- Graham Blackie, Langlands P.S., Forfar
Craig Herdman, Gardenrose P.S., Maybole
Douglas Lindsay, Haldane P.S., Balloch
Scott McKay, Law P.S., Law, Lanarkshire
Craig Shaw, Glenburn P.S., Prestwick

Number of Entries : 343

TOSHIO NAMBA Art Trophy : Glenburn P.S., Prestwick

INDIVIDUAL PROJECT WORK ON ROBERT BURNS

Primary Schools were invited to send in several of their best individual entries for adjudication in an inter-school competition run on similar lines to the Arts Competition, and it is gratifying to report that sixty-two entries were received. All of these had been well researched and great care taken in their preparation. A number were of outstanding quality, showing originality of treatment and a most attractive and skilful presentation. The adjudicating panel found it a daunting task to select the winning entries, although a most interesting and rewarding one.

Prize winners:

- 1st Elizabeth Wrench, George Watson's Junior School, Edinburgh
- 2nd Yvonne Mills, Clarkston P.S., Airdrie
- 3rd Allan Versteeg, Dean Park P.S., Balerno
- 4th Ewin Smith, Dean Park P.S., Balerno
- 5th Alison Kelly, George Watson's P.S., Edinburgh

Commended:

- Elaine Allan, Langlands P.S., Forfar

Shona Clark, Ravenscraig P.S., Greenock
Elene Ogston, Kellands P.S., Inverurie
Katherine Wight, George Watson's Junior School, Edinburgh
Susan Wood, Clarkston P.S., Airdrie

Number of Entries : 62

Allex B. McIver Memorial Rose Bowl: George Watson's Junior School, Edinburgh

NATIONAL BURNS COMPETITION — 1988

The National Burns Competition, sponsored by the Esso Petroleum Company UK and hosted by the Howff Burns Club, Dumfries, was held in St. Joseph's College, Dumfries on Saturday 28th May 1988. Five Federation Districts took part—Ayrshire, Edinburgh, Renfrewshire, Southern Scottish Counties and Tayside.

This was a very successful competition with a display of talent of a high order matched with an infectious enthusiasm. The audience loved it, and all credit is due to Mrs. Peggy Thomson and her sub-committee of dedicated fellow workers for scoring another triumph.

Prize-winners:

Recitation:

Primary 4/5 1st Peter Harris, Renfrewshire
 2nd Francesco Ottoline, Tayside

Primary 6/7 1st Gavin Armstrong, Ayrshire
 2nd Katherine Beattie, Tayside

Singing:

Primary 4/5 1st Aileen McLaren, Edinburgh
 2nd Laura Beaton, Renfrewshire

Primary 6/7 1st David Morran, Tayside
 2nd Pauline Ailliwinkle, Edinburgh

Instrumental:

Primary 4/5 1st Katherine McDivitt, Renfrewshire
 2nd Laura Polland, Southern Scottish Counties

Primary 6/7 1st Fional May McPhee, Renfrewshire
 2nd Mark Longair, Edinburgh

McLauchland Trophy : Tie Tayside and Ayrshire
Dundee Trophy (Instrumental) : Renfrewshire

A great deal of effective and rewarding fieldwork has been carried out this session by various Burns Clubs and Associations in the vitally important task of ensuring that our young people have a proper appreciation of the richness of their Scottish heritage. Most encouraging reports have been received detailing the activities in which they have been engaged and voicing their satisfaction at seeing their efforts bear fruit. The following deserve praise for their good work:

Airdrie Burns Club A; The Airts Burns Club, Stonehouse; Alloway Burns Club; Ayr Burns Club; Balerno Burns Club; Bowhill People's Burns Club; Allanton Jolly Beggars Burns Club; Bonnie Jean Burns Club, Motherwell; Edinburgh District Burns Club Association; Howff Burns Club, Kilamnock;

Kilmarnock No. 0 Burns Club; Larkhall Burns Club; Lanarkshire Association of Burns Clubs; Lochee Burns Club; Perth Burns Club; Ayrshire Association of Burns Clubs; Renfrewshire Association of Burns Clubs; Southern Scottish Burns Association; Ayrshire Junior Writers Society.

In conclusion I should like to record my appreciation of the help, useful suggestions and encouragement received from the President, the Hon. Secretary, the Assistant Hon. Secretary and the enthusiastic members of the Schools Competitions Committee.

JAMES GLASS
Hon. Secretary, Schools Competitions

The President said that the Federation were very much indebted to Mr. Jim Glass and Mrs. Peggy Thomson, for their sterling work with the Schools Competitions.

Mr. Allan Stoddart moved adoption of the Schools Competitions Report, seconded by Mr. Bill Scott.

SCOTTISH LITERATURE COMMITTEE AND BURNS CHRONICLE

In the absence of Mr. Jim Mackay, the Convener of the Literature Committee, Mr. Wilson Ogilvie, presented the report of the Literature Committee and the Editor.

Your Committee have had as busy and eventful year with a great deal happening. Hopefully, we have helped to give the Federation the high profile it requires and surely deserves.

As always, our main remit has been the *Burns Chronicle*, which continues to reach a very high standard, thanks in great measure to Editor Jim Mackay. As we move towards our one hundredth volume, we are justifiably proud that very few such journals can claim such a 'run'. As always, we ask all club members to seek material and advertising for the Chronicle, as well as purchasing and reading it. Considering the numerical strength of, and great interest in, our movement, we ought not to have to struggle to market either the annual *Chronicle* nor the quarterly *Burnsian*.

Our two publications complement each other, with both serving rather different purposes. The former is a more permanent record, incorporating a club directory, again brief and fairly uniform club reports, as well as articles and papers on many Burns topics, often of a highly scholarly nature.

As the lines of demarcation between *Chronicle* and *Burnsian* are now clearer we are delighted to divide editorial responsibility, with Jim Mackay retaining the *Chronicle* and Publicity Officer Peter Westwood taking over the quarterly *Burnsian*. This is highly appropriate as it is thanks to Peter that the *Burnsian* saw the light of day, and it has proved highly successful at publicising events and giving quicker cover to newsworthy happenings, such as the recent National Burns Competition in verse and song at Greenock, and the most delightful evening at Finlaystone House. Please pass on all such material (with photographs) to Peter.

Our *Complete Works* continues to sell well, while the *Complete Letters* has been welcomed by many readers, introducing a new public to fresh insights, biographical and literary, into the Bard's works.

The third major publishing venture, that of *Burns A-Z* a concordance for the poet's work, caused us some concern during the year. Though potentially an outstanding publication, and an excellent aid to any student of Burns, we were worried by the poor initial response when we invited subscribers for a special edition to be published in 1990. However, we are most indebted to Jim Mackay who is busy compiling this mammoth work, for taking the book 'off our hands'. He will publish it at his own risk at the original prospectus price of £30. We strongly recommend the book to you. Though having more pages than the Works and the Letters, it will in all other ways be uniform to them and a must for any *Burnsian's* library.

Thanks to Peter, we hope to produce very reasonably priced cards shortly. These are very eye-catching, depicting our colourful Burns poster on one, and our recently acquired armorial bearings on the other. The books and cards mentioned can be purchased at the Dick Institute which will also supply price lists on request by Clubs and Districts. Profits on all sales boost our Federation funds and they require boosting.

In the wider field of Scottish literature and culture, much has been happening. A new translation of Burns into German is proving very popular while the universities of Johannes-Gutenberg (W. Germany) and Grenoble (France) have departments concentrating on Scottish Literature Studies. This augurs very well for the future, especially with a more closely knit European Community, and a greater movement of students and lecturers.

A number of important Scottish books, including Lorimer's *New Testament in Scots*, continue to sell well, while Canongate, the Scottish Academic Press and other publishers keep Scottish works to the fore over a wide range.

A highly scholarly new edition of Scott's works will be published in the near future, while Dr. Douglas Mack (Stirling University) plans a very full new edition of the Ettrick Shepherd's works. That University's contribution towards Scottish literary studies continues to impress.

Dr. Donald Low's highly authoritative work on the Songs of Burns will be published next year, as will a facsimile edition of Johnson's *Scots Musical Museum*. Along with *Burns A-Z*, these should be milestones in Burns studies.

In the world of drama, a TV version of *The Steamie* attracted much attention, as did a revival of *The Sash*, as well as its sequel *The Funeral*. These are only a few of the productions from the stage in Scotland.

Our Scottish National Library is celebrating its three hundredth anniversary, while the great city of Glasgow must be congratulated on being selected as *The Cultural Capital of Europe* in 1990.

We welcome a new Scottish Sunday newspaper - *Scotland on Sunday* - and the Scottish supplements which now form part of two English Sunday 'heavies', *The Sunday Times* and *The Observer*.

As well as the Edinburgh International Festival, a world leader in this field, a number of very successful smaller Arts Festivals are now regular happenings, with Perth, the Borders and Dumfries and Galloway being merely three examples. All of these deserve the support of our Burns movement.

As I stated, it has been a busy and eventful year, and my thanks must go to many people - our Committee, Federation Secretary John Inglis, our Assistant Secretary Rita, Editor Jim, Publicity Officer Peter - now also *Burnsian* Editor - and last but certainly not least, Federation President Anne for trojan efforts in gaining advertising for our publications.

D. WILSON OGILVIE
Convenor, Scottish Literature Committee

In conclusion, the Convenor paid tribute to Peter Westwood and to Jim Mackay for the tremendous amount of work they had put into Federation business in terms of Scottish Literature and the works of Burns.

EDITOR'S REPORT

I apologise for my absence from this meeting, due to the fact that I have business commitments in San Francisco, Singapore and Hong Kong in late August and the first half of September. Increasing pressure from my business as a numismatic consultant means that I no longer have as much time to

devote to Federation business as I would wish. For this reason I have decided to relinquish the editorship of *The Burnsian* to the capable hands of Peter Westwood who has been responsible from the outset for its production. I hope, however, to continue as Editor of *The Chronicle* and am looking forward very much to the one hundredth number, scheduled for publication a year hence. I have already begun work on this, and I intend to make a special number, worthy of such a landmark in the Federation's history.

The 1990 *Chronicle* is now ready and should be in your hands by now. It marks a return to the previous format and content, the most notable feature being the inclusion of the Club Reports. Understandably, *The Chronicle* is bigger than last year, but I have managed to save space by reducing the type size used in previous years. Apart from the very obvious saving in paper costs I hope that this will also help to mitigate the ever-increasing costs of postage.

I am very concerned that *The Chronicle* is not getting the support it needs, and most certainly deserves. We need to boost sales, and this in turn will make life easier for Anne Gaw in her unenviable task of securing advertisements.

I should like to express my thanks to Peter Westwood for securing for us the services of Solway Offset Services of Dumfries, in the printing and production of the current number.

Burns A — Z, the Complete Word Finder

In November 1988 the Executive of the Federation gave the go-ahead for this project, which I undertook to edit. From the outset, however, grave doubts were expressed even as to whether a decision to proceed had actually been taken, and as the sheer immensity of the project unfolded, there was a feeling that the commercial risk was too much for the Federation to stand. As a result, in April 1989 I absolved the Federation from all responsibility for the project and in order to keep faith with those who had subscribed up to that time I decided to continue alone.

In hindsight, I realise that this is something which the Federation should never have tackled. Unlike the *Complete Works* and the *Complete Letters*, this was a project whose length and magnitude could not be estimated until the job was completed. Our original notion of a mere reprint of Reid's Concordance, plus about fifty pages for supplementary material, was ludicrous in the extreme. Little did I realise, however, that the new volume would end up with 50% more entries than Reid!

Ideally, this is the sort of project which ought to have been undertaken by some university, with a mainframe computer, a large staff and unlimited time and funds at its disposal. It is not the sort of project which should have been undertaken with a fixed deadline, using the advance subscription method to fund it. The March 1990 deadline has meant many a week of eighty hours plus for both my wife and myself over the past year, while the advance subscription method has so far failed lamentably to meet its goal. At the time of writing we have three hundred and thirty subscribers — roughly half the number required to meet the production costs, without netting us a single penny for our labours.

To say that I am bitterly disappointed is an understatement. My only consolation is that I regard the work as a labour of love, and greater love hath no man than this. I can safely say that it is by far the most important literary task I have ever tackled, and at the end of the day that will be a solid achievement.

The subscription must close no later than 30th November 1989 in order for the List of Subscribers to be printed in the volume. From 1st December onwards the price of the book is being increased to £36 plus postage. Any copies unsubscribed by that date will be offered to libraries, universities and the book trade, to whom I shall be doing a mail-shot. Orders from private individuals, of course, will be welcomed, but only at the revised price. It is only right and proper that those who have had faith in the project to put their money up front should benefit by getting the book at the lower price of £30.

I must also emphasise that there will be no cheap edition, as there was with the previous two volumes. This is your only opportunity to secure this valuable and prestigious work.

JAMES A. MACKAY
Editor

Mr. Harry Hutchison asked why, when Mr. Jim Mackay had directed that reports for the Chronicle would be limited to 150 words, this had not been the case in the present *Chronicle*. In response delegates were asked to take back the direction that reports should be no more than 150 words.

Mr. Abe Train moved adoption of the Scottish Literature Report and the Editor's Report, seconded by Mrs. Freda Buddie.

MEMORIALS COMMITTEE REPORT

By the Eildon Tree Thomas the Rhymer entered Fairyland and, on his return, was able to forecast future happenings, good and evil, for his beloved country.

The unveiling of the plaque in the Border village of Earlston, where Burns stayed when following in the footsteps of that earlier Patriot Bard, Thomas of Learmont, was an unexpected addition to Scotland's story. The gift of second sight, had it also been resurrected, might have been a blessing to the Memorials Committee.

In Kilmarnock we successfully added our support to the Planning Inquiry against the proposal to sweep away the Wheatsheaf Hotel, one of the few associations left with the Town as Burns knew it. Only the gift of second sight could tell if this 18th century building will be other than a minor carbuncle in the eventual Developers' temple to Mammon. 'But oh, I backward cast my e'e on prospects drear' while in the hope of future progress.

The Hermitage at Friars' Carse has still not been restored.

The Tannock gravestone at the Auld High Kirk in Kilmarnock is repaired but the area is still vandalised.

During the silly season the Press reported the prospective glorious future of the Kay Park Monument but, like the Burns Garden, only a visit to some fairy knoll would make us forecast their fruition.

It has been reported that the Burns Heritage Trail is to be resurrected, but it is not going to be in this visitor season. When it is we hope that the hoary audio visual presentations to be seen in some of the Centres may be brought up to date. Some of the presentations are a bit stale, but we refute the suggestion that Burns sat in on their first production.

In Edinburgh the restoration of the Burns Monument nears completion.

Across the Border we recorded the sad loss of Stewart Thomson and welcome the documentation he had so carefully prepared about the vandalised Burns Monument in Heaton Park, Newcastle. Mrs. Ann Donnan has agreed to investigate the whereabouts of the remains with a view to their burial or resurrection.

The Arms of Burns

After almost two centuries, the shepherd's crook, the wee holly bush and the musical horn of the shepherd boy on the Braes of Atholl have been adopted as the device of Robert Burns. His device is designed, for the use of any member of Federated Burns Clubs.

The year is certainly not one of great achievement but only of consolidation.

The bright side must be the selfless work carried out, usually at expense to themselves, by people determined to preserve the Burns Heritage all over the country, and especially to a Committee who perhaps with foresight are always alert to forestall any threat to the Land of Burns.

SAMUEL K. GAW
Convenor, Memorials Committee

Mr. Gaw asked delegates to pay particular attention to one thing: to ensure that places connected with Robert Burns are maintained. Those who represent areas were asked to report on plans which might affect Burns memorials.

The President conveyed to Mr. Sam Gaw the thanks of the Federation for his tireless efforts in achieving the Coat of Arms. The Matriculation was on display.

In response to the question from Dr. Jim Connor, London, Ontario. Mr. Gaw said that the Coat of Arms on a Federation Flag would be taken on board, so that, as was agreed in London, Ontario, 10 years previously, the flag would be shown at Federation meetings.

In response to the question from Mrs. Mollie Rennie, the President said that there were many uses for the Coat of Arms which were being investigated, including its use on the Past President's badge.

Mr. George Anderson moved adoption of the Memorials Report, seconded by Mr. Ted Kozaciewicz.

PUBLICITY

In previous reports I indicated that there had been articles in the National Press criticising our National Bard. I am glad to report that while we were subject to the annual 'attack' during January, by and large the National Press coverage was fair.

Owing to the many and varied visitations and events attended by President Anne Gaw during the year, many of which I attended, it has been as a result a very active year publicity wise. Apart from the good these visits generate they have also helped to bring in a goodly number of subscriptions to *The Burnsian* and *The Burns Chronicle*, also with the provision of information or news of what is happening not only within the United Kingdom but on a worldwide basis.

The fact that many Burnsians do not support our publications, which in turn limits the number of copies we print, makes the role of our Advertising Manager extremely difficult if not impossible to obtain sufficient advertising to support the publications.

The publications are produced for you the members and they need your support, particularly so owing to the ever increasing costs of producing them.

As fully reported in *The Burnsian*, a number of important events took place throughout the year commencing with the highly successful Glasgow Festival Week-end, Dumfries Burns Howff Club Centenary, The Soiree with Robert Burns at Finlaystone House, Scots Wha Hae at Stirling Castle to name but a few. An equally important occasion was the matriculation of the Poet's Coat of Arms. All these events in their own way gave the Federation good publicity.

During the year we had a number of visits from Burnsians from overseas and we were delighted to meet Luiza Lobo from Brazil who was visiting the Burns Country. Luiza is in the process of translating the works of Robert Burns into Portuguese — such is the fame of Robert Burns.

PETER J. WESTWOOD
Publicity Officer

Mr. Westwood referred to part of the speech given in Russian by the President at the London Burns Club and expressed disappointment at the return of his letter to the Haggis Club of Nigeria with the reply Not known at this address - try Glasgow.

He said that there was a strong possibility that the format of the *Burnsian* might be changed to A4 size and he hoped to keep the price per copy posted in the UK at £2.00, including postage and packing. He was looking for correspondents from overseas, in particular USA, Australia, New Zealand and Canada where the 1993 Conference would be held, and also correspondents from all parts of the UK.

Full colour cards bearing the new Coat of Arms had been produced. These were suitable for Burns Supper programmes, greetings and Christmas cards. Cost to Federation Clubs and members for Menu/programmes/cards 13p each, £13 per 100 inclusive of VAT; post and packaging extra.

Official stationery/letterheads had also been produced in A4 size, cost £7.50 per 100 sheets, post and packaging extra.

All items could be overprinted at very realistic prices. Small profits would go to Federation funds.

Mr. Arthur Down moved adoption of the Publicity Officer's Report seconded by Mr. Harry McGuffog.

ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

In accepting the office of President, Mr. Hutchison Sneddon said that over the next 12 months he would be in a position to further the movement and increase the stature and prestige of the memory of Robert Burns.

In accepting the office of Senior Vice President, Mr. Jim Campbell said that he hoped that he would fulfil the wishes of the Federation in the next and coming years.

The three proposers introduced their candidates for the office of Junior Vice President. The three candidates were given the opportunity to introduce themselves before the election.

Mr. Donald Urquhart, Dumfries, was introduced as the new Junior Vice President.

Other Office Bearers duly elected were: Mr. John Inglis as Hon. Secretary and Treasurer; Mr. James Glass as Schools Convener; Mr. James Mackay as Editor of the *Burns Chronicle*; and Mr. Peter Westwood as Editor of the *Burnsian* and Publicity Officer.

Mr. Archie McArthur, long standing member of the Federation Executive, was presented with the badge of Honorary President and the President read a letter from Dr. Donald Low, Stirling University, on acceptance of the office of Honorary President.

MOTION 1

Submitted by North and East Midlands of England:

'That because of the number of Federated Societies unable to attend Conference, or be represented at the Annual General Meeting of the Burns Federation, the Executive of the Federation explore the possibility of introducing a system of Postal Voting and thus ensure that all Federated Societies have an opportunity of expressing their support - or otherwise - for any Motion brought up at the AGM'.

Mr. Les Jeavons spoke for the Motion. The President indicated that this subject was currently being investigated by Mr. Hutchison Sneddon as part of the amendments to the Constitution. Mr Jeavons agreed to leave it to the Executive for discussion, and withdrew the Motion.

MOTION 2

Submitted by North and East Midlands of England:

'That the Burns Federation give consideration to the formation of a Junior Membership whereby Burns Clubs or Kindred Societies of young people may become affiliated to the Federation for a nominal fee'.

The President said that she had submitted the Motion and spoke for it.

Mr. Sam Gaw said that, while he appreciated the problem as far as children were concerned, he said that special membership introduced many ramifications which had not been considered and moved a direct negative to the Motion, and ask the Executive to consider.

After discussion the president agreed to drop her Motion and to refer it to the Executive for discussion.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Hugh Hunter thanked the retiring President for the many journeys she made to visit Clubs during her year of office.

Mr. Derek Jones emphasised the usefulness of the *Burnsian*. He felt Clubs were not taking full advantage of the publication.

He referred to the article about *Burns Chronicles*, and read a letter received from Bill Beaton, Ontario, who had *Chronicles* from 1902, 1903 and 1906 as well as copies of 1930s and 1940s *Chronicles*.

Mr. John Morrison thanked those Clubs who had nominated him for the position of Junior Vice President and wished Mr. Donald Urquhart every success.

Mr. Charles Kennedy congratulated Mr. Donald Urquhart on his election to Junior Vice President, and thanked those who had voted for him.

Mr. John Inglis reported on the book by Alistair Campsie, *The Clarinda Conspiracy*, which was on sale from the Federation.

DATE AND PLACE OF NEXT CONFERENCE

Mr. Alistair Gowans invited delegates to the next Conference which would be held in Tayside. He said that before the Conference they hoped to have a new Masonic Lodge called the Burns Lodge of Dundee. The dates proposed were 14, 15 and 16 September, 1990.

The President closed the meeting at 12.30 p.m. and thanked everyone for their support throughout the year. She welcomed Mr. Donald Urquhart and gave commiserations to Mr. John Morrison and Mr. Charles Kennedy and hoped they would return again.

THE BURNS
STATEMENT OF INCOME AND
1st May, 1988 to

INCOME

ORDINARY

Balance at 1-5-88	96.75
Annual Subscriptions	
Current	3250.95
Arrears	358.68
Advance	386.16
Individuals	1905.71
Affiliation Fees	6.00
Post	81.60
Badges	280.72
Diplomas	11.90
Burns Check	153.50
Cards, Labels, Posters	48.50
Other Items	169.76
Miscellaneous	19.02
Transfer from Reserve Fund	2500.00
Gain on currency conversion	19.86
Donations	
Heather & Thistle	347.39
Hurlford Social Club	40.00
In Memory of J. Thomson	19.08
In Memory of J. Cutting	10.00
Newhall Burns Club	258.80
200 Club	1062.00
Interest	13.46
	11039.84

SCOTTISH

Balance at 1/5/88	13998.34
National Savings Income Bonds	20000.00
Burns Chronicle:	
Members	2082.81
Trade	617.61
Advertisements	875.00
The Burnsian:	
Subscriptions	659.96
Advertisements	405.00
Complete Works	901.10
Subscriptions	8583.00
Donations	1070.00
Centenary Book	32.00
Life of Burns	13.75
Song Book	262.24
Bairnsangs	28.50
Other Books	254.35
Schools Competitions Donations	4.00
Esso Petroleum Co.	1500.00
Alloway Burns Club	50.00
Complete Letters	962.43
Donation Dinwiddie's	750.00
Dr. Montgomerie	50.00
Royalty - B.B.C.	13.85
Income from Investments	2914.65
Interest	57.834
Investment adjustment	75.62
Transfer from Central Fund (G. M. Mackley Investment)	255.02
	56417.06

FEDERATION
EXPENDITURE FOR THE PERIOD
30th April, 1989

EXPENDITURE

FUND

Post	1476.28
Salary	7154.74
Stationery	476.02
Photocopies	338.98
Burns Check	352.10
Bank Charges	204.69
Other goods	154.60
Insurance	425.00
Engraving	12.24
Wreath	38.00
Scottish Banner	17.55
200 Club	12.00
Expenses of meetings	23.00
Office Equipment	75.50
Gratuity	52.00
Miscellaneous	5.90
Badges	100.00
Balance at 30/4/89	121.24

11039.84

LITERATURE FUND

Burns Chronicle:	
Trade Refunds	13.33
Printing	5350.00
Editor's Fee & Expenses	1237.29
Expenses and Post	573.69
Complete Works	23.50
The Burnsian:	6.65
Printing	2240.00
Editor	287.50
Expenses	31.00
A-Z post	318.96
Leaflet and Advert	135.71
Books	699.70
Schools Competitions:	
National Expenses	65.83
Printing	1326.88
Expenses	148.48
T. Namba's Book	250.00
Balance at 30/4/89	11339.74
£10733.52 8% Treasury Loan	
1992 (at cost)	10000.00
£20561.26 8½% Treasury Stock	
1994 (at cost)	10000.00
National Savings Income Bond	12000.00

56417.06

CENTRAL

Balance at 1/5/88	2943.86
£7600 8¼% Treasury Loan	
1987 (at cost)	6706.00
National Savings Income Bonds	6000.00
G. M. Mackley Investment	
9% Treasury Stock 1987/90	5000.00
Income from Investments	1471.80
Interest	81.98
Investment adjustment	22.68
Interest from G. M. Mackley	
Investment	510.04
	<hr/>
	22736.36

GENERAL

Balance at 1/5/88	103.45
Conference Collection	360.81
Interest	1.72
	<hr/>
	465.98

RESERVE

Balance at 1/5/88	6587.83
Interest	31.90
Tax Rebate	85.33
Garden Festival Refund	250.00
Garden Festival surplus	575.00
	<hr/>
	7530.06

VISITS

Balance at 1/5/88	1668.74
Donations – P. Westwood	99.63
From J. Dyal Investment	202.50
Interest	51.97
	<hr/>
	2022.84

J. DYALL

Balance at 30/4/88	95.51
£1500 9% Treasury Loan	
1992/96 (at cost)	1404.00
Interest on Investment	202.50
	<hr/>
	1702.01

FUND

Transfer to Literature Fund	
(G. M. Mackley Investment)	255.02
Balance at 30/4/89	1775.34
£7600 8¼% Treasury Loan	
1987/90 (at cost)	6706.00
£6427.27 8% Treasury Loan	
1992 (at cost)	6000.00
£5667.14 9% Treasury Loan	
1994 (at cost) G. Mackley	5000.00
National Savings Income Bonds	3000.00
	<hr/>
	22736.36

APPEALS FUND

Balance at 30/4/89	465.98
	<hr/>
	465.98

FUND

Hamilton Conference Expenses	1324.67
Legal Fees	86.25
Computer	1495.00
Corporation Tax	175.00
Transfer to Ordinary Fund	2500.00
Balance at 30/4/89	1949.14
	<hr/>
	7530.06

FUND

Official Expenses	500.00
Balance at 30/4/89	1522.84
	<hr/>
	2022.84

BEQUEST

Transfer to Overseas Visits Fund	202.50
Balance at 30/4/89	95.51
£1500 9% Treasury Loan	
1992/96 (at cost)	1404.00
	<hr/>
	1702.01

KILMARNOCK, 2nd MARCH, 1990


We have examined the Books and Accounts of The Burns Federation for the year ended 30th April, 1989 and have obtained all the information and explanations required. We certify that the foregoing Financial Statement is in accordance with the Books and we have verified that the Funds and Securities at 30th April, 1989 as shown in the Statement are correct.

HENRY BROWN & CO., Chartered Accountants.

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CLUB REPORTS

I am pleased to report that Club Secretaries have, by and large, heeded my request to restrict their reports to a maximum of 150 words. The place for more extensive coverage of Annual Suppers, meetings and social events is *The Burnsian* and such longer reports should be sent to Peter Westwood direct. A few secretaries commented how difficult it is to confine their reports to the required word length.

Andrew Taylor of Larkhall Burns Club wrote: 'I have striven to condense my report to the specified limit, but note with dismay that many club reports outlined in the 1990 *Chronicle* obviously exceed your required ceiling, e.g. numbers 226, 350, 405, 556, 566, 581, 665, 992, 1045 and 1058. Surely as an editor you reserve *carte-blanche* to edit some and even censure recalcitrant club secretaries.' He ends on a novel point: I trust that you will second my proposal that words containing three or fewer letters should be discounted. Likewise, abbreviations like St. and numbers.'

Point taken, Andrew. I was far too lenient on the more prolix reports last year, but I have exercised the editorial blue pencil more rigidly this year. As it takes almost as long to precis a report as it takes to write it in the first place, I have merely cut off a number of reports in mid-flight.

A 700-word report from Dollar Burns Club was totally illegible (it was a blurred photocopy from an over-inked original so that the result was unreadable), so I was unable to precis or cut it down. Haddington Golf Club and Birnbeck Burns Club merely sent their menus implying that I should compose reports based thereon. Montreal General Hospital Burns Society sent in a lengthy report intended for members' consumption, endorsed 'Precis my report if you wish'. Cupar Burns Club submitted a whole-page account from the local newspaper, endorsed 'extract as appropriate'. Uddingston Masonic Burns Club sent in the proforma, duly signed by the secretary — but the form itself was otherwise completely blank!

To those secretaries who sent in reports by the due date and stuck to my requests regarding word length, I extend my sincere thanks. I am pleased to add that most reports are now typewritten and not more than a handful of the handwritten reports were so carelessly written as to require that I should re-type them.

Reports from Winnipeg, Nottingham and Melbourne arrived too late for publication.

ANNUAL REPORTS OF CLUB ACTIVITIES

0. Kilmarnock Burns Club. The Anniversary Dinner was held in The Hunting Lodge, Kilmarnock on 26th January 1990. The Immortal Memory was proposed by William Aitken, 'The Lassies' proposed by the vice-president and replied by Mollie Rennie, Past President of the Burns Federation. The evening was chaired by President Enez Logan.

St. Andrew's Night dinner was held on 2nd December 1989. Hugh Hunter proposed the toast 'Auld Scotia'.

In October our Club held a very successful inter-club night with 100 people present from various clubs.

Alasdair M. Gordon.

10. Dumbarton Burns Club. The Annual Supper was held at Dumbuck Hotel on 26th January, a record number being in attendance. Total raised for Homes Appeal and Erskine Hospital £565.00. To mark the retirement of our Lord Lieutenant Brig. Alistair Pearson we offered, and he kindly accepted, the position of Permanent Guest of Honour at our table.

St. Andrew's night was held at the above venue and the evening was enjoyed by all. Our A.G.M. marked the end of an era in our Club, as Jimmy Hempstead had decided to retire from the committee; his counsel will be sorely missed.

James Hutton.

11. Chesterfield & District Caledonian Association. President Brian Evangelista and his wife Marie (both formerly from Rosyth), welcomed 222 members and guests to our annual Burns Dinner

and Dance. The Immortal Memory was ably given by Mr. Guy Miller from Carluke. The occasion was one of the most enjoyable in the history of the Society, the highlights of the evening being the Address to the Haggis by our President, and the excellent music provided by the Bain Brothers from Glenrothes.

Our Society have had a varied programme of events throughout the past year: Walking Treasure Hunts; Car Rally, Golf Competition; Bowls Competition; Halloween Party; St. Andrew's Dinner and Dance; Hogmanay Party; and the President's Reception where we were honoured to be able to entertain neighbouring Presidents and their Consorts.

James Law Bullions.

14. Dundee Burns Club. The 130th Burns Supper was held on our Club Rooms on Saturday 27th January where our members and guests celebrated the anniversary in traditional style, under the Chairmanship of our President, Dave Kettles. The Club was privileged to have as the principal speaker, Gordon Wilson, M.P., Convener of the Scottish National Party, who gave a felicitous and scholarly Immortal Memory. The other chief features of the evening's entertainment were the humorous 'Death and Doctor Hornbook' by our long serving treasurer, Tom Hay, and 'Tam o' Shanter' brought to life by Denis Graham in his own inimitable way.

The Annual Members' Dinner in June and St. Andrew's Night in November once again proved very popular. The evening's entertainment, including recitations and songs, was provided by various members of the Club. Monthly meetings were held throughout the year and continued to serve as a platform for discussion and debate.

Edward R. Bonnar.

15. Belfast Burns Association. At the Anniversary Supper, Peter Westwood proposed the 'Immortal Memory' during which he provided local interest by quoting extracts from a Belfast newspaper reporting the activities and death of Robert Burns. Bob Livingston addressed the Haggis and proposed the toast 'the Land we bide in'. The Deputy Lord Mayor of Belfast, Alderman John Parkes replied and also brought greetings from Belfast City Council. S.W. Anderson (T.S.B.) who presented J. Cochrane, Past President, with a replacement chain of office, proposed the toast to 'the Lassies'. Mrs. Ellen Andrews replied. At the end of the evening the President, Miss Jean Annesley thanked all the visiting speakers and artistes.

A memorable day was had by 14 members in the month of June when they visited Dumfries and met with President Anne Gaw and Peter Westwood. Some members of the Dumfries Burns Howff Club acted as guides.

Miss Sheila Simms.

20. Airdrie Burns Club. The 105th Anniversary Dinner was held in the Sir John Wilson Town Hall on Friday 26th January 1990 and was attended by 165 members and guests. The largest since our Centenary. The Immortal Memory was proposed by Wilson Humphries, better known in footballing circles. The toast to The Lassies was proposed by Walter Hayburn, an English teacher.

Twenty one Primary Schools participated in our Annual Completion. This is becoming more popular each year, giving children the opportunity to learn or to express themselves in things Burnsian or Scottish. We are greatly assisted by Airdrie Savings Bank who co-ordinate the events. Each school received a Computer package, 'The Souvenir Trail'.

Matthew Hood.

21. Greenock Burns Club. Greenock Burns Club (The Mother Club) held its Annual Celebration Dinner in the Tontine Hotel, Greenock, on Thursday 25th January 1990 with an attendance of 150. The President, Mr. Rankin Kelly took the chair and gave everyone a most sincere welcome. "Oor ain" piper Mr. Tom Mutch piped in the haggis, which was addressed with exuberance by Mr. John Allan. Our principal speaker, Dr. Andrew Noble, vice-dean of Strathclyde University, in a most interesting if serious speech, concentrated on Burns 'The Scottish Nationalist and Radical' much to the appreciation of his audience.

Mr. David Bryce 'verbally slew the lassies' in a very humorous toast. Susan McLean of IBM was more

than a match for David in her reply.

The 'Toast to the club' was ably proposed by Mr. Chris. Robertson, who spiced his speech with wit in making references to 'The Mother Club'. Mrs. Jane McGilp, Senior Vice-President replied. Alec Monteath the well known Scots actor of 'Take the High Road' fame, gave a rousing and colourful rendition of Tam o' Shanter earning him a much deserved standing ovation. Music by Mr. Gordon Armour, songs from Kate Carson and "artistes" added flavour to the evening.

Club Bard, Miss Mabel Irving M.A. in her own indomitable fashion, gave us 'The Nicht's Ongauns' with humorous verse. Mr. John Allan, Junior Vice-President, complimented all concerned in making the dinner such an enjoyable occasion, by giving a very warm vote of thanks.

The many cards with good wishes from kindred societies were on display, and were much admired and appreciated.

On St. Andrew's Night, Miss Mary Aytoun MBE from Edinburgh spoke with fervent conviction, informing the gathering that Scotland is a country and a nation, not to be treated as a 'region'. Mr. John McLellan, IBM plant director, proposed the toast to 'Scots Abroad', Mr. Ninian Smith suitably replied, endeavouring to 'European' us.

We've had a very varied programme this year, including, on a glorious Sunday in May, a super visit to the Mauchline homes where we revelled in the hospitality, then on to Culzean. Much of our time this session has been devoted to the school children, debates, music and recitation, festivals, a Burns Supper, the club's involvement in nurturing for the future is to the fore.

We lost some auld friends this year: Mr. J.E. Morton, Mr. P. Gatherer and one of our star performers, Mr. George Couper, a regular at Federation Conferences.

David Fulton.



*Back Row: Mr. T. Mutch; Mrs. K. Carson; Mrs. Noble; Miss M. Irving; Mr. A. Monteath;
Mrs. J. Cameron; Mr. J. Blair; Mrs. J. McGilp; Mrs. J. Allan.
Front Row: Mr. D. Bryce; Mrs. Kelly; Dr. Andrew Noble MA DPhil; Mr. Rankin Kelly, President;
Mrs. S. McLean; Mr. C. Robertson.*

26. Perth Burns Club. A capacity attendance of 100 attended the Annual Dinner in the Salutation Hotel, Perth on Saturday 27th January 1990. The company were welcomed by the president, Mr. Hector D. Chisholm who also addressed the haggis and proposed the Selkirk Grace. A warm, thoughtful and sincere Immortal Memory was proposed by the Rev. David D. Ogston of St. John's Kirk, Perth. Club member, Mr. Frank Martin proposed the toast to The Lassies which was ably replied to by Councillor Mrs. Jean McCormack. Singers, Marion Neilson and Craig Young were accompanied at the piano by Martin Neilson and Andy Johnston gave a selection of fiddle music. The piper was Ian Dickson. Recitations were given by Peter Brennen (Tam o' Shanter) and David W. Purdie (Holy Willie's Prayer). Vice-president Mr. Donald Paton proposed the vote of thanks.

The annual outing in June 1989 visited Mellerstain House, Kelso and was favoured with excellent weather.

Guest speakers at the monthly meetings from September to April were - Mr. Christopher Dingwall (Landscapes of Robert Burns' Highland Tour), Mr. Alex. McCrindle (Scots Poetry), Lt. Col. John Forsyth (Scottish Tartans), Mr. Malcolm Payne (Scottish Countryside Commission).

The annual Schools Festival on 19th November attracted over 50 entries from schools throughout Perth and Kinross District for the competitions in Scottish solo singing and verse speaking.

The St. Andrew's Night was held in the White Horse Inn on Saturday 2nd December.

At the March meeting members of the Lochee Burns Club, Dundee visited the club for a 'Nicht o' Sangs and Clatter'.

Donald N.M. Paton.

33. The Glasgow Haggis Club. Our Annual Dinner this year was held in the Hospitality Inn on Saturday 27th January. The Function was attended by 561 members and guests. Our President David Sibbald chaired the Dinner in excellent fashion and the Immortal Memory was proposed by Tom Myles. The Toast to the Lassies was proposed by Colin Guthrie and the Reply was given by Mrs. Helen Burton, the wife of one of our members. The entertainment was provided by Ex President David Scott and Adam Dalgleish, Cronie Crispin Allan and Christine McConchie accompanied where appropriate by Edward Johnston. The Dinner on this occasion was attended by a number of the Monte Carlo Rally Challenge Club who were departing for Monte Carlo at 8.00 a.m. the next morning.

We are currently looking forward to our Spring Outing to Dumfries. In the course of the year we have a Golf Outing, a Bowling Competition and our Spring Outing which is arranged round places of interest in connection with Robert Burns.

David Watson.

35. Dalry Burns Club. The 165th Annual Supper was held in Dalry Community Centre on 26th January 1990. The Chairman was Robert Burns and the Croupier was Hugh Hodge. The following toasts were given:- 'Memory of Burns' - Robert Burns, 'Jean Armour' - Hugh Hodge, 'Deceased Members' - C. Oswald, 'Land o' Cakes' - W. Sim, 'Guests' - H. Adams, 'Song Writers' - D. Sturgeon, 'Town and Community of Dalry' - R. Barr. Readings were given by J. Halliday and T. Wilson. L. McCall, H. Hodge and A. Findlay sang appropriate songs and excellent musical entertainment was provided by J. Clark, W. Sim, D. Sturgeon and F. McLellan. I. Mathieson was the club piper.

The annual St. Andrew's Night Dance took place in Hotel-De-Croft, Dalry, on 24th November 1989 attended by over 100 members and friends and a great nights dancing was enjoyed by all to the fine music of D. Sturgeons Band.

The annual School Burns Competition was held on 12th March 1990; a large number of children competed and a high standard was achieved by all.

W.D. Walker.

40. Aberdeen Burns Club. Our Anniversary Dinner was held at the Bucksburn Moat House Hotel. The Immortal Memory was given by Thomas Crawford, Toast to the Lassies, Mr. John Greig; Reply Mrs. M. Bonney. Our singers from the Aberdeen Opera Society were Mr. Gordon Strachan and Mrs. Alison Henderson.

It is hoped we have a summer drive, destination yet to be decided.

Mrs. Irene Fraser.

42. Strathearn Burns Club. The Strathearn Burns Club held its Annual Dinner on Saturday 27th January, in the Drummond Arms Hotel, Crieff, where 109 people sat down to an excellent meal that was expeditiously served and cleared before the toasts and entertainment. The Chairman for the evening was the Club Secretary, Michael Kidd. The toast to the Immortal Memory was proposed by the Rev. Stanley Strachan from Muthill who saw the Poet's lasting appeal in his honest humanity rather than in cold academics. The toast to The Lassies was wittingly proposed by the Club's President, Alec Cameron, to which a highly original reply was delivered with verve by Mrs. Gwen Boswell from Errol. The speeches were interspersed between songs from Isobel Mieras who accompanied herself on the clarsach and Bruce Wilson who was accompanied by Jim Laurie, fiddle playing by Peter Davies, and recitations by Michael Kidd and Francesca Ottolini of St. Dominic's Primary School. Barry Niven addressed the haggis which was piped in by Peter Lowe who also welcomed members and guests with his playing. The vote of thanks was proposed by Stanley Shimeld.
Michael G. Kidd.

47. Bridgeton Burns Club. The Annual Supper was held on 25th January 1990 at the Holiday Inn in Glasgow attended by a full compliment of 650 members and guests. The Immortal Memory was proposed by James Brodie with supporting speeches by Ian Rarity and Douglas Dalgleish. Three winners from our Schools Competition performed for the assembled company along with the somewhat more elderly Crispian Allen, accompanied by Eddie Johnstone. The evening was generally agreed to be an enormous success and raised a record collection to finance the running of our Schools Competition.

Our competition for schools in the East End of Glasgow took place at the beginning of December last year and the Schools Concert for prizewinners on 2nd February. We have had a highly successful year under the Presidency of Jack Mallard and look forward to the coming year under our new President Ian Robb.

George Moore.

48. Paisley Burns Club. Annual Dinner - Members and guests enjoyed a fine evening under the Chairmanship of Dr. Jim Young, our President. His 'Immortal Memory' sustained the excellent standards we have come to expect. The traditional toasts were proposed and honoured. The Second Literary Toast was to Stuart Lamont by Rev. Johnston McKay. Music was by our own members - and of a very high standard.

The Outing in June was to the Galloway Hills. It was led by President Dr. Jim Young who knows the area intimately. We had good weather, good company, good food and wine—and we learned and saw a great deal.

Robert Y. Corbett.

50. Stirling Burns Club. The Annual Supper took place in the Golden Lion Hotel, Stirling on 26th January 1990. The Immortal Memory was proposed by The Reverend Charles B. Edie, a past President of the Club. A company of approximately one hundred attended.
Henry Robb.

55. Derby Scottish Association and Burns Club. The President, Dr. Stewart Wilson, welcomed a gathering of 130 members and friends who assembled at the Pennine Hotel, Derby on Thursday 25th January to celebrate the Bard's birthday. After the meal 'The Immortal Memory' was given by past President, Dr. Archie Hunter, who had obviously done a great deal of research and held his audience spellbound. There then followed the toast 'The Land We Live In'. This was given by Mr. Jack Macfarlane and replied to by the Mayor of the City of Derby.
Mrs. Kathleen Dick.

59. Gourrock Jolly Beggars. The 97th Annual Dinner was held in Castle Levanne Hotel on Friday 26th January 1990. The Immortal Memory was proposed by Drew Cochrane from Largs, toast to Lassies and Reply by Roger Manson and Bill Knox. Hector McPhail piped in the Haggis and addressed by Bob Smith. Songs by Bill Hamilton and Readings by Findlay McGill and Bob Smith

completed a most enjoyable evening.

The competition for Books and Certificates was held in Gourrock Primary School; 50 pupils took part. Robert Smith.

69. Dunedin Burns Club. 73 Members and Guests attended the Anniversary Dinner held at the Savoy Restaurant on Thursday 25th January 1990. President David McIntosh welcomed our honoured guests, the Deputy Mayor Mr. J. Bezett and his wife. Miss Andrina Keach, winner of the Burns Song Contest, Mrs. Jackie Seque, New Zealand Champion Highland Dancer, and Dr. Ian Cairns who proposed the Immortal Memory. A lovely meal was enjoyed by all. The Haggis was addressed by Mr. Stan Forbes, who is a prominent singer in the club.

Our Club was very delighted when Debbie Cairns, who was sponsored by the Club, won the Queen O' the Heather contest during Scottish Week. An accomplished singer, Debbie will serve the club well.

Our committee is currently in the midst of planning our Centennial Celebrations for February 1992. We hope to have Kenneth McKellar, an Honorary Member of the club, to be our special guest. Miss Julie Campbell.

74. The National Burns Memorial Homes. Our Annual Supper was held at the Homes on 5th February attended by our Cottagers, the Committee and various local guests. Mr. Robert Lawrence, one of our Cottagers, proposed the Immortal Memory.

Two bowling matches were held with the Glasgow & District Burns Association last year, namely on 3rd June and 19th August. Our Homes won the first match and the Association were the victors in the second match. Both matches were followed by a supper held in turn at our Homes and at the Jean Armour Burns Houses. Both occasions were enjoyed by all.

Alastair J. Campbell.

85. Dunfermline United Burns Club. The 174th Anniversary Dinner of Dunfermline United Burns Club was held in the City Hotel on 17th January 1990, chaired by the Right Hon. The Earl of Elgin and Kincardine. The address to the Haggis was given by Mr. Ian M. Terris. Artists were Crispin Allen, Patti Duncan and David Scott. Dr. Ian Grimble proposed the 'Immortal Memory of Robert Burns' in great and typical style, and 'The Lasses' were toasted by Mr. David Brown M.A., LL.B., the toast being very ably responded to by Miss Valerie Waddell, LL.B. Bill Hamilton again delighted all present with his rendering of 'Tam o' Shanter'.

The traditional wreath-laying ceremony at the Bust of the Bard was held in the Murison-Burns Room at Dunfermline Carnegie Library on 17th January, the oration being given by Miss Louise Hendry. Minutes prior to the ceremony, a 'Blast o' Janwar Wind' had damaged the roof of the building and brought down part of the ceiling directly above the Marble Bust of Robert Burns, so in the decidedly dusty atmosphere of the otherwise splendid Murison Burns Collection Room, it could truly be said that all Dunfermline United members attending the ceremony left well and truly 'plastered'. Secretary John Torrie expects an even larger turnout next year!

Ian M. Terris.

89. Sunderland Burns Club. Our week of celebrations started with a service in St. George's U.R. Church, taken by Rev. Ian McLeod; followed by lunch at the Roker Hotel.

On Saturday 27th January, the wreath laying ceremony was held in the Central Library, and after a short oration, President Anne Donnan, placed the laurel wreath on the Bust of Burns.

The 93rd Anniversary Dinner was held on Saturday 27th January 1990 in the Roker Hotel, and was enjoyed by 134 members and friends. In fact, this was a dinner to be remembered for its overall success - highest ever present for some years; excellent speeches, delightful meal and dancing long after midnight. 'The Immortal Memory' was a delightful oration by Vice-President, Mr. F. Sinden, and he also 'Addressed the Haggis'; 'Toast to the Lasses' was given by Dr. Ian Donnan, M.B., Ch.B.D.Av.Med.; and, with tongue in cheek, Mrs. Winnie Black gave a witty reply; Vote of thanks was ably given by Mr. David Black.

The season of successful and happy monthly meetings has drawn to a close - apart from the A.G.M. Mrs. M. Wilson.

95. Bolton Burns Club. Our Burns Dinner was held on 26th January 1990. President, Mrs. Constance Craine, welcomed the Honorary Guests, Mayor and Mayoress of Bolton; Mr. Burton McLeod, Past President of Lancashire & Cheshire Federation, and his wife. Mr. McLeod proposed The Immortal Memory; Mr. Noel Milner proposed The Lassies with appropriate reply by Mrs. Marjory Houlihan; and Mr. Fred Sinden gave a most moving Address to the Haggis. During the Dinner he rendered a few Scottish songs. The collection for the Jean Armour Homes amounted to £90.00.

Two other main events held were St. Andrew's Night Supper Dance and the President's Evening. The usual monthly Literary and Social evenings were held from September to May. These were well attended by members and friends.

On 27th November 1989 we were saddened at the passing of our Honorary President, Andrew McClure, a native of Mauchline. He was a Burnsian through and through, not just on 25th January. He was one of the founder members who reformed our Club in 1953.

Mrs. W.D. Diggle.

112. Dumfries Burns Howff Club. The 101st Anniversary Dinner was held in the Globe Inn on 25th January 1990, when a capacity gathering was spell bound by an 'Immortal Memory' masterly proposed by Professor David W. Purdie of Ayrshire and Hull. The 'Lassies O' was toasted by Mr. Andrew Mackie, Lockerbie. Artistes included Andy McClymont, Balmaclellan and Edwin Young, Sanquhar. The chair was occupied by President, Walter Little. Special guest was Setsuo Kato, Photo-Journalist from Japan.

The Club entered its second century in good heart with a full programme of social, sporting and cultural activities.

During the Guid Nychburris celebrations in June 1989, the Club's float in the decorated vehicle parade won the first prize in the horse-drawn section and the trophy for the best overall.

The Globe Inn was the setting for a Grand Haggis Challenge when the Club's haggis maker, Kerr Little, the President's brother, easily beat off an attempt by an audacious Sassenach haggis from Cheshire to claim the championship title.

The Club hosted a memorable concert by Glasgow Phoenix Choir in Dumfries Academy Hall as an event in the first Nithsdale Burns Festival in September 1989.

A superbly enjoyable Mediaeval Banquet at Ecclefechan brought a remarkable season to a close in March 1990.

D.C. Smith.

126. Falkirk Burns Club. The Annual Celebration of Falkirk Burns Club took place in the Stakis Park Hotel, Falkirk on Friday 26th January 1990.

President Willie McRae welcomed 175 members and guests who heard Sandy Niven propose The Immortal Memory and Alasdair MacCallum, Vice-Chairman, C.B.I. Scotland, propose the Toast to Scotland. The Bard's birthday was celebrated in the usual style and the company was entertained by singer, David Faulds. First class recitations were given by Bill Graham, well known local figure, and the driving force behind Falkirk District's Children and Youth Theatres.

W. Iain Cunningham.

149. Elgin Burns Club. The Annual Supper was held in the Town Hall, Elgin on Thursday 25th January 1990. Our new President Dr. John Macdonald was in the chair and welcomed 186 members and guests. Principal guest was Rev. Prof. Murdo Ewen Macdonald, who proposed the Immortal Memory to great acceptance and received a well-deserved standing ovation.

W.D.G. Chambers.

217. Eskdale Burns Club. Around 100 people attended our Annual Supper which was held on Friday

26th January 1990 in the Eskdale Hotel, Langholm. All the Speakers and Entertainers were of a very high standard and The Immortal Memory proposed by our chief guest, Mr. Jim Jackson of Annan, was especially well received.

A small but enthusiastic company enjoyed our Scots Night held on 6th April 1990 in the Buck Hotel, Langholm when, with our Hon. President Mr. Alan Weatherstone as compere, they were entertained by several singers, a brass quartet and a solo fiddler.

The evening closed with the community singing of several well known Scottish songs.

Nicole Elliot.

220. The Burns Club of St. Louis. The Burns Club of St. Louis, founded in 1905 by William K. Bixby, the father of the 1904 St. Louis World's Fair, had been on the rolls of the Burns Federation since 1913. The Burns Club of St. Louis is the longest standing Federation member in the United States and the second longest standing Federation member in the Western Hemisphere.

The forty distinguished members of the Club, along with twelve guests assembled on Saturday 27th January 1990 for our annual dinner to honour the Bard and to salute the Scottish heritage that played such a significant role in the development of both our city and region.

The club honoured the memory of our recently deceased President, James M. Canavan, Jr. Our principal speaker, William H.T. Bush, distinguished brother of George Bush, President of the United States, addressed us on the Folk Music Legacy of Robert Burns.

The Club's annual golf outing was held on Wednesday 20th June 1990 at the Log Cabin Club. Thirty-two members and guests participated.

Talmage E. Newton III.

226. Dumfries Burns Club. On Thursday 25th January 1990 105 members, guests and friends attended the Anniversary Dinner held in the Cairndale Hotel. The President of the Club, Mr. John Davies, O.B.E., was in the chair. The Immortal Memory was submitted by Sir Charles Fraser, K.C.V.O. The Toast to Nithsdale was proposed by Mr. Alistair Johnston, Chairman of Gates Rubber Company, and replied to by ex-Provost Kenneth Cameron, J.P. The Toast to the Lassies was proposed by Mr. William Williamson and replied to by Miss Lucinda Beveridge.

Earlier on 25th January, a wreath was laid on Burns Statue outside Greyfriars Church and the President and members of the Club attended the Anniversary Memorial Service in St. Michael's Church, Dumfries. Immediately after the Service the President presided at the Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Mausoleum when wreaths were laid on behalf of the local community and local Burns Club. The tradition of laying a wreath on behalf of the Stratford-upon-Avon Caledonian Society was continued. John A.C. McFadden.

238. Burns Club of Atlanta. Annual Supper - For the eightieth time since it was built in 1910 Atlanta Burnsians saluted the bard's birthday in their unique replica of Burns' birthplace. 75 members and guests crowded butt, ben and byre on 27th January to hear Federation editor Jim Mackay invoke the Immortal Memory. HM Consul General Barry Holmes and Clan Graham's North American chieftain, Richard Graham, respectively toasted the President and the Queen. Maj. General Bob Bunker, USA, presented the toast to the nation and former member Bill Scott addressed the 'great chieftain o' the puddin' race.' Jim Montgomery was installed as president as John Bell completed two years in the office.

Atlanta Burns Club programs the first Wednesday of each month concentrated in 1989 on understanding better the social, political, cultural and economic atmosphere which moulded Robert Burns. In September a record 450 guests gathered for the annual ceilidh, which raises funds for maintenance of the club's Burns Cottage replica. The Cottage was the star of the neighbourhood's annual tour of homes and was the scene of the kickoff of a statewide poetry contest.

A. McArthur Irvin.

252. Alloway Burns Club. Our Burns Anniversary Dinner was held on 24th January 1990, in the idyllic and most appropriate setting of the Burns Monument Hotel, Alloway. The President, Dr. James Begg, welcomed the 120 guests and then introduced the Top Table. The youthful piper, Craig

Sturgeon, made the rafters dirl as the haggis was ceremoniously piped in to be addressed in brilliant fashion by Mr. Allan Stoddart.

The Rev. J. Walter McGinty, B.A., in a meticulously researched and absorbing toast to 'The Immortal Memory' thoroughly merited the standing ovation which followed. The toast to 'The Lassies' and the Reply were most expertly handled by two most redoubtable protagonists, Mr. Tom Raffel of the Land O' Burns Centre, Alloway and Mrs. Marjorie McKinlay. Mr. Allan Stoddart gave his customary most effective readings and the singers, Mr. and Mrs. Grant Donald, were a delight to the ear. The toast to 'The Artistes' was ably proposed by Mr. John Skilling and Mr. R. Galloway in his toast to 'The Chairman' paid well-merited tribute to the President.

The annual programme also included a talk on Robert Burns by 3 of our members, an interesting visit to Burns Cottage, a Holy Fair Stall at Rozelle, a Summer Prize Draw and a Coffee Evening. A St. Andrew's Night celebration with an outstanding address by Mr. Sandy Lyle, a Hostess Whist Drive and to finish an enjoyable Scots Night.

James Glass.



Alloway Burns Club's Top Table:

Mr. McKinlay, Mrs. Raffel, Mrs. McGinty, Mrs. Stoddart, Mrs. Glass, Mr. Stoddart, Mr. Glass, Mrs. McKinlay, Rev. J. McGinty, President Dr. J. Begg, Mrs. Begg, Mr. Raffel, Piper Craig Sturgeon.

263. Glasgow Masonic Burns Club. The Annual Supper was on 9th February. President Andrew Thomson welcomed 65 guests and members, with a special welcome for Fred C. Jordan, one of our Veteran Cronies. The speakers were excellent, our guests being Matt McCubbin, Peter Westwood, John McMurdo and Nan McKenzie. The replies on behalf of the club - G. Anderson, J. Darroch and C. McCall. Entertainment was provided by Bill Dennistoun, Ian Caskie and John McMurdo. William Lawson.

275. Ayr Burns Club. The Annual Supper was held in Gartferry Hotel, Ayr on Thursday 25th January 1990. The chairman was Club President, Mr. Alex Macpherson, who also gave a first class toast to the Haggis. Mr. Sandy Lyle gave a splendid Immortal Memory. Mr. Michael Baillie proposed the Toast to Auld Ayr and reply given by Provost Daniel McNeill, who also welcomed his guest for the evening Mr. Frank Warsop, Chairman of Nottinghamshire County Council, here on an exchange visit. A most humorous toast to the Lassies was proposed by Mr. Hugh Farrell and an equally hilarious reply given by Mrs. Georgie Giddings. Delightful singing by Mrs. Jean McArthur and Mr. Jim Burns, accompanied by Mr. Paul Cohn, and recitations from Miss Emma Fullerton, completed the evening's entertainment.

A pleasant afternoon was enjoyed at Leglen Wood on 23rd July 1989, when Rev. Wm. Milligan gave a fine oration. Wreaths were laid at Burns Statue, Ayr by representatives from various clubs in Ayrshire prior to the service on this date and also on 25th January 1990.

Mr. Alasdair Hutton, ex Euro M.P. was the speaker at a successful St. Andrew's Night Supper in the Gartferry Hotel, Ayr on 30th November 1989.

The children's concert in Cathcart Hall on 22nd February 1990 was popular as ever and the children gave most enjoyable performances. Mr. Glass was absent due to illness but our thanks are due for his organisation of this event. The season finished with the President's Night on 22nd March when members and friends provided first class entertainment.

Martha McKellar.

293. Newcraighall Welfare Poesie Nansie Burns Club. Our Annual Supper was held in Niddrie Bowling Club on Friday 26th January 1990 with a company of approximately 70 attending. The 'Immortal Memory' was proposed by Mr. Ian Wightman, one of our recent new members, and he performed the honour with the wit and sincerity the occasion demanded. Our President, David Robertson, conducted events in an efficient manner ensuring once again that our Supper was a great success and we can say 'The night drave on wi' mirth and sang' and the evening was enjoyed by all. R.M. Henderson.

303. St. Andrew's & Caledonian Society, Victoria, B.C. Canada. The 131st consecutive Annual Burns Night Dinner was held on Saturday 27th January 1990 at Holyrood House in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. Formed in 1859, the St. Andrew's & Caledonian Society is the oldest Scottish society in western Canada.

Pipe Major Jamie Troy led Haggis Bearer Campbell Small and Escorts Alan Murray and William Young in the Grand Entry of the Haggis ceremony. David Auld delivered the Address to the Haggis while Tom Ferguson presented the Immortal Memory. Piping selections, auld Scotch songs and dancing were part of the evening's entertainment.

Some 160 members and guests enjoyed their Burns Night Dinner - one of many that took place in Victoria this year honouring the Immortal Bard.

William Young.

323. Kirkcudbright Burns Club. The Annual Supper was held in the Mayfield Hotel, Kirkcudbright. Alistair Crawford, Kirkcudbright, proposed The Immortal Memory. The Lassies were humorously proposed by John Duncan, from Maybole; the toast to Agriculture by John Neil, Castle Douglas; Tourism, by Colin Warden, Kirkcudbright. The company was enthralled by Sandy Henry's rendering of Holy Willie's Prayer and songs by Don McLean.

Adam Gray.

329. Newark & District Caledonian Society. Burns celebrations. Very well attended. Immortal Memory proposed by Mr. Jim Young; Address to the Haggis by Mr. David Hamilton, Past President of the Society. (Mr. Jim Young being a past Chieftan of Lagos Caledonian Society.) We were indeed honoured.

St. Andrew's celebration. Marked by Church Service and Luncheon.

A Coffee Evening held in June proved to be very profitable.

Mrs. E. Hamilton.

336. Peterhead Burns Club. The 164th Anniversary Dinner was held in the Palace Hotel on Friday 26th January. The 270 members and guests in evening dress were treated to a very knowledgeable Immortal Memory from James Nicol, Junior, a Peterhead man, now Rector of Crieff High School, and son of one of the club's oldest members. The toast of 'Other Scottish Poets' with the accent on the Doric was in the capable hands of local headmaster Bill Peat. The toast to 'Our Guests' was proposed in a very witty manner by Building chief, Robert Forman, with an equally witty reply from Doctor Martin Pucci. Local Solicitor, Gordon Hay proposed the toast to 'The President'. Throughout the evening Sandy Gray and Michael Cowie gave recitations while Sydney Hutchison and David

McDonald accompanied by Steve Calder sang the ever popular songs. Past President Charlie Kelman addressed the Haggis, and presiding over an excellent evening, croupier Cyril M. Mutch. J.M.M. Smith.

360. Lochee Burns Club. Annual Supper was held in the Club on Thursday 25th January 1990, when members and guests were welcomed by the President E. Urquhart. The 'Immortal Memory' was proposed by Mr. R.A. Ball, J.P., the Haggis was piped in by Ian Laird, carried by Mrs. Sally Fealey and addressed by Ally Gowans. 'Tam o' Shanter' was presented with perfection by Mr. W.P. Marshall. The 'Toast to the Lasses' by Mr. J.R. Ganson was ably replied to by Miss Mary Crichton. Entertainment was provided by Club members with a few dances to finish to music rendered by Bruce Wallace; in all a very pleasant evening.

Our St. Andrew's Night was celebrated on Thursday 30th November 1989. The Toast to St. Andrew and Scotland was given by the Rev. J. Mackay Nimmo, our Club Chaplain. A dumpling was piped in and addressed by Ally Gowans. Excellent entertainment was provided once again by our members and as usual, an enjoyable evening.

Thomas Young.

370. Dundonald Burns Club. After the euphoria surrounding the Club's 25th anniversary celebrations it was felt that 1989/90 could be something of an anti-climax. Not in the least! The Burns Supper was again of the highest standard with the following contributions: 'Immortal Memory', Sheriff David B. Smith, 'The Lasses', Dennis Johnston, 'Our Hosts', Roy Ainsworth, 'Speakers Artists An' A', Brian Johnston, Grace, the Rev. Bob Mayes, 'Chairman, Croupier & Officials', David Adrain. The artists were; Singers, Alistair Smith and Eddie Galloway accompanied by Jim Clark and the piper was Allan Branney. The Chairman was President Ted Stanley and the Croupier, Vice President Haldane Richmond.

During the evening the position of Honorary President was conferred on former long serving (and suffering) secretary, Bobby Kirk.

The annual St. Andrew's Night Dinner had a new venue this year, the Towans Hotel, Prestwick and was enjoyed by everyone.

Monthly meetings show a good attendance and are held from October to April.

Robert M. Trotter.

377. Kilbirnie Rosebery Burns Club. On Saturday 27th January 1990 we held our Annual Supper when a company of approximately 96 cronies, friends and guests sat down to an excellent meal and later Haggies, tatties and turnip interspersed with oatcakes and cheese. The Immortal Memory was proposed by our President and the toast to the Lassies was given by Don Reid of the Barmill Jolly Beggars.

R.G. Thomson.

393. Annan Ladies' Burns Club. The Annual Supper was held on 25th January in the Bruce Hotel, when Mr. D. Ronald H. Crichton gave 'The Immortal Memory'. The President, Mrs. M. Illingworth welcomed members and friends. The Haggis carried by Secretary was piped in by Mr. Craig Cowan and was addressed in fine style by the President. After the traditional meal, Mrs. Knight read out greetings cards from all points of the country and from Canada. Mr. Crichton then rose to give the 'Immortal Memory', telling of the farm, fortune, family and fame in the life of our National Bard. The speaker interspersed his speech with lines from the Poet's well loved verses. Various toasts were ably given by club members. Mrs. H. Edgar was the soloist and recitations were given by Mr. Neil McKeand. A most enjoyable evening.

Hallowee'n Party October. St. Andrew's Night, November - speaker, Mr. D. Shankland.

Christmas party December. Bring and Buy Sale February. Film Show, Mrs. M.J. Smith March and Closing Social, April. Next Stop, Perth.

Mrs. Sally Knight.



Fraserburgh Burns Club Committee

403. Fraserburgh Burns Club. The Club held its 53rd Anniversary Dinner in the Alexandra Hotel, Fraserburgh, on Saturday 20th January 1990. Stanley Green, President, welcomed the 241 members, guests and artistes, the highest number on record. The Haggis was piped in by William J. Henderson with the address given by 'Buddy' Milne in his usual imitable fashion. The main speaker for the evening was James Michie, Director of Education, Grampian Regional Council, which was well received by the Company. The Rev. Andrew Lyon gave the toast to the Lasses with Andrew Tait delivering a Scottish Toast. The entertainment was under the direction of the Rev. Charles J. Birnie with the visiting artistes given good backing by the whole Company.
William F. Russell.

437. Dumfries Ladies Burns Club No.1. Our President, Mrs. M. Parker, welcomed everyone to our Annual Burns Supper in the Cairndale Hotel. Mr. Harry Hutchison proposed the Immortal Memory and spoke of Burns's lineage, his love of family life, his love of country, his love of every living creature, his poetry which is timeless and universal, the history of the 18th century quoting from 'The Dumfries Volunteers'. Robert Burns expressed the sentiments of people all over the world in his cry for liberty, humanity and peace, said Mr. Hutchison in his excellent address. Monthly meetings have been varied; we held a very successful Tam o' Shanter Competition during Burns Festival Week, our St. Andrew's night speaker was Mrs. R. Lockerbie and the highlight of the year was our Diamond Anniversary Dinner and Social Evening in the Cairndale Hotel when Mrs. M. Parker, President and Mrs. J. Henderson founder member cut the anniversary cake. Many greetings were received including one from Her Majesty The Queen.
Elizabeth Haining.

458. Stonehaven (Fatherland) Burns Club. 92 members and friends were welcomed by President Alfred Smith to the Annual Supper in the Royal Hotel. The Haggis ceremoniously piped in by Pipe Major Brian Elrick was addressed by Magnus Smith, head boy of the local Mackie Academy. The Immortal Memory was given by Ayrshire man and former TV presenter Jim McColl, who showed he had a great affinity with Burns. Local author Ian Hendry gave the toast 'Scotland Yet' whilst Venture Scout Leader George Carr proposed a toast to 'The Lassies' and assistant Venture Scout Leader, Elaine Ballantyne gave the reply. The toast 'Our Guests' was proposed by club secretary Mrs. Betty Petrie to which Jim McColl suitably replied. A happy evening was concluded with the singing of Auld Lang Syne by the entire company. During the summer the club visited Fyvie Castle and Kynoch Mills, Keith. Other social gatherings included parties at Hallowe'n and Christmas and two whist drives.
Mrs. Elizabeth Petrie.

461. Leicester Caledonian Society. The Burns Dinner was held in the Tudor Room of The Grand Hotel, Leicester on 27th January. The Haggis was piped in by Iain Insch and traditionally addressed by the President Bob Allander. Jeanne Hare read the Fraternal Greeting from Kindred Societies. A member of our Society, Joe Oliver, gave a well researched Immortal Memory, his theme being Burns's love for his native Scotland, his love of nature and his understanding of the humanity of both men and women from all walks of life.

Alec Patterson gave a sincere, but humorous toast to the City of Leicester, to which the Lord Mayor gave a suitable reply. The toast 'The Lassies' and response were given by the Reverend David and Mrs. Ann Gardner. There were songs from Fiona Henry; and great enjoyment when the Lord and Lady Mayoress, who had never before attended a Burns Supper, joined in an Eightsome Reel. A successful evening ended with 'Auld Lang Syne'.

Mrs. Jeanne Hare.

462. Cheltenham Scottish Society. A very well-attended Dinner was held in the Carlton Hotel, under the Chairmanship of the Vice-President, Bill Cowie. The main speaker, Mr. Peter Donnelly, spoke of the influence of Burns on his own life, while David Black proposed the toast to the Lassies, and Rhona Young replied. The pleasant hours were speeded with songs and readings.

The Diamond Jubilee Dinner was graced by the father of our patron, The Earl of Wemyss. Other events within the Society, which now numbers more than 200, included a Hogmanay Party, a Concert and Dance, the Highland Ball in the Town Hall and very popular Heritage Evening, together with our weekly dancing. The Pipe Band and Highland Dancers have gone from strength to strength. David Black.

469. Denny Cross Burns Club. The format was 'business as usual' for season 1989-90. Four regular monthly meetings with guest speakers on topics of general interest were held. 'Anything goes' at the December meeting which was our Christmas party whereas November is a more formal affair with an after dinner speech on a St. Andrew's theme. We were fortunate to have Chic Duthie, local Federation President, and had a tremendous night. With our A.G.M. in April and coach trip in May still to come, the main event of our year was of course the annual celebration in January. Traditionally one guest is on the programme for the 'Immortal Memory', all other functions being carried out by club members. David Sibbald was well received and a memorable night ensued. Other speakers were Watson Reid former Governor of the BBC, George Anderson of Burns Federation on the poet Ferguson, Archie MacKay of the Daily Record and Iain MacGregor of Loch Kishorn on the Humour of the Gael. Verdict - a great year.

D. Graeme MacGregor.

494. Motherwell United Services. The Burns Section's Burns Supper was held within the Motherwell United Services Club on Wednesday 24th January and despite the weather a grand turn out of 205 attended. The 'Immortal Memory' was given by Corrie Cunningham, V.P. of the club who held all in rapture and was ably assisted by Bob Dalziel. Toast to Lassies, A. Watson, 'Haggis' Joe McGuigan (member) for his 'Out of this World' rendering of 'Holy Willie's Prayer' and Tam o' Shanter by slides. Singing provided by father and son team Messrs. Robert Sen. and Robert Jun. McCrom. A first class evening enjoyed by all.

Club members and friends attended 'Jolly Beggars' Burns Club, Coventry, 9th - 11th March for rousing time. Male Bus outing to Lochee Burns Club, Dundee 20th May. Dinner Dance, Services Club, Motherwell 8th June.

Robert Dalziel.

503. Dunblane Burns Club. Dunblane Burns Club held their Annual Supper in Stakis Dunblane Hotel Hydro on Monday 22nd January 1990. Our Guest Speaker of the evening was Chic Duthie, President Stirling and Clackmannan and West Perthshire Area, Burns Federation. Recitations were given by Bobby Hoggan, Stirling and songs rendered from two young singers from the Royal Scottish Academy of Music & Drama, Glasgow, Miss Elizabeth Davidson and Stuart McIntyre. The Piper was boy Pipe-Major Ross Coleman, Queen Victoria School, Dunblane. Fiddle music was supplied by

Geoffrey Halyburton, music master, Queen Victoria School, Dunblane.
Mrs. Isobel W. Smith.

516. The Airts Burns Club, Prestonpans. Our Annual Burns Supper was held in the Royal Musselburgh Golf Club on Saturday 27th January. The 'Immortal Memory' was given by David Robertson, President of the Poosie Nancy Club, Newcraighall.
Bus drive to Eyemouth. Monthly Dances throughout the year.
Walter M. Muir.

530. Southern Scottish Counties Burns Association. The Anniversary Service was held in St. Michael's Church, Dumfries on 25th January 1990 and it was a pleasure to see so many school children in attendance.

The Brow Well service and wreath laying was held on a beautiful July evening. President Anne Gaw laid the wreath and gave the oration.

The Association continues the presentation of Burns Books to schools in Dumfries & Galloway and this is one of our main activities.

October 1989 saw the first Nithsdale District Burns Festival and this was actively supported by the Association and local clubs. We look forward to the Festival continuing for many years.

A very social note was struck in June 1989 when the SSCBA organised a Burns Evening for members of the Robert Burns Society of Annapolis who were visiting Nithsdale District Council.

D.R. Urquhart.

534. Bedlington & District Burns Club. Our 1990 Anniversary Dinner was held in Bedlington Masonic Hall on Wednesday 24th January. Once again a 'Full House' of members and guests were welcomed by Chairman, David Todd to what was to be an excellent evening's celebration. The success of the occasion was mainly due to our highly entertaining speakers of the night. Mr. Bill Pollock gave the Toast to the Lassies, followed by Dr. Ian Airlie who presented the Immortal Memory. President Bob Hamilton proposed the Toast to the Visitors with Mr. Jack King replying. Music was provided by Pipe Major Fred Redpath and songs by Mr. A. Dodd who was accompanied by Mr. A. Pitkeathley.

James Keith Stewart.

543. Abbey Craig Burns Club. The Club membership remains constant at 140 and the Committee continues to be active in administering the club's affairs.

A most successful Annual Supper was held on 20th January 1990, when the Immortal Memory was proposed by Professor Rod Lyall, Department of Scottish Literature at Glasgow University, and the Toast to the Lassies was proposed by Rev. Charles MacMillan of Ladywell Church, Bannockburn. Cheques from raffle proceeds were sent to the Jean Armour Homes and to Wallace High School Library - Burns corner.

At the supper, the President Mr. Robert G. Hynd, presented a life membership certificate to the Very Rev. Dr. D.M.B.A. Smith upon his retiral as Chaplain.

Ian Collie.

555. Harrogate St. Andrew's Society. At our Annual Supper on 27th January we departed from our usual format as an experiment and was so well received by the 100 guests who attended, the Committee has been asked to organise a similar format next year. All the speeches, readings and songs were delivered by members of the Society and the Address to the Haggis was very ably performed by our Hon. President Bill Steel. The only blot on the landscape was the weather. We arrived at the venue on a cold, clear evening and departed in 2 ft of snow!

Our calendar of events throughout the year have been very well attended and included the very popular Safari Supper, indoor and outdoor Bowls, a charity evening for Erskine homes in Glasgow and The Happy Wanderers Ambulance Organisation in Harrogate, the St. Andrew's Dinner/Dance and Hogmanay Ball.

Isobel C. Fairs.

559. Coventry and District Caledonian Society. President Mrs. M. Muddiman welcomed guests, members and friends to our Annual Burns Dinner and also presided. We were privileged to have as guests The Lord Mayor of Coventry, Councillor D. Cairns and the Lady Mayoress. The Haggis piped in by Piper McFaddean and addressed by the President. Mrs. Muriel Davies a Past President gave an excellent Immortal Memory. Toast to the City of Coventry Mrs. M. Cosgrove and to reply, The Lord Mayor. Mr. J. Lawson gave the Toast to the Lassies and Mrs. D. Lawson replied. Mr. A.M. McDowall welcomed 'Oor Guests' and Mr. J. Radcliffe replied. To toast the President Mrs. W. Lainy. Recitation from Mr. J. Wallace and songs by Mr. L. Hendrie accompanist Mr. J. Kelly. A most enjoyable evening ended with thanks from the President.

The President's Reception, St. Andrew's Dinner, proceeds to Caledonian Schools. A visit to the Scottish Fiddlers Orchestra also visited old Locomotives. All ages went. Dance class in full swing and many evenings attended in the Midlands in the company of other Societies and Clubs. We have a Ceilidh for the West Midlands District in April. During the year visits are made to members unable to attend by Committee and a personal visit by the President with a gift at Christmas. We attended the Conference in York.

Mrs. W.R. Laing.

562. Castle Douglas Burns Club. The Annual Supper was held on 19th January 1990. The Immortal Memory by John Aitkenhead was thought provoking and excellent.

J. McLatchie.

566. The Scottish Society and Burns Club of Australia. Our 51st Annual Burns Supper was held in The Hilton International Airport Hotel on 25th January with approximately 230 members and friends attending. The Haggis was piped in by Frank Murray, bearer Bob Moar, then addressed by Will Crawford-Scott from Wollongong. Will had car trouble and arrived just as the Haggis was being piped in. His Address was a wee bit puffed but managed beautifully. The Toast to Australia was proposed by Mr. John McNicol of Bankstown. 36 Greetings were read from Kindred Societies and friends at Home and Overseas. The Oration was proposed by Edinburgh born, Mr. Neil Morrison, a Sydney Barrister who spoke on Burns' Music and songs. Members Duncan MacLeod toasted The Lassies and Miriam Warner ably replied. Our singer was a delight - David Hamilton a young Scot, sang a beautiful selection of Burns Songs and played his flute. It was our usual successful and enjoyable Annual Supper.

May Dickie.

572. Chester Caledonian Association. The Annual Supper was held at the Queen Hotel, Chester when 207 members and guests attended. The principal toast was proposed by the former Rector of the Royal High School, Edinburgh, Dr. Farquhar Macintosh. Our President Dr. A.E. Elliot is an F.P. of the Royal High. Ronald Morrison of Motherwell and Rosy Lea of Chester sang a selection of Burns' songs.

The President read a lesson at the St. Andrew's Day Service and a Ball was held in honour of St. Andrew's Day. A ceilidh took place in the autumn and a Highland Ball is to be held on 31st March. T.S. Lea.

581. Cumbernauld and District Burns Club. The well established structure for meetings of '581' which commences with a meal, followed by a short talk and social harmony, continued to provide both education and enjoyment to club members and their guests throughout the past year. In addition the Club held two educational meetings where everyone was able to contribute to interesting discussions on a variety of Burns related subjects.

In particular, both the St. Andrew's night celebrations and the Annual Burns Supper were resoundingly successful where at the latter Jim Murray proposed the principal toast in tremendous style and Past President Tom Birkmyre proposed a very humorous toast to 'The Lassies'. Due to unforeseen circumstances, and rather uniquely, the Haggis was played in by our pianist, Robert Ralph, to be addressed by I.P.P. Jim Kinloch. In August, the Club held a memorable, if rather wet, bus outing to Ellisland and Dumfries and later in the year was host to over 200 children who took part in our annual

Children's Competition.

In recognition of the tremendous achievements attained by Thomas B. Myles, P.P. and Secretary of the Club for 12 years, he was awarded Honorary Presidency of '581' on his demit from office as President of the Glasgow Association.

Ken Stark.

589. Solway Burns Club. The year began with the AGM and Social in the Bruce Hotel. Fellow member, John Graham, gave a very interesting talk on how Burns is received in Poland and Germany. The annual Coach trip took us over the border to lay claim to the Dornock Bells amiably fought over for many years. Honorary member, Oswald Gibbs, enthralled the Club on St. Andrew's night with his historical stories of Scotland and even of the Club itself.

True to the tradition of the Club, the Past President—this year Dr. Archie Smith—proposed the Toast to the 'Immortal Memory'. He gave the members many golden passages to remember.

The Solway Burns suffered the sad loss this past year in the death of Honorary Member Norman Graham-Barnett. He entertained many local clubs with his renditions of Burns poetry, especially Holy Willie's Prayer and Tam o' Shanter.

Irene Grant.

593. Barrmill Jolly Beggars Burns Club. Barrmill Jolly Beggars Burns Club have had a most successful year. Special emphasis was placed on ensuring that the club and its activities received a high profile in the local press. This proved to be particularly successful and a small item on the club activities appeared in almost every issue of the Garnock Valley Herald. Perhaps this is something which other clubs could benefit from in their own areas.

Because of the additional publicity there was an increase in membership and in members attending the club open nights. It is particularly gratifying to have so many younger members attending and joining in the club activities—especially when three Hon. Presidents sadly passed away over the course of the last two years.

The traditional St. Andrew's Celebration; Burns Supper and five open nights all proved extremely popular. But the highlight of the season was undoubtedly the 'Bothy Night' when visitors from Kilbirnie Rosebery and Dalry Burns Club joined the Jolly Beggars in a night of song, stories and recitations. Needless to say this is likely to be repeated next year.

Donald L. Reid.

618. Altrincham & Sale Caledonian Society. The 45th Annual Burns Supper was held on Friday 26th January 1990 in the Masonic Hall, Sale, when Mrs. M.H.P. Watson presided over the gathering of 100 members and friends. The Rev. Ruth A. Mealand said the Selkirk Grace and Mr. Tom Convoy piped in the haggis which was carried by Mr. J.S.R.F. McFarlane and addressed by Mr. J.C. Wallace. Mr. C. Peter James, a Past-President of Dumfries Burns Club gave a most impressive Immortal Memory and richly deserved the standing ovation which he received. Mr. Wm. Black B.Sc, M.R.I.C. gave the traditional 'Toast to the Lassies' to which Mrs. Helen Wilson wittily replied. Mr. Peter Phillips, accompanied at the piano by Dr. I.M. Hall, sang a pleasing selection of Burns songs. Mr. D.H. Watson acted as Chairman and Mr. J.K. Glass gave a comprehensive Vote of Thanks. The evening ended with dancing to music supplied by the David Hall Trio.

Mr. J. McFarlane.

627. Kinross Jolly Beggars. The Annual Dinner was held on 19th January in the Thistle Hotel, with Chieftain Iain M. Halliday in the chair. The 'Immortal Memory' was proposed by D. Wilson Ogilvie, Dumfries, Past President of the Burns Federation. Archie Lamont toasted 'The Lassies' and David Cuthbert replied. Alex Farquhar toasted 'Robert Burns Begg and them that's awa' and noted the deaths of Tom White, immediate past Chieftain, and Alex Dickson. Songs, poems and musical items were performed by Bert Dunbar, John Ritchie, Luis Morton, Jim Paterson, George Wilson, Bruce Inglis and Robert Hamilton.

Prizes were again awarded to pupils at Kinross High School.

Gordon Y. George.



Coalsnaughton Burns Club

630. Coalsnaughton Burns Club. On Saturday 27th January the rafters rang in the club-rooms of Coalsnaughton Burns club as the members celebrated their 46th Annual Supper. The Immortal Memory was given by John Smith, and he received a well earned standing ovation for one of the best memories heard in the club. John is only the second member ever to give this toast and President Albert Kennedy presented him with a beautiful small bronze bust of the Bard to commemorate the occasion. The Lassies were well and truly toasted by Area President Charles Duthie who gave a most humorous and enlightening insight into the fair sex. Bobby Hogan gave his usual polished performance as Holy Willie and his tale of Willie Wastle brought the house down. We are beginning to run out of superlatives for Bobby. Recitations by George McCaig, were given in excellent vein and the singing of Willie Johnstone and Bobby Wright would grace the best of dinners. The music of Calum Skarris and John Walker, with the piping of Peter Gray just put the icing on the evening. After a vote of thanks by Hugh Smith the evening was brought to a close with the singing of Auld Land Syne. D.H. Wright.

632. Symington Burns Club. Unfortunately our Burns Supper had to be cancelled this year through lack of support. This was very disappointing, as our stalwart members were looking forward to 'The Immortal Memory' which was to be proposed by Mr. Archie McArthur. Our outing to Rothesay in June was very successful, the weather being extremely kind to us. On 30th November our speaker at the St. Andrew's night was the new Lady Minister of Symington Parish Church, Rev. Margaret Whyte. On that night we also had the Symington School Prize winners who performed delightfully for us. Margaret W. Hume.

664. West Kilbride Burns Club. The highlight of our year was the Anniversary Dinner, the 43rd, held in the Seamill Hydro. Our opening social was given by the Karlton Singers from Largs, and the Stevenston Musical Society provided the programme for our St. Andrew's Supper. At our last musical evening a talented group of pupils from Kilwinning Academy gave a fine selection of items for voice and instruments. The finalists of West Kilbride Primary Schools Burns Competition also entertained us on that evening. Dr. E.M. Patterson gave a most interesting illustrated talk on 'The Ice Age and the Firth of Clyde'. On 14th February, Mrs. Anne Gaw gave most appropriately 'A Talk on Burns for St. Valentine's Day'. At our AGM, Mr. Tom Williamson handed over the President's badge to Mr. George Sloan. A very interesting film and enjoyable sherry tasting brought the evening and year to a happy and successful end.

691. Inverness Burns Club. The Anniversary Dinner was held at the Mercury Hotel, Inverness on 26th January when Mr. H.A.M. Fraser presided. The Immortal Memory was given by Mr. John

D. Pollock who impressed the company with his depth of knowledge of the works of Robert Burns and the wit with which he presented it. Other speakers included Mr. R.W.G. Cameron, Catherine Robins, Mr. D.J.M. Gowans, Mr. A. Macfadyen and Mr. C.J.D. Silver. The piper was Mr. J.W. MacKenzie. Artistes were Charles Sinclair, Emma Anderson and Sheila Bruce. A ceilidh was held on St. Andrew's Night when members and guests enjoyed a traditional supper and entertainments.
C.J.D. Silver.

695. Kilmaronock Burns Club (Dunbartonshire). The 40th Burns Supper, held in the Village Hall, Gartocharn, on 2nd February 1990, was attended by 82 persons. John Blain, the Club's Chairman, kept the programme flowing along. The Immortal Memory was proposed by Dumbarton Burnsian, James Hempstead, whose theme was the love poems and songs. Dr. Jeffrey Scott, a well-known local GP, delivered the Toast to the Lassies with charm and humour. The Rev. Mrs. E. Lorna Hood, Minister of Renfrew North Parish Church, replied on behalf of the lassies with a most amusing speech. Jack Pickup recited 'Tam o' Shanter' and also accompanied on the piano the singers, Mairi Howieson and Paul McCallum, both from Dumbarton. The Fruin Strings from Helensburgh played music associated with Burns. The Haggis was piped in by Gordon Lawrie and was addressed by Andrew Forshaw, both of Gartocharn.

A St. Andrew's Night Entertainment was held on 25th November 1989.

Mrs. Katharine M.E. Liston.

696. Whitley Bay and District Society of St. Andrew. Over 220 members and friends celebrated the annual Burns Anniversary Dinner Dance at the Park Hotel, Tynemouth on 26th January 1990. In traditional style the Haggis was carried in by the chef preceded by Hon. Piper David Moore. A Past President Angus McEachen addressed the haggis. After dinner President Albert Somerville welcomed everyone before introducing the Rev. George Munro from Edinburgh. Senior Vice President Ian Wilkinson proposed a vote of thanks to the Orator. The Toast to the Lassies was given by Junior Vice-President David Moore and the reply given by secretary Anne Wilkinson. The evening finished with dancing to the music of the George Rowell Band with Andy Wilson as M.C.

The Diamond Jubilee Dinner/Dance of the Society was held at the Park Hotel, Tynemouth on 24th November 1989. Following dinner President Albet Somerville presented his predecessor Dr. Ewan Hay with his Past President's Jewel. The guest speaker was Jim McColl of Beechgrove Garden Fame. Anne Wilkinson.

699. Choppington Burns Club. The Burns Anniversary Dinner and Dance was held in the Choppington Welfare Hall on 27th January. 'The Immortal Memory' was most ably given by Bill Pollock of Wallsend. The Address to the Haggis was given by Tom Routledge and the haggis was carried by J.E. Godden. The piper was Bill Finlayson of Blyth. The Toast 'The Lassies' was given by member R. McClellan in a most jocular manner and a suitable reply was made by Polly Richardson. The remainder of the evening was spent dancing to the Tillside Trio from Wooler and the whole evening was ably held together by our chairman Jack Chicken.

Other events - Halloween Buffet Dance 28th October 1989, St. Andrew's Buffet Dance 2nd December 1989, Ladies Night Buffet Dance 3rd March 1990, Summer Buffet Dance 5th May 1990. All Functions were held in the Choppington Welfare.

J.E. Godden.

701. Detroit Burns Club. Our Annual Dance was held on 27th January 1990 and guests, members and officers were introduced by President Philliben. Mrs. Shirley Cummings sang the National Anthem and Mr. Harry Morrison the Star O' Rabbie Burns. Mr. Jack Rankin gave the address to the haggis which was carried by Mrs. Rose Quigley, accompanied by sword bearer Mr. Harry Morrison and piped by Mr. George Killen. Mr. Dave McDonald addressed the lassies and Mrs. Agnes Cumming the laddies. Mr. Jim McDougall gave the invocation and grace. Mr. Humphrey MacDonald gave the Immortal Memory, which was heartily applauded by the members and their friends. The entertainment was then taken over by Mr. Bill Quigley. Mr. Fred Martin sang Burns songs and the highland dancers

were directed by Mrs. Sheila Mittig. The evening came to a close by everyone singing Auld Lang Syne.

On 28th January 1990, President Philliben laid a wreath at the statue in Cass Park and an invocation was said by Jim McDougall. We also elected our first Lady President in the history of the Detroit Burns Club, Mrs. Rebecca Tait.

Helen McCallum.

710. The Robert Burns Society of Toronto. On 27th January 1990 President John (Sandy) Wyness, formerly from Aberdeen welcomed 88 members and friends to our Annual Burns Supper which was held at the Royal York Hotel, Confederation Room, Toronto. The ceremony was presided over by the President of the North American Association of Federated Burnsians John Nicholson (also our Club Vice-President). The honorary piper Alex. Lumsden piped-in the haggis which was suitably addressed by James Hunter 'An cut (it) up wi' ready slight' to the delight of all present. After the Grace given by Jock Farquharson and the Loyal Toast given by Garnett Stephen a 'Halesome Supper' of Scotch Broth, Steak Pie, Champit Tatties and Greens, Haggis (of course) and Trifle was enjoyed by all. The Immortal Memory was given by the Club President Sandy Wyness who touched on the romantic patriotic and humanitarian aspects of the Bard's poetic genius. A selection of songs and verse were interspersed that gave meaningful examples such as 'It was Upon a Lammis Nicht', 'Had We Never Loved So Blindly', 'Scots Wha Hae' and 'A Man's A Man For A' That'. Well was he worthy of the standing ovation he received. The Toast to the Lassies was entertainingly proposed by Jim Cunningham of the Galt Burns Club (501) and ably responded to by his wife Jean Cunningham. The Toast to Metropolitan Toronto was proposed by Andy McClelland and responded to by our special guest for the evening Metro Councillor Richard Gilbert. The Vote of Thanks was given by Jim Thomson. The singing of the 'Star of Robbie Burns' was well done by the assembly and the music for dancing was provided by the Silhouettes. The evening concluded with the singing of 'Auld Lang Syne'.

Emerson L. MacDonald.

721. The Plymouth Burns Club. The Plymouth Burns Club celebrated their Anniversary Dinner and Dance at the New Continental Hotel on Saturday 27th January 1990 when a company of 92 was warmly welcomed by Club President Mr. Joe Main. The guests of honour, were the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress, Councillor and Mrs. Dennis Dicker. 'The Loyal Toast' and the 'Immortal Memory' were proposed by the President, and the address to the Haggis was given by Mr. Robert Johnstone. Our season began as usual in September, the meetings continued monthly until May. Meetings which are held at the Sir Francis Drake Bowling Club included the Gathering of the Clans, a social evening with local Kindred Societies, a talk about his work on the moor by the Head Ranger of the Dartmoor National park, a Christmas party, a Taste of Scotland, a maritime talk by Captain Tom McKnight and the President's Evening. These evenings were enjoyed by all who attended.

Mrs. Thelma Main.

743. Romford Scottish Association. We have not been able to held an Annual Supper this year for a variety of reasons. We are planning to have a Sunday Luncheon for members on 1st July 1990 at a local country club.

Our Association has also run outings to places of interest as well as gardens; plans are also made for further social outings of this kind during the current year.

Mrs. Joyce White.

748. The Ouplaymuir Burns Club. The annual supper was held on 26th January at the Uplawmoor Hotel. 69 members and guests enjoyed an excellent evening. The Immortal Memory was proposed by Jim Ferguson.

The Club once again sponsored the Uplawmoor Primary School Burns Competition and also the Eric McQueen Memorial Prize Competition. Both events were very well supported and the standard of all competitors was high.

John W. Wright.

768. Auchterderran Jolly Beggars. Our Burns Supper was held in No. 1 Goth Bowhill on Saturday 20th January 1990, Chairman Tom McIntyre. Main items on programme: Address to the Haggis - Walter Lindsay, Piper - John Fleming, Grace - A. Mathieson, Death and Dr. Hornbook - Ron Fleming, The Twa Dogs - T. McIntyre. Duncan McLean introduced by W. Lindsay, The Immortal Memory - Tom Balfour, Tam o' Shanter - D. McLean, Holy Willies Prayer - A. Holmes. A very enjoyable evening was had by all.

Other events - Annual General Meeting 17th March, Social and Dance 28th April, Annual Mixed Drive 25th August, Social and Dance 22nd September, Halloween Supper 27th October, Christmas Social 23rd December. Our Monthly Meetings are on the third Saturday of every month from April to September missing out summer months.

Alex Holmes.

772. The Prestwick Burns Club. Cronie Vice-President W. McConnell ably chaired the 36th Annual Supper in the St Nicholas Hotel, Prestwick on 25th January 1990. President I. Moffat, by tradition proposing the toast to the Immortal Memory, spoke of the works of the Bard as illustrating his genius as a communicator. Other toasts: Cronies A. Fraser, The Proposer of The Immortal Memory. W. Baines, Prestwick Burns Club. J. Rowell, Scotia. J. Bruce, The Lassies. J. Crockett, Chairman and Artistes. Songs from Cronie A. Wallace, Fiddle song and story from Cronie R. McQuaker, with recitations from Cronies J. Milliken and M. Thomson and the Haggis addressed by W. Main (Piper Peter Anderson) with Accompanist George Sinclair, completed the evening's entertainment.

Other events - In June, the Summer Outing was to Souter Johnnie's Cottage, followed by an excellent meal and evening's entertainment at Kirkton Jean's Hotel, Kirkoswald.

The Bowling Match against Prestwick Cricket Club was followed by the traditional evening's entertainment. President I. Moffat presided over an excellent St. Andrew's Night Dinner/Dance on 2nd December 1989 in the St. Nicholas Hotel, Prestwick.

Thomas Hunter Currie.

773. Cumnock Cronies Burns Club. The Club held its Annual Supper on Saturday 3rd February 1990. Chairman Billy Duncan welcomed the cronies, Gerry Skillen said Grace, and Jim Stewart piped in the Haggis escorted by Eric Love and aptly addressed by Bob Lawrence. After a sumptuous meal Josie Donniss gave the Toast to the Queen. The company was then enthralled by Wullie Dunlop's outstanding Immortal Memory on the character of Burns and held us spellbound with his able demonstration of the Bard's humour, satire and sincerity; How the shortage of the coin in his pocket shaped his life to become a genius with his pen, and illustrated his famous Tam o' Shanter with such brilliance to a standing ovation from the company. The Lassies were toasted in uproarious style by Hugh Mitchell, with a spirited reply from Ian McMurdo. Bob McTurk toasted the Drouthie Cronies. Songs by George Robertson and Jim Gilliland were highly praised and David Murray summed up a most enjoyable evening with his vote of thanks commending all.

A.C. Rutherford.

777. Nuneaton and District Scottish Society. On 26th January 1990 at the John Cleveland College, Hinckley, the Nuneaton and District Scottish Society celebrated not only the Bard's birthday, but also the 40th anniversary of the Society.

The well-respected former President and founder member of the Society had agreed to be President again for this special year, and was joined for the occasion by his family.

The toast to the Immortal Memory was to have been given by Alec Scott, another former member of the Society, but unfortunately due to illness he was unable to be present. However his words were not lost to the 100 members and guests present, and his most interesting speech was read by the President.

The toast to the Lassies was entertainingly made in words and song by Roger Parker, and delightfully responded to by Mrs. Dorothy Smith.

The haggis was piped in by Bob Shakespeare for the 25th successive year, and the address to the haggis was given by Alex MacNaughton.

Mrs. Dorothy Siers entertained the company during the evening with her singing; and the evening concluded with Scottish country dancing.

Brian W. Crosbie.

784. Kelso Burns Club Supper. A company of 105 gathered in the Dining Room of Ednam House Hotel on Friday 26th under the able Chairmanship of Alastair Turnbull, the Burns Club President. After the usual sumptuous meal the company heard a tremendously interesting 'Immortal Memory' from Drew Stevenson, presently living in Chirside but who had spent most of his life in Ayr. He painted a word picture of the Burns country which he had explored in detail and then gave a similar account of Burns Border Tour. When describing each scene he told of Burns's experience on that very spot and the song or poem connected with each place. He felt that, of all the great truths penned by the Bard, perhaps his most telling was Burns's conclusion that the three most important things in any man's life were Health, Peace and Contentment.

The 'Lassies' was proposed by Tom Meehan, Immediate Past President of the Kilmarnock Rugby Club. Tom's toast was highly humorous and, to everyone's surprise, was submitted entirely in verse. The haggis was piped in by Tom Raeburn and was addressed by Charlie Robertson.

Arthur Hastie gave an outstanding rendering of 'Tam o' Shanter' and songs were performed by Andrew Fairley and Alastair Brooks.

Poems were given by David Turnbull, John Smith, Bert Donaldson and Alastair Turnbull whilst Alan Anderson kept the party going on the piano.

Regrettably, Oliver Wight, who had attended and performed at every Supper for about forty years, was unable to attend due to ill health.

Robert Donaldson.

791. Swindon and District Caledonian Society. President Jack Mutch presided over an evening of good food, witty speeches and lively dancing at our 55th Burns Night in the Wiltshire Hotel, Swindon on Friday 26th January 1990.

Neil MacVicar proposed the toast to the Immortal Memory with great panache and humour. Husband and wife, Stan and Edith Watson, made a fine team with their contributions to the Lassies' Toast. President's son, Ashley, proposed 'the Land we live in' to which Toast our guest of honour, Mr. Jack Joyce ably responded.

On Saturday 25th November 1989, thirty members gathered at the Coate Water Arboretum, Swindon, to see the President plant a Rowan Tree to commemorate the Society's Diamond Jubilee. The Annual General Meeting on 7th April 1990 will be held in the Knox Hall, Groundwell Road, Swindon on which site the founder members met to form the original club.

Nanette E. Maver.

803. Bowhill Peoples Burns Club. This being the 50th Jubilee of the Bowhill Peoples Burns Club the officials and members have been busier than ever. At the Annual Burns Supper all members and guests were presented with a beautifully designed plaque. Once again the programme excelled in entertainment (7 H hours) and all 58 items were by our own club members. The Immortal Memory was brilliantly proposed by Harry Ewing M.P. and received sustained applause by the full capacity audience. Similarly received were the other principal speakers Jas. Paterson, Toast to 'The B.P.B.C.', Rev. Brian Tomlinson T.D, toast 'To Peace and The People', Wm. Morrison, Newmilns, Ayrshire, toast 'Tae The Lassies'.

The two children's competitions were again well supported. The innovation of members going into the schools to motivate the children proved an outstanding success. The 8th Annual Young People's Burns Supper was also a stronger than ever attraction. The young participants were highly praised by the principal guests Mrs. Anne Gaw, Past President, Burns Federation and Jas. Campbell, Senior Vice-President.

The concert party section of the club was very busy entertaining numerous groups, clubs, and sheltered housing communities with reciting, singing and playing music of the works of Robert Burns. We also supported inter-visitations with other Burns clubs. A new idea is on Sunday afternoons—we had social gatherings with Lhanbryde B.C. (Kincardine-on-Forth) and Dundee B.C.

Our Golden Jubilee Dinner Dance will be in Bowhill on Friday 19th October 1990 and already there is widespread interest for tickets.

Our regular club meetings are on the second Saturday of the month. Any visitors to our area will be warmly welcomed.

809. Allanton Jolly Beggars Burns Club. Burns Supper—On Saturday 27th January 1990 our Club held their 32nd Annual Burns Supper. Members and friends were warmly welcomed by President Mrs. Kay Blair. An excellent and most informative Toast to the 'Immortal Memory' was proposed by Mr. Tam Murray, Past President. The Haggis was traditionally piped in and addressed by Mr. Abe Train. The toast to the 'Lassies' was humorously given by Mr. John Rattray and ably replied to by Mrs. Helen Waddell. Songs and Recitations were rendered by members. A toast to 'Our Visitors' was given by Mrs. Elizabeth Totten and the vote of thanks by Mrs. Isa Jones.

Other Events—a very successful Dance was held on 11th November 1989. An Inter-Visitation was held on 13th October 1989 and was well supported by other Burns Clubs. The annual Schools Competition was the usual high standard. A very excellent Concert was given by Coltness High School Bands and Cambusnethan North Church Choir to help us raise funds for the Burns Conference. Mrs. Helen Waddell.

839. Coldstream Burns Club. The 102nd Annual Supper took place in Coldstream Royal British Legion Club on Friday 26th January 1990. This year saw one or two important changes:- a new venue, a revised programme and a new Club Secretary to follow the marvellous Bill Jackson who has been a devoted Secretary of this club for the past 33 years.

Right from the start, it was apparent that the atmosphere was all that it should be at a happy Burns celebration. A wonderful night's entertainment followed, enjoyed by all 85 members and guests, and the presence of 17 new members attending their first supper can only bode well for the future health of this club.

John A. Fulton.

845. Tam o' Shanter Burns Club. The 31st Annual Supper was held in the club on Thursday 25th January 1990. Chairman for the evening was club President Mr. George Mudie. Main speaker for the evening was Mr. Jim Lowson, a long time member of the Jolly Beggars Section. The Lord Mayor of Coventry, Councillor Mr. D. Cairns replied to the toast 'City of our Adoption' which was given by Mr. Bell Jessamin. Piper for the evening was Mr. Davie Walkinshaw and the Dave Robertson Band played for the dancing which finished a very successful evening. Mr. E. Martin proposed the toast 'The Immortal Memory' at the Jolly Beggars 19th Anniversary Supper when the Chairman for the evening was Mr. Jim Mollison.

The Jean Armour Ladies section Supper was held on Monday 19th February 1990 when 120 ladies enjoyed a well balanced programme. Mrs. F. Highway, chairperson of the West Midlands Federation, proposed 'The Immortal Memory'.

Other events - Our St. Andrew's night and New Year's night Concert and Dance were as usual full houses, with artistes appearing from Scotland along with the Royal British Legion Pipe Band from Coventry.

James McCaw.

878. Workshop Burns and Caledonian Club. The Immortal Memory was presented by Past President Ian MacLeod in the presence of a large gathering including the Chairman of Basset Law District Councillor Bob Webster and Councillor Mrs. Doris Webster, who responded to the toasts 'The Toon we Bide in' and 'The Veesitors' respectively. Burns's songs were beautifully rendered by Tom McFarlane, accompanist Miss Lynne Kirk, both from Retford. Visiting President Mr. Angus McLarty proposed the toast to 'The Lassies' and drew a witty response from wife Joyce. Hon. piper Ron Dunne was kept busy piping in President, Joyce Young and husband Archie with her guests, then piping in the Haggis as well as joining the Caley's Scottish Dance Band in supplying a lively programme of traditional and modern dancing until 1.00 a.m.

The President's reception for Mrs. Mollie Jardine took place in April, when she and daughter Kirsty

were ably supported by visiting Presidents from neighbouring societies, mostly in 18th district. Our St. Andrew's Dance had the Seaforth Association Pipe Band in attendance and singers Tom McFarlane and Alex Boyd added to our big night of nostalgia with their Stirling Songs of Scotland, The Caley's Dance Band supplied suitable Scottish music till the wee sma' hours in a varied programme. Two club ceilidhs completed the year's ongauns.
Tom English.

874. Melbourne Masonic Burns Club. Our Annual Burns Supper was once again held in the Clubrooms of the Masonic Club of Victoria on Friday 2nd February 1990. Our Chieftain Andy Cromb was duly piped in and escorted by Sword Bearers David Polak, Deputy Chieftain and Larry Hall, Treasurer accompanied by official guests, much to the delight of the assembled company. The Address to the Haggis was given wi' great gusto by our Chieftain Andy Cromb. The Immortal Memory was presented by David Dickson, after the Toast tae our 'Rabbie' was received wi' much acclamation. The Toast tae the Lassies was then presented by our oldest member in the person of Andy Johnstone and the response by his guid lady Maggie. After this we were treated to fine songs from Home by Peter Chapple from the Highlander Restaurant. The toast to our guests was in the capable hands of our Deputy Chieftain David Polak and the response was given by the President of the parent Club in the person of Dale Allchin. After more singing and dancing a wonderful evening was brought tae a close just past the witching hour.

St. Andrew's Night, 24th November 1989. This night is always a highlight of our calendar, at which a deep feeling of comradeship prevails, and at which absent Cronies are remembered, a night at which Robert Burns's presence is deeply felt by all present. The harmony on this occasion was in the hands of Peter Chapple and his good lady who gave many fine sangs frae Burns. The Selkirk Grace was given by yours truly, the Loyal toast and Address to the Haggis by our Chieftain Andrew Comb, the Toast tae St. Andrew was presented by our good friend David Brownlie. The Toast to our Guests was as is the custom in the capable hands of our Deputy Chieftain David Polak and responded by the Vice President of the Masonic Club, Ken Francis. We were then entertained by our pipers Len Trezise and Bruce Hawkins which brought a wonderful evening to a close wi' Auld Lang Syne.
Ian R. Hawkins.

880. Otley & District Caledonian Society. The Annual Burns Supper was held on 20th January when 88 members and friends enjoyed a very happy evening. The Haggis was piped in by our Hon. piper, Joe McIntosh, and addressed by the President, Reg Dyson. We were honoured to have as our guest speaker, Mr. Ron Aitken, President of the Yorkshire District of the Burns Federation, who proposed the toast, 'Immortal Memory'. The toast to 'The Lassies' was wittily proposed by Keith Exley and ably replied to by the President's Lady, Jean Dyson. Past President, Jean Jackson, proposed the toast to 'Our Guests' and Ron Aitken responded. Other events have included the St. Andrew's Dance, and a Carnival Fancy Dress Dance held on 30th December. We also took part in the preliminary rounds of the Yorkshire Societies Quiz but lost to Skipton. However, we did win the Bowls match on 10th June and now have the Cup proudly on display.
Mrs. Margaret Exley.

893. North Bay Robert Burns Club. Our Club held their 23rd annual Burns Supper Dance at the Voyager Hotel on 27th January 1990, it was very well attended. The Haggis was piped in by Fred Watt, President Ron Copse addressed the Haggis. Billy McMahon one of our Club members and also our resident piper, made the Immortal Memory. The Star o' Rabbie Burns was sung by our Vice President Ian Cameron. The evening continued on until the wee sma hours, to some very enjoyable Scottish dancing. Our Club had made donations to the North Bay Highland Gathering presented by the Royal Canadian Legion; also the Highland Dancing Association, North Bay, many of whose dancers have won many honours. A young dancer Mark Porter, will dance for the Queen in Scotland in the summer and also compete in the World Championships.
Annie Coyne.

907. A' The Airts Burns Club - Stonehouse. The Annual Supper was held in the largest hall in the district, suitably decorated with Burns memorabilia and tartan on Friday 2nd February 1990. Following an excellent meal the company sat back to enjoy the evening's programme. Readings were given by James Haddow, James Campbell and Muriel Russell with many of Burns's most beautiful songs portrayed by William McAllister, Alex McInnes and Anne Spiers. Toast to the Lassies given by Jim Jamieson was amusing and informative as was the reply by local business woman Fay Stewart. Prizes in the Schools competition for 1989 were shared between 2 Schools, Bent Primary and Glassford. The word is that this year an all-out effort is being made with some intensive coaching to wrest the cups and shields from their grasp. The Club's outing this year will be to Dumfries where a wreath will be laid at Burns's tomb. It is anticipated that some fifty members will be in attendance. Edward B. Macgregor.

915. Canterbury Burns Club. The Annual Burns Supper on 25th January is always an enjoyable occasion. This year it was one of the hottest days of the summer, but this did not deter the 104 patrons from enjoying a wonderfully entertaining evening. The M.C. for the evening was Mr. William Hunter, Vice-President. There were visitors from Scotland and other parts of New Zealand. Other activities include the Memorial Church Service which was held on the 23rd July at St. James' Presbyterian Church, followed by a soup and sandwich Luncheon in our Club rooms 110 Tuam Street. To celebrate St. Andrew's day, we went for a picnic to Ripapa Island, which is situated in Lyttelton Harbour. Miss M.N. Hill.

916. Hole i' the Wa Burns Club. Our 25th Annual Supper was held in the Hole i' the Wa' on Wednesday 24th January 1990 and was a very successful evening. The Immortal Memory was ably proposed by Mr. Joe Campbell of West Sound. The Toast to the Lassies was in the hands of the inimitable Mr. David Shankland M.B.E., and delivered in his usual humorous manner. A very acceptable musical programme completed the evening. St. Andrew's Night held on Wednesday 29th November 1989. The principal speaker for the evening was Mr. Neil McIntosh, Chief Executive, Dumfries & Galloway Regional Council. The company was able entertained by a group of artists by Mrs. Edith Murchie. Donald C. McCuaig.

917. Scottish Presidents Association. The Annual Dinner held on 7th April, was well attended and included 3 new members with their wives. We were very happy to have member and Past President, Alvon Hirst and his wife Freda, (now President in Milton of Campsie) present once again. After the dinner, which was presided over by Vice-Presidents, Bob Callender and Gordon Elliott, the company danced to David Bell and his music. Altogether a friendly and happy evening. Our next event will be the Annual General Meeting in July, then our Annual Lunch in October. Next year our Annual Dinner will be held on Saturday 18th May 1991. Lew W. Reid.

918. Dover & East Kent Scottish Society. The Annual Burns Dinner and Dance was held at Dover Town Hall on Friday 26th January 1990. The President, Mrs. Nan Pressley welcomed 120 members and friends. Long serving member Mrs. Margaret Becks proposed the 'Immortal Memory' in a much appreciated factual manner. Bill Gray proposed 'The Lassies', Vice-President Margaret Johns replied. Jim Warnock proposed 'The Visitors' to which Paul Watkins, Chairman Dover District Council, replied. Traditional dancing followed to conclude a very enjoyable evening. Car run, Summer walk, 'Meet the President' Buffet supper, Halloween Social, St. Andrew's Dinner Dance, Hogmanay Party, Burns' Appreciation evening, Spring Social. It has been a sad year too. Our President Nan Pressley died a few weeks after the Burns Night. We also lost Major James MacFarlane M.C. and Philip Sewell, two stalwarts in the Society. Mr. J.J. Darrant.

928. Bathgate Jolly Beggars Burns Club. The annual Burns Supper was held in The Fairweigh Hotel, Bathgate on Saturday 27th January. There was a full turn out of members and friends. The Immortal Memory was proposed by John Hepburn of Forth Jolly Beggars Club. His theme concerned the ability of Burns to communicate for his audience, the people of Scotland or where else in the world who wished to hear about freedom, justice and brotherhood.

It was Tom Miller's first appearance in public as club President.

The year's events were overshadowed by the untimely death of our club President Jock Mackay. Jock had been a founder member of the club and one of its hardest working and most supportive members. He will be sadly missed.

Allister A. Mackie.

930. The Wheatsheaf Burns Club. A large company of members and guests were welcomed by president Ken MacLeod, to the annual supper of the Wheatsheaf Burns Club No. 930. Rev. D.E. McClements, of Grahamston United Church, and Vice-President of the Falkirk Burns Club, proposed the toast to 'The Immortal Memory', and captivated his audience by showing his considerable knowledge of the Bard's works.

The toast to 'The Lassies O', was given by Joe Keegan of Cumbernauld Burns Club; his witty and humorous speech enlivened the proceedings, and was ably replied to by George Wilson.

The toast to 'Our Principal Guest', was duly proposed by Tom Myles of Cumbernauld and the Newmarket Burns Club.

Recitations by Bill Graham, assisted by one of his proteges, in the person of 12 year-old Gary Grugan, were loudly acknowledged by the company. Songs by Colin Thomson and Bob Wardrope, accompanied by James Paton, and a piping selection by Malcolm Swan, completed the entertainment. The vote of thanks by James Mackie completed the proceedings, a collection for The Jean Armour Burns Houses Fund raised £130.

931. Beith Caledonia Burns Club. Our club continues to thrive with our monthly meetings held in the Segton Inn, Kilwinning, where host Ian Garrett assists with the running of the club. Our Annual Supper was once again held at the Royal British Legion Irvine Branch Club. The relevant toasts and readings were excellently rendered by Dick Lennox, Hugh McColl, Ian Garrett, Jack Robertson and Willie Gillies. All members of our club. We had to cancel our St. Andrew's celebration at the last minute due to the ill health of some of the cronies, but I am pleased to say that they have made a remarkable recovery.

Jack G.D. Robertson.

940. Pembrokeshire Caledonian Society. The memory of farmer and poet Rabbie Burns was celebrated in traditional style by the Pembrokeshire Caledonian Society at its 41st Burns Night dinner dance on Friday 26th January 1990.

The event was held in the Masonic Hall at Milford, and guests were greeted by the President Mr. Andrew Fyall and his wife. The haggis 'a glorious sight' was piped in by Mr. Neil McGregor and borne by Mr. Pat Brooks. It was addressed in dramatic style by Mr. William Wood.

The toast to the 'Immortal Memory' was given by Mr. D. Carnegie. The toast to 'The Lassies' was proposed by Mr. Gordon Smith who, referring to the fact that Burns was a great admirer of women - 'Auld Nature swears the lovely dears. Her noblest work she classes O, her 'prentice han' she tried on man, an' then she made the lassies O'—commented that the last thing to be civilised by man would probably be women!

A spirited response was given by Mrs. Sara Colquhoun and this was followed by the toast to the guests proposed by the President, who remarked that Burns would have been happy to see them all there that evening on an occasion which brought them together and made friends. He also thanked their Piper, Mr. McGregor who never let them down at these functions. Mr. Ray White, Chief Constable of Dyfed Powys Police responded and the dinner was brought to a close with the toast to 'Absent Friends' proposed by Mr. D. Evans.

Toastmaster was Mr. John Nugent. Dancing continued to the music of The Savoy Players and the evening concluded with the singing of Auld Lang Syne. The MC for the evening was Mr. Tom



Pembrokeshire Caledonian Society Burns Nicht

Sinclair.

Autumn Caledonian Ball 28th October 1989. Members and friends travelled from Cardiff, Swansea, Newquay, Carmarthen and all over Pembrokeshire. Dancing to Savoy Players. Very enjoyable dance. Mrs. Rosemary Short.

941. Robert Burns Club of San Diego. Under the guidance of President Alex McDonald, the Robert Burns Club of San Diego continued with a year of good fellowship, lively and entertaining meetings and an outstanding Burns Supper.

In his masterful portrayal of the Bard at the Supper on 20th January 1990 Alex McDonald embodied the Immortal Memory, as Burns was brought to life and reviewed his life and loves for all the hundreds of eyes focused on him. It was acclaimed by all members as the finest and most enjoyable performance we have had among all our many years' Suppers. Bill Ward and Ken McIntyre ably accompanied Alex, with the participation of many other members and their lassies. George Millar's outstanding work as floor manager helped make the presentation most dramatic, and Tom Ray gave one of his always fine renditions with his Toast to the Lassies.

We held all of our regular monthly meetings at McDougal's restaurant, whose Chef Bill Thomson also specially prepared the haggis for our supper. At our various meetings, we enjoyed the singing of Ray McMahon, our Club Piper, Jimmy Naismith and recitations and presentations by all of the members. In December, the Club made an appearance on live camera for the fund-raising drive of our local public television station, KPBS-TV.

Our events included a ladies night on the Reuben E. Lee steamboat restaurant in San Diego Bay, participation in the Bard's Corner at Celtic Night at the Balboa Park Club and our annual golf tournament at Tecolote Canyon Golf Club.

944. The Alamo Burns Club. The 231st Anniversary of the Birth of our National Bard was celebrated in traditional manner by the cronies of 'The Alamo' Burns Club on the evening of Tuesday 23rd January 1990. Following a warm welcome by President Ken Johnstone, the piping in of 'The Great Chieftan o' The Puddin' Race' by pipe-major Neil Martin set the scene for another grand nicht wi' Rabbie at the Alamo.

The 'Immortal Memory' was proposed by our guest speaker, Neil Fisher from the Kilmarnock Howff Burns Club. Neil is no stranger to the 'Alamo' cronies and his love and understanding of the Life and Works of Robt Burns well deserved the ovation which he received. Readings were given by Hugh Hunter in his own inimitable fashion; the 'Toast Tae the Lassies' was hilariously rendered by Kenny Cairns from 'The Trusty Fieries' Burns Club, and equally hilariously replied to by Tom Nixon. A nicely balanced selection of Burns's songs were sung throughout the programme by Angus McCallum, whilst musical selections from pipe-major Neil Martin and accordionist Bobby Johnstone added greatly to another grand Burns Nicht which concluded with a hearty rendering of 'Auld Lang Syne'.

James Fisher.

945. Kirklees Scottish Highland Association. Burns Night this year, held on Saturday 27th January at St. Patrick's Centre, Huddersfield, almost started in disaster. At 6 o'clock Snow arrived. Of the 106 members and guests only 6 were trapped, including the Mayor and Mayoress. The President, David Medlen welcomed everyone, our (retiring piper after 9 years) Peter Whitwham piped in the Haggis addressed in true Burnsian fashion by Agnes Davie. The Immortal Memory was given by our Hon. Life President Jimmy Davie, a very entertaining Toast to the Lassies was given by the Chieftain of Huddersfield St. Andrews, Robert Brown and the evening concluded with the usual dancing. All members and guests made a safe journey home, the local Authority having had time to grit the roads.

Our Tent at the local Cleckheaton Highland Gathering, where lots of new friends are made. Hogmanay a very enjoyable night.

Mrs. Elsie Medlen.

946. Calgary Burns Club. Our 14th Annual Banquet at the Westin Inn was a kind of last hurrah, for that grand old man our patron Dr. Grant MacEwan. He delivered The Immortal Memory, and a great one it was. Our programme was featured as a tribute to Grant MacEwan, and the poem that appeared below his photograph on the programme was composed by our own club bard, Dr. Bob Carnie.

Master of ceremonies, John Goldie. O, Canada, 'The Company', 'The Queen', The Company, Loyal Toast Ron Girardau, The Removes, Mr. Terry Lauder. Address to the Haggis Tom Miller. Song, and the President's welcome by Bob Ferrier, Toast to Canada Stewart Chalmers, Toast to Tarbolton Bachelors Club Jim Currie, Immortal Memory Grant MacEwan, Scottish Fiddle Music Dean Marshall, Greetings from the City Mayor Al Duerr, toast to absent friends A. Ross, tribute to Grant MacEwan Bob Carnie, Auld Lang Syne - the Company. This year before the first interval we had the full Regimental Band of the Calgary Highlanders. Pipers, drummers and dancers and the reading of History and Battle honours by Sec. Lt. Cr. Keiver. It was an absolutely spectacular display. We have decided to include them in our future events.

This year attendance was 370 coupled with 320, at our St. Andrew's Ball, and good turn outs at our Ladies' Night Barbecue and Golf Tournament. Another great year.

Andy Hay.

950. Drummoyne & District Scottish Society & Burns Club. The Annual Burns Supper was held in Gladesville Presbyterian Church Hall on Monday 15th January 1990. The President, Colin Wilson welcomed 180 members and friends. Many had come along for the first time. Thanks to a wonderful Committee, the Hall was decorated suitably for the occasion. The Official Guests for the evening were from the Burns Club of Australia, Hurstville, Parramatta and Epping Scottish Societies. Duncan Macdermid piped in the Haggis, which was carried by Charles Rowley. The Address to the Haggis was once again, in the capable hands of Duncan Macdermid. Adam Stenhouse gave the Selkirk Grace before we all enjoyed a lovely meal. This year we were fortunate to have Andy Walker, from New Zealand, who delivered the 'Immortal Memory'. The attention of the audience was a clear indication what a speaker he was. The Toast to the Lassies was in the hands of Robert Newton, humorously replied to by Mrs. Ella Stenhouse. During the evening we all thoroughly enjoyed the musical items rendered by Jennifer Shaw and Arthur Spink. Another successful evening came to a close with the singing of 'Auld Lang Syne'.

Mrs. S. Wilson.

961. Larkhall Burns Club. 12th Supper in club function venue at Ferniegair, 6 kindred clubs attended. Main toast superbly proposed by member Andrew Paul. Haggis piped in by Hon. Mem. John Barclay. Held aloft by member William Knox. 'Cratur' borne by Secretary Andy Taylor. Addressed by Minute Secretary Helen Knox. Selkirk Grace by member Joyce Millward. Traditional 'Hamely Fare' was inadequate. Loyal toast by Pres. Alistair Blair. The 'Lasses' were toasted by Treasurer Bill Scott with response from P.P. Elizabeth Kane. The visitors were toasted by I.P.P. Willie MacIntosh with a reply from Hutchison Sneddon, President Burns Federation. Vote of thanks came from Vice-President Bob Millward. Readings—members Jenny Auld and Kay Blair. Songs, Hon. Member Ann Pickering and Bob Millward. Accompanist Moira Kerr, a good friend of L.B.C.

Other events - Guest speaker, November, D.W. Ogilvie.

St. Andrew's Celebration, November, Ferniegair.

Annual Quiz, December, head to head contest, result Larkhall 31. Gartosh 32.

Griffin Gartosh Quiz, February, winner Larkhall B.C.

Schools Competition, March, all 8 Primaries involved, Honours by H. Sneddon, President Burns Federation, a joyous occasion for everyone concerned.

Annual visitation to 3 local homes for the elderly to entertain residents.

Andrew K.S. Taylor.

967. Earlsferry Burns Club. The Annual Supper was held in the Golf Tavern, Earlsferry on Friday 26th January - an excellent night enjoyed by all. Bill Smith gave his usual polished performance in Tam o' Shanter. The Immortal Memory was this year given by Tom Maccabe and the other members contributed in no small measure to the success of the evening. Geroge Walsh.



Huddersfield St. Andrews Society

Left to Right: Joe McIntosh; Agnes Davie; Robert Brown; Jennifer Brown; Jimmy Davie.

969. Huddersfield St. Andrew's Society. The Annual Burns Supper and Dance was held at the Hilton National Hotel, Ainley Top, Huddersfield on Friday 26th January 1990. Jimmy Davie delivered the Immortal Memory in usual expert fashion, Agnes Davie addressed the Haggis which was piped in by the Society's piper Joe McIntosh. Robert Brown, Chieftain presided and members enjoyed dancing to the music of Enigma.

Professor David Purdie was the principal speaker at the annual St. Andrew's Night Dinner in Huddersfield when he replied to the toast 'Scotland for Ever'. A company of 130 enjoyed supporting speeches from Archie Jeffers, Reg Le Pla, Alan Kerr, Maurice Roberts and Robert Brown.

Two golf outings during the summer of 1989 provided an opportunity for members to meet and keep in touch.

Robert Brown.

973. Salsburgh Miners Burns Club. The Burns Supper held by the Salsburgh Burns Club was a great success. Everyone enjoyed the singing of Mrs. A. Pickering, readings by Mr. John Reid and Mr. R. Cleland for his Immortal Memory. The evening ended with a dance when everyone danced to J.T.s Band.

The Bowling tournament held in November was won this year by the team from Fir Park, Motherwell, who narrowly beat the home team, who were last year's winners. Mr. J. Chalmers, President of the Lanarkshire Association of Burns Club, presented the trophy to the winning team.

Mrs. Margaret MacDonald.

976. Hopetoun Laddies Burns Club. President Drew Herriot opened our Supper, held in the Hopetoun Arms, Ormiston, with the sad task of asking all members to observe a minute's silence in memory of two of our members, Wullie Haig and Wullie Ness, and Honorary member Eric Murray. They will be missed.

The evening then carried on with all the addresses and toasts being performed by our own club members. Hugh Smith addressed the Haggis, and, after Jock Smith gave the Selkirk Grace, an excellent meal was enjoyed by all. Jim Cockrill's delivery of the 'Immortal Memory', Jim Rafferty's amusing 'Toast to the Lassies' and David Fleming's 'Toast to the Village' were particularly well received. The music of piper Wullie Hogg, Accordionist Jimmy Wilson and fiddler Bruce Graham, and the singing of Jimmy Bristow and George McMaster, helped to round off another warm and successful evening celebrating the birth of our National Bard, Robert Burns. Billy Napier.

992. Marchbank Burns Club. The Annual Supper of the Marchbank Burns Club (Frae a' the Airts) was held at the Marchbank Hotel on 2nd February 1990 and attended by 45 members and their guests.

The annual general meeting of the club was held at the Marchbank Hotel on 7th November 1989. A.H. McVittie T.D., W.S.

994. Robert Burns Society of the Midlands. The 12th Annual Burns dinner was held at the Columbia Marriott Hotel on 20th January 1990 with over 200 in attendance. The usual took place, Procession of the Tartans, Piping of the Haggis, various toasts, Address to the Haggis. A harpist and soloist entertained during dinner. Dr. Robert D. Thorton, Burns scholar was our guest speaker. This was followed by Highland Dancing and Scottish Country Dancing. Also entertaining us was the Grandfather Mountain Highlanders with the Pipes and Drums.

On 21st January we had the Kirkin' O' the Tartans at St. John's Episcopal Church in Columbia, S.C. followed by brunch at a local restaurant.

We ran four or five other activities during the year with a Scottish theme.

Dixie McCaskell.



Robert Burns Society of the Midlands

996. Lodge St. Andrew Burns Club. Our Annual Burns Supper was held on Friday 26th January in the Masonic Hall, Kilmarnock, the Chairman for the night being James Paton. The Chairman welcomed the guests with the usual St. Andrew warmth. The Grace was given by Ian Murray, the Haggis was ceremoniously carried in by Bob Halbert, to the tune 'There Was a Lad' by piper Bro. D. Moir. The great chieftain was then addressed in a very enthusiastic and vicious manner by P.M. J. Gordon. The Immortal Memory was proposed by Jimmy McDowall reminding all that Burns was human and that his works are as fresh today as when he wrote them 200 years ago. The toast 'Tae The Lasses' was in the capable hands of Adam Cunningham, and the reply by Mrs. McDermont. Both caused much merriment to the audience with the contest declared a draw. Ian Murray gave a reading, and the songs of our Bard were beautifully rendered by Pauline Hamilton and Norrie Weir. Songs and reading were greatly appreciated by the company. The toast 'Artists and Stewards' was given by S.D. I. Baird. A vote of thanks was given to the Chairman and principal speaker by John Cumisky. The tables were now cleared and the company, numbering 120, danced the night away into the wee sma' hours. At the conclusion everyone voted the night a huge success.
R. Ghee.

999. Dumfries and District Round Table Burns Club. The Annual Supper was held on 22nd January in the Globe Inn, Dumfries. It was the Club's 10th Annual Burns Supper since federation in 1980. 80 people attended.
Mr. S. McRoberts.

1003. Whiteadder Burns Club. The Club's Annual Supper was held in the Allanton Inn, Allanton on Monday 5th February 1990. It was a full house with 61 members and guests attending. The Chairman for the night was W.L.A. McCreath who welcomed our guests. The evening proceeded with the traditional speeches, the highlight being the Immortal Memory given by Mr. David Smith (Jr.).
John C. Gardiner.

1010. H. & W. Burns Club Belfast. The strains of the pipes from Bob Brannigan greeted 165 members and friends to our 9th Annual Burns Supper in our clubrooms at Magdala Hall on Friday 19th January 1990. Chairman John Reid gave a warm welcome to all assembled and the haggis was piped in and duly addressed. Mrs. Edna Heron led the company with the grace and after the meal traditional toasts were given by John Reid, The toast to the Lassies while his wife Rosemary replied. For his Immortal Memory toast Jim Heron touched on a topical theme, Burns and Democracy. Presents of luxury Scottish shortbread were distributed to the Lassies. Stanley Ball and Trevor Forster gave fine renderings of the old songs and the company danced to the wee small hours to Billy Warwick on the organ.

A very successful year. 54 members visited Ayr per coach and ferry at Easter for 4 days.
46 members visited Dunoon during September for six days.
£410 given to local charities during year.

1013. Balmullo Burns Club. The 10th Annual Burns Supper was held at the Inn. Chairman Bobby Cr  welcomed members and guests. 'The Selkirk Grace' was said by Ina Cameron. Piper Duff led in the Chieftain carried by Poosie Nansie (Barbara Fargie). Address to the Haggis was given by George Spence. Then followed the Traditional Fare. Miss Rachel Livingstone, Cupar, proposed the Toast to the 'Immortal Memory' and what an excellent job she did. Completely captivating her audience with her knowledge and enthusiasm for the poems and songs of Robert Burns. This was followed by the 'Toast To The Lasses' ably given by President Jim Cameron. With a learned reply by Cathie Hamilton, an excellent 'Address to the Unco Guid' was given by George Oliphant. During the evening Ron Kerr played a selection of Burns tunes on the Fiddle. The floor was cleared for dancing with music supplied by the 'Bobby Crowe Trio'. A memorable evening.
Robert M. Munn

1018. East Antrim. The customary 'Janwar wuns' that usually greet our celebrations didn't blow so fiercely this year making it easier for around 100 enthusiasts to meet in the Highways Hotel, Larne and pay homage to the Bard.

President Tom Peoples greeted one and all and pipers Nat Beattie and Tam Stewart played the company in to a steaming bowl of Farmhouse Broth.

The Haggis was addressed in grand style by Wilson Logan and a fine dinner of roast beef enjoyed. The Immortal Memory was in the capable hands of Ian Duffin who later showed he could also sing a good Burns song.

Making his debut at a Burns event was local teacher Ken Buckley who gave 'The Lassies'. This was responded to in fine style by Margaret Stewart, a colleague of Ken's in the Drama Circle.

Dan McCaughy sang the bards best loved songs and Billy Duncan and Jimmy Todd on accordian and fiddle kept the feet-tapping right up to Auld Land Syne.

Sam Cross

1022. Blane Valley. An audience of 200 celebrated our 10th Annual Supper in the local school hall. Alan McDonald piped in the guests and the Haggis. George Eastcroft took the Chair and introduced the guests. The Haggis was borne aloft by Alice Gibson and addressed by John McEwan. Mrs. McPhee and her staff served an excellent meal (so much for school catering) Honorary member David Paton proposed the Immortal Memory. Excellent singing by John Smith was followed by The Two Dogs recited by Donnie Graham, Alan Morris and Albert Johnstone. More songs were followed by Rosemary Morris (in drag) and Ella Hyam in the title roll of My Spouse Nancy. They then recited their own parody called My Dear Rabbie. The Lassies were toasted by Henry Keenan with an able reply from Alison Chisholm. Keith Hyam proposed the vote of thanks with a special mention to the founder members.

In May 1989 the local primary classes 6 and 7 were taken on a day trip to Stirling Castle and Bannockburn.

In November 1989 a charity folk night and dance raised £600.00 for The Heart Start Fund.

Albert Johnstone

1025. Newton Lads Burns Club. The Club held its Annual General Meeting in Danderhall Miners' Club on Sunday, 8th April when Club President Sam Campbell reviewed the progress of the Burns Club during the past year.

He paid tribute to the Club Members who had worked hard to organise a full programme of events including Smokers/Talks, St. Andrew's Ceilidh, the very successful Burns Supper and the popular Summer Outing.

The President reported on the support the Club had received from the Community and the excellent response by the children of Danderhall Primary School to the Club's Burns Essay Competition.

The Club has arranged the following events for the new session:

Saturday, 9th June — Annual Bus Outing

Thursday, 18th October — Smoker/Talk

Friday, 30th November — St. Andrew's Night Ceilidh

Friday, 25th January 1991 Burns Supper

A proposal that the Club promote a Seminar on the Life and Works of Robert Burns was agreed and arrangements for the Seminar will be discussed at the next meeting of the Club Committee.

James Oswald

1045. Heather and Thistle Society, Houston. The 37th Annual Burns Supper organised by the Heather and Thistle Society and Houston Highlanders on January 20th, 1990, was attended by 670 members and guests. Chieftain Lyman Matheson presided; the Haggis was piped in by Alistair Campbell and addressed by Dr. Maurice Lindsay, Dumbarton. After dinner and the Loyal Toasts, the Immortal Memory was given by James A. Mackay, Dumfries Burns Club, who took for his theme Burns - Poet of Liberty. An evening of ballroom dancing and Scottish entertainment followed, the Houston Highlanders being led by Drum Major Bert Summers of the Turiff and District Pipe Band. Heather and Thistle held their regular ten monthly meetings; the largest attendance was 80 for the

January Burns meeting when 10 members gave a costumed presentation A Night at the Inn celebrating the 200th Anniversary of Tam O' Shanter. Members entertained many guests from Scotland at their Tartan Ball in May and had beautiful weather for their Fathers' Day picnic in June.
Arthur L. Down



Heather and Thistle Society Burns Supper

Section of Head Table, from left to right, James A. Mackay, Dumfries Burns Club, Mrs. Garner, H. M. Consul General, Houston, Mrs. Matheson, Chieftain Lyman Matheson, Sub-Chieftain Alex Munroe.

1050. Hertfordshire Robert Burns Society. The 11th Annual Hertfordshire Robert Burns Festival took place at The Red Lion Hotel in Hatfield on 26th January. 120 members and guests sat down to a 5 course Scottish supper.

Mr. Jim Mason (Hon. Life President of The Burns Club of London) rendered the toast to the Immortal Memory and 'The Lassies' toast was given by Mr. Jimmie Kitchener, President of the Scottish Ambassadors Association (Herts Branch). The response was by Miss Ann Shaw, our Vice President from Seagram, U.K. and 'The address to the Haggis' by Society President Brian Lawrence of Allied Lyons. The Mimram Highland Dance Troupe and Johnny Windmills band completed a memorable evening.

Dudley Sizeland

1058. Stranraer and District Burns Club. John Inglis, Federation Secretary, gave an inspiring Immortal Memory on Burns, his own best biography, at our 5th annual dinner.

This was our biggest and probably our best yet, in terms of a very good balance of serious aspects, humour, songs, recitations, and good food; all in great company and pleasant surroundings.

Other events included a very successful St. Andrew's Night at N. W. Castle Hotel; a summer coach outing to Mauchline; an early Burns Supper at Dumfries in October; two evenings of Talks/Slide Shows, evening of Burns' songs and finally our team won the local speech-making competition.

Our thanks go to all those who made the events so successful, not least of whom is Sam K. Gaw, whose St. Andrew's Night toast 'To Scotland' inspired the evening's entertainment.

Membership continues to be steady at over 80 and prospects for the future are good. The Club is currently presided over by its founder John Bell and has an active Committee.

Lewis Kelly

1059. Dundas Burns Society. Dundas Burns Society had their Burns Supper on Friday 26th January in Dockers Club, Grangemouth. The haggis was brought in by Mrs. Marion Kennedy, the main speaker was Mr. John Hay. The Supper was chaired by Charles Duthie. The Lassies: Mr. Tom Walker, Reply to Lassies Mrs. A. Laurie, Tam o Shanter, Jim Harrower, Holy Willie, Willie Wastle, Bob Hoggan, Singers, Jim Hay and Bob Wright. 100 guests enjoyed a great night, finishing with a dance and a vote of thanks to Chairman W. Maxton, Secretary M. Gilbert and all other committee men for making it a great night.

The Society runs an indoor Bowling Club through the winter months finishing with cup competitions. This year our Treasurer James Kennedy steps down from the Committee, we all in the club would like to thank James for his very good work and support during our first 5 years.

Matthew Gilbert

1062. Ashburn House Burns Club. The Annual Supper was held on 2nd February and was most successful. Attendance was down on previous years but the programme of singers and speakers was outstanding.

The Club has moved to new Headquarters in the Star Inn, Alloa and to have smokers in April, May and June.

Robert Mitchell

1065. The "Trusty Fieres" Erskine Burns Club. The Trusty Fieres invited 85 guests to take part in their 3rd Annual Burns Supper held in the New Town of Erskine on 27th January 1990. Mr. Andy McKee of the Alamo Burns Club, Paisley, proposed the Immortal Memory and an excellent meal and entertainment made the evening a worthy tribute to our National Bard.

The club took part in the annual wreath-laying ceremony in Paisley to commemorate the anniversary of the death of Robert Burns.

As part of the Renfrewshire's involvement in the Schools Competition, local primary schools provide over forty pupils. The adjudicators were Mrs. Nan Mackenzie and Miss Anna Florin. This was a most successful event due to the high standard of the competitors.

Regular monthly meetings were held on various topics associated with Robert Burns and also other items of interest.

William Richardson

1073. The Robert Burns Club of Erie, Pennsylvanie, held its annual Burns Supper on 27th January in the Regency Ballroom of the Belaire Hotel. Seated at tables brightened by favours of small tartan teams, the 126 guests were welcomed by our president, Dorothea Gillespie. The singing of the National Anthem and Scots Wha' Hae' was accompanied by Margaret Zimmerman, and Peg Boyd led in the praying of the Selkirk Grace. During a delicious meal which began with cock-a-leekie soup and ended with Scottish trifle, the haggis was piped in by Eric Marshall, carried by Dick Morey, and addressed by John Gallagher. A delightfully humorous and informative toast to the Immortal Memory



Jim Edwards and Valarie Cisk



Mr. and Mrs. Pat Gillespie

was given by Andrew MacKay and John Gallagher who came to us from Rochester, New York. They have shared their talents at Scottish events around New York state and in Canada. A fun-filled evening of singing and ballroom dancing followed, interspersed by exhibitions of Scottish dancing as presented by Kimberly Tracy, Justin Kennedy and Tom Kaspick. Andrew MacKay toasted the lassies and Nancy Robinson the laddies, and the evening ended with a final toast by Jim Boyd and the singing of Auld Lang Syne. Credit must be given to Shiela Sweet, Linda Pezdek, and Sally and Ed Dalglish for making this a memorable evening.

Margaret Nelson

1076. The Can-Du Burns Club. The Dumfries Arm of the Can-Du Burns Club held their annual Burns Supper on 28th January 1990 at Glebe House, Dumfries. The Immortal Memory was given by Mary Urquhart, the toast to the Lassies by Wilson Ogilvie and reply by Mary Grierson. Address to the Haggis by Bob Grierson. Our Canadian Arm was not quite so fortunate and had to cancel festivities due to adverse weather conditions - 10 feet of snow. Their Burns Supper will take place once the thaw has set in. In the meantime they are in good spirits and will have a longer time than usual to rehearse their speeches! Could it be that they plan a celebration of Burns conception? Our President Dr. Jim Connor will surely have thought of that.

Mary J. Urquhart

1078. Burns Club of Vancouver. The Third Annual Burns Dinner was held on 25th January, 1990 in the ballroom of the Hotel Vancouver. The gentlemen's dinner was attended by 197 mostly from Greater Vancouver. Jim Murray acted as master of ceremonies and introduced each course of the meal with an explanation of the food being served at the course and usually some humorous comment about it. The address to the haggis was ably performed by Archie Walker. Sandy Pinkerton gave the Selkirk Grace and Alistair Taylor the loyal toast. Ian Mason proposed the toast to the Tarbolton Bachelors' Club and Mike MacCallum proposed the toast to the Lassies. Ken Rogerson gave the Immortal Memory.

This year Jack Whyte sang O Canada and led all the celebrants in singing the Star o' Rabbie Burns. He also sang a solo The Battle of Sherramuir. Bill McKay came in from Calgary to sing Ae Fond Kiss. Ernie Prentice sang Green Grow the Rashes and My Love is like a Red Red Rose. Rob Stuart sang Bonnie Wee Thing and McPherson's Lament as solos and then joined with Jack Whyte to do an exceedingly entertaining medley of songs. For the first time the Club's choir entertained at the dinner to the delight of all assembled.

W. Merrill Leckie

1080. The Swiss Burns Society. The Swiss Burns Society celebrated Burns Night on 27th January 1990 in the Clubhouse Pfadiheim in Mels, Switzerland, and once again attracted attendees from across Switzerland and Germany. As has become tradition, the working language for both the official business and the subsequent festivities was a thickly accented, somewhat Aberdonian, brogue. This year's topic was Burns and Woman, which spurred some rather fascinating research among club members; a memorable highlight was the reading aloud of several translations, into German, of the poem Lassie lie near me. A further adventure in translation was the German recording of To a Haggis which, following a hearty Piper's greeting, welcomed the wee puddings to the table. Slide presentations during the course of the evening highlighted both the fascination with Scotland's diverse landscapes and the photographic craftsmanship of several club members. And once again, Saturday's Burnsian revelry carried on well into Sunday.

John D. Ralston

1084. Benidorm Burns Club. A capacity crowd attended the 1990 event in the Best Inn on 3rd January. It was a proud moment when Les Jevons, representing the Burns Federation, presented President Edward McCue with Charter No. 1084.

Secretary George Cunningham ably addressed the Haggis following the Selkirk Grace from Jose Maria Montes. The President proposed the Club's unique Loyal Toast, (to El Rey Juan Carlos and H.M. Queen Elizabeth II), before giving the Immortal Memory featuring a peerless rendering of Tam

O' Shanter to celebrate the 200th anniversary of its writing. Les Jeavons humourously proposed in verse the Toast to the Lassies, which was capably replied to likewise in verse, by his wife Jean. Jack Burden, a resident of the town, proudly proposed the Toast to Benidorm, Jose Maria Montes from Barcelona University, our Hosts wittily replied to by Mine Hosts' Dave and Mabel Barker and Betty McCue. Artistes Les Jeavons replied and accepted club membership on behalf of Jean and himself. Alec Caldwell and George Cunningham rendered the beautiful songs of the Bard and Auld Lang Syne concluded the 3rd anniversary Supper of the only federated club in Spain.
George Cunningham



Les Jeavons representing the Burns Federation presents the Club's (Benidorm) Charter No. 1084 to the President, Edward McCue watched by David Barker, George Cunningham, Secretary and Jean Jeavons in the Best Inn, Benidorm.

1086. Mackay & District Robert Burns Society. 220 people attended our Annual Robert Burns Supper at Mitchies Function Centre in the city centre of Mackay. They were entertained by local artistes and members of the society.

In the past twelve months the society held monthly meetings, and the programme of these meetings included: Scottish Surnames, Scottish words, History of Scottish Dancing, poems by Committee members, Programme on Picts, Travelogue of a visit to Scotland by a member, programme on whisky, a night of stories, poems and comments relating to Scotland and Burns, and a night where Scottish songs were sung, and a speaker of Gaelic was interviewed, year finished off with a Robert Burns Quiz.
Jill Mackay

1088. United Scottish Society, Inc. The 19th Annual Robert Burns Night took place on Saturday 26th January, 1990 at the Commissioned Officers Club, U.S. Naval Station, Long Beach, California. The 59th Annual Highland Gathering and Festival was held on Saturday and Sunday, May 25th - 26th at Orange County Fairground, Costa Mesa, California.

Thomas W. Smith



United Scottish Society Inc., California. Nan Daley (Chairman) and Jim Yates.

1087 Orange County Burns Club. The evening's festivities, conducted once again in the Costa Mesa Country Club, were opened by Club president Hugh Galloway who welcomed one and all to the event and added a special note of welcome to those new members who had swelled our ranks. Hugh noted the passing of our eldest member, Sam James, but remarked that he was well represented by the presence of his two sons, Glen and Eric and his grandson, Kevin.

Hugh expressed a hope that the Club would have a long association with the James family. This sentiment was greeted by a warm round of applause.

The Haggis was then piped in by P/M Scott Ruscoe of the Los Angeles Scottish pipe band, ably assisted by henchmen Ben Ramage and Joe Donnelly. The Address was performed in fine style by Norman Nelson.

The toast to 'The Twa Lands' was proposed by Ben Ramage. This proved to be very interesting and highlighted the various ethnic backgrounds to be found in Southern California and even within the Club itself.

Jack Crease delighted the company with a beautiful piano rendition of Ye Banks and Braes and Flow Gently Sweet Afton. This was very well received.

Les Davie delivered 'The Immortal Memory'. His theme was 'Burns Ploughman or Intellectual?' and this proved to be a nice anecdotal appreciation for the contradictions and genius within the man.

Bob Rose then took the floor for an excellent rendition of 'Mary Morrison'. Jack Crease provided piano accompaniment.

Kenny Hamilton's presentation had been much anticipated and he did not disappoint the company. He provided a well researched, in-depth appreciation of Burns's pride in Scotland and outlined the achievements of many Scots over the years. He concluded his presentation by reciting 'Scots Whe Hae' and as in the previous year, provided excellent interpretation of Burns's phrases. This was especially appreciated by the Sassenachs in the company.

Jim Yates formally presented a Federation badge to Hugh Galloway and added his congratulations and best wishes for the future. Following this, the evening's event was then brought to a conclusion. Tom Foley

1091. Harrogate Saltire Scottish Country Dance Club. Yet again, the popularity of our Burns Supper proved most encouraging, not only amongst our Scottish members and friends as support was widespread. Harrogate is a beautiful place in which to live as is borne out here by a very strong Scottish presence, and our heritage which we promote frequently is much appreciated. On this occasion our Immortal Memory was given by Bill Simpson, the Lassies by Ian Brown and the reply by Mrs. Valerie Mount. The Haggis, after being piped in by Tom Boyd, was addressed by Bob Williamson. An excellent evening all round.

We are very enthusiastic in the Harrogate Saltire SCDC and we participated in all the usual events, such as the St. Andrews Dinner, Hogmanay Ball etc. It is fortunate our supporters are also enthusiastic so numbers are no problem. We are particularly pleased to report the success of our recently formed Harrogate Saltire Scottish Music Group, which now has a membership of 45 players. Having performed on numerous occasions over the last two years, our highlight was the invitation to play with the Kilmarnock Fiddlers a few weeks ago in Yeadon Town Hall, near Leeds. Our reception was almost over-whelming and we are hoping that this develops further. Our main activity is of course Scottish Country Dancing in which we are also very strong, both numerically and financially. We meet every week in term time and we wound up our year with a Harrogate Highland Ball which we hope to repeat in the coming seasons. Dancers came from all over Yorkshire and filled the hall to capacity, and we danced to Bobby Crowe Trio.

Bob Williamson

British Association of Monaco. The Association's Burns Night Supper was held at le Metropole Palace, Monaco, on Friday, 26th January, 1990 and was attended by 133 members and guests. After an excellent meal the Chairman, Mr. Ian Robertson, called upon Mr. Gordon Fisher to propose the Immortal Memory. Mr. Fisher spoke of Burns the satirist and by reference to that most enjoyable poem

'Holy Willie's Prayer'. The Lassies were toasted by Mr. Jeremy Keeley who, in his inimitable style, reduced everyone present (including the 'Lassies') to tears of laughter. The then most difficult task of replying on behalf of the Lassies was very ably handled by Mr. Jim Wilson. A highlight of the evening was the piping in of the Haggis by Mr. Malcolm Shewan who was accompanied, in procession, by the Chef and Mr. Ron Langlands (Scotch aloft). The subsequent address to the Haggis was delivered, with the gusto of a practised orator, by Mr. Livesey.

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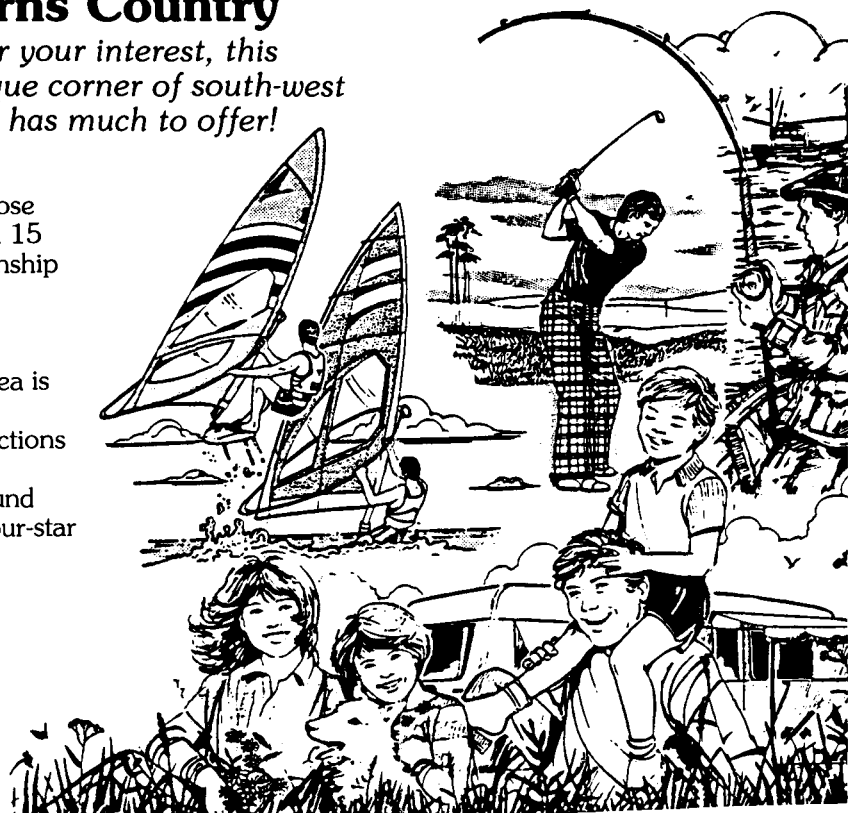
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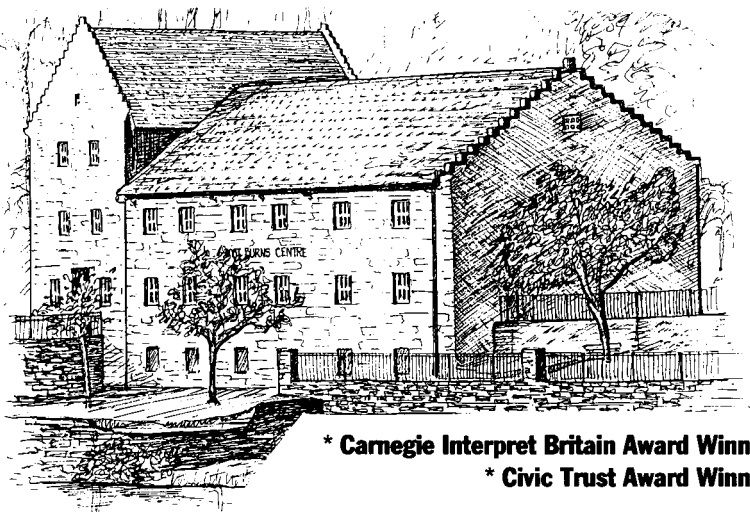
LIST OF BURNS CLUBS AND SCOTTISH SOCIETIES ON THE ROLL OF THE BURNS FEDERATION (Corrected to 30th April 1990)

<i>No.</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Inst.</i>	<i>Fed.</i>	<i>Mem- bers</i>	<i>President</i>	<i>Secretary</i>
0	Kilmarnock Burns Club	1808	1885	62	James Gibson	Mrs. M. Thomson, 52a Dundonald Road, Kilmarnock. KA1 1RZ.
1	The Burns Club of London	1868	1885	150	Alex W. Wilson	J. Mason, 83 Dorchester Way, Kenton, Harrow, Middx. HA33 9RD.
2	Alexandria Burns Club	1884	1885	150	James Gallacher	Brian G. Benson 'Edelston', Smollett Street, Alexandria, Dunbartonshire. G83 0DS.
5	Ercildoune Burns Club	1885	1963	68	James Irvine	Mrs. R. Irvine, 25 Queensway, Earliston 568, Berwickshire. TD4 6LU.
6	The Haggis Club, Alloa	1873	1988			P. Hill, P.O. Box 37, Alloa, Clackmannanshire. FK10 1YE
7	Thistle Burns Club	1882	1885	46	D. McDougall	T. Murtagh, 132 Calder Stree Glasgow. G42 7QP.
9	Royalty Burns Club	1882	1886	279	George E. Davidson	Ross Taylor, 27A Bowes Rigg, Stewarton. KA3 5AW.
10	Dumbarton Burns Club	1859	1886	139	A. M. Mackenzie	James Hutton, 'Ailsa', Barloan Crescent, Dumbarton. G32 2AT.
11	Chesterfield and District Cal. Assoc.	1886	1886	73	Brian Evangelista	James Law Bullions, Grey Gables', 27 Norbriggs Road, Woodthorpe, Mastin Moore, Chesterfield. S43 3BT.
13	St. Andrews Burns Club	1869	1981	90	Colin M. Risk	David Reed, 5 Cairnhill Gardens, St. Andrews, Fife. KY16 8QY.
14	Dundee Burns Club	1860	1886	34	David Kettles	Edward R. Bonnar, Dundee Burns Club, 37 Union Street, Dundee.
15	Belfast Burns Assoc.	1886	1886	65	Miss Jean Annesley	Miss Sheila Simms, 8 Ballyfore Gardens, Ballyduf Newtonabbey, Co. Antrim, Northern Ireland. BT36 6XY
17	Nottingham Scottish Association	1871	1886	184	D. J. Willey	Mrs. A. Willey, 6 Moss Side, Nottingham. NG11 7EL.
20	Airdrie Burns Club	1884	1886	136	R. W. Forest	Matthew Hood, 125 Cromarty Road, Airdrie.
21	Greenock Burns Club	1801	1886	170	Rankin Kelly	David Fulton, 4 Old Inverkip Road, Greenock. PA16 9AQ.
22	Edinburgh Burns Club	1848	1886	33	Mrs. Nancy L. G. Ovens	A. S. Winton, 12 Ventnor Terrace, Edinburgh. EH9 2BL.

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26	Perth Burns Club	1873	1886	84	Hector Chisholm	R. H. Aitken, 7 Langley Place, Perth. PH2 7XB.
33	Glasgow Haggis Club	1872	1886	100	Robert Gunning	David Watson, C.A., Gillespie and Anderson C.A., 147 Bath Street, Glasgow. G2 4SN.
35	Dalry (Ayrshire) Burns Club	1825	1887	90	J. R. Clark	W. D. Walker, 10 Braehead, Dalry, Ayrshire, KA24 5EX.
36	Rosebery Burns Club	1885	1887	20	Mrs. Nina Spiers	Mrs. Nan W. McKenzie, 'Crichope', 49 St Kenneth Drive, Glasgow. G51 4QF.
37	Dollar Burns Club	1887	1887	100	Lloyd Harrison	David M. Tait, 'Glenhaven', 16 Burleigh Road, Milnathort. KY13 7SU.
40	Aberdeen Burns Club	1872	1889	50	Sandy Stuart	Mrs. Irene Fraser, 4 Ramsay Cres., Garthdee, Aberdeen. AB1 7BN.
42	Strathearn Burns Club	1889	1950	116	Mrs. Nina Robertson	Michael Kidd, Brae Cottage, Ardvreck, Crieff, Perthshire. PH7 4EX.
45	Cumnock Burns Club	1887	1891	120	Sheriff David B. Smith	Robin D. Hunter, 1 The Square, Cumnock, Ayrshire. KA18 1BQ.
48	Paisley Burns Club	1805	1891	36	Dr. James Young	R. Y. Corbett, 52 Balgonie Avenue, Paisley. PA2 9LP.
49	Bridgeton Burns Club	1870	1891	710	R. McDonald	G. Moore, Hamilton Burns, and Moore, 111 Union Street, Glasgow. G1 3TA.
50	Stirling Burns Club	1886	1892	110	John Stewart	Henry Robb, LL.B., 3 Pitt Terrace, Stirling. FK8 2EY.
55	Derby Scottish Assoc. and Burns Club	1890	1893	360	Dr. Stewart Wilson	Mrs. K. Dick, 8 Greenside Court, Mickleover Derby, DE3 5RG.
59	Gourock Jolly Beggars Burns Club	1893	1893	80	Norman MacPhie	Robert Smith, 105 Kirn Drive, Gourock. PA19 1EG.
62	Cupar Burns Club	1884	1893	270	Duncan S. Campbell	Robert W. M. Stewart, 10 Halyburton Place, Cupar, Fife. KY15 5DZ.
68	Sandyford (Glasgow) Burns Club	1893	1894	150	Roy Scott	Scott Barclay, F.I.M.I.,
69	Dunedin Burns Club Inc.	1861	1894	205	David McIntosh	Henry J. Horrell, MBE., 96 Cavell Street, Tainui, Dunedin, New Zealand.
72	Partick Burns Club	1885	1895	90	A. Ronald Rae	Graham Davidson, 33 Kingsborough Gardens, Glasgow. G12 9N11.
74	Nat. Burns Memorial Mauchline Homes	1888	1895	36	Douglas Hemmings	Alastair J. Campbell, c/o Mitchell, Robertson, George House, 36 North Hanover Street, Glasgow. G1 2AD.

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82	Arbroath Burns Club	1888	1896	150	Ken Smith	G. J. M. Dunlop, Brothockbank House, Arbroath, Angus.
85	Dunfermline United Burns Club	1812	1896	110	The Rt. Hon. the Earl of Elgin and Kincardine, D.L., J.P., M.A.	J. Torrie, 'The Haining', Ferryhills, North Queensferry,
89	Sunderland Burns Club	1897	1897	34	Stewart Thomson	Mrs. M. Wilson, 9 Lingdale Avenue, Sunderland. SR6 8AZ.
95	Bolton Burns Club	1881	1897	100	Mrs. C. Craine	Mr. W. G. Diggle, 24 Gorses Mount, Darcy Lever Boltor. BL2 1PQ.
96	Jedburgh	1897	1897	53	Archd. Wallace	George Jeffrey, 18 Hatrigge Road, Jedburgh TD8, Roxburghshire.
112	Dumfries Burns Howff Club	1889	1899	130	Walter Little	D. C. Smith, 22 Cargenbridge Ave., Dumfries. DG2 8LP.
116	Greenloaning Burns Club	1889	1900	70	James Dawson	R. L. Muir, 9 Gentle Croft, Braco, Dunblane, Perthshire. FK15 9PN.
120	Bristol Caledonian Soc.	1820	1900	150	Ian Kerr	Miss M. Scally, Flat 55, Clarendon Road, Redland, Bristol. BS6 1EY.
124	The Ninety Burns Club	1890	1902	25	John Christie	J. C. McVittie, W.S., 4 North Charlotte Street, Edinburgh. EH2 4HT.
126	Falkirk Burns Club	1866	1902	90	William MacRae	W. I. Cunningham, Northern Rock Building Soc., 2 High Street, Falkirk, Stirlingshire. FK1 1EZ.
149	Elgin Burns Club	1901	1905	200+	Dr. John C. M. MacDonald	Wm. D. G. Chalmers, 139 High Street, Elgin. IV30 EDY.
152	The Hamilton Burns Club	1877	1906	227	F. C. Marks	Dr. S. I. Parker, 25 Burnside Place, Larkhall, Strathclyde. ML9 2EQ.
167	Birmingham and Midland Scottish Society	1888	1924	175	David Bell	A. K. Scott, 105 Reservoir Road, Olton, Solihull, West Midlands. B92 8AW.
169	Glasgow and District Burns Association	1907	1908	15 Clubs	Archie McArthur	David L. Stevenson, c/o Neill Clerk, Solicitors, 6 Park Circus Place, Glasgow. G3 7AN.
173	Irvine Burns Club	1826	1908	450	Michael S. Thomson	Samuel K. Gaw, 'Camasunary', 2 Kidsneuk Road, Irvine. KA12 8SR.
179	Dailly Jolly Beggars Club	1909	1909	9	J. N. Whyte	Archie Howie, 71 Hadyard Terrace, Dailly, By Girvan. KA25 9SW.
187	Galashiels Burns Club	1908	1909	117	H. Brady	Alexander E. Hogg, 'Redcroft', 7 Glenfield, Road East, Galashiels, TD1 2AN.

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192	Ayrshire Association of Burns Clubs	1908	1910	28 Clubs	George Duncan	Harry Bull, 49 Annanhill Avenue, Kilmarnock. KA1 2NX.
197	Winnipeg Robert Burns Club	1907	1911	64	J. King	Mrs. Carolee King, 446 Greenacre Boulevard, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. R3K 1B7.
212	Portobello Burns Club	1892	1913	50	J. Stanley Cavaye, J.P.	Robert Mackay, M.A., 'Quardene', 8 Bryce Avenue, Edinburgh. EH7 6TX.
217	Eskdale Burns Club	1886	1913	100	Arthur N. Elliot	Ms. Nicole Elliot, 74 Henry Street, Langholm, Dumfriesshire. DG13 0BA.
220	Burns Club of St. Louis	1905	1913	40	Robert I. Patrick	Charles H. Wallace, 10450 Whitebridge Lane, St. Louis, Missouri, U.S.A. 63141.
226	Dumfries Burns Club	1820	1913	100	George Thomson	John A. C. McFadden, 37 George Street, Dumfries. DG1 1EB.
236	Whitehaven Burns Club	1914	1914	40	J. McLauchlan	George Young, Colington, Egremont Road, Hensingham, Whitehaven, Cumbria. CA28 8NQ.
237	Uddingston Masonic Burns Club	1914	1914	24	G. Mason	J. Polson, 4 Watson Street, Uddingston, Glasgow. G71 7JU.
238	Burns Club of Atlanta	1896	1914	97	John I. Bell Jr.	Mac Irvin
239	Hawick Burns Club	1878	1914	1248	Alex Martin	James Findlay, 47 Wellington Court, Hawick, Roxburghshire.
242	Montrose Burns Club	1908	1915	120	D. J. Addison	A. L. MacFarlane, 'Westlands', Redfield Cres., Montrose, Angus.
252	Alloway Burns Club	1908	1918	106	James A. Begg	James Glass, M.A., 31 Glenconner Road, Ayr. KA7 3HF.
263	Glasgow Masonic Burns Club	1919	1919	177	Andrew M. L. Thomson	William Lawson, 434 Prospecthill Road, Hanging Shaw, Glasgow. G42 9BZ.
275	Ayr Burns Club	1886	1920	84	A. MacPherson	Mrs. M. McKellar, 125 Hillfoot Road, Ayr. KA7 3LD.
293	Newcraighall Welfare Poosie Nansie Burns Club	1921	1921	30	David Robertson	Robert Henderson, 17/2 Klondyke Street, Newcraighall, Musselburgh. EH21 8SQ.
296	Walsall and Dist. Scottish Society	1900	1922	50	Mrs. Patricia Toplis	J. M. McMillan, 192 Allens Lane, Pelsall, Walsall, W. Midlands. WS3 4JP.
303	Victoria St. Andrew's and Caledonian Soc.	1849	1922	134	Marion A. Small	Jean Hay, 820 Seamist Place, Victoria, B.C., Canada. VBY 2R6.

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307	Edinburgh Ayrshire Association	1914	1922	87	Mrs. G. Innes	Catherine Mejka, 4E Parkside, Edinburgh 16.
310	Mauchline Burns Club	1923	1923	60	P. Konopka	D. I. Lyell, M.A., F.S.A. (Scot.), 9 East Park Ave., Mauchline, KA5 5BS.
314	Scottish Burns Club, Edinburgh	1920	1923	42	David Blyth	Mrs. Ellen Bruce, 9 Victor Park Terrace, Edinburgh.
323	Kirkcudbright Burns Club	1918	1924	98	Thomas McMiccaw	Adam Gray, Ingleston, Borgue, Kirkcudbrightshire. DG6 4UA.
329	Newark and District Cal. Soc.	1923	1924	125	Mrs. G. M. McIntyre	Mrs. Elizabeth Hamilton, 27 Macauley Drive, Balderton, Nr. Newark, Notts.
336	Peterhead Burns Club	1826	1925	241	Alan K. Smith	J. M. M. Smith, 13 Broad St., Peterhead, Aberdeenshire. AB4 6JA.
340	Balerno Burns Club	1881	1965	90	Edward McCue	Gordon Grant, 1 Newmills Court, 464 Lanark Road West, Balerno, Edinburgh. EH14 5AE.
341	Leith Burns Club	1826	1925			Gerald T. Farmer, C.A., A.C.I.S., 34 Cramond, Park, Cramond, Edinburgh. EH4 6PR.
348	Newton Jean Armour Burns Club	1924	1925	47	Mrs. J. Hughes	Mrs. S. Kean, 14 Woodland Crescent, Cambuslang, Glasgow. G72 8RB.
349	The Howff Burns Club	1925	1925	25	Richard Roberts	Sam Hannah, 55 Ayr Road, Kilmarnock.
350	Markinch Burns Club	1899	1925	110	Mrs. Betty Jolly, B.Ed.	Mrs. Jenny Greenway 225 Links Street, Kirkcaldy, Fife.
356	Burnbank and Dist. Masonic Burns Club	1826	1926	20	Andrew Smith	
360	Lochee Burns Club	1926	1926	511	Edmund E. Urquhart	Thomas Young, c/o Lochee Burns Club, Old Muirton Road, Lochee, Dundee.
363	Barrow St. Andrew's Society	1878	1926	120	W. E. Thomson	D. Richardson, 170 Rating Lane, Barrow-in-Furness. Cumbria.
366	Liverpool Burns Club	1924	1926	70	John R. Baker	Mrs. Hazel Bishop, 29 Charterhouse Road, Liverpool. L25 8ST.
370	Dundonald Burns Club	1963	1964	80	Robert M. Trotter	Robert Kirk, Parkstone, 3 Ploughlands Road, Dundonald, Ayrshire. KA2 9BY.
377	Kilbirnie Rosebery Burns Club	1906	1927	88	William McConnachie	Ronald G. Thomson, 3 Craighends Road, Glengarnock, Ayrshire. KA14 3AE.

378	Edinburgh Dist. Burns Clubs Association	1925	1927	26		Gordon Innes, W.S., 38 Darnell Road, Edinburgh.
387	Cambusland Mary Campbell Burns Club	1965	1965	14	Mrs. M. Rennie	Mrs. I. Chapman, 18 Deans Avenue, Halfway, Cambuslang, Glasgow.
390	Meikle Earnock Jolly Beggars Burns Club					
392	Whifflet Burns Club	1923	1928	60	John A. Kirk	Mr. J. A. W. Kirk, 8 Lugar Street, Coatbridge. ML5 3JS.
393	Annan Ladies' Burns Club	1928	1928	80	Mrs. M. Illineworth	Mrs. Sally Knight, 17 Greenlea Road, Annan, Dumfriesshire. DG12 5LB.
398	Colinton Burns Club	1907	1988			J. William Hill, 11 Buckstone Avenue, Edinburgh. EH10 6QL.
399	St. Ringans Burns Club	1985	1985	50	G. Ferguson	F. Agnew, 2 Murrayshall Road, St. Ninians, Stirling.
401	Brig-en' (Waverley) Burns Club, Dumfries	1876	1928	35	Dr. W. D. Balfour	J. MacMillan, 45 Terregles Road, Dumfries.
403	Fraserburgh Burns Club	1928	1928	239	Stanley Green	Mr. W. F. Russell, Campsie, 1 Cairnhill Road, Fraserburgh. AB4 5SS.
405	Cal. Soc. of Sheffield	1822	1929	320	Thomas J. J. Smith	R. A. Coghill, 37 Norton Park View, Sheffield. S8 8GS.
413	San Francisco St. Andrews Society	1863	1989	360	T. O. McLaughlin, M.D.	John R. Adam, St. Andrew Society of San Francisco, 41 Sutter Street, Room 306, San Francisco, CA 94104-4901, U.S.A.
417	Burnley and Dist. Cal. Society	1924	1929	65	Mrs. S. Polson	Mrs. I. Smith, 9 Mount Road, Lancs. BB11 2LA.
426	Sauchie Burns Club	1929	1929	72	Robert Snaddon	Ronald Noble, 4 Hill Place, Alloa, Clackmannanshire. FK10 2NJ.
430	Gourock Burns Club	1887	1929	105	James Blair	John K. Scott, 102 Manor Crescent, Gourock, Renfrewshire. PA19 1UP.
436	Walney Jolly Beggars Ladies' Club	1929	1930	135	Mrs. I. Broadbent	Mrs. L. Nicholson, 14 Orontes Avenue, Walney Island, Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria.
437	Dumfries Ladies' Burns Club	1930	1930	100	Mrs. M. Parker	Mrs. E. Haining, 74 Laghall Court, Kingham Quay, Dumfries. DG1 4SX.
439	Barnsley and District Scottish Society	1930	1930	47	Robert Murdoch	L. Gibson. 147 Pegmoor Road, Barnsley, S. Yorks. S70 6PT.

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446	Herefordshire Burns Club	1910	1931	79	James Thomson	D. J. James, 'Four Winds', 11 Lower Thorn, Bromyard, Herefordshire. HR7 4AZ.
454	Rotherham and District Scottish Association	1924	1931	62	Colin Campbell	William Ingram, 10 Mortain Road, Rotherham, South Yorks, S60 3BX.
458	Stonehaven (Fatherland) Burns Club	1926	1932	76	Alfred Smith	Mrs. Elizabeth Petrie, 23 Slug Road, Stonehaven, Kincardineshire. AB3 2EX.
461	Leicester Cal. Society	1877	1932	253	Robert Callender	Mrs. J. Hare, 17 Wentworth Close, Hinckley, Leicester. LE10 1RZ
462	Cheltenham Scot. Soc.	1929	1932	210	Bob Naysmith	David Black, 3 Merlin Close, Leckhampton, Cheltenham. GL53 0NF.
469	Denny Cross Burns Club	1932	1932	40	David Blair	D. Graeme MacGregor, "Camusdonn", 34 Hayfield Terrace, Head of Muir, Denny. FK6 5LA.
470	St. Giles' Burns Club	1924	1932	85	James Taylor	George Peterkin, 24 Pansport Road, Elgin, Moray. IV30 1ID.
472	Renfrewshire Assoc. of Burns Clubs	1929	1932	8 Clubs	Daniel Kilpatrick	William Williamson, 30 Ivanhoe Road, Paisley, PA2 0JX.
492	Harrow and Dist. Cal. Society	1928	1934	310	Cliff Fryer	Sheena Henderson, 698 Kenton Lane, Harrow Weald, Middlesex. HA3 6AB.
494	Motherwell United Services Burns Club	1934	1934	100	W. J. Wilson, J.P.	R. Dalziel, 4 Parkside Road, Motherwell, Lanarkshire. ML1 1TY.
500	New Cumnock Burns Club	1923	1934	230	James Murray	Wm. A. McHastie, 16 Greenbraes Drive, New Cumnock, Ayrshire. KA18 4AB.
501	Galt Burns Club	1907	1935	55	Tom Milne C.I.M.	Mrs. Greta Hanley, 448 Waterloo St., S., Cambridge, Ontario, Canada. N3H 1N9.
503	Dunblane Burns Club	1923	1935	20	Arthur Lesk	Mrs. I. W. Smith, 4 Highfields, Dunblane. Perthshire. FK15 9EG.
510						The Manager, ICI Grangemouth Rec Club, Earls Road, Grangemouth, Stirling. FK3 8XG.
516	Airts Burns Club Prestonpans	1934	1936	50	John Gordon	Walter M. Muir, 89 Gardiner Road, Prestonpans, East Lothian. EH32 9QR.
523	Highland Soc. of New South Wales	1877	1936	150	Allan Mills	Mrs. D. A. McKenzie, P.O. Box 1130, Parramatta 2150, NSW, Australia.



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530	Southern Scottish Counties Burns Association	1937	1937	24 Clubs	David C. Smith	Donald R. Urquhart, Glebe House, 39 Glebe Street, Dumfries. DG1 2LQ.
534	Bedlington and District Burns Club	1934	1937	51	R. B. Hamilton	James K. Stewart, 2 East Riggs, Bedlington, Northumberland. NE22 5SH.
535	Plymouth and District Caledonian Society	1927	1937	50	John Swan	
536	Whithorn and District Burns Club	1937	1937	45	James Edgar, M.R.C.V.S.	William Rae, B.L., 58 George Street, Whithorn, Newton Stewart. DG8 8PA.
543	Abbey Craig Burns Club	1935	1938	120	Ian Collie	Ian Collie, 34 Snowdon Place, Stirling. FK8 2JN.
548	Leeds Caledonian Soc.	1894	1938	138	G. Ironside	A. Jeffers, 6 Gascoigne Court, Berwick-in-Elmet, Leeds, Yorkshire. LS15 4AY.
551	Scarborough Cal. Soc.	1934	1938	104	T. L. Alexander	Mrs. P. M. Mcnaughton, 10 Trafalgar Road, Scarborough, Yorks.
553	Wolverhampton Dist. Cal. Soc.	1938	1938	100	D. Y. Houston	W. Murray, 28a Quail Green Wightwick, Wolverhampton. WV6 8DF.
555	Harrogate St. Andrew's Society	1921	1938	228	William Steel	Mrs. I. C. Friars, 23 Rudbeck Crescent, Harrogate, N. Yorks. HG2 7AQ.
556	Caledonian Society of Doncaster	1883	1938	40	Mrs. Isobel Todd	Mr. M. McVey, 16 Harrow Road, Armthorpe, Doncaster, Yorks.
559	Coventry and Dist. Cal. Society	1911	1938	200	Mrs. M. E. Muddiman	Mrs. W. R. Laing, 354 Middlemarch Road, Radford, Coventry, West Midlands. CV6 3GR.
561	London (Ontario) Burns Club	1938	1938	100	John Scoular	Mrs. E. Mundy, 16 230 Clarkeside Road, London, Ontario. N5W 5P5.
562	Castle Douglas Burns Club	1930	1939	67	S. J. Roe	J. C. McLatchie, 43 Robb Place, Castle Douglas. DG7 1LW.
566	Scottish Soc. and Burns Club of Australia	1939	1939	200	Stuart L. Henderson	Stewart Henderson, 10 Delray Ave, Wahroonga, N.S.W. 2076, Australia.
570	Scottish Clans Association					Miss M. Holmes, 15 Appolohouse, 14 Broadlands Road, Highgate, London. N6 4AT.
571	The Edmonton Burns Club	1921	1971	30	Alex Mair	R. M. Allen, 32 Greer Crescent, St. Albert, Alberta. T8N 1T8.
572	Chester Cal. Assoc.	1884	1939	100	Dr. Austin Elliot	T. S. Lea, Kirkton House, Hunter Street, Chester. CH1 1AS.

<i>No.</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Inst.</i>	<i>Fed.</i>	<i>Members</i>	<i>President</i>	<i>Secretary</i>
576	Fort Matilda Burns Club	1934	1940	50	Dugald S. Robertson	G. Gay, 9 Binnie St., Gourrock, Renfrewshire. PA19 1JU.
578	Lanarkshire Assoc. of Burns Clubs	1924	1942	23 Clubs	James Chalmers, J.P.	Miss Ann Pickering, 95 Dyfrig Street, Dykehead, Shotts. ML7 4DQ.
580	Cumbræ Burns Club	1896	1942	186	G. Wallace	G. Watson, 21 Bute Terrace, Millport, Isle of Cumbræ.
581	Cumbernauld and Dist. Burns Club	1943	1943	65	John Pinkerton	J. Kenneth Stark, 52 Westernmains Avenue, Kirkintilloch. G66 1EH.
585	Queen's Park Bowling Club Clarinda Burns Circle	1930	1943	130	John Watson	J. S. Dargavel, 31 Garry Street, Glasgow.
589	Solway Burns Club	1921	1978	90	W. McNairn	Mrs. Irene Grant, 'The Cottage', 6 Newlands Rise, Annan, Dumfriesshire. DG12 5HT.
593	Barrmill Jolly Beggar Burns Club	1944	1967	55	J. Peat	James L. Conn, Parkview, 3 Braehead, Dalry. KA24 5EX.
606	Corby Stewarts & Lloyd's Burns Club	1944	1945	30	J. Robb	Mr. N. Hunter, 18 Eastbourne Avenue, Corby, Northants. NN18 9LE.
618	Altrincham and Sale Caledonian Society	1945	1945	50	Mrs. M. H. P. Watson	J. R. S. F. McFarlane, 9 Kipling Close, Stockport, Cheshire. SK2 5HS.
627	Kinross Jolly Beggars Burns Club	1888	1946	150	Thomas White	Gordon Y. George, 14 Muirpark Road, Kinross. KY13 7AT.
629	Sanquhar Black Joan Club	1945	1946	60	T. A. Johnston	T. A. Johnston, 42 High Street, Sanquhar, Dumfriesshire.
630	Coalsnaughton Burns Club	1945	1946	250	John Pickles	Robert Harrower, 1 James Place, Coalsnaughton, Clackmannanshire. FK13 6LP.
632	Symington Burns Club	1946	1946	33	Mrs. Joan McCall	Mrs. M. Hume, 101 Lammiermuir Road, Bellfield, Kilmarnock KA1 3UE.
642	Rutherglen Burns Club	1976	1978	27	Robert Edwards	Mrs. Allison Brown, 2 Blairtum Drive, Rutherglen, Glasgow. G73 3RY.
646	The Clear Winding Devon Alva Burns Club	1946	1947	22	Mrs. Betty Campbell	Mrs. Janet Snaddon, 44 The Nebit, Alva, Clackmannanshire. FK12 5DH.
657	Fallin Gothenberg Burns Club	1947	1947	56	John Nicol	Jack Milroy, 28 Lamont Crescent, Fallin, Stirlingshire. FK7 7EJ.
660	Langholm Ladies' Burns Club	1947	1947	45	Mrs. C. Edgar	Miss J. Buchanan, "Roundwood", Wauchope Street, Langholm, Dumfriesshire. DG13.

<i>No.</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Inst.</i>	<i>Fed.</i>	<i>Members</i>	<i>President</i>	<i>Secretary</i>
661	Leamington and Warwick Caledonian Soc.	1947	1947	82	Richard Moffat	Miss I. T. S. Henderson, 2 Binswood Mansions, Arlington Avenue, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire. CV32 5JB.
663	Bournemouth and Dist. Caledonian Society	1907	1947	170	George Cameron- Smith	J. Steed, 33 Leybourne Avenue, Bournemouth, Hants, BH10 6F.
664	West Kilbride Burns Club	1947	1947	85	T. C. Williamson	Mrs. Mary B. Milne, 2 Woodside, West Kilbride, Ayrshire. KA23 9JB.
665	Gartmorn Ladies' Burns Club	1947	1948	34	Mrs. Jessie Pert	Mrs. J. Pert, 10 Kennet Village, Clackmannan. FK10 4DP.
671	St. Andrew's Cronies Burns Club	1947	1948	140	Cr. Samuel Stewart	Andrew Richmond, 26 Frew Terrace, Irvine, KA12 9EA.
681	The Cronies Burns Club, Kilmarnock	1948	1948	58		
682	Cumnock 'Jolly Beggars' Burns Club	1945	1948	45	Mr. Wm. Hall	Mr. Wm. Hall, 8 Glencairn, Cumnock.
683	Stratford-upon-Avon and Dist. Cal. Soc.	1947	1948	100	A. Simpson	Mr. G. R. Forbes, 63 Hunts Road, Stratford- upon-Avon. CV37 7JJ.
688	Kirkcaldy Poosie Nansie Ladies' Burns Club	1939	1949	21	Mrs. E. Reid	Mrs. Betsy C. Rodger, 10 Durham Cres., Lower Largo, Fife. KY8 6DN.
691	Inverness Burns Club	1949	1949	100	Ebb Simpson	Mr. C. J. D. Silver, 53 Holm Park, Inverness. IV2 4XU.
693	Masonic Burns Club Kirkcudbright	1949	1949	40	Ian M. McLachlan	John Middleton, 8 Dovercroft, Kirkcudbright. DG6 4JS.
695	Kilmaronock Burns Club (Dunbartonshire)	1949	1949	72	John Blain	Mrs. Katharine M. E. Liston, Rock Cottage, Gartocharn, Alexandria, Dunbartonshire. G83 8RX.
696	Whitley Bay and Dist. Soc. of St. Andrew	1930	1949	178	Albert Somerville	Mrs. Anne Wilkinson, 5 Haddington Road, Beaumont Park, Whitley Bay, Tyne & Wear. NE26.
698	Turriff Burns Club	1920	1949	60	Albert Gatt	Charles Calder, Cruachan, Johnston Park, Turriff.
699	Choppington Burns Club	1948	1949	120	J. Brady	John E. Godden, 181 North Ridge, Bedlington, Northumbria. NE22 6DG.
701	The Detroit Burns Club	1876	1949	81	John M. Philliben	Mrs. Helen McCallum, 9352 Colorada, Livonia, Michigan, U.S.A. 48150.
706	North Lindsey Scots Soc.	1927	1949	99	Mrs. Hazel Condron	Mrs. S. Wilson, 48 York Avenue, Bottesford, Scunthorpe, S. Humberside.
710	Burns Society of Toronto	1896	1950	23	John A. D. Wyness	Mrs. Stella V. Wyness, Apt. 1203, 2181 Avenue Road, Toronto, Ontario, Canada. M5M 4B8.

BURNS HOUSE DUMFRIES



Visitors to Dumfries should not fail to visit the old Red Sandstone House in Burns Street, in which the Poet lived and died. The House is open to visitors and contains many interesting relics of Burns and his family. The House is one minute's walk from St. Michael's Churchyard where the Poet is buried within the Burns Mausoleum.

OPEN :

Open All Year

10.00 a.m. - 1.00 p.m., 2.00 p.m. - 5.00 p.m. Monday to Saturday

2.00 p.m. - 5.00 p.m. Sunday

(Closed Sunday and Monday, October to March)

<i>No.</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Inst.</i>	<i>Fed.</i>	<i>Members</i>	<i>President</i>	<i>Secretary</i>
711	The Victorian Scottish Union	1905	1950	33	Mr. D. Findlay	G. McNaughton, 301 Francis St., Yarraville, Victoria, Australia. 3013.
718	Th St. Andrew Society of York	1894	1950	186	Frank Paterson	Mr. Alex C. Layhe, 61 Eastfield Avenue, Haxby, York. YO3 8EZ.
719.	Chelmsford and Dist. Scottish Society	1934	1950	120	T. F. A. Martin	D. A. Hodge, The Sheiling, White Hart Lane, Springfield, Chelmsford, Essex.
720	Retford and Dist. Cal. Society	1949	1950	70	F. J. Isaacs	Mrs. K. Beardsall, 5 Trent Street, Retford, Notts. DN22 6NG.
721	The Plymouth Burns Club	1948	1950	25	Joseph B. Main	Mrs. Thelma Main, 21 Ridge Park Road, Plympton, Plymouth, Devon. PL7 3BG.
723	Strathpeffer Burns Club	1920	1950	90	A. W. Arnot	D. S. MacDonald, 'Strathlene', Heights of Brae, Strathpeffer, Ross-shire.
725	Ben Cleuch Burns Club	1936	1950	80	J. Jones	Douglas F. McEwan, 18 Auchinbaird, Sauchie, Alloa, Clacks.
726	The Robert Burns Club of Melbourne	1950	1951	50		Mr. C. G. Low, 79 Lockley Road, Ivanhoe 3079, Victoria, Australia.
727	The St. Andrew Society of Denmark	1949	1951	240	Irvine M. Small	Ms Jean McCahon, Dronningensgade 59, 3tv 1420 Copenhagen K, Denmark.
730	Wigtown Burns Club	1905	1951	100	John McIntyre	Ian M. Thin, Tramerry, Wigtown, Wigtownshire. DG8 9JP.
733	Aberdeen Burns Study Circle	1951	1974	15	David Duncan	George F. Watt, 109 Smithfield Drive, Middfield, Aberdeen. AB2 7XD.
740	Thorntree Mystic Burns Club	1949	1952	65	L. H. Hutt	Andrew Muir, 7 North Grange Grove, Prestonpans, East Lothian. EH32.
743	The Romford Scottish Association	1931	1952	75	Miss Irene Hussey	Miss Joyce White, 43 Melstock Avenue, Upminster, Essex. RM14 3UR.
744	Durham and Dist. Cal. Society	1950	1952	168	William Nicol	Alex Henderson, 5 Hill Meadows, High Shincliffe, Durham. DH1 2PE.
745	Northumberland and Durham Cal. Society	1924	1952	220	M. F. Harper	Mrs. J. M. Harper, Lampton House, Moor Crescent, Gosforth, Newcastle on Tyne.
748	Ouplaymuir Burns Club	1936	1953	32	D. McKinlay	Tyne & Wear. NE3 4AQ. J. W. Wright, Waterside, Uplawmoor, Glasgow. G78 4AA.

<i>No.</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Inst.</i>	<i>Fed.</i>	<i>Members</i>	<i>President</i>	<i>Secretary</i>
754	Thornton Cleveleys and Dist. Scottish Society	1951	1953	115	A. J. Fraser	Mrs. Maureen F. Forsyth, 64 Garstang Road West, Poulton-le-Fylde, Lancs. FY6 7SN.
763	Wakefield Cal. Society	1953	1953	100	Tom Reid	Mrs. K. J. Leggeat, 52 Manor Rise, Walton, Wakefield.
768	Auchterderran Jolly Beggars Burns Club	1912	1954	100	Thomas McIntyre	Alex Holmes, 17 Orebank Road, Bowhill, Cardenden, Fife. KY5 0JN.
769	Robert Bruce Burns Club	1953	1954	70	Robt. Fraser	Wm. M. Dawson, Blendon, 7 Cattlemarket, Clackmannan. FK10 4EH.
772	Prestwick Burns Club	1954	1954	60	Alexander Fraser	Mr. Wm. Morrison, 13 Coylebank, Prestwick.
773	Cumnock Cronies Burns Club	1910	1954	60	William D. Duncan	A. C. Rutherford, 18 Coila Place, Cumnock. KA18 1LX.
774	Gloucester Scottish Society	1937	1983	100	John Robertson	James M. Laurie, 'Durisdeer', 5 Howard Place, Hucclecote, Gloucester. GL3 3RZ.
777	Nuneaton and Dist. Scottish Society	1949	1954	57	R. Ward	B. Crosbie, Ivy Cottage, Main Street, Peckleton, Leicester. LE9 7RE
784	Kelso Burns Club	1872	1955	140	Alastair J. Turnbull	Robert Donaldson, 17 Dyers Court, Kelso, Roxburghshire. TD5 7NQ.
791	Swindon and Dist. Cal. Society	1929	1955	232	Mrs. Barbara Bayne	Mrs. Nanette Maver, 1 Thrushel Close, Greenmeadow, Swindon, Wiltshire. SN2 3PP.
803	Bowhill People's Burns Club	1940	1957	92	Norman Watters A.N., L.D.S.	Charles Kennedy, 101 Dundonald Park, Cardenden, Fife. KY5 0DG.
808	Pontefract and Dist. Cal. Society	1956	1957	50	T. Cumming	F. Hiorns, 15 Maple Ave, Pontefract. WF8 3QN.
809	Allanton Jolly Beggars Burns Club	1957	1957	30	Mrs. Kay Blair	Mrs. Helen Waddell, 56 Allershaw Tower, Wishaw, Lanarkshire. ML2 0LP.
810	Thirty-seven Burns Club, Shotts	1957	1973	37	Duncan McLean	Jack Gardner, 12 Clyde Drive, Shotts, Lanarkshire. ML7 5LY.
811	Logangate Burns Club	1957	1957	56	Hugh Mitchell	Hugh Mitchell, 55 Barshare Road, Cumnock, Ayrshire. KA18.
812	St. Andrew Society of Bradford	1886	1957	130	Mrs. Sheila Mason	Mrs. Rene Davidson, The Gables, Apperley Lane, Apperley Bridge, Nr. Bradford. BD10 0PH.
813	Tranent '25' Burns Club	1892	1958	46	Robert Anderson	George Murdoch, 25a Bridge Street, Tranent, E Lothian. EH13 1AQ.
818	Dalbeattie and District Burns Club	1958	1958	40	William McK. Barrowman	S. R. Goviet, Clydesdale Bank Buildings, Dalbeattie, Stewartry District.

<i>No.</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Inst.</i>	<i>Fed.</i>	<i>Members</i>	<i>President</i>	<i>Secretary</i>
822	Mansfield Dist. Cal. Society	1952	1959	35	Mrs. E. M. Lake	Mr. Michael Lake, 22 Delamere Drive, Mansfield, Notts. NG18 4DE.
824	Stirling, Clackmannan and West Perthshire Assoc. of Fed. Clubs	1946	1959	30 Clubs	J. B. Yates	Mr. M. Gilbert, 282 Kersiebank Ave., Grangemouth. FK30BS.
825	The 'Clarinda' Ladies' Burns Club, Edinburgh	1959	1959	35	Mrs. Davina Baird, M.B.E.	Miss Mary Aytoun, M.B.E., 31 Willowbrae Avenue, Edinburgh. EH8 7HE.
826	The Burns Society of Charlotte, N.C.	1955	1987	131	Roger Wood	John Turnbull, 5811 Buckett Ct., Charlotte, N.C. 28211, U.S.A.
831	Lochgoilhead Burns Club	1960	1960	40	Dr. J. R. R. Holms	Donald McGregor, The Schoolhouse, Lochgoilhead. Argyll.
834	St. Andrew's Society (Altrincham, Sale and District)	1960	1959	95	Mrs. Joyce Allen	H. E. Crowther, 78 Sylvan Avenue, Timperley, Altrincham, Cheshire. WA15 6AB.
839	Coldstream Burns Club	1888	1961	110	James M. Davidson, B.Sc.	J. A. Fulton B Ed, 28 High Street, Coldstream, Berwickshire. TD12 4AS.
841	Robert Burns Assoc. of Montreal, Canada	1955	1961	175	Robert McKenna	Richard Jewkes, 7215 Boyer St., Montreal, Quebec, Canada. H2R 2R6.
842	'Ye Bonnie Doon' Burns Club, Hamilton,	1932	1961	40	John Little	Fred Moyes, RR 3, Dundas, Ontario, Canada. L9H 5E3.
845	Tam o' Shanter, Coventry	1959	1961	1500	George Mudie	Jas McCaw, Tam o' Shanter Club, Hertford Pl., Coventry, Warwickshire. CV1 3JZ.
950	Dollar Masonic Burns Club	1961	1977	100		G. Walls, 43a Ochil Street, Alloa, Clackmannanshire. FK10 2DS.
851	Auckland Burns Assoc.	1959	1962	36	Rev. Wayne Brodeur	Mrs. J. Little, 7/164 Blockhouse Bay Rd., Avondale, Auckland 7, New Zealand.
859	Eglington Burns Club Irvine	1960	1963	200	Robin Campbell	S. Robertson, Eglington Arms Hotel, High Street, Irvine.
864	Burnie Burns Club, Tasmania	1962	1970	16	Don Taylor	Mrs. Eris Tunbridge, 147 David Street, East Devonport, Tasmania, Australia 7310.
866	Heanor and Dist. Cal. Society	1955	1963	35	Mrs. Sheena Mercer	A. Chapman, 9 Vernon St., Cotmanhay, Ilkeston, Derbyshire.
872	East Midlands Assoc. of Scottish Socs.	1949	1964	6 Socs.	J. D. MacFarlane	
874	Melbourne Masonic Burns Club, Victoria	1963	1964	27	Chft. Andrew Cromb	Ian R. Hawkins, J.P., 138 Elm Street, Northcote, Melbourne 3070, Victoria, Australia.

LAND O' BURNS CENTRE, ALLOWAY

(Entrance alongside Alloway Church)

This Visitor and Tourist Centre is located in the heart of Burns Country, opposite 'The Auld Haunted Kirk' where Tam o' Shanter roared on the cantrips of Cutty Sark, and five minutes walk from the Brig o' Doon where poor Maggie lost her tail.

With such distinguished neighbours our Centre has to be something special, and it is. The Audio Visual theatre with multi-screen projection offers an insight into the man Burns, with a scenic tour of the Burns Country. This new programme makes an excellent starting point for visits to the Burns Heritage Trail Sites.



There is an attractive shopping area offering the discerning visitor the best of Scottish craft, including exquisite jewellery, glass and pottery, leather and woollen goods and well stocked bookshelves.

Set in beautiful landscaped gardens, there are ample car and coach car parks, with attractive picnic areas.

Our new tea room is a welcome addition to the facilities already offered. The staff will treat you with a courtesy which will please you and they will thank you for calling, because they believe that the most important people at the Centre are you, our visitors. May we look forward to meeting you.

THE CENTRE IS OPEN 7 days a week all year round.

HOURS :	Oct - May	10.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m. (7 days)
	June & Sept	10.00 a.m. - 5.30 p.m. (7 days)
	July & August	10.00 a.m. - 6.00 p.m. (7 days)

Enquiries to the Manager :

Mr Tom Raffel at Alloway 43700

Props : Kyle & Carrick District Council

<i>No.</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Inst.</i>	<i>Fed.</i>	<i>Members</i>	<i>President</i>	<i>Secretary</i>
878	Workshop Burns and Cal. Club	1965	1965	150	Mrs. Joyce Young	T. H. English, 166 Raymoth Lane, Workshop, Notts. S81 7DY.
880	Otley and Dist. Cal. Soc.	1960	1965	120	D. Griffin	Mrs. M. Exley, 42 Greenacre Park, Rawdon, Leeds. LS19 6AR.
882	Canberra Highland Soc. and Burns Club	1924	1966	850	Ronald K. Drummond	Stephen Marks, P.O. Box 69, Kingston, Canberra A.C.T. 2064, Australia.
887	Gainsborough and Dist. Caledonian Society	1952	1967	30	Lew Reid	Angus McLarty, 'Cruachan', 5 Vicarage Lane, Beckingham, Nr. Doncaster, S. Yorks. DN10 4PN.
889	Strathclyde 'Bonnie Jean' Burns Club	1959	1967	20	John Brown	R. B. Cleland, 20 Oakfield Tower, Motherwell. ML1 1XN.
890	The Wollongong Burns Society	1966	1967	36	Tom Newman	W. C. Scott, 4 Moore Street, N.S.W., 2500, Australia.
893	North Bay Burns Club Ontario	1967	1968	53	Ron Coyne	Annie Coyne, 1559 Fraser Street, North Bay, Ontario, Canada. P1B 3Z1.
894	Beverley and Dist. Cal. Society	1967	1968	50	Gavin Maynard	Mrs. B. Ward, 26 Alpha Ave., Molescroft Beverley, N. Humberside. HU17 7JE.
895	Western Burns Club	1968	1968	40	Thomas Heggie	John Neill, 5 Muirpark Gardens, Glenochil Village, Tullibody, Clackmannanshire. FK10 3AJ.
896	Sierra Leone Cal. Soc.	1957	1968	36	Frank Macleod	Mrs. C. Moir, P.O. Box 575, Freetown, Sierra, Leone, W.A.
897	Glenbervie Burns Memorials Assoc.	1947	1969	20	L. R. Burness, F.R.G.S., F.S.A., (Scot)	George F. Watt, 109 Smithfield Drive, Middlefield, Aberdeen. AB2 7XD.
902	Newmarket Burns Club	1959	1970	35	Tom B. Myles	Alex Corbett,
907	Stonehouse Burns Club	1971	1971	38	John Donachie	Ted Macgregor, 10 Daer Walk, Strutherhill, Lanarkhall. ML9 1NJ.
908	'Brithers Be' Burns Club	1971	1971	16	Thomas Howie	Mrs. Anne McIntyre, 32 Wallace Street, Kilmarnock. KA1 1SB.
911	Borestone Bowling Club	1947	1972	100	George Simpson	George Simpson, 13 Weaver Row, St. Ninians, Stirling. FK7 9AS.
915	Canterbury Burns Club (Inc.)	1971	1972	60	W Hunter	Miss N. M. Hill, P.O. Box 33119 Barrington, Christchurch 2, New Zealand.
916	Hole i' the Wa' Burns Club	1964	1972	40	William Turner	Donald C. McCuaig, 70 Pleasance Ave, Dumfries. DG2 7JL.
917	Scottish Presidents' Assoc.	1958	1972	80	Mrs. Catherine	Lew W. Reid, Lea Rig, 14 Newlands Court, Gainsborough, Lincs. DN21 1QZ.

'that greatest of benevolent institutions established in honour of Robert Burns'. - *Glasgow Herald*.

The National Burns Memorial Homes, Mauchline, Ayrshire

Created for Deserving Old People - as the most fitting
Memorial to Robert Burns



EIGHTEEN of these comfortable houses, built at Mauchline, in the heart of the Burns Country, are occupied by deserving old folks, carefully selected from all quarters. Many of the Cottagers left tied houses on retirement with nowhere else to stay.

There are no irksome restrictions. They have their own key, their own furniture if they so desire, come and go as they please, and have their own friends calling on them as they wish.

The whole aim and object of the scheme is to allow the Cottagers to continue the enjoyment of the quiet comfort of their 'ain fireside' in ideal surroundings.

The amenities of the Homes are constantly being improved and added to, and for this purpose

**MONEY IS ALWAYS REQUIRED
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**A. J. Campbell, Secretary,
Mitchells Robertson George House,
36 North Hanover Street,
Glasgow G1 2AD
Tel. 041-552-3422**

<i>No.</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Inst.</i>	<i>Fed.</i>	<i>Members</i>	<i>President</i>	<i>Secretary</i>
918	Dover and East Kent Scottish Society	1887	1973	120	Harry Hutchison	J. J. Darrant, 54 Charles Lister Court, Dover, Kent.
919	Orange and District Scottish Assoc. and Burns Club	1944	1973	100	David C. Brown	Mrs. Anne Brown, PO Box 497, Orange 2800, NSW, Australia.
920	Trysting Thorn Burns Club	1971	1973	40	Joan Prott	John Prott, 8 Hannahston Avenue, Drongan, Ayrshire.
921	Northern Scottish Counties Assoc. of Burns Clubs	1972	1973	36	William R. Murray, M.A.	Miss Ethel Hall, 28D Whitehall Place, Aberdeen. AB2 4PA.
922	The Clumber Burns Club	1973	1973	11	Charles Murray	L. Jeavons, 36 Brunswick Road, Broom Valley, Rotherham, S. Yorks. S60 2RH.
923	Old Manor Burns Club, Bridge of Allan	1969	1973	50	A. G. Gourlay	James Boyle, 28 Cawder Road, Bridge of Allan, Stirlingshire.
924	S.C.T.A. (Dumfries Branch) Burns Club	1939	1973	20	D. D. Cannon	S. K. Douglas, 18 Mossdale, Heathhall, Dumfries.
925	Laurieston Burns Club	1970	1974	130	A. Grant Hunter	Mrs. E. Robertson, 68 Annan Road, Greta, Nr Carlisle. CA6 5DJ.
926	Rosamond Burns Club, Greta Green	1973	1974	45	Mrs. Hilda Faulder	
927	The Tarbolton Club, Edmonton	1967	1974	16	Dr. Ian Scott	Robert M. Allan, 32 Greer Crescent, St. Albert, Alberta, Canada. T8N 1T8.
929	Bathgate 'Jolly Beggars' Burns Club	1974	1974	40	John Mackay	Wm. Hamilton, 36 Marchwood Crescent, Bathgate, West Lothian. EH48 1DA.
930	The Wheatsheaf Burns Club, Falkirk	1974	1974	60	Kenneth McLeod	Peter Lees, 63 Webster Aven., Carronshore, Falkirk, Stirlingshire.
931	Beith Caledonia Burns Club	1974	1974	36	Duncan Mitchell	Jack G. D. Robertson, 18 Cathcart Street, Ayr. KA7 1BJ.
933	Busbiehill Burns Club	1974	1974	47	Felix Todd	James F. Craig, 9 Parkhill Avenue, Crosshouse Kilmarnock. KA2 0JF.
934	Manama Cal. Society	1956	1975	197	W. A. Woods	A. Colquhoun,
935	Torbrex Inn Burns Club	1975	1975	49	George Simpson	David G. Grindlay, 36 Kenningknowes Road, Stirling. FK7 9JG.
936	Irvine Lassies Burns Club	1975	1975	51	Mrs. Mae McEwan	Mrs. Jean Bell, 92 Clark Drive, Irvine. KA12 0NT.
937	East Kilbride Burns Club	1973	1975	290	Michael D. McMillan BSc., LL.B., N.P.	Iain A. MacPherson, 9 Garnock Park, Calderwood, East Kilbride. G74 2HZ.
939	Griffin Burns Club, Gartcosh	1975	1975	35	George Chalmers	James L. Chalmers, 39 Cardowan Drive, Stepps, Glasgow.

940	The Pembrokeshire Cal. Society	1948	1975	59	William Wood	Edwina Wood, 50 Wellington Road, Hakin, Milford Haven, Dyfed.
941	Robert Burns Club of San Diego	1975	1075	33	Harold Townend	James H. McCall, 1042 Santa Florencia, PO Box, 1373, Solana Beach, CA 92075.
943	Humberside Burns Soc.	1970	1976	77	J. G. Brown	Graham Harley, 4 Strathmore Avenue, Beverley High Road, Hull. HU6 7HJ.
944	Alamo Burns Club Paisley	1973	1976	40	J. Murray	James Fisher, Flat 1/1, 9 Inchinnan Road, Paisley, Renfrewshire.
945	Kirklees Scottish Highland Society	1974	1976	30	David C. Medlen	Mrs. E. J. Medlen, 34 Thorpe Lane, Almondbury, Huddersfield, Yorkshire. HD5 8TA.
946	Calgary Burns Club	1976	1976	37	Dr. James Currie	Andy Hay, 2 Brandy Lane, 10401-19 Street S.W., Calgary, Alberta Canada. T2W 3E7.
948	Saltcoats Glencairn Masonic Burns Club	1975	1976	25	John Davidson	William Stewart, 31 Sidney Street, Saltcoats, Ayrshire.
950	Drummoynne and District Scottish Soc. and Burns Club	1932	1976	100	Colin Wilson	Mr. J. Charles Rowley, 15 Romulus Street, Winston Hills 2153, Australia.
951	Birnbeck Burns Club, Weston-s-Mare	1975	1976	100	Sqn. Ldr. E. H. Harris (Retd.)	Mrs. Dorothy Snook, 2 Verlands, Congresbury, Bristol. BS19 5B1.
952	Guildford Burns Club	1954	1988	123	William C. Thomson	Robert D. Rawson, Halewood, 57 Horeshore Lane Marrow, Guildford, Surrey. GU1 2TL.
954	Newton Burns Club, Ayr	1962	1977	60	Robert Diamond	Alex Baird,
955	Gartwhinzean Burns Club	1968	1977	140	James King	
957	Ottawa Burns Club	1977	1977	60	Douglas Reid	Bill Beaton, 79 Meadowlands Drive, W. Nepean, Ontario, Canada. K26 2R9.
958	Clan McGregor Lodge 271, Toledo, Ohio	1924	1977	80	Stephen Singlar	Kenneth E. McCartney, 827 Continental Blvd., Toledo.
959	Bangkok St. Andrew Soc.		1977	22	Ian Fleming	J. R. Lumsden, The Chartered Bank, P.O. Box 320, Bangkok, Thailand.
961	Larkhall Burns Club	1976	1977	40	A. Blair	Andrew K. S. Taylor, 1 Devonport Park, West Wood, East Kilbride. G75 8PU.
962	Caledonian Society of Pretoria	1892	1977	160	Peter Millar	Mrs. Rosemary Millar, P.O. Box 971, Pretoria, 0001, Republic of South Africa

<i>No.</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Inst.</i>	<i>Fed.</i>	<i>Members</i>	<i>President</i>	<i>Secretary</i>
963	Cotgrave Burns Club	1977	1978	40	R. Aitken	Mrs. Elizabeth Ferns, 4 Flagholme, Cotgrave, Notts. NG12 3PE.
964	The Gambia Caledonian Society	1954	1977	100	Miss Blyth Brown	Jennifer Phimster, P.O. Box 981, Banjul, The Gambia.
965	Royal Caledonian Soc. of S. Australia		1977			R. M. Verrall, 7 Warrego Crescent, Linden Park, South Australia 5065.
966	Clan Rose Society of America	1970	1977	186	Edwin B. Rose	Col. John B. Rose, Jr., USAF (Ret'd), 21 Linwood Road, Fort Walton Beach FL 32548 USA.
967	Earlsferry Burns Club	1975	1977	30	John F. Robertson	G. Walsh, Earls Cross, Earlsferry, Elie, Fife.
969	Huddersfield St. Andrew Society	1884	1977	80	J. Goodman	
971	North Berwick Burns Club	1899	1978	220	Rev. Norman Faulds	Mrs. Margaret Crawford, 'Atholl Lodge', 13 East Road, North Berwick. EH39 4LF.
972	Don Valley Caledonian Society	1971	1978	130	G. Conory	Mrs. G. Smith, 6 Carr View Avenue, Doncaster. DN4 8AY.
973	Salsburgh Miners Club Club	1978	1978	32	Henry Leckie	Mrs. M. McDonald, 147a Main Street, Salsburgh, Shotts. ML7 4LR.
974	Elliot Lake Burns Club	1978	1978	57	Mrs. Margaret Sargent	Glynis Nolan, 8 Canberra Crescent, Elliot Lake, Ontario, Canada. P5A.
976	Hopetoun Laddies Burns Club	1977	1978	30	T. Jeffry	Billy Napier, "Mayfield", Main Street, Ormiston, East Lothian. EH35 5HS.
977	Whyalla St. Andrew Society	1974	1978	100	David Kirk	Jock Dewson, P.O. Box 2086, Whyalla, Norrie 5608, South Australia.
978	Burns Appreciation Society of Dickeyville					Colin McKenzie, 5111 Whiteredsville Road, Baltimore, Maryland 2127, U.S.A.
979	Jewel Welfare 'Holy Willies' Burns Club	1978	1979	42	J. Allan	W. Alexander 118 Magdalene Gardens, Edinburgh.
980	Niagara Falls Burns Club	1926	1979	26	Bill Molloy	Elspeth Burns, 548 Lake Street, St. Catharines, Ontario, Canada. L2N 4H9.
981	Berkshire Burns Club, Massachusetts	1978	1979	25	Inez S. Moore	Gladys Davidson, P.O. Box 134, Lennox, Mass., U.S.A. 01240.

<i>No.</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Inst.</i>	<i>Fed.</i>	<i>Members</i>	<i>President</i>	<i>Secretary</i>
982	Garnock Burns Club	1868	1979	36	R. Johnston	W. A. Law, 25 Balfour Avenue, Beith. KA15 1AW.
983	Montreal General Hospital Burns Society	1961	1979	21	C. F. D. Ackmon	S. G. MacIsaac, Department of Urology, 1650 Cedar Ave., Montreal, HG3 1A4, Quebec, Canada.
984	Macquarie-Stewart Burns Club	1979	1979	40	E. McColgan	D. G. Taylor, 17 Callistemon Close, Epping, N.S.W., Australia 2121.
985	New Galloway Burns Masonic Club	1979	1979	44	Leslie A. Young	G. Lindsay, Mansfield House, St. Mary St., Kirkcudbright. DG6 4EL.
986	Robert Burns Society of Annapolis, Ltd.	1978	1979	120	John Dodds	Deborah Heinbuch, 23 Severndale Road, Severna Park, Maryland. 21146
987	Hull Scots Society of St. Andrew	1910	1979	114	John King	
989	Holt Hill Burns Club		1979		Keith Cleary	Mrs. F. Graham, 29 Carlaw Road, Prenton, Birkenhead, Merseyside.
991	Cabra Vale Burns Club	1967	1979		Matthew Ferguson	Maurice Bradley, A. McVitie, West Mansfield, By Mayfield, Dalkeith.
992	Marchbank Burns Club	1959	1980	50	Arthur Lucas	EH27 5TJ.
993	Cambusbarron Social Club	1956	1980	1000	George Smart	
994	Robert Burns Society of the Midlands Columbia	1978	1980	120	Joe T. Jenkinson Strachan	Mrs. Helen McLendon, P.O. Box 1953 Columbia, S.C. 29202 U.S.A.
995	Drongan and District Working Men's Burns Club	1950	1980	74	James Keirs	Peter McPhee, 16 Mainsford Ave., Drongan, Ayrshire. KA6 7DH.
996	Lodge St. Andrew, Kilmarnock	1980	1980		James McDowall	R. Ghee, Inglewood, Moscow, Ayrshire.
998	Eyemouth Clachan Burns Club	1959	1980	32	Henry Collin	Thomas Wilson, 5A Paxton Terrace, Eyemouth, Berwickshire.
999	Dumfries & District Round Table Burns Club	1952	1980	23	Dr. Dave Roberts	Keith McGregor, 14 Nutherry Place, Dumfries. DG2 7HZ.
1000	United Glass Jolly Beggars Burns Club	1977	1980	20	J. Harrower	J. Smith, 3 Muircot Place, Coalsnaughton, Clackmannanshire. FK13 6LP.
1001	Mystic Highland Pipe Band Burns Club	1980	1981	130	George Fraser	Charles R. Cyr, 60 Elm Street, Stonington, Connecticut, U.S.A. 06378.
1002	McQuarrie Fields Scottish Club	1980	1981	70	J. Sutherland	J. McDougall, 6 Sulman Road, Cabramatta, N.S.W., Australia.
1003	Whiteadder Burns Club	1952	1981	56	James Guthrie	J. Gardiner, 26 The Meadows, Berwick Upon Tweed, Northumberland.

<i>No.</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Inst.</i>	<i>Fed.</i>	<i>Members</i>	<i>President</i>	<i>Secretary</i>
1004	Gatehouse of Fleet Burns Club	1952	1981	90	Jim W. Finlay	George McCulloch, Millhouse, Ann Street, Gatehouse of Fleet.
1005	Tamworth & District Scottish Society	1959	1981	122	Mrs. A. Thomson	Mrs. E. Turner, 9 Ankerview, Kettlebrook, Tamworth, Staffs.
1006	St. Andrews Society of Mexico	1893	1981	144	Mrs. Muriel McIntosh	John McNab, Sierra Ventana 745, Lomas Chapultepe, Mexico, 10DF, Mexico.
1007	Burns Anniversary Committee of Rhode Island	1963	1981	12	John C. MacLean	Mrs. E. S. MacLear., 88 Boxwood Avenue, Cranston, Rhode Island, 02910, U.S.A.
1008	Caledonian Society of West Cumberland	1968	1981	99	Jim Curr	Mrs. Marion McGregor, 25 Clifton Court, Workington, Cumbria, CA14 3HR.
1009	The Edmonton Scottish Society	1938	1981	850	R. M. Allen	R. M. Allan M.B.E., 32 Greer Crescent, St. Albert, Alberta. T8N 1T8 Canada.
1010	H. & W. Burns Club, Belfast	1981	1981	160	James Jamieson	James Heron, 2 Harland Park, Belfast, N. Ireland.
1011	Haddington Golf Club	1974	1981	450	Ian Gibson	T. Shaw, St. Ann's Place, Haddington, E. Lothian.
1012	The Edmonton Dundonald Burns Club	1975	1981	100	Frederick G. Bookham	R. M. Allan, M.B.E., 32 Greer Crescent, St Albert, Alberta. T8N 1T8, Canada.
1013	Balmullo Burns Club	1980	1982	70	Bobby Crowe	Robert Munn, 35 Park View, Balmullo, St. Andrews, Fife.
1014	The Traditional Music & Song Assoc. of Scotland		1982		Hamish Henderson	Jane Fraser, 4th Floor, 10 Belmont Street, Aberdeen.
1015	Maltby and District Burns Society	1982	1982	60	K. M. Beech	D. J. Brennan, 23 Cripps Close, Maltby, Nr. Rotherham, S. Yorks. S66 7JP.
1016	Leyland and District Burns Society	1981	1982	20	Brian E. Walker	B. E. Walker, 35 Longmeanygate, Leyland, Preston, Lancashire. PR5 3PA.
1017	Southwick Burns Club	1982	1982	20	Inex S. Moore	Heydon A. Moore, 154 Vining Hill Road, Southwick, MA 01077. U.S.A.
1018	East Antrim Burns Association	1979	1983	35	Tom Peoples	Sam Cross, 42 Glenvale-Park, Glynn, Lame. BT40 3EZ.
1021	Kuwait Caledonians	1978	1983	180	Ronnie Sinclair	Peter Robertson, P.O. Box 58, Safat, Kuwait.
1022	Blane Valley Burns Club	1980	1983	27	George Eastcroft	A. Johnstone, 6 Kirkhouse Road, Blanefield, Glasgow. G63 9DA.

<i>No.</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Inst.</i>	<i>Fed.</i>	<i>Members</i>	<i>President</i>	<i>Secretary</i>
1023	Skipton and District Caledonian Society	1957	1983	140	James Kentley	Francis W. Clark, 17 Barnwood Crescent, Earby, Colne, Lincs. BB8 6PD
1024	North American Association of Federated Burnsians	1980	1983	7 Clubs	John Nicholson	Mrs. M. Kozakiewicz, 5933 Lafayette, Dearborn Heights, M1 48127, U.S.A.
1025	Newton Lads Burns Club, Midlothian	1983	1983	35	Sam Campbell	James Oswald, Jnr., 32 Clarinda Terrace, Kirk Brae, Liberton, Edinburgh. EH16 6XW.
1026	Duns Burns Club	1955	1983	45	William Patterson	Murray J. Henderson, 16 Gourlays Wynd, Duns, Berwickshire.
1027	The Scottish Australian Heritage Council	1981	1983	250	W. F. F. MacLennan	Mrs. J. M. Samois; 'Rosemount', 410 Edgecliff, Road, Woolahra, Sydney, NSW, Australia 2025.
1028	Mercat Hotel Burns Club	1975	1983	40	James Ogilvie	John Noble
1029	Kilwinning Burns Club	1982	1983	103	Charles Speirs	William Stewart, 12 McGavin Avenue, Kilwinning, Ayrshire.
1030	Darlington Gaelic Society	1968	1983	90	Mrs. M. Griffiths	Mrs. Iris Dingwall, 66 Bates Avenue, Darlington, Co. Durham. DL3 0TU.
1031	Cramond Brig Burns Club	1983	1983	68	Robert Brown	Duncan Foggon, 4 Braepark Road, Cramond, Edinburgh. EH4 6DN.
1032	Croydon Burns Society		1983			Michael J. Buckingham, 71 Wellesley Rd., Croydon. CR0 2AJ.
1033	Java St. Andrew Society	1919	1983	175		Hon. Secretary, c/o Chartered Bank, Wisma Kosgaro, J. I., M. H. Thamrin, Jakarta, Indonesia.
1034	Kilbarchan U.C. Burns Society	1970	1984	23	James P. A. Logan	Ian M. Campbell, 18 Park View, Kilbarchan, Renfrewshire.
1035	Kansas City St. Andrews Society	1914	1984	525	Charles E. Goslin, FSA (Scot)	Gerald B. Morrison, 5617 N Ardian Ave., Kansas City, Missouri 64151.
1036	West Midlands District of England	1952	1984		Mrs. Frances Highway	D. Jones, 23 Aynho Close, Mount Nod, Coventry. CV5 7HH.
1037	Grimsby & Cleethorpes Scots Soc. of St. Andrew	1983	1984	80	William Smith	Mrs. J. Littlejohn, 38 Humberstone Avenue, Humberstone, Grimsby.
1038	Brisbane Caledonian Society & Burns Club	1892	1984	500	Neil Mackenzie- Forbes	Mr. Michael Azar, P.O. Box 46, East Brisbane, Queensland 4169, Australia.

<i>No.</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Inst.</i>	<i>Fed.</i>	<i>Members</i>	<i>President</i>	<i>Secretary</i>
1040	Cowdenbeath Scots Wha' Hae Burns Club	1984	1984	14	William Miller	Malcolm Main, 10 Glenfield Gardens, Cowdenbeath.
1041	Nanaimo Burns Club	1984	1984	18	Don Mettam	George Simpson, Box 13, Acacia Road, Wanoose, BC, Canada. V0R 2R0.
1042	Kilmaurs Glencairn Burns Club	1981	1984	42	Jim Roy	Robert Beattie, 34 East Park Crescent, Kilmaurs, Ayrshire.
1043	The Robert Burns Society of South Australia	1984	1984	49	J. Greig	Miss J. D. Gray, Flat 74, 40 Park Terrace, Gilberton, South Australia 5081.
1045	The Heather and Thistle Society	1952	1984	394	Lyman Matheson	Kenneth MacPherson, 908 Sunset, Pasadena, Texas, U.S.A. 77586.
1047	The Caledonian Society of Colchester & District	1928	1984	110	Henry Fairly	Mrs. Ann Fairley, Park Farm, Great Bromley, Colchester, Essex. CO7 7US.
1048	Hong Kong St. Andrews Society	1881	1984	620	Chieftain S. Robertson	S. C. Sloan, c/o Lowe, Ringham and Matthews, 22F Prince's Building, Hong Kong.
1049	Lodge Camperdown 371	1984	1984		Albert Mitchell	A. Gowans, 22 Invergowrie Drive, Dundee, Angus.
1050	Hertfordshire Robert Burns Soc.	1986	1986	150	Brian K. Lawrence	Dudley Sizeland, 160 Crawford Road, Hatfield, Herts.
1051	Northampton Town and County Scottish Soc.	1924	1985		Mrs. Nora Wood	Mrs. Margaret McKee, 15 Milverton Crescent, Abington Vale, Northampton.
1052	Escom Club (Koeberg) Scottish Activities Section	1984	1985	36	Dr. Brian Fitzpatrick	M. McPherson, 7 Foxcroft Crescent, Melkbosstrand 7405, Cape Town, RSA.
1053	'Burns Club' Grampian Corby Association	1984	1985	37	William Brown	Mr. T. Ferguson, 12 Lynmouth Place, Corby, Northants.
1054	Hunter Valley Scots Club	1980	1985		William J. Ball	Mrs. Joan Bremner, 219 Grinsel Street, Kotara, NSW 2288.
1055	Lhanbryde Burns Club	1985	1985	32	Ian Park	Steven Park, 26 Ramsay Lane, Kincardine, Alloa, FK10 4QY.
1056	Toowoomba Caledonian Society and Burns Club	1911	1985	284	Malcolm Leslie	The Sec. Toowoomba Cal Soc. & Burns Club Inc, PO Box 20, Toowoomba 4350, Australia.
1057	Lochmaben Drouthy Neebors Burns Club	1983	1985	50	David Shankland, M.B.E.	J. M. Dickie, 46 Barrashead, Lochmaben, Lockerbie, Dumfriesshire.
1058	Stranraer and District Burns Club	1985	1985	86	John Bell	Lewis Kelly, 20 Royal Avenue, Stranraer, Wigtownshire. DG9 8ET.

<i>No.</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Inst.</i>	<i>Fed.</i>	<i>Members</i>	<i>President</i>	<i>Secretary</i>
1059	Dundas Burns Society	1985	1986	50	John Dennis	Matthew Gilbert, 282 Kersiebank Avenue, Grangemouth. FK3 0BS.
1061	Caledonian Soc. of Brussels	1953	1986	120	A. Gibbons	
1062	Ashburn House Burns Club	1986	1986	37	Thomas Riddock	Robert Mitchell, 19 Argyll Street, Alloa, Clacks. FK10 3RR.
1063	The Caledonian Club, London	1891	1986	1621	Earl of Airlie G.C.V.O.	P. J. Varney, Caledonian Club, 9 Halkin Street, London. SW1X 7DR.
1064	Aftongrange Burns	1985	1986	16	G. Croft-Smith	
1065	'The Trusty Fieres' Erskine Burns Club	1986	1986	20	Daniel Kilpatrick	William Richardson, 33 Churchill Drive, Bishopston, Renfrewshire. PA7 5HF.
1066	Fochabers Burns Club	1982	1986	50	David Clark	William K. Barclay, 'Tor-Na-Gar', Fochabers, Moray.
1067	Seton Burns Club	1986	1986	246	Tom Davidson	William G. McDonald, Cockenzie & Port Seton, Bowling & Recreation Club, King George V Playing Field, North Seton Park, Port Seton, East Lothian.
1068	Robert Burns Society of Central Kentucky		1986			Mrs. Ancel M. D. Brown, Kilfinan Glen, 4194 Delaney's Ferry Road, Versailles, Kentucky. 40383.
1069	Friday Night Burns Club, Falkirk		1987			George Thomson, 95B Grahams Road, Falkirk.
1070	Robert Burns Club of Milwaukee	1986	1987	42	William Kerr	William Olson, RR1 Box 107A, Washington Island. WI 54246.
1071	'The Rattlin Squad'	1980	1987	36	C. D. Woods	C. J. Rollie, 21 Burnock Street, Ochiltree, Ayrshire. KA18 2NP.
1072	Hazel Tree Burns Club	1986	1987	30	J. Livingstone	T. J. Starrs, 27 Newark Drive, Corby, Northants. NN18 0ES.
1073	Robert Burns Club of Erie	1986	1987	88	Dorothy Gillespie	Mrs. Margaret Nelson, 3411 Old Orchard Road, Erie, Pennsylvania, U.S.A. 16506.
1074	Glenrothes Burns Club	1987	1987	20	Ian McDonald	Ian McDonald, 1 Birnam Road, Kirkcaldy, Fife.
1075	Sgian Dhu Ceilidh Club, Corby	1986	1988	100	B. L. Pirie	D. K. Fraser, 3 Hunt Street, Corby, Northants. NN18 9LE.
1076	The Can-Du Burns Club (Canada-Dumfries)	1987	1988	14	Dr. James Connor	Mrs. M. Urquhart, 39 Glebe Street, Dumfries. DG1 2LQ.
1077	Scottish Club of Tulsa	1955	1988	95	Mrs. Wm. (Rawnie) Gordon	Mrs. T. Abernethy, 117 W. 4th St., Skiatook, Oklahoma 74070, USA.

1078	Burns Club of Vancouver	1987	1988	15	Jack Whyte	Merrill Leckie, 775 Esquimalt Avenue, West Vancouver, B.C., Canada. V7T 1J7.
1079	Afton Lily Burns Club	1988	1988	94	James Rorison	Hugh Rorison, 8 Loch View, New Cumnock.
1080	Swiss Burns Society	1988	1988	14	Urs Kalberer	Daniel Ammann, Swiss Burns Society, Postfach 8 CH-7132 Vals, Switzerland.
1081	Ravensraig Burns Club	1979	1989	320	George Quinn	Thomas Brennan, 14 Hillside Place, Newarthill, Motherwell. ML1 5DH.
1082	The Tabard Inn Burns Club	1989	1989	26	Patrick G. Thurmond	John H. Hannah, Jr., 423 South Chilton, Tyler, Texas, U.S.A. 75701.
1083	Barr Burns Club	1951	1989		G. Campbell	W. L. Dunlop, Glengennet, Barr, by Girvan, Ayrshire.
1084	Benidorm Burns Club	1987	1989		Edward McCue	George Cunningham, 18 Ferrier Crescent, Armadale, W Lothian.
1085	Tartan Weaver Burns & Social Club	1988	1989		William Gibb	G. R. Johnstone, 14 Bentheads, Bannockburn, Stirlingshire.
1086	Mackay & District Robert Burns Society	1988	1989	33	S. C. Young 15.	Jenny Irving, 53 William Street, Mackay, QLD., Australia 4740.
1087	Orange County Burns Club	1988	1989	48	Hugh Galloway	Tom Foley, 3134 Killarney Ln. Costa Mesa, CA. U.S.A.
1088	United Scottish Society Inc.	1952	1989	1090	A. Reoch	Nan Daley, 653 Willow Grove Avenue, Glendora, California, U.S.A. 91740.
1090	Irvine Royal Academy					Katrina Wiseman, 30 Ronaldson Court, Dreghorn. KA11 4JJ. Ayrshire.
1091	Harrogate Saltire					Mr. R. W. Williamson, 3 Windsor Court, Cavendish Avenue, Harrogate. HG2 8HX.
1092	Bury St Edmunds & District Burns Club					Mr. W. Clelland, "Julim", 2 Lincoln Green, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk.
1093	Tulliallan Burns Club					Mr. R. Miller, M.A., 27 Kellywood Crescent, Kincardine, Alloa. FK10 4PB.
1094	Brig A Doon Burns Club					Mrs. B. T. Little, RR1 La Salette, Ontario, N0E 1H0. Canada.
1095	Wallace Burns Club					Mrs. E. O'Donnell, 26 Carmuir's Street, Camelon, By Falkirk. FK1 4PZ
1096	Scottish Society of Santa Barbara					Margaret E. Chisholm, 871 Arbol Verde St., Carpinteria. CA 93013.

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF CLUBS

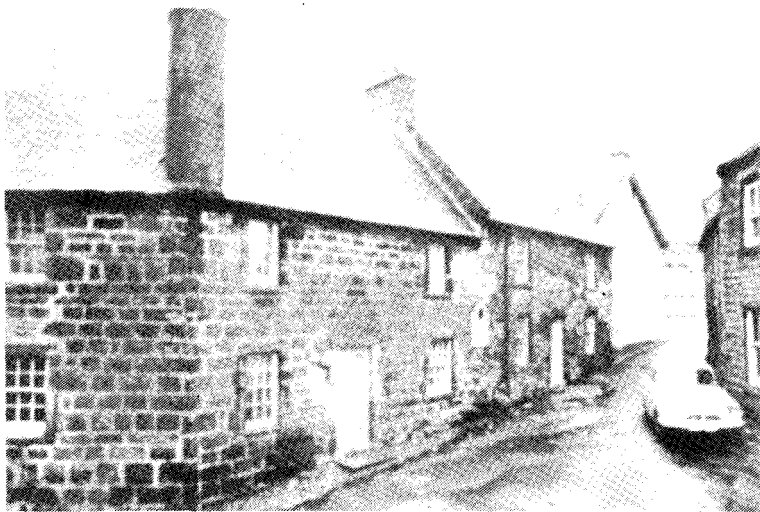
No.			
543	Abbey Craig	1038	Brisbane
40	Aberdeen	120	Bristol
733	Aberdeen Burns Study Circle	908	Brithers Be, Kilmarnock
1064	Aftongrange	1061	Brussels
1079	Afton Lily	356	Burnbank
20	Airdrie	864	Burnie Burns Club, Tasmania
516	Airts Burns Club	417	Burnley
944	Alamo, Paisley	112	Burns Howff, Dumfries
2	Alexandria	933	Busbiehill
809	Allanton Jolly Beggars	946	Calgary
6	Alloa Haggis	991	Cabra Vale
252	Alloway	993	Cambusbarron
618	Altrincham & Sale Caledonian Society	387	Cambuslang Mary Campbell
393	Annan Ladies	882	Canberra Highland Society
986	Annapolis	1076	Can-Du
82	Arbroath	915	Canterbury Burns Club (Inc.)
1062	Ashburn House	562	Castle Douglas
238	Atlanta	1068	Central Kentucky
768	Auchterderran Jolly Beggars	826	Charlotte, N.C.
851	Auckland Burns Association	719	Chelmsford
566	Australia, Scottish Society of	462	Cheltenham
275	Ayr	572	Chester Caledonian Association
192	Ayrshire Association	11	Chesterfield
340	Balerno	699	Choppington
1013	Balmullo	966	Clan Rose
959	Bangkok	646	Clear Winding Devon Alva
439	Barnsley	922	Clumber Burns Club
1083	Barr	630	Coalsnaughton
593	Barrmill Jolly Beggars	1047	Colchester
363	Barrow	839	Coldstream
929	Bathgate Jolly Beggars	398	Colinton
534	Bedlington and District	994	Columbia
931	Beith Caledonia	606	Corby
15	Belfast	1053	Corby Grampian
725	Ben Cleuch	963	Cotgrave
1084	Benidorm	559	Coventry
981	Berkshire, Mass.	845	Coventry Tam o' Shanter
894	Beverley and District Cal. Soc.	1040	Cowdenbeath
167	Birmingham	1031	Cramond Brig
951	Birnbeck	1032	Croydon
1022	Blane Valley	581	Cumbernauld
95	Bolton	580	Cumbræ
911	Borestone Bowling Club	45	Cumnock
663	Bournemouth	773	Cumnock Cronies
803	Bowhill People's Club	682	Cumnock 'Jolly Beggars'
812	Bradford	62	Cupar
49	Bridgeton	818	Dalbeattie and District
401	Brig-en' (Waverley)	179	Dailly Jolly Beggars
1094	Brig A Doon	35	Dalry
1092	Bury St Edmunds & Dist.	1030	Darlington Gaelic

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|------|--------------------------------------|------|---------------------------------|
| 469 | Denny Cross | 887 | Gainsborough and District |
| 55 | Derby | 187 | Galashiels |
| 701 | Detroit | 501 | Galt |
| 978 | Dickeyville | 964 | Gambia Cal. Soc. |
| 37 | Dollar | 982 | Garnock |
| 850 | Dollar Masonic | 665 | Gartmorn Ladies |
| 972 | Don Valley | 955 | Gartwhinzean |
| 556 | Doncaster | 1004 | Gatehouse of Fleet |
| 918 | Dover and E. Kent | 169 | Glasgow & Dist. Assoc. |
| 995 | Drongan | 263 | Glasgow Masonic |
| 950 | Drummoyne | 897 | Glenbervie |
| 10 | Dumbarton | 1074 | Glenrothes |
| 226 | Dumfries | 774 | Gloucester Scottish Society |
| 999 | Dumfries Round Table | 430 | Gourock |
| 437 | Dumfries Ladies No. 1 | 59 | Gourock Jolly Beggars |
| 503 | Dunblane | 116 | Greenloaning |
| 1059 | Dundas | 21 | Greenock |
| 14 | Dundee | 939 | Griffin |
| 370 | Dundonald Burns Club | 1037 | Grimsby & Cleethorpes |
| 69 | Dunedin N.Z. | 952 | Guildford |
| 85 | Dunfermline | 1010 | H. & W. Burns Club, Belfast |
| 1026 | Duns | 1011 | Haddington Golf Club |
| 744 | Durham & District Caledonian Society | 33 | Haggis, Glasgow |
| 1018 | East Antrim | 152 | Hamilton |
| 967 | Earlsferry | 842 | Hamilton, Ontario |
| 937 | East Kilbride | 555 | Harrogate |
| 872 | East Midlands Scottish Society | 1091 | Harrogate Saltire SCD Club |
| 22 | Edinburgh | 492 | Harrow |
| 307 | Edinburgh Ayrshire Association | 239 | Hawick |
| 825 | Edinburgh Clarinda Ladies Burns Club | 1072 | Hazel Tree, Corby |
| 378 | Edinburgh District Association | 866 | Heanor and District Cal. Soc. |
| 571 | Edmonton Burns Club | 1045 | Heather and Thistle |
| 1012 | Edmonton Dundonald | 446 | Herefordshire Burns Club |
| 1009 | Edmonton Scottish Society | 1050 | Hertfordshire Robert Burns Soc. |
| 927 | Edmonton Tarbolton | 916 | Hole i' the Wa' |
| 149 | Elgin | 989 | Holt Hill |
| 974 | Elliot Lake | 1048 | Hong Kong |
| 5 | Ercildoune Burns Club | 976 | Hopetoun Laddies |
| 1065 | Erskine 'Trusty Fieres' | 349 | Howff, Kilmarnock |
| 1052 | Escom, Koeberg | 969 | Huddersfield |
| 217 | Eskdale | 987 | Hull |
| 1073 | Erie, PA | 943 | Humberside |
| 998 | Eyemouth Clachan | 1054 | Hunter Valley |
| 126 | Falkirk | 510 | ICI Grangemouth |
| 657 | Fallin Gothenberg | 691 | Inverness |
| 1066 | Fochabers | 173 | Irvine |
| 576 | Fort Matilda | 859 | Irvine Eglinton Burns Club |
| 403 | Fraserburgh | 936 | Irvine Lasses |
| 1069 | Friday Night, Falkirk | 1090 | Irvine Royal Academy |
| | | 1033 | Java |
| | | 348 | Jean Armour (Newton) |

96	Jedburgh	1028	Mercat Hotel
979	Jewel Welfare	1006	Mexico
1035	Kansas	1070	Milwaukee
784	Kelso	841	Montreal Robert Burns Assoc.
1034	Kilbarchan	983	Montreal General Hospital
377	Kilbirnie	242	Montrose
0	Kilmarnock	494	Motherwell United Services
681	Kilmarnock Cronies	1001	Mystic Pipe Band
996	Kilmarnock Lodge St. Andrew	1041	Nanaimo
695	Kilmarnock (Dunbartonshire)	74	National Memorial
1042	Kilmaurs Glencairn	500	New Cumnock
1029	Kilwinning	985	New Galloway
627	Kinross Jolly Beggars	523	N.S.W. Highland Society
323	Kirkcudbright	329	Newark
693	Kirkcudbright Masonic	293	Newcraighall
945	Kirklees	902	Newmarket
1021	Kuwait	954	Newton, Ayr
578	Lanarkshire B.C.A.	1025	Newton Lads Midlothian
660	Langholm Ladies	980	Niagara Falls
961	Larkhall	124	Ninety
925	Lauriston, B.C.	1024	North American Assoc.
661	Leamington and Warwick	893	North Bay, Ontario
548	Leeds Caledonian Society	971	North Berwick
461	Leicester	706	North Lindsey Scots Society
341	Leith	1051	Northampton
1016	Leyland	745	Northumberland and Durham
1055	Lhanbryde	921	Northern Scottish Counties
366	Liverpool	17	Nottingham
360	Lochee	777	Nuneaton
831	Lochgoilhead Burns Club	923	Old Manor Burns Club
1057	Lochmaben	919	Orange and District
1044	Lodge Burns Immortal	1087	Orange County
1049	Lodge Camperdown	880	Otley and District
811	Logangate, Cumnock	957	Ottawa
1	London	748	Ouplaymuir
1063	London Cal. Club	48	Paisley
561	London (Ontario)	72	Partick
1086	Mackay	940	Pembrokeshire
1002	Macquarrie Fields	26	Perth
984	Macquarrie-Stewart	336	Peterhead
1015	Maltby	721	Plymouth
934	Manama	535	Plymouth Caledonian Society
822	Mansfield Caledonian Society	808	Pontefract
992	Marchbank	688	Possie Nansie Ladies Kirkcaldy
350	Markinch	212	Portobello
310	Mauchline	772	Prestwick
390	Meikle Earnock	962	Pretoria
726	Melbourne	585	Queen's Park Clarinda
874	Melbourne Masonic	1071	Rattlin' Squad

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1081 Ravenscraig | 42 Strathearn |
| 472 Renfrewshire Association | 723 Strathpeffer |
| 720 Retford | 89 Sunderland |
| 1007 Rhode Island | 632 Symington |
| 769 Robert Bruce (Clackmannan) | 791 Swindon Caledonian Society |
| 743 Romford Scottish Association | 1080 Swiss Burns Soc. |
| 926 Rosamond B.C., Gretna | 1082 Tabard Inn |
| 36 Rosebery (Glas.) | 1005 Tamworth |
| 454 Rotherham | 1085 Tartan Weavers |
| 9 Royalty | 810 Thirty Seven Burns Club |
| 642 Rutherglen | 7 Thistle (Glasgow) |
| 1096 Scottish Soc. of Santa Barbara | 754 Thornton Cleveleys |
| 13 St. Andrew's Burns Club | 740 Thorntree |
| 834 St. Andrew's Society | 958 Toledo |
| (Altrincham, Sale and District) | 935 Torbrex, Stirling |
| 727 St. Andrew Soc. of Denmark | 710 Toronto |
| 671 St. Andrew's Cronies, Irvine | 1056 Toowoomba |
| 470 St. Giles, Elgin | 1014 Traditional Music & Song Assoc. |
| 220 St. Louis | 813 Tranent '25' |
| 399 St. Ringans | 920 Trysting Thorn |
| 973 Salsburgh | 1077 Tulsa |
| 948 Saltcoats | 1093 Tulliallan Burns Club |
| 941 San Diego | 698 Turriff |
| 413 San Francisco | 237 Uddingston Masonic |
| 68 Sandyford | 1000 United Glass |
| 629 Sanquhar | 1088 United Scottish Soc. |
| 426 Sauchie | 1078 Vancouver |
| 551 Scarborough | 303 Victoria St. Andrew's Society |
| 314 Scottish (Edin.) | 711 Victorian Scottish Union |
| 1027 Scottish Australian Heritage | 1095 Wallace Burns Club |
| 570 Scottish Clans Association | 763 Wakefield |
| 917 Scottish Presidents' Association | 436 Walney Ladies |
| 924 S.C.T.A. (Dumfries) | 296 Walsall |
| 1067 Seton | 1008 West Cumberland |
| 1075 Sgian-Dhu, Corby | 664 West Kilbride |
| 405 Sheffield | 1036 West Midlands |
| 896 Sierra Leone Cal. Society | 895 Westerton |
| 1023 Skipton | 930 Wheatsheaf, Falkirk |
| 589 Solway | 392 Whifflet |
| 965 South Australian Royal | 1003 Whiteadder |
| 1043 South Australian R.B. Soc. | 236 Whitehaven |
| 530 Southern Scottish Counties | 536 Whithorn |
| 1017 Southwick, Mass. | 696 Whitley Bay and District |
| 50 Stirling | 730 Wigtown |
| 824 Stirling, Clackmannan and West | 977 Whyalla |
| Perth Association | 197 Winnipeg |
| 458 Stonehaven | 890 Wollongong |
| 907 Stonehouse | 553 Wolverhampton |
| 1058 Stranraer | 878 Workshop Burns and Cal. Club |
| 683 Stratford upon Avon | 718 York St. Andrew Society |
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