

**The Chronicles
of the
Caledonian Society
of London**

1976-1984

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EDITED BY

HUGH COWAN

Honorary Historian of the Society from 2005

INTRODUCTION

It must be stressed that although the Chronicles of the Caledonian Society of London contain much historic information, they are not rigorous histories. They were, and are, written to entertain and inevitably tend to accentuate the positive, deal only lightly, if at all, with less happy episodes and avoid much routine material. Any who seek greater detail should consult the more formal histories or documents lodged in the London Metropolitan Archives.

The previous volume closed after session 1975-1976 and covered the final period for which a substantial amount of draft material had already been collected before traditional publication ceased, including a number of transcriptions of speeches or speakers' scripts. Unsurprisingly, this stopped after Council decided that publication in the traditional manner was no longer affordable. Nevertheless, tape recording of speeches continued, although not all tapes have survived, and it has also been possible to assemble a full set of dinner menu cards. These, together with a very few contemporary notes, meeting minutes and surviving correspondence, have enabled the writing of this volume which follows the pattern of its immediate predecessor but with only summaries of speeches. This range of material continues to be available until enhanced by the change to digital recording of speeches at the start of session 2005-2006. However, the present account closes at the end of session 1983-1984 as, at the time of writing in 2016, some later material has Data Protection issues.

Although no transcriptions are held, three unsuccessful attempts to produce such are known to have occurred. More recent investigation suggests that there are, still extant, recordings of about thirty per cent of the Sentiments of the period that are of a quality that should allow substantial transcripts to be produced, if this were to be properly addressed as more than just an audio typing exercise.

The first session saw a further attempt to boost attendances at individual Little Dinners, by reducing their number to only four, with the February date used for an informal social gathering for members only, and the Festival in March. Thereafter, the traditional annual programme of five Little Dinners and a Ladies' Festival was resumed. The session ran between successive AGMs, usually held in June. The all-male Little Dinners were now held in October, November, January, February and March with that in October replacing the former December dinner, and the Festival came at the end of the season in April. An innovation, from session 1979-1980, was the summer golf outing.

The main change to governance was the introduction of the post of Junior Vice President at the 1982 AGM. Earlier, an Honorary Golf Secretary had been added in 1979 and a further change in the list of appointments saw the introduction of an Honorary Piper in April 1981. The latter was a belated replacement for the post of Society's Officer which had been discontinued during session 1973-1974.

Dinner routines remained largely unchanged. The Selkirk Grace preceded dinner and seems to have been said by the President even when clergy was present. The two loyal toasts - 'The Queen' and 'Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, the Prince Philip the Duke of Edinburgh, the Duke of Rothesay and the other Members of the Royal Family' respectively - followed the meal and preceded the first set of songs and the Sentiment which was, in its turn, followed by the interval. The second half of the evening comprised the pipe set, the toast to the guests, the reply on behalf of the guests, the second set of songs, any introduction of new

members and the close of the evening. The sequence for the latter was the Society's strathspey ('The Caledonian Society of London'), four verses of 'Auld Lang Syne' sung according to the Society's custom, one verse of the National Anthem and the President's farewell. Any Society notices were given by the President or the Honorary Secretary at a suitable point in the evening. Variations inserted appeals on behalf of the charities and, usually in March, the toast to the Honorary Office Bearers and its response. Apart from piping, musical entertainment at Little Dinners was generally restricted to a single male singer. Brother Caledonian Fraser McLuskey was usually 'at the piano' to accompany the singer and also to lead 'Auld Lang Syne'. Arrangements for the Festival were more flexible but followed the same general pattern with the inclusion of a toast to the President and sometimes also a toast to the Society, the Past Presidents' salute to the President and the presentation of the Gold Badge to the latter. The presence of guests at all dinners continued to be a major feature.

As in the previous volume, best available data on the presentation of new members, at Little Dinners, has been used, with an appropriate degree of ambivalence in its wording when there is no confirmation that an introduction, listed on a menu card, actually took place.

Total membership varied between 123 and 131 during the period and the number of ordinary members was between 75 and 88 against the constitutional limit of 100. Average attendance of members and guests for a dinner varied between 90 and 114, somewhat below figures that had been customary recently.

The Royal Scottish Corporation and the Royal Caledonian Schools continued to receive support from annual surpluses in Society funds. Apart from financial support, five out of the eight Presidents from this time are known to have held office in one or both charities.

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SESSION 1976-1977

Office Bearers

President	WUB Reid BSc FCIS
Vice President	Dr Archibald F McDonald TD
Honorary Secretary	Past President George Deans
Honorary Treasurer	Past President Douglas Robertson
Honorary Auditor	Past President RY Kennedy CA
Honorary Historian	Vacant
Honorary Dinner Secretary	Past President Douglas Robertson

Pipe Major James Caution superseded Pipe Sergeant Robert Murphy as de-facto Society's Piper early in the session

The President. WUB (Bill) Reid was a native of Falkirk. Educated at Falkirk High School, he started his career locally with the Burgh Council gaining a diploma in social welfare and specialising in Scottish poor law. At the outbreak of World War Two he was commissioned into the Royal Tank Regiment and served in the Western Desert. Subsequently, as a major on the staff, he worked on vehicle compass development for the Rhine crossing. Post War, he added a degree in economics, from the London School of Economics, to his qualifications and later became a fellow of the Chartered Institute of Secretaries. Working in the construction industry, he became Company Secretary and a Director of the Heymills Group of construction and property companies and was active on industry committees, particularly in taxation, insurance and contracts. Away from work, he enjoyed golf. He joined the Society in 1960-1961 and was Honorary Treasurer before becoming President, and again as a Past President. He was also a Director of the Royal Caledonian Schools and a Governor of the Royal Masonic Hospital. Bill Reid died in June 2002.

Social Programme. The experimental programme of the previous session was taken a stage further in a continuing attempt to boost attendances at individual dinners by reducing their number to only four. There were three Little Dinners (in November, December and January) and an informal social night for members in place of the February dinner. The Ladies' Festival took place in March once again. There were no dinners in October and April. All dinners were held at the Hotel Russell in Russell Square and the social night was at the Little Ship Club in Upper Thames Street. A disappointing total of 436 members and guests attended the four dinners.

One reason for holding the February social night was to provide an opportunity for members to get to know one another better, being free to circulate and not occupied by entertaining guests.

The standard dinner was reduced to three courses from the start of this session, but with haggis as an additional course in January and at the Festival, at a cost to diners of £5.50 per head excluding wine. There was no Honorary Historian in post and the only surviving records of the dinners are the menu cards.

The November Little Dinner launched the season as the London Scottish evening. The Sentiment 'Orkney Now and Then' was given by HA Graeme Lapsley, Chief Executive Orkney Islands Council, to a company of 74 members and guests.

As was traditional, the President proposed the health of the London Scottish Regiment. WDR Chalmers proposed the toast to the guests and WK Wells responded. In a change to the menu card, Ian McFadyen sang accompanied by Fraser McLuskey at the piano. Three pipers of the London Scottish played 'The Mist Covered Mountain', 'Norman Orr-Ewing', 'The Marquis of Huntly', 'The Kilt is my Delight' and 'The Battle of the Somme'.

The December dinner was enjoyed by 76 members and guests. The Sentiment 'Discipline' was delivered by Robert W Porter, Nigel Rutherford-Young called for the toast to the guests Norman Wooley replied. The menu card lists new members George Burnett, Allan Kane, Alexander M McIntosh and John McLean as being introduced that night.

Niven Miller, accompanied by Fraser McLuskey, sang 'Uist Tramping Song', 'My Love is like a Red, Red Rose', 'Song of Islay', 'The Fidgety Bairn' and 'My Ain Folk'. Pipe Major James Caution's set comprised 'The Highland Cradle Song', 'The Badge of Scotland', 'Lady Madeline Sinclair', 'Major David Manson' and 'Lochanside'.

In January 154 members and guests celebrated the life and works of Robert Burns with a Sentiment given the Reverend KE Brymer. The Lord Drumalbyn welcomed the guests and the response was by Peter W Grafton.

With Fraser McLuskey at the piano, Daniel McCoshan sang 'Ye Banks and Braes', 'Mary Morrison', 'The Lea Rig' and 'My Love is like a Red, Red Rose'. Pipe Major James Caution played 'Skye Gathering', 'The Meeting of the Waters', 'The Rose Among the Heather', 'Mackenzie's Reel', 'Loch Maree' and, at the end of the evening, the Society's strathspey.

February saw the informal social gathering for members only held in the Little Ship Club, Bell Wharf Lane, Upper Thames Street. Neither the attendance nor any other details are held. The event would not be repeated.

The second Ladies' Night to be held in March, following the precedent set the previous year, was attended by 132 members and guests. James Mason delivered a Sentiment entitled 'Third Degree Burns'. The President proposed the toast to the Society and the Vice President welcomed for the guests for whom RM Willan replied. The Past Presidents saluted the President and congratulated him on his year in office after which Immediate Past President James Moxon led the toast and presentation of the Gold Badge to the President.

Miss Marion Dodd sang, supported by Fraser McLuskey at the piano. Pipe Major James Caution's set is recorded as being the same as that played the previous December and, if this is correct, was 'The Highland Cradle Song', 'The Badge of Scotland', 'Lady Madeline Sinclair', 'Major David Manson' and 'Lochanside'.

Society Business. The Council met five times during the year (November (twice), January, June and July). In addition to the AGM in July, two other general meetings were held during the session. Meetings were held at the Hotel Russell, if preceding dinners, or in the Caledonian Club. The search for a new Honorary Secretary remained unsuccessful and the post of Honorary Historian was still unfilled. Thus the Society found itself with one honorary officer post vacant and the other four all held by Past Presidents, perhaps an illustration of some of the challenges facing the Society at this time.

£125 was donated to each charity from Society funds.

Following the report of a sub-committee that had considered the future role of the Society in light of the falling dinner attendances, it was agreed that:

- No change should be made to the stated aims and objects of the Society.
- The dinner programme for the following session should revert to the traditional pattern of five Little Dinners and a Ladies' Festival. Little Dinners should start at 7 pm prompt and finish at 10 pm or soon after.
- Sanctions for non-attendance should not be enforced for the time being.
- Steps should be taken to increase the active membership.

The various effects of inflation were reflected in decisions to reduce the entrance fee to £5 and to introduce a concessionary rate of annual subscriptions for members over 70 but also to raise the dinner charge from £5.50 to £6.50 exclusive of wine.

At the AGM, Dr AF McDonald and LIM Primrose were elected President and Vice President respectively. AJ Reid was appointed Honorary Treasurer and Immediate Past President James Moxon took over as Honorary Dinner Secretary. However there was still no replacement for Past President George Deans as Honorary Secretary and the post of Honorary Historian remained vacant.

Membership. The membership total was 123, with 83 Ordinary members, at the start of the session but increased to 127 and 85 respectively by its end. The death of a notable member, Sir James Miller who had joined the Society in 1961-1962 and had the distinction having been both Lord Provost of Edinburgh and Lord Mayor of London, was noted with regret. Ten members resigned or otherwise left and a very pleasing 15 new members joined.

SESSION 1977-1978

Office Bearers

President	Dr Archibald F McDonald TD CStJ
Vice President	LIM Primrose
Honorary Secretary	Past President George Deans
Honorary Treasurer	Alan J Reid MA MSc FSS
Honorary Auditor	Past President RY Kennedy CA
Honorary Historian	Vacant
Honorary Dinner Secretary	Past President James Moxon

Pipe Major James Caution was de-facto Society's Piper.
Past President Robert Leitch tape recorded speeches.

The President. Dr Archibald F (Archie) McDonald considered himself to be a Glasgow man, despite his birth in London, and trained in medicine at the Western Infirmary in the former city, qualifying in 1934. War service in the Royal Army Medical Corps, with a General Hospital in Italy for a time, was coupled to later membership of the Territorial Army, believed to be with the Essex Yeomanry as Medical Officer, for which he was awarded the Territorial Decoration (TD). He was a general practitioner in Barking and was President of the Stratford Division of the British Medical Association and later of the Barking and Havering Group Medical Committee. He subsequently served on the Barking and Havering Area Health Authority and, in retirement, became secretary for his local British Medical Association medical committee. He was also an active member of the St John's Ambulance Brigade for many years and was awarded the honour of Commander of the Venerable Order of St John and Jerusalem. He joined the Society in 1962-1963 and first served on Council in 1969-1970. Archie McDonald died in December 2002.

Social Programme. In accordance with the Council decision at the end of the previous session, the social pattern reverted to five Little Dinners and a Ladies' Festival but with an October Little Dinner rather than one in December. All dinners were held at the Hotel Russell in Russell Square. A total of 677 members and guests attended the six dinners.

Although there was no Honorary Historian in post, Past President Robert Leitch, a former Historian, tape recorded dinner speeches.

The October dinner now started the season. 57 members and 37 guests gathered to hear the Reverend John G Nicholls, one time Vicar of Camberwell, describe 'The Problems of a Minister in a City Parish' in an excellent Sentiment. In it, he started by thanking the Society for its hospitality, introduced himself as a Cornishman and then went on to suggest a few similarities between the Cornish and the Scots. He described how a Scot had led him to enter the ministry and another had persuaded him to train for the Episcopal denomination in Edinburgh. His first parish experience had been in Fife before he moved to London and became Vicar of Camberwell, a parish that contained thirty-five thousand souls, three major hospitals and a high proportion of homeless people. He gave a sometimes light hearted but

always sincere account of some of the daily challenges that he faced before recounting how the need to bring together the medical profession and the clergy, to address the related problems of alcohol and drug abuse and the effects of overcrowding, led to a monthly lunch and then to the project to establish the St Giles Centre to serve the homeless, in the church crypt, manned by doctors from the hospitals and by a multi-denominational team of clergy. In support of this, he persuaded the Rotary organisation to sponsor him on a world wide fund raising tour; a source of a number of stories with which he entertained his audience. After Camberwell, he was appointed to the Royal Household where he was responsible for the Chapel Royal in the Tower of London, with a Grace and Favour residence, and also for St Mary Woolnoth, the Bankers' church. He made a plea for recognition of the part to be played by City churches in helping City executives to relax more, hence reducing health problems. He finished by describing how the Lord Mayor had tasked him to improve the trust between City and United States bankers and how this had led to the establishment of the Woolnoth Society.

Iain Stewart Hunter introduced himself as a third generation member before welcoming the guests for whom the President of the British Medical Association, the distinguished physician and specialist in Geriatrics, Sir Ferguson Anderson responded. New members James Coltart, J Cameron Gair, John WM Lawrence, Ian S MacLeod, Dr DWC Smith, Dr RJC Stewart and Captain RE Wilson RN were welcomed and introduced to the President.

Daniel McCoshan sang his selection supported by Brother Caledonian Fraser McLuskey at the piano and Pipe Major James Caution's pipe set was 'The Wandering Piper', 'The Burning of the Pipers Hat', 'The Pipers Bonnet', 'The Piper of Drummond' and 'The Glasgow Police Pipers'.

The November Little Dinner was now the second dinner of the year but continued to be the London Scottish evening, and had an attendance of 105 members and guests. The President's dual medical and Territorial Army background was reflected in the Sentiment 'Scotland's Influence in Military Medicine' delivered by Lieutenant General Sir James Baird, a former Director General Army Medical Services. In it, he described the work of some of the Scottish medical officers who had made major impact in their profession since the establishment of a standing army following the Restoration in 1660.

In proposing the toast to the London Scottish Regiment, the President spoke of the changes to the Regiment since it had been reduced from battalion strength in 1967 but how it had managed to retain its strong identity and the family spirit that included the old comrades. Dr Gilbert Park called for the toast to the guests for whom Dr FD Hart made reply. New members MJ Knight and MK Morrison were introduced.

Fraser McLuskey was at the piano and Alexander Gauld sang. Two pipers of the London Scottish played 'The Rowan Tree', 'Australian Ladies', 'Marquis of Huntly', 'High Road to Linton' and 'Highland Laddie' and Pipe Major Caution sounded the Society's strathspey at the close of the evening.

January enjoyed its usual strong response when 152 members and guests gathered to remember the Bard in the Sentiment 'Robert Burns'. The author of the Sentiment, F Elliot Dobie, was welcomed by the President as a veteran singer whose voice would be remembered by many. Starting with a comment on the annual festival around the world, Elliot Dobie went on to address Burns the man, speaking of his personality, good and bad, his early life, first poems, his interaction with Scots society of the time and the difficulties of his later years, illustrated with bursts of song, finishing with an assessment of his impact on mankind.

Dr TB Dunn greeted the guests for whom His Honour Judge Mason offered the repost in thanking the hosts with a light hearted speech. The menu card shows new member Gordon McColl being introduced that night.

George MacPherson's selection of songs included 'Afton Water' and 'A Man's a Man' and Pipe Major Caution played 'Amazing Grace', 'Mull of Kintyre', 'Scotch on the Rocks', 'Rose among the Heather', 'The Fairy Dance', 'The Highland Cradle Song', 'The Kitchen Maid Jig' and the Society's strathspey. Fraser McLuskey was at the piano.

In February, with a company of 69 members and guests, Noble Wilson, Controller of International Relations at the BBC, delivered the Sentiment 'Long Live the Difference'. In doing so, he used the differences between Scotland and England, observed as a schoolboy and then as an Oxford student, to launch an appreciation, well-illustrated by humorous anecdote, of Scots characteristics as witnessed around the world, using as examples the place of Scots overseas, the Kirk, the Auld Alliance between Scotland and France, the global Caledonian diaspora fuelled by robustness and hard work, and tales associated with whisky. He finished with the conclusion that the traditional and the modern Scotland each had much to offer the modern world.

Ian A Macleod had been tasked to greet the guests but he had been stricken by illness that afternoon and his place was taken by the President who spoke spontaneously but sincerely. A light hearted response for the guests was given by the academic, author and translator Professor Cecil Grayson.

The programme shows H Mackenzie McVey being welcomed as a new member.

Brother Caledonian Fraser McLuskey was at the piano and Daniel McCoshan sang twice during the evening. Pipe Major Caution played 'Farewell to the Creeks', 'The Australian Ladies', 'Caledonian Canal', 'Over the Isles to America', 'Donald MacLean's Jig' and 'The Caledonian Society of London'.

March saw 97 members and guests enjoying an evening with a Highland flavour when G Gordon Drummond, of the Highlands and Islands Development Board, spoke on 'A Highland Appetite for Change'. He started by saying that although now working in Scotland, he had

studied and later worked in London and so knew some of what each location and its people had to offer the other. The Highlands comprised roughly half the land mass of Scotland. That country had a population of five million but at least as many Scots now lived elsewhere, and a common thread among all Scots was their shared attitude and values that led to the formation of so many Caledonian societies worldwide. He went on to say that the Highlands and Islands had a long history of imposed change, the land was mostly poor and facilities were few. Many Highlanders had left home in search of better opportunities, to the benefit of their new homes but to the detriment of the land they left. Perhaps inevitably those who remained were felt by some to lack energy and initiative and to be averse to change. Some of the opportunities for emigration were now reduced – notably in the colonial and armed services – fishing was not what it was once, and unemployment at home had become serious. New developments had included the hydro-electric works, the Dounreay nuclear establishment, the paper plant near Fort William, modern whisky maltings and distilleries and the Invergordon aluminium smelter. All these had been successful technically and commercially, in contrast to the doom and gloom so often reported for British industry, and this had been before the advent of North Sea oil that was now opening further opportunities. There had also been improvements among the traditional business such as tourism and craft industries. The most important result of these changes had been the awakening of a new confidence in the local population, often contrasting with pessimism elsewhere. He then described a number of smaller individual projects and finished by saying that confidence in the area was much higher than ten years previously and that there was indeed an Appetite for Change in the Highland community.

A Highlander, Bill Macpherson of Cluny proposed the toast to the guests and spoke in his usual entertaining manner. After two brief stories, he addressed the guests in turn. The Right Honourable Sir George Baker PC OBE, President of the Family Division of the High Court replied and kept the company well amused.

Fraser McLuskey was at his usual place at the piano and David Young sang. Pipe Major Caution's set was 'The Dark Island', 'Donald Maclean's Farewell to Oban', 'Lady Loudon', 'The Rejected Suitor' and 'George Deans' and the evening closed in the traditional manner.

The Ladies' Festival now reverted to April when it was attended by 160 members and guests. The Sentiment 'In the Editor's Chair' was given by Lady Georgina Coleridge, an experienced editor and publisher, a former Director of the International Publishing Corporation and a driving force behind the 'Women of the Year' event.

The President proposed the toast to the Society, explaining that it had once been normal for this to be done by a guest but the duty had passed to the holder of his office many years before after a guest, charged with the task, had been entertained too well, to the extent that he had been quite unable to perform when called upon to do so. He also mentioned the Society's pride in having been the first such body to invite ladies to dine with them, the part played in the formation of what became the London Scottish Regiment and the enduring role of the Society, not least in its charitable support.

Ian Primrose, the Vice President, welcomed the guests, at some length and partly in song. WA (Bill) Shapland, a self-confessed Sassenach, replied in the traditionally light hearted manner, congratulating the Society on its work and thanking the hosts for their hospitality.

In an addition to the menu card programme, the imminent end of George Dean's near seventeen sessions as Honorary Secretary was marked by a tribute given by Past President HR Stewart Hunter. In it, he stressed George Dean's kindness and service exemplified by his work for the Royal Caledonian Schools, since 1949, and as Honorary Secretary of the Society. George Deans spoke in thanks.

Past President Scottie Law led the salute to the President and proposed his health after which the President was presented with the Gold Badge of the Society.

Daniel McCoshan sang, supported by Fraser McLuskey at the piano. Pipe Major James Caution's set was 'The Dark Island', 'Donald Maclean's Farewell to Oban', 'Lady Loudon', 'The Rejected Suitor' and 'George Deans' and he also played the Society's Strathspey at the end of the evening.

Society Business. The Council met six five times during the year (October, November, January, February, March and July). In addition to the AGM in July, one other general meeting was held during the session. Meetings were held at the Hotel Russell, if preceding dinners, or (in July) at the Caledonian Club.

A foolscap size duplicated membership list was produced during the session.

£175 was donated to each charity from Society funds.

At the AGM, LIM Primrose and Colonel AF Niekirk were elected President and Vice President respectively. RW Gourdie took over as Honorary Secretary, having been co-opted in April, and Past President Robert Leitch was persuaded to formally resume the appointment of Honorary Historian.

Membership. The membership total was 127, with 85 Ordinary members, at the start of the session and increased to 130 and 87 respectively by its end. The death of Ian M Baillie, a member for more than forty years, was noted with regret. Five members resigned or otherwise left, eight new members joined and there was one resumption of membership.

SESSION 1978-1979

Office Bearers

President	LIM Primrose
Vice President	Colonel Alan F Niekirk TD ADC DL
Honorary Secretary	RW Gourdie
Honorary Treasurer	Alan J Reid MA MSc FSS
Honorary Auditor	Past President RY Kennedy CA
Honorary Historian	Past President Robert Leitch
Honorary Dinner Secretary	Past President James Moxon

Pipe Major James Caution was de-facto Society's Piper.

The President. Leonard Ian McMurchy (Ian) Primrose was born in Glasgow and educated at Glasgow Academy until the family moved to London when he was fourteen and he completed his schooling at Collingwood. On leaving school, he entered the insurance world and eventually became an insurance broker. Apart from business, he enlisted in the London Scottish Regiment in 1936 but was commissioned into the Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders in 1940. Subsequently he served with that Regiment's 2nd Battalion and fought in the Malayan campaign until the fall of Singapore when he became a prisoner of the Japanese. He returned to the insurance world in London on his de-mobilisation, joining the family firm and serving it and later in the international firm within which it was absorbed. He joined the Society in 1966-1967 and first served on Council in 1971-1972. Ian Primrose died tragically on Christmas Day 1984.

Social Programme. The social programme again followed what was to become the customary pattern of five Little Dinners in October, November, January, February and March and a Ladies' Festival in April, all dinners being held at the Hotel Russell in Russell Square. A total of 681 members and guests attended the six dinners.

A feature of the session was that no fewer than three of the Sentiments were delivered by Brothers Caledonian.

In October 81 members and guests welcomed the new season and heard Colonel JD Boyle speak on 'The Erskine Hospital' of which he was Commandant. After an introduction, in which he referred to his long friendship with the President, he described how the Hospital had been set up, in Glasgow in 1916, originally to prepare servicemen who had lost limbs to adapt to life by teaching skills that would enable them to take up employment. However, by 1918, the longer term needs of more severely disabled men had been recognised, and this was still the service provided today to some three hundred and eighty residents. From the start, the institution had been independent and largely funded by Scots on a voluntary basis. The patients could be considered in three groups. Firstly, those who could be re-habilitated so that they could pursue life outside the Hospital after a relatively short period, then those who lived with their families in cottages on the Hospital estate with assistance on call should it be needed and, finally, the third group were those who worked in the Hospital's sheltered workshops. The Hospital proper was a three hundred bed establishment, fully equipped for

its purpose with medical, occupational therapist and social work staffs. About two hundred and fifty of the residents were there for life and this brought the additional challenge of combining hospital and home. On a positive note, the residents all shared much of a common background that made it easier for them to bond, and he quoted several examples. Ages ranged from World War One veterans to casualties from Northern Ireland. Some only entered the Hospital at an advanced age after their families could no longer cope. On present assessment, the need would remain until at least the turn of the century. Finance had been a problem but recent responses had been marvellous and the future looked assured. The aim continued to be make sure that the support could be given to these men to allow them to live life in as normal a way as possible.

John Rankin invited the members to toast the guests and ITR Davidson QC responded. The menu card tells us that new members Dr J Mitchell and Alex Wilson were to be introduced.

Brother Caledonian Fraser McLuskey was at the piano and George MacPherson sang. Pipe Major Caution's set was 'Gin I were a Baron's Heir', 'Kantara to El Arish', 'Farewell to the Creeks', 'The Ewe with the Crooked Horn' and 'Sandy Cameron' and the gathering closed in the usual way.

At the November London Scottish evening, the President welcomed the company of 102 members and guests. He invited the Vice President to give the Sentiment 'The London Scottish Regiment'. In doing so, Colonel Niekirk commented that many of those present were familiar with the history of the Regiment expressed in terms of facts and places. What he would seek to do that night was to consider some of the personalities who had made all this possible and who had created the regimental family, which included both serving members and the old comrades, and their service, not only to the Regiment but to the community within which they had lived. He started with Robert Hepburn, the distinguished pioneering dentist, elder statesman of the Caledonian Society and leading supporter of Scots charities in London who had, in 1859, first made the suggestion that a regiment of Scotsmen should be raised as part of the volunteer rifle force then being formed, and how this had led to the joint venture between the Caledonian and Highland societies culminating in the formation of what later became the London Scottish Regiment. Hepburn became an honorary member of the Regiment and remained so until his death in 1901. Colonel Niekirk then went on to talk of the parts played in this beginning by Lord Elcho, the first Commanding Officer, Sir John Stirling Maxwell and Sir Charles Forbes, and described the water colour sketch by Dr Halley that depicted a Regimental member in the proposed uniform. Initially, the unit was scattered wherever accommodation could be found in central London but Scots gathered around and funds were raised to provide a proper headquarters that had opened in 1887. Turning to the uniform, the Regiment was unique, as a 'non-Royal' regiment, in wearing Royal Blue tunic facings, perhaps due to the close rapport between Lord Elcho and Queen Victoria. Returning to personalities, he pointed out that Lord Elcho's record of service was not confined to the Regiment – he was also instrumental in the formation of the National Rifle Association that did so much to foster marksmanship in the years leading up to World War One. Colonel Niekirk used various anecdotes to illustrate the part played by the detachments and individuals in the South African war, leading to the Regiment's first battle honour. He went on to describe the Volunteer Army's changes in 1908 to create the Territorial Force and then singled out Colonel Bob Ogilby as an outstanding example of service within the Regiment both during World War One, when he commanded the 2nd Battalion in Greece and the Near

East, and in the years that followed when he was inspirational in the creation of the Regimental war memorial fund, served as Joint Honorary Colonel from 1941 until the mid-1950s and later created the London Scottish Ogilby Trust. Colonel Niekirk declined to comment on later personalities (on the grounds that do so might be dangerous!) but he finished by extolling service as exemplified by Her Majesty the Queen Mother, the Regiment's Honorary Colonel since 1935.

After thanking the Vice President, the President asked the company to stand and join him in the toast to 'The London Scottish Regiment'.

Bill Macpherson of Cluny welcomed the guests, mentioning that he was also able to do so as President of the London Scottish Football Club which also had many links with the Regiment. His address was well sprinkled with amusing asides. Major P Layden of the London Scottish replied.

Pipers of the London Scottish played a set that included 'Pride of Scotland', 'The London Scottish at Primasol Bridge', 'The Kilt is my Delight' and 'Battle of the Somme'. John Clifford sang with Brother Caledonian Fraser McLuskey at the piano and Pipe Major Caution played the Society's strathspey at the close.

January had Brother Caledonian RW Gourdie, the Society's new Honorary Secretary, speaking on Robert Burns to some 144 members and guests who braved the poor weather that night. After some introductory words, he contrasted the short life of Burns with the long interest, transcending nationality, class and creed, which now attended his memory, with a birthday celebration in popularity second only to that of Jesus of Nazareth and his works translated into many languages with his best biographer a German. He pointed out that in assessing the man and his works, a difficulty was the wide range of written opinion ranging from the hostile to the heavily sentimental, and the difficulties caused by some of the flavours of his life and work, including those of sexuality, religion, politics and alcoholism. In many ways his memory was a contrast between his genius and his weaknesses of the flesh, but it was always human, not least in his own acknowledgement of his failings, even if it sometimes took his artistry to deflect what might otherwise have been hints of hypocrisy. What we should do was to accept Burns as he was, a sometimes flawed genius. He then questioned the secret of his universal appeal. Perhaps it was because he dealt, so often, with the simple and fundamental aspects of life, and perhaps it was because he embraced all humanity. He broke off to quote from the Chronicles for 1869 (pointing out that it was then customary for this toast to be proposed by the President) in which the speaker mentioned that in travelling he had found Burns to be as admired in the classic lands of Greece and Italy as he was at home and, what had surprised him even more, was, when in Asia Minor, meeting a local gentleman who knew almost by heart some of Burns' finest writing. Everything Burns touched became interesting and he spoke exactly as he felt. He transcended locality and he was supreme in his songs, particularly his love songs. Gourdie then considered briefly a number of compositions including 'John Anderson my Jo', 'My Love is like a Red, Red Rose' and 'Tam o' Shanter'. He finished by opining that Burns had a unique place in the World Hall of Fame, repeating the words of the Hands Hess that 'we can hardly think of Scotland without Robert Burns', and then called on those present to drink to the 'Immortal Memory'.

Angus McLaren led the welcome to the guests for whom HP Brookshaw replied. January continued to be a popular dinner at which to welcome new members with a list of J Cumming, ITR Davidson, GC Reid and JA Riach.

David Young sang a selection that included 'My Love is like a Red, Red Rose' with Brother Caledonian Fraser McLuskey at the piano. Pipe Major Caution set was 'Bonnie Galloway', 'Corn Riggs', 'Because he was a Bonnie Lad', 'The Ale is Dear' and 'Lochan Side'.

In February, 75 members and guests, reported to have been significantly depleted down to that number by further severe weather, heard a former Lord Mayor of London, Sir Henry Murray Fox, describe 'Scotland through an Englishman's Eyes'. He did so, amusingly and quite briefly, quoting the views of the English Cleric Sydney Smith, who knew Scotland at the turn of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, before turning to his own experiences as the husband of a Scot and as one who had visited Scotland many times, stressing the quality of the kindness and hospitality that he had always enjoyed on such occasions.

RA Durward proposed the toast to the guests and James W Gilchrist, a Chartered Accountant, spoke in response. Fraser McLuskey was at the piano, Alexander Gauld's choice of songs included 'My Love is like a Red, Red Rose' and 'Skye Boat Song'. Pipe Major Caution played a set and later opened the closing routine with the Society's strathspey.

The attendance in March was 90 members and guests, divided about equally between the two. The Sentiment was to have been 'Our Scottish Heritage' and given by WK Dunwoody but he had called off earlier in the week due to illness. Past President Fraser McLuskey came to the rescue and spoke in his own inimitable style, touching on his experience behind the lines in France in World War Two.

James Glendinning greeted the guests, Mr H Houghton replied and the President thanked the Honorary Office Bearers for their work during session. Fraser McLuskey doubled as speaker and being at the piano, Daniel McCoshan was again welcomed to entertain with his singing and Pipe Major Caution played.

The Festival in April was enjoyed by 189 members and guests who heard Miss Katherine Whitehorn give her Sentiment 'Reminiscences of a Journalist'. In a light vein, well suited to the evening, she described how, wishing to be in an unfettered profession, she started her career in a ladies magazine where she was responsible for the article on 'real life love stories', and revealed some of the practices used to create it, along with those for the coverage of horoscopes and knitting patterns. She also revealed the women's' magazine formula – never to depress the readers too much, or they would go off and buy another magazine, and how this upbeat policy was most evident in the advice letters towards the back of the publication, and quoted examples. Nevertheless, such magazines had grown up a very great deal in the previous twenty years, and the matter on the question pages were now generally more serious. Later, she had moved to Picture Post and had found it a marvellous place to learn, particularly from the photographers, how to prepare to travel quickly,

journalistic language used in cable communications and the basic principles of what people want from a publication. Ultimately, she had made it to Fleet Street and discovered how the various newspapers each had their own niche in Society, but how the system was now at risk as newspapers closed. She then outlined some thoughts on what might happen to the press medium in future and the part the female gender might play in it. She also pointed out that Scots had an advantage in journalism as the experience of sitting through a Presbyterian sermon was excellent preparation for journalistic experience!

The President proposed the toast to the Society and the Vice President welcomed the guests for whom CRA Woolnough replied. Immediate Past President Dr Archie McDonald proposed the toast to the President and this was followed by the Salute to the President by all the Past Presidents present that night after which the President received his Gold Badge. Fraser McLuskey was at the piano and Daniel McCoshan sang his selection. Pipe Major James Caution played 'Westering Home', 'I love a Lassie', 'Bonnie Lass o' Fyvie', 'The Brown Haired Maiden', 'Stop your ticklin' Jock', 'The Badge of Scotland', 'The Meeting of the Waters' and 'Scotland the Brave' in addition to the Society's strathspey.

Society Business. Council met seven times during the year, in October, November, January, February, March, May and June. Meetings were held at the Caledonian Club except that in November which was at the Hotel Russell. The AGM in June was held at the Caledonian Club.

A foolscap size duplicated membership list was produced during the session.

£225 was donated to each charity from Society funds. Dinner charge were to be £6.75 per person for Little Dinners, only 75p more than the Hotel's charge rather than the £1 more that had been usual, and £7.25 for the Ladies' Festival.

It was decided that a suggestion that wearing of the kilt should be encouraged for Little Dinners should not be acted upon. Another proposal, that 'community singing' should be introduced as part of the January Burns celebration was accepted but does seem to have happened.

It was noted that certain assets of the Society were held at the Royal Caledonian Schools – 'powder horns, snuff boxes, banners, gavels and the like' – and decided that these should be valued and then placed on show.

Permission was obtained from the Royal Scottish Corporation for the Society to use the address of the Corporation as the Society's official address.

Past Presidents Stewart Hunter and Leitch were asked to consider and make recommendations for future action on the Chronicles.

It was noted that a new Gold Badge now cost £350. A suggestion was made that a cheaper alternative should be considered in future. The Honorary Secretary was instructed to seek the return of membership badges from members who had resigned.

A large silver golf trophy cup was accepted from the London Ayrshire Society which was disbanding. It was decided that an annual Society golf competition should be held and that

Past President George Deans should be asked to accept the new post of Honorary Golf Secretary (which he did).

At the AGM, Colonel Alan Niekirk was elected President and Sir William Slimmings Vice President, and Ian S McLeod replaced RW Gourdie as Honorary Secretary. Ian McLeod was Secretary of the Royal Scottish Corporation and his Society appointment restored, after a break of a little over a year, the sequence of Honorary Secretaries who were also Secretary of either the Corporation or Royal Caledonian Schools that had prevailed since 1940.

Membership. The membership total was 130, with 87 Ordinary members, at the start of the session and was almost unchanged with 130 and 86 respectively by its end. The deaths of Past President David Fulton and of Alex Dowie were noted with regret.

David Fulton had been from Cambuslang in Lanarkshire and had been educated at Shawlands Academy before entering the National Bank of Scotland. Apart from First War service with the Kings Own Scottish Borderers in France, he had remained with that bank throughout his working life, first moving to London in 1922. A past president of the Burns Club of London, the Barnet, Finchley and District Caledonian Association and the Scottish Clans Association of London, he had also been a keen golfer. He had been a Life Director of the Royal Caledonian Schools and a Life Managing Governor of the Royal Scottish Corporation where he had been active in committee work. He had joined the Society in 1951-1952, first served on Council in 1959-1960 and had been President in 1965-1966.

Alex Dowie had also joined the Society in 1951-1952 and had served on Council for a number of years.

Four members resigned and six new members joined.

SESSION 1979-1980

Office Bearers

President	Colonel Alan F Niekirk TD ADC DL
Vice President	Sir William Slimmings CBE DLitt
Honorary Secretary	Ian S McLeod
Honorary Treasurer	Alan J Reid MA BSc FSS
Honorary Auditor	Past President RY Kennedy CA
Honorary Historian	Past President Robert Leitch FIAS
Honorary Dinner Secretary	Past President James Moxon
Honorary Golf Secretary	Past President George Deans

Pipe Major James Caution was de-facto Society's Piper.

The President. Alan Frank Niekirk was born in 1929 and educated at St Benedict's, Ealing and Trinity College Cambridge. On leaving school he attended an Officer Cadet Training Unit at the start of National Service. Commissioned in the East Surrey Regiment he served in Egypt, Eritrea and the Sudan. University followed where he narrowly missed a Rowing Blue. On graduation, he followed his father into the Law as a solicitor and eventually become senior partner of a distinguished City firm. He had also joined the London Scottish (Territorial Army), this starting a successful dual career. He carried one of the Regimental Colours at the Queen's Coronation in 1953 and had the unfortunate distinction of being the last Commanding Officer of the 1st Battalion of the London Scottish Regiment when the Regiment was reduced in size as part of the 1967 re-organisation of the Army reserve forces. Subsequently, and at various times, he was promoted to Colonel, appointed an Aide de Camp to Her Majesty the Queen and was Regimental Colonel of the London Scottish, Chairman of the Greater London Territorial Army and Volunteer Reserve Association and Deputy Lieutenant for Greater London. He was made CBE in 1990s. He joined the Society in 1965-1966 and first served on Council in 1971-1972. He was active in the management of the Royal Caledonian Schools, being Vice Chairman for a time and Honorary Solicitor for many years. He moved to Cumbria by the early 1990s where he continued to practice as a solicitor and maintained contact with the Society although, latterly, seldom able to attend functions or meetings. Alan Niekirk died in December 2010.

Social Programme. The social programme followed the pattern of five Little Dinners in October, November, January, February and March and a Ladies' Festival in April, all dinners being held at the Hotel Russell in Russell Square. A total of 557 members and guests attended the dinners, more than 100 down on each of the previous two years. An innovation was the golf outing sparked by the presentation of the London Ayrshire Cup, see account later in the chapter, and held in May.

The October dinner was attended by a very disappointing 54 members and guests (the lowest recorded figure for a Little Dinner up to this date). The Sentiment was given by WK (Bill) Dunwoody, Vice Chairman of the Glasgow and West of Scotland Society for the Deaf. His presence was particularly appreciated as he had had to call off, due to illness, when listed to

speak the previous session. This time, his title was 'The Silent World'. After a light hearted introduction, he continued by saying that his aim was to draw attention to the plight of those born without the facility for hearing and for whom speech was at best physical and at worst impossible. The impact could be partially understood by turning down the sound on a television set during a programme, such as a news bulletin, that largely depended on speech for its communication. This is what those who are born deaf had to live with. Most of us took hearing for granted and were unaware how much we depended on it. Many of the most routine functions depended on it such as the use of alarm clocks, kettles and door bells and the deaf person had to use alternatives that might be less than satisfactory. More fundamentally, education was communicated by speech and, for the deaf, this was difficult and laborious to overcome. Once, deaf people were held in mental health hospitals because of their learning impediment. Now, early assessment allowed remedial action but progress, as measured by a child's vocabulary, was still slow and the effects continued into adult life. Sign language was useful but did depend on simplification that reduced sophistication and this could result in confusion. Today, lip reading and aural speech teaching were improving matters but these were difficult skills to master. If you spoke to a deaf person, you had to make sure your mouth could be seen well and then enunciate clearly, but isn't this something we should all do anyway? A new organisation, the National Union of the Deaf, was working with the BBC to arrange for certain television programmes to have sign language added. Welfare work in support of the deaf was particularly demanding and many who worked in this field had deafness among family members, and hence understood the requirements, and historically charities had played a critical role. The service was now statutory but charities were still involved. If you were a potential employer, you would find that deaf people make excellent, reliable employees. He finished by enjoining those present to greet any deaf person they met, a simple thumbs-up would be sufficient.

Alex Wilson had the task of proposing the toast to the guests to which David M Robson replied. New member WA Bryan is shown as being welcomed.

With Brother Caledonian Fraser McLuskey at the piano, Daniel McCoshan's selection included 'Bless this House', 'Sorrento', 'My Love is like a Red, Red Rose' and 'Bonnie Wee Thing'. Pipe Major Caution played 'The Brig o' Don', 'John Macfadyean of Melford', 'Lady Loudon' and 'The Rejected Suitor' as well as the Society's strathspey.

In November, with 82 members and guests present (again considered disappointing), the custom of having a military theme for the Sentiment on the London Scottish evening in what was the 'Year of the Child' was maintained when Brother Caledonian James Coltart spoke on 'The Royal Caledonian Schools' of which he was Chairman. In doing so, he introduced himself as a Glaswegian, with appropriate West Coast jokes, before describing the foundation of the Schools one hundred and sixty-four years before, at the time of the Battle of Waterloo when the Highland Society had initiated the move in order to provide an asylum for needy children of Scottish servicemen. He commented that he had been in the Thomson (media) Organisation, an accountant by training, and had started his career in 1917 at the age of fourteen. In coming in touch with the Schools for the first time he had felt that they were a very real organisation, much as his own life had been very real. When appointed Chairman, he had been told there were four meetings a year but soon discovered that his involvement was much greater. It had been a decayed establishment then but he had decided it had to change so that it could properly serve the children of men serving this country. Things had

now improved. The original building had been in Hatton Gardens, then in Islington and finally had moved to Bushey in 1904. By modern standards, the accommodation had no longer been fit for purpose – the heating was old, the ceilings were too high and part had been burnt out. This was now much better. The Hall of the Clans was magnificent and the rest of the facilities extensively renovated despite constantly rising costs and charitable giving being eroded by inflation. At first he had found the constant struggle, presented by fundraising, to be very wearing but over time he had found it immensely rewarding and even enjoyable. The need was greater today than ever despite the relatively low, peace time profile of the Services, not least in the educational stability that could be offered (quoting the case of a twelve year old who had attended nine different schools thus far). The Schools might even become too small for the demand. The emphasis was on providing a whole life home, with a nursery wing for the youngest, club activities, pipe band, supervised and assisted homework time and special tuition when appropriate, and the spirit could be felt. He then gave examples of how some of the recent fabric and equipment improvements had been achieved and stressed the critical part played by the staff and how their recruitment was made more difficult by lack of staff accommodation – and that this was the next challenge. He finished by thanking members for their support.

The President proposed the toast to the London Scottish Regiment, saying that he was proud to do so while also wearing the hat of Honorary Colonel, giving a very brief regimental update and asking members to take any opportunity to encourage young men to join.

Major Patrick Layden welcomed the guests. Major General Bill Bate, a Colonel Commandant of the Royal Corps of Transport and Secretary of the Council of Territorial Army and Volunteer Reserve Associations, responded in a brief speech in which he thanked the Society for its excellent hospitality, noted its history and part played in the formation of the London Scottish, mentioned the recent reorganisation of the Army reserve forces with the welcome return of the title ‘Territorial Army’ and said how much the nation needed to harness again the spirit of patriotism and old fashioned tradition so well exemplified by the evening. He finished by repeating his thanks and saying that he, as a Sassenach, could never understand the Scots reputation for meanness. New members NJ Lang, Patrick J Layden and WB Tait were introduced.

George McPherson was listed to sing on the menu card but seems to have been replaced by Daniel McCoshan on the night. The selection included ‘Mary Morrison’, ‘Mairi’s Wedding’ and ‘Bonnie Wee Thing’, with Brother Caledonian Fraser McLuskey at the piano. Pipe Major Duncan and three pipers of the Regiment played a set comprising ‘My Home’, ‘Australian Ladies’, ‘Orange and Blue’, ‘High Road to Linton’ and ‘Gendaruel Highlanders’ and the Pipe Major played the Society’s strathspey and at end of the evening.

Burns was, as usual, the theme in January and, after the slow start to the session, attendance was much improved at 128 members and guest. Sadly, the evening followed the death, the previous month, of the Honorary Dinner Secretary Past President Jimmie Moxon.

Brother Caledonian Bill Macpherson of Cluny provided the Sentiment on ‘Robert Burns’. He started by informing the members that they were not so lucky as the Caledonian Club which had secured the great, great grandson of Soutar Johnnie as its speaker while they would have to make do with him. He suggested that to attempt too close an analysis of Burns’ work

would be a heresy on an occasion such as this; if you look to a man's memory, you don't criticise his work. He himself would have laughed at any idea that his writings would have been examined too closely. Nevertheless he had been a focus and inspiration for many, particularly for those from south of the Highland Line, for some two hundred years. He had worked from inspiration and where his feelings directed what he should write, although this did not mean that his work was not careful and thorough. He was a natural man and described poetry as natural ideas expressed in words. He had regarded himself as a bard, rather than a poet, a bard who brought expression in the traditional way to a popular audience. For those without basic Scots pronunciation, commenting on the work could be difficult but it was the impact of the words, and not their precise pronunciation, that mattered. It was the impact and economy of words that was his forte. He had only lived to be thirty-nine, so that he had never aged and remained as we know him through his writing and his portraits. He was often unwell, and people like that are often more perceptive than those who enjoy good health. He was a man of great physical impact, particularly to the ladies. He knew that the style of a poem, or of a conversation, was central to a relationship, and his work of observational comment that was his greatest strength, as shown in Tam o' Shanter. He was a convivial man, witnessed by the number of clubs he belonged to and some of these may have encouraged him to produce his bawdier poems. He was a restless man who nearly went to Jamaica, moved farms and finally became an exciseman. He could seem all things to all men, a Tory to a Tory, a Whig to a Whig or a Socialist to a Socialist. He had lived through a difficult time for Scotland and had left a store of songs that makes us all sentimental. Bill Macpherson finished by saying that had Burns been here tonight, he would have wished all those present to enjoy themselves rather than hear any more from him. He then gave the toast – 'The Immortal Memory'.

In an addition to the printed programme, Mr Ian Fulton, son of the late Past President David Fulton who had recently died, presented a plaid brooch that the President accepted gratefully on behalf of the Society. The brooch had been presented by King Edward VII to his fourteen year old son who later became King Edward VIII and had been acquired by David Fulton who had worn it when in Highland Dress. Sadly, the brooch seems to have been lost from the Society sometime after 1993.

EEC Mekie led the toast to the guests for whom Brigadier JHH Simpson, who was now a director of a firm of Lloyd's brokers, replied. In doing so, he referred to the way in which Scots had spread themselves around the world while retaining their national identity.

Towards the end of the evening, Bill Tait, in the capacity of a past president of the disbanding London Ayrshire Society, presented, to our Society, their golf cup which the President gratefully accepted. Subsequently, the cup would be played for annually by our members until 1999 after which it was lodged, for safe keeping, in the Caledonian Club where it remains on display.

David Young entertained in song with Fraser McLuskey at the piano. Pipe Major Caution had to stand down due to illness and his place was taken by Pipe Major Robert Murphy.



The London Ayrshire Society Golf Cup

Unfortunately the February dinner reverted to lower attendances and only 56 members and guests gathered to hear the flamboyant lawyer, politician and Solicitor General Nicholas Fairburn give his Sentiment 'Give and Forgive, Kindness is Free'. He launched this with a quip on the appropriateness of having a 'Sentiment' on St Valentine's day and commented that his legal experience had made him appreciative of both poverty and gratitude, the former in his early days at the Bar and gratitude, or the lack thereof, in his practice in criminal law. He also mentioned that those present had saved the taxpayer by paying for his dinner which they would otherwise have had to subsidise in the Houses of Parliament which, despite having no license restrictions and being inhabited by more than six hundred alcoholics, still managed to operate at a loss. He then admitted to having been at school with Professor Jock Anderson, who was to propose the toast to the guests, and that that had been where contact with the confirmed Socialist school gardener had convinced him to become a Conservative. He was delighted to have in the Chair someone who was both a lawyer and a soldier as he had always believed that there should be a reasonable relationship between red flannel and red tape. He made an admittedly political point when he said that of all the four letter words that offended and damaged society, the worst was 'free'. The 'free' Health Service and 'free' education each year cost every working man very large sums, and if people realised what this cost was, they might be more sceptical of the principle that the expenditure was good for its own sake. The State can provide what you can provide for yourself but never at less than twice the cost. The union of Scotland and England came into being in 1707 and the reason why Scotland Yard is so named was not because of any Police function but because the Scots who came to London were still in rebellion and needed a sanctuary. He then recounted some of the stories concerning the Edinburgh end of the events at that time, and how the Enlightenment followed. It was these people who maintained the character of Scotland, not minding what others thought of them, a characteristic that today's people dare not have. He then referred to the Dutch name of the President and told the story of the Scots Brigade in the Service of The Netherlands and how there were still many Scots names in Holland. He finished by saying that the character of the Scots was to be blunt and truthful and that of the world today was otherwise – never be unfaithful to that rugged concept, and give and forgive because kindness was free.

Jock Anderson, who we already know to have been at school with the author of the Sentiment, asked the members to toast the guests and the reply was given by a doctor and recent Territorial Army medical officer Colonel KA Walker. New member Ian H McIlvaine is shown as having been introduced and welcomed.

George McPherson sang his selection, accompanied by Fraser McLuskey at the piano, and Pipe Major Caution returned to play 'Morag of Dunvegan', 'MacLeod of Mull', 'Lady Madeline Sinclair', 'Mrs MacLeod of Raasay' and 'My Faithfull Fair One', and also the Society's strathspey.

March saw a slightly larger company when 69 members and guests enjoyed listening to William Reid, Director of the National Army Museum, speak of that institution under the heading 'Guns, Gorgets and a Gainsborough'. He welcomed the opportunity to spread the news of where and what the NAM was, hoping that it would not remain a secret garden treasure house. Half way in time between the Battle of Waterloo and the Crimean War, the French had been able to boast about their marvellous Army museum. Some seventy-five years later, a small boy, whose father was then stationed in Edinburgh Castle, said 'Daddy, I'm tired of art galleries, take me to the Army museum'. The boy was Gerald Templer and he was disappointed to discover that there was no such museum in the country. There were many local museums but it was not until the mid-1950s that the same Gerald Templer, by now a field marshal following a most distinguished military career, was able to start the process of creating what became the National Army Museum and, by 1960, an initial collection had been brought together and housed in the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst. The charter was to collect, preserve and exhibit objects with reference to the life and history of the Army and make better known the Army's achievements, history and traditions. He then explained the very wide range of relevant history to be covered but made clear that the museum was in no way a propaganda tool, war memorial or recruiting aid. Within five years it was clear that purpose built accommodation in London was essential if its role was to be properly addressed. Funds were raised and a new building, adjacent to the Royal Hospital, Chelsea was opened in 1970, and he described the layout of displays and highlighted Scottish connections. He went on to describe how operating the museum was funded, adding that he recognised a number of museum 'friends' around the room, the range of items held and the organisation of the staff. He finished by saying a little about the life of Sir Gerald Templer and plans for the future development of the Museum.

In an event not included on the menu card, the President thanked the honorary office bearers for their work during the year and proposed a toast to them. John Clemence invited the members to toast the guests and Ian McCulloch QC countered. The menu card shows new member LM Sneddon being introduced.

Fraser McLuskey accompanied Paschal Allan's singing and Pipe Major Caution provided the piping.

After generally disappointing figures for the Little Dinners, the Festival in April attracted a more satisfactory 168 members and guests to hear Mrs Rachel Nugee, a Justice of the Peace and a senior office holder in the Mothers' Union, deliver the Sentiment 'A Man's place in a Woman's Life'. In his introduction, the President explained that the speech might not wholly follow its title as he had given the latter to the author before she had started to prepare it. What was delivered was brief, thoughtful and well received. In it, she started with the influence on her of her family background explaining that one grandmother had been a Suffragette and the other had been an enthusiast for education who had been determined to attend university, then unusual for women, against her parents' wishes and advice. Although diverted into marriage, she had still managed to learn classical Greek when in her sixties. Her grandmothers' generation was from a time when it was accepted that men generally dominated women in life, and the generation that followed was still one where duties were clearly divided between those of men and those of women and when full partnership between men and women was rare. She had grown up in her own generation when she wanted to have her cake and eat it – and managed to do just that, combining the functions of wife and mother with work that gave her real job satisfaction. She then described the Mothers' Union, explaining that it was a Christian organisation that had started in the British Empire but had then become international, with its work centred on marriage and Christian family life, mainly women but also with some men as members. One of its principal aims, in the United Kingdom, was to assist in bridging the gap between the original communities and recently arrived ethnic minorities. Education had always been recognised as important and the Union aimed to encourage women to ensure that their children received this. The organisation had moved with the times but the object remained to improve quality of life. Turning to her own thoughts, she finished by saying that it was not a man's place in a woman's life that mattered but rather the achievement of an equal partnership between man and woman.

The President proposed the toast to the Society in a traditional manner and the Vice President welcomed the guests. The reply on behalf of the guests was a case of 'two for the price of one' as Mrs AF Niekirk, the President's wife, and Colonel Derek Penman, a past Chairman of the Lawn Tennis Association and a past Honorary Colonel of the London Scottish Regiment, both spoke. After the Past Presidents had saluted the President and congratulated him on his session, Immediate Past President LIM Primrose called the toast to the President and the latter was presented with the Gold Badge by Mrs WUB Reid. The President responded during which he included his thanks to the other office bearers and to the members and entertainers.

Daniel McCoshan, accompanied by the Society's own Fraser McLuskey at the piano, sang a selection that included 'Ae Fond Kiss' 'My Love is like a Red, Red Rose' and 'Bonnie Wee Thing'. Pipe Major James Caution played 'The Skye Gathering', 'Mrs John McColl', 'Arniston Castle' and 'The Smith of Chiliechassie' in addition to the Society's strathspey.

Society Business. The Council met four times during the year (October, January, March and June). The October and March meetings were at the Caledonian Club, January at the Hotel Russell and June at the Royal Scottish Corporation. The AGM in June was held at the Corporation.

Two foolscap size duplicated membership lists were produced at different times during the session.

£250 was donated to each charity from Society funds. It was decided to increase dinner charges £8.25 per person. The annual subscription was raised to £10 but a concessionary rate of £5 was retained for certain senior members.

The debate on the future of the Chronicles continued but no decision was reached. A loyal greeting was sent to Her Majesty the Queen Mother on the occasion of her 80th birthday, and steps to provide a Society tie were initiated.

As noted earlier in this chapter, a gift of a plaid brooch, from the family of the late Past President David Fulton, was gratefully accepted.

At the AGM, Sir William Slimmings was appointed to the Chair as President and the Reverend John Miller Scott succeeded as Vice President. MJ Knight was elected Honorary Auditor vice Past President RY Kennedy. TF Hodge took over as Honorary Dinner Secretary after Past President Bill Reid had acted 'pro tem' following Past President Jimmie Moxon's sudden death in December.

Membership. The membership total was 130, with 86 Ordinary members, at the start of the session and had become 131 and 88 respectively by its end.

As already recorded, the Society had lost the services, through death, of Past President James Moxon. He had been brought up in Glasgow and his business is believed to have been connected with printing or publishing. He moved to London at the start of 1939 and almost immediately became a pre-War member of the London Scottish Regiment with which he later carried out War service. He joined the Society in 1956-1957 and first served on Council in 1967-1968. He applied his business knowledge in reducing the costs of producing the Society's menu cards and was active in the, ultimately unsuccessful, attempts to publish a further volume of the Chronicles. As a Past President, he took over as Honorary Dinner Secretary in 1977-1978 and died while in that office.

The death of Gold Badge holder Robert Eadie was also noted with regret. His award of the Gold Badge had been only the second to a non-President in thirty years. He had been a member for twenty-five years and had provided musical accompaniment at the piano for many sessions, first recorded in 1948, and at most dinners for seventeen years from the autumn of 1952.

Another regretted death was that of Archibald F Robertson who had joined the Society in 1961-1962 and had been a Council member for three years during his membership. Five members resigned and nine new members joined.

SESSION 1980-1981



President Sir William Slimmings

Office Bearers

President	Sir William Slimmings CBE DLitt
Vice President	Rev JA Miller Scott MA BD FSA (Scot)
Honorary Secretary	Ian S McLeod
Honorary Treasurer	Alan J Reid MA BSc FSS
Honorary Auditor	Michael J Knight CA
Honorary Historian	Past President Robert Leitch FIAS
Honorary Dinner Secretary	TF Hodge MRSH MInstM
Honorary Golf Secretary	Past President George Deans

Pipe Major James Caution remained de-facto Society's Piper at the start of the session.

The President. Sir William (Bill) Slimmings was born in Dunfermline, educated at Dunfermline High School and trained, in that town, as a Chartered Accountant. After qualifying in 1934, he headed south and joined the London accountancy firm of Thomson McLintock becoming a partner in 1946 and Senior Partner from 1968 until 1978. Widely recognised as a leading member of his profession, he was made CBE in 1960 and was knighted, in 1966, in recognition of nearly a decade as chairman of the Board of Trade advisory committee for grants to development areas. Other business and professional activities included being a member of the council, and later president, of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Scotland, membership of various government committees, tribunals and review bodies and, from 1977 until 1980, independent chairman of the Cement Makers Federation. He was an elder at Crown Court and, for many years, senior financial adviser to the Royal Scottish Corporation. He joined the Society in 1965-1966 and first served on Council as Vice President in 1979-1980. Bill Slimmings remained an active Past President until his death in January 1995.

Social Programme. Dinners were held, as was now usual, between October and April, all at the Hotel Russell. Unfortunately, the decline of the previous session continued and the total dinner attendance for the year was only 539, the lowest known figure for a full six dinner season since records started in the mid-1920s, albeit that much data is lacking for the years before 1961. A golf outing was held again in June and was followed by an informal dinner.

At the first little Dinner in October, J Stewart Lawson, until very recently Captain of the Royal and Ancient Golf Club at St Andrews, spoke on the theme 'Royal and Ancient' to a rather poor company of 56 members and guests. Starting with a suitable introduction in which he promised not to delay the interval unduly (*après moi, le deluge!*) he went on to recount, in an appropriately light manner, the history and role of the Royal and Ancient, starting with the subscription for a silver cup to be competed for in 1754 and annually thereafter, and went on to describe how the Club became the authority in the game of golf, worldwide with the exceptions of the United States and Mexico, almost by accident. Golf was already three hundred years old by the middle of the eighteenth century and, in common with football, had previously come under official condemnation as competing with the practice of archery, the latter being badly needed during the frequent wars with England. He commented that, given the aggressive behaviour of Scots football supporters, he was not quite sure why football had been included in the censure. He referred to various Scottish monarchs known to have played golf and to accounts of it in England in the sixteenth century, speculating on whether Henry VIII might have played and, if so, on the possible affects on his matrimonial affairs. He quoted a suggestion that the real reason for the loss of the American Colonies was the different attitudes to golf on the two sides of the Atlantic. In any event, by the middle of the eighteenth century, golf was both Royal and ancient but could not yet be described as an organised sport as its rules were dependent on aural tradition that varied from place to place. Some ten years later, the first written rules were adopted at St Andrews and this was the start of uniform governance of the game that grew steadily. When uncertainty over the application of the rules arose, it became customary to refer to the older societies. It was almost by chance that the R&A, and not the Honourable Company of Edinburgh Golfers, became the ultimate authority in 1834. He then recounted the story of the use of 'Royal' in the title. At this time it was still very much a private club but hosting the 'Open' in 1876 had been a wakeup call. The development of the rail network in the eighteenth century led to huge expansion in the game. Governance had been put on a more formal footing and the R&A agreed to do this in 1897. After World War One, responsibility for running major tournaments had gradually been assumed. He then pointed out that despite its range of authority, the R&A had very few sanctions that it could apply in enforcement, and described how the R&A coordinated its work with that of the other major golf organisations that now existed around the World. He finished by saying that the R&A was an institution created by Scots that we Scots could be justly proud of.

As befitted an evening with golf at its centre, the task of proposing the toast to the guests fell to the Society's Honorary Golf Secretary, Past President George Deans. He started by saying that many of the guests that night were men at the top of their professions who had found the time and application to become low handicap golfers. Golf could be an exhilarating and frustrating game leading to strange happenings on and off the course and he quoted his wife's unflattering description of a golfer. He then turned to his remit which he discharged with brevity, humour and sincerity. David G Richards, immediate Past President of the Chartered

Accountants in England and Wales, responded on behalf of the guests. The menu card shows new members RFJ Ireland, Dr CO Kennedy, CB Stewart, Brigadier JJH Simpson and AGB Young being introduced.

With the support of Fraser McLuskey as pianist, George McPherson sang his selection. Pipe Major James Caution, playing for what was to be his last time, sounded 'Atholl and Breadalbane Gathering', 'The Marquis of Huntly's Highland Fling', 'Mrs McLeod of Raasay' and 'The Meeting of the Waters' in addition to the Society's strathspey.

The November dinner retained its usual London Scottish regimental nature by virtue of the President's toast and the Regiment's provision of pipers but the Sentiment was on a non-military theme as Sir William Fraser, Permanent Under Secretary at the Scottish Office spoke on that office to a gathering of 78 members and guests. He commented that very few people were ever sentimental about a government department but, noting that there was a requirement that members of the Society had to be Scottish, then perhaps some of his Sentiment on how Scotland was governed might be of interest. He also described how, when the Scottish Office had been set up in 1885, the Prime Minister of the day, Lord Salisbury, had written to the Duke of Richmond and Gordon offering him the Secretaryship saying that the work would not be very heavy but the expectations of the people of Scotland were perhaps too high, especially as there was so much sentiment about. The difficulties in the early days were largely caused by the Treasury's reluctance to allow the Office any staff, and by the Home Office's reluctance to allow it any functions. However, eventually the organisation matured with offices in Edinburgh and London. Now it was a unique department because of the wide scope of its functions defined by geography rather than by the functions themselves. He went on to address how it worked, starting by saying that Scotland was the focus for all those who worked in the Department, regardless of whether they were Scottish or English, or indeed from Northern Ireland or Wales. Scotland had occasionally been a place where administrative experiments were carried out. How well did it work? He was not the person to judge but, apparently, at least adequately. He finished by saying that the business of the Scottish Office was Scotland, and in this company there was surely no better sentiment than that.

The President proposed the toast to the Regiment, referring to his privilege in being invited to attend the Regiment's Halloween dinner a few weeks earlier and sharing with the company some of what he had learnt that night.

The responsibility of welcoming the guests fell to EEC Mekié, not for the first time, and he discharged the duty with his usual competence and humour. The speech of reply was delivered by Sir Peter Menzies, Chairman of the London Executive Committee, Scottish Council (Development and Industry). The menu card lists the presentation of new member AMW Mackenzie.

George McPherson sang and three pipers of the London Scottish played the set 'My Home', 'Captain Norman Orr Ewing', 'Because he was a Bonnie Lad', 'The Kilt is my Delight' and 'Colonel Robertson', and Piper W Gowrie played the Society's strathspey.

Robert Burns was remembered at the January dinner by the 49 members and 65 guests present. At the start of the evening, Tom Hodge addressed the haggis in traditional style. The Sentiment 'The Immortal Memory' was delivered by Sir Robin McLellan, previously Chairman of the Scottish Tourist Board. He started by saying that this would not be a conventional Immortal Memory but instead would address the question 'Is Rabbie relevant today?' and would concentrate on one particular aspect that did indeed make him relevant, although there were probably many others also. The aspect that he would follow was the part played by Robert Burns in the re-creation of the Scots economy – and he hoped his audience would not accuse him of belittling the Memory by so doing. He admitted he had come late to Burns. To understand him, you had to study the stories behind his life as exemplified by 'Ye Banks and Braes' – a story of a girl abandoned with child by a Wigtownshire laird and having a child without the sanction of the Kirk - and 'The Lass o' Ballochmyle' written after seeing the subject from a far, and never acknowledged by that recipient. How do folk who come to Scotland learn about Burns? One way is the Burns Heritage Trail. This enabled people to learn while also supporting the local economy in a manner that Burns himself would have approved, not least from his own experiences in the five tours of Scotland that he made. He briefly described the Trail, making special mention of the Visitors' Centre in Alloway. It was to Alloway that Burns' father had come, from Kincardineshire, to start a market garden and with his own hands had rebuilt the old clay biggin where, after he had married the daughter of a Kincardineshire farmer, Robert was born. He did not have time to go into full detail and he enjoined those present to visit for themselves. Culzean Castle was also nearby and had much to offer in the middle of Scotland's first countryside park with its exhibition of the farming evolution of the late eighteenth century that Burns had struggled with. He went on to mention places further afield with Burns links, and commended the work done by local councils and tourist boards in helping to keep alive the memories of Bard. He finished by wondering aloud what Burns would have made of some of the changes in modern society. He was a great satirist but also a man of tenderness and humour. His was a name that deserved to be honoured and in doing so it was important to honour his ideals and to include a commitment to leaving the World a better place than the one we had found. Sir Robin then gave the toast 'The Immortal Memory of Robert Burns'.

The next major item in the evening's programme was a talk on the Royal Scottish Corporation, balancing the Sentiment on the Royal Caledonian Schools the previous session, by the Corporation's Secretary, and Society Honorary Secretary, Brother Caledonian Ian MacLeod who was deputising for Past President Douglas Robertson who was unable to be present. He started by saying that he was aware that he was still very much a new boy in both the Corporation and the Society and, given that time was passing, he would be brief but would mention some of the main points that Douglas Robertson would have included. Douglas would have wished to remind the members of the Society of the obligations they had taken on becoming members that included support for the Corporation, and that this should not be restricted to approving the annual payments from Society funds. These payments themselves were being put at risk by the declining numbers at dinners that reduced the annual surplus and he would have asked members, and particularly the younger members, to make greater efforts to attend. He then went on to speak of the work of the Corporation. He showed a newly published booklet that covered the historic background and then described current benevolent activities. He finished by commenting on the financial needs of the Corporation and thanking the members for their support.

Past President Stewart Hunter led the welcome to the guests. The Reverend Donald Wallace, Honorary Chaplain to the Royal Caledonian Schools, replied and took the opportunity to include a few words about the Schools and record his appreciation of the members help. New member Lieutenant Colonel JN Cormack is shown as being introduced.

Donald Bell sang a selection that included 'Ye Banks and Braes', 'The De'ils Awa' and 'Ae Fond Kiss' with Brother Caledonian Fraser McLuskey at the piano. Piper JR MacDougall played 'Sons of Scotia', 'My Native Highland Home', 'Miss Aida Crawford', 'Jock Wilson's Ball' and 'Inveresk' and also the Society's strathspey.

In February 48 members and 49 guests came together to hear Sir David McNee, Commissioner of Police to the Metropolis, give his Sentiment 'A Scottish Commissioner's View of London'. Sir David thanked the President for his kind remarks and warm welcome and then said that Scotland Yard had been the name of the headquarters of the Metropolitan Police since it's the inception of the Force in 1829 but that he was the first Scot to have occupied the Commissioner's chair. He told a series of amusing anecdotes, some of dubious provenance, in which he compared policing and crime in London and Scotland and the various attributes of Londoners and Scots and other occupants of the British Isles and described some policing incidents. By contrast, he was then serious in regretting the reduction in individual liberties that modern crime and security considerations were leading to, and stressed that public safety had to be a partnership between the police and the public.

Bill Macpherson of Cluny called for the toast to the guests and this was replied to by Lord Allen Abbeydale, a former Permanent Under Secretary at the Home Office.

With the accompaniment of Brother Caledonian Fraser McLuskey, David Young sang twice during the evening and Piper A Withey played 'Road to the Isles', 'Liberton Polka', 'Orange and Blue', 'Fairy Dance' and '10th HLI Crossing the Rhine' and, later, 'The Caledonian Society of London'.

The March Little Dinner had an ecclesiastical flavour. The Right Reverend WB Johnston, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, accepted the challenge of the Sentiment when he described his year in office under the title 'From Pole to Pole' to a congregation of 81 members and guests. He started by saying he brought with him the greetings of the Kirk and that he would be able to report that the spirit of faith of the Caledonian Society was in good form – so far the bottle of whisky in front of him had not been opened! He thanked the company for their welcome and hospitality and explained that the Moderator's normal St Andrew's Tide visit to London had been postponed to St Patricks Day thus allowing him to accept the invitation. Perhaps on the basis that holders of posts such as that of Moderator should be sent where they can do as little damage as possible, his first trip in office had been as far from home as possible, he had been sent to Japan, and then to Korea, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Singapore and New Zealand. Thus he began his year by crossing the North Pole. It reminded him of two facts – how we had become a global village, and how the journey over the great stretches of ice resembled the challenges of piloting life through the huge changes that were taking place in the World. He went on to describe the experience of visiting these very different societies with New Zealand taking him close to the South Pole, and then returning to Scotland. Back home, he had visited Shetland, another

place where a new technological, oil society is having to come to terms with tradition. A few months later, in Westminster Abbey, he had represented the Church of Scotland at the inaugural General Synod of the Church of England and had witnessed the Church getting tangled up with new technology as the exiting procession was delayed by difficulty with the media cables. This highlighted a major challenge – how should Society to come to grips with the huge changes that technology was bringing? Another memory was visiting Dundee and meeting a group of trade unionists and arguing over the respective routes for seeking a better society, and how it reminded him of the historical disagreements between Catholics and Protestants over which was the true church. What was clear was that Scotland faced enormous challenges in reconciling the new and the traditional, quoting the assertion that the trouble with the Scot is one that he is always a paradox between self-assertion and self-distrust. In many ways we are a divided people, looking for a new future and looking for a new community and looking for an identity. We are looking for a new spirit of Scotland. What we can cherish is the spirit of Scotland, the spirit of a small country with little political muscle but one that has always given to the world an example of service and character, initiative, integrity and resources.

In asking members to toast the guests, the Reverend Fraser McLuskey did so to his own very high standards and the Reverend Paul-Eric Fabricous, pastor of the Danish Church in London, responded on their behalf.

With Brother Caledonian Fraser McLuskey at the piano, Paschal Allan sang. Lance Corporal Ian King, piping for the first of very many occasions, played the set ‘Heather Island’, ‘Corn Riggs are Bonny’, ‘Boys Lament for his Dragon’, ‘Dorrator Bridge’, ‘McFarlane’s Reel’, ‘The Wind that shakes the Barley’ and ‘Highland Laddie’, and later added the Society’s strathspey.

The Festival in April was attended by 31 members and 82 guests when Miss FH Orr gave the Sentiment ‘Yes Minister’. The President led the toast to the Society and the Vice President proposed the toast to the guests to which Mr JIH Owen replied. The Past Presidents saluted the President, Immediate Past President Alan Niekirk asked the company to rise and toast President Sir William Slimmings, and Mrs Niekirk pinned the Gold Badge onto the President’s jacket, after which the President responded.

With Brother Caledonian Fraser McLuskey at his customary place at the piano, Daniel McCoshan entertained in song. Lance Corporal King, playing for the first time as the Society’s Honorary Piper, gave the company ‘The Mermaids Song’, ‘Men of Argyll’, ‘Lady Loudon’, ‘The Fairy Dance’, ‘Mickey by the Fireside’ and ‘Gordon’s Men’ and, later, ‘The Caledonian Society of London’.

Society Business. The Council met four times during the year (October, December, April and June). The October meeting was at the Hotel Russell and others at the Royal Scottish Corporation. The AGM was held at the Royal Scottish Corporation in June.

A foolscap size duplicated membership list was produced during the session.

£275 was donated to each charity from Society funds. It was noted that charges (excluding wine) for dinners would be £9.25 per person in the next session. Purchase of a stock of Society ties was authorised.

Pipe Major James Caution seems to have relinquished the role of de-facto Society Piper following the October dinner. It was decided that, in future, the piper should be given the title of Honorary Piper and should sit at table with members at dinners. It was also decided to approach the London Scottish Regiment for help in filling the vacancy. The outcome was that Lance Corporal Ian King played at the March dinner, was appointed Honorary Piper on 15 April 1981 and first played as such at the Ladies' Festival on 30 April 1981. Ian King's rank and title varied with time and would ultimately become Past President Pipe Major.

Receipt of a telegram of thanks for the loyal message sent to Her Majesty the Queen Mother on her 80th birthday was noted. A suggestion that members be invited to assist in transcribing tape recordings for inclusion in future Chronicles was agreed in principle but does seem to have borne fruit.

At the AGM, the Reverend John Miller Scott was appointed to the Chair as President and Professor JAD Anderson succeeded as Vice President. RD Holliday was elected Honorary Treasurer vice Alan Reid.

Membership. The membership total was 131, with 88 Ordinary members, at the start of the session and had fallen to 127 and 84 respectively by its end.

The deaths of Andrew Irvine (member since 1958-1959), John M Rankin (member since 1965-1966), James H Robertson (member since 1933-1934 and Council member for eighteen sessions) and WA Tweddle (member since 1960-1961 and Council member for seven sessions) were noted with regret. Five members resigned and one was deleted. Six new members joined.

SESSION 1981-1982



President John Miller Scott

Office Bearers

President	Rev JA Miller Scott MA BD FSA (Scot)
Vice President	Professor JAD Anderson TD MA MD FFCM
Honorary Secretary	Ian S McLeod
Honorary Treasurer	RD Holliday TD BSc
Honorary Auditor	Michael J Knight CA
Honorary Historian	Past President Robert Leitch FIAS
Honorary Dinner Secretary	TF Hodge MRSH MInstM
Honorary Golf Secretary	EEC Mekie JP
Honorary Piper	Lance Corporal Ian King

The President. The Reverend John Miller Scott, of North Ayrshire descent, was born in Glasgow in 1922. He was educated at Bellahouston Academy, Hillhead High School, Glasgow University from which he later, in 1987, received an honorary Doctor of Divinity, and Trinity College. After war service with the Royal Artillery and Royal Scots in Egypt, Italy and India, he trained for the ministry and added the 'Miller' to his surname to avoid confusion with other John Scotts in the Kirk. He became Assistant Minister at the Barony Church in Glasgow and before being called successively to Baxter Park Church Dundee, the High Kirk of Stevenston, Crown Court and St Andrew's Jerusalem. While at Crown Court, he was an active committee member of the Royal Scottish Corporation. He joined the Society in 1964-1965 and first served on Council in 1971-1972. He left London for Jerusalem in 1985 and was unable to be active in the Society thereafter. He retired to St Andrews and in 2002-2003 he became one of very few Gold Badge holders to resign from the Society but was reinstated as an Honorary Member in June 2012. John Miller Scott died less than a year later in May 2013

Social Programme. The social side of the session started with a buffet supper immediately after the previous session's AGM in June. The normal six dinner pattern was followed, all being held at the Hotel Russell, and the total dinner attendance showed a small but very welcome increase to 581, still relatively low by historic standards. We are told that rail travel was disrupted on two occasions and heavy snow occurred on another. The golf outing and competition, now becoming annual events, were held in May.

A Society tie was introduced for the first time this session and was expected to be worn at Little Dinners. The Society badge adopted as its motive was similar to the members' silver badge and the same design would now be used on menu cards.



Society Tie and Badge 1981

The task of providing the Sentiment at the first Little Dinner in October had been accepted by Sir Donald Maitland, Permanent Under Secretary at the Department of Energy whose title was 'Change and Scrutiny' in which he shared his thoughts with a modest company of 63 members and guests.

Len Sneddon proposed the toast of 'Our Guests' and David M Bradford, London Editor of the Scotsman, responded. The menu card shows that new members the Reverends AG Bowie and DS Wallace were received by the President.

John Clifford sang his selection. Fraser McLuskey was at the piano and Ian King played 'Eileen Arun', 'Meeting of the Waters', 'Maggie Cameron', 'Callin-Mo-Ruin-Say', 'Donald, Willie and his Dog', 'Rab's Wedding' and, later, the Society's strathspey.

November was the London Scottish evening and the gathering of 43 members and 25 guests, again on the low side, heard the Sentiment 'Scotland, My Parish' given by Brigadier FH Coutts, General Secretary of the Royal British Legion, Scotland. He introduced the speech by saying that his aim was to give a light hearted report on Scotland as it had appeared to him during the last eight years. He started by saying what a marvellous place it was to live in because of its people and scenery. He lived and worked in Edinburgh with its beautiful architecture and two weeks before had visited the Highlands, quiet at the time of year but with superb autumn colours, and the scene for several amusing anecdotes. He broke off for some serious thoughts on the Scottish character before returning to a lighter mood to illustrate the subject further, commenting that the Scot travelled well and sometimes seemed the more robust the further he was from home. Some recent good points at home were the support for the arts, the work of the National Trust for Scotland and the development of Scottish radio and television media. He mentioned the Church in Scotland, commenting that people now attended because that wanted to and not, as previously, due to various moral pressures. He also gave an update on Military affairs, reminded those present of the quality of the young people who were serving and then mentioned the diamond jubilee year of the Legion. He

suggested lightly that on the debit side of life in the North were too many traffic wardens, football hooligans, trade union leaders on the television night after night and the current (then new) local government organisation. Industry was not doing well in much of Scotland but a welcome exception was the oil industry in the north east, and he finished with a comment on the Nationalists and Scottish politics generally before thanking the Society for its hospitality.

Society notices by the Honorary Secretary reminded members of the annual festival service in St Columba's, with the Moderator as preacher, and drew attention to the recent letter from the Treasurer of the Royal Scottish Corporation concerning the 316th anniversary Festival of the Corporation at the Savoy Hotel on 30th November in the presence of Her Majesty the Queen and His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh.

As was customary, the President invited the company to toast the London Scottish Regiment, saying how he remembered its high reputation from his days serving in Italy. The toast of the Guests was entrusted to David McLean Watt. In his reply, Major SH Henwood, Officer Commanding G (London Scottish) Company, 1/51 Highland Volunteers, included a short update on the Regiment's serving company.

Mr George Macpherson provided the musical programme, accompanied by Fraser McLuskey at the piano. Lance Corporal Ian King was joined by two other pipers of the London Scottish and together they played 'The 1st Battalion London Scottish at Primasol Bridge', 'Lady Madeline Sinclair', 'The Piper of Drummond', 'The Highland Cradle Song', 'Lord Dunsmore's Jig', 'Major John McLellan' and 'Highland Laddie'. Ian King returned later to play the Society's strathspey.

The dinner held on Thursday 15th January 1982 had present 48 members and 51 guests. The Address to the Haggis was given by Brother Caledonian Tom Hodge, Honorary Dinner Secretary. After the loyal toasts had been honoured, the President introduced Brother Caledonian the Reverend Glen Bowie, an Ayrshire man, as author of the Sentiment 'The Immortal Memory'. He was received with applause and started by saying how it was that at this time, all round the world, people gathered to honour Robert Burns and that this celebration was unique to that man in its nature. Perhaps it was because he was the greatest national poet of all time. In his works, he was a mirror to his nation Scotland, making the country spring to life by the imagery, allowing Scots to see themselves as other saw them. He gave an outline of Burns' life. As with many other great men, he was terribly neglected by his contemporaries, yet two hundred years later, he was acclaimed. 'To a Mouse' reflected so much of the troubles in Scotland at that time, 'Ae Fond Kiss' his own tenderness and 'A Man's a Man' the character of the working man. He couldn't suffer fools gladly. In matters of belief and of the soul, Burns certainly looked askance at some of the ministers of his day but he did go to church, and 'The Cottar's Saturday Night' shows a different and positive aspect; 'Holly Willie's Prayer' reveals an understanding of some less worthy matters of theology. He gave a series of examples of Burns' works that vividly described life and the countryside in which he lived and worked before referring to the classic 'Auld Lang Syne' that its author described as mediocre but was perhaps the best known verse written by mortal hand. He did not die of grief but at the hands of his doctor who prescribed sea-bathing and the drinking of port wine as a treatment for rheumatic fever! Robert Burns died but his fame spread to the four corners of the Earth, his voice would never be stilled because it spoke fundamental

truths. He then offered a toast to one of the greatest Scotsmen who ever lived, 'The Immortal Memory of Robert Burns'.

The toast to the guests was entrusted to AB Murray. Sir Campbell Fraser, Chairman Dunlop Holdings and Deputy President Confederation of British Industries, responded in a humorous vein but with evident sincerity. The menu card shows new members K Meekison and J Muirhead being introduced.

Daniel McCoshan, accompanied by Fraser McLuskey at the piano, sang a selection that included 'My Love is like a Red, Red Rose'. Lance Corporal Ian King played the set 'My Love she's but a Lassie Yet', 'Corn Riggs are Bonnie', 'Highland Harry', 'Ae Fond Kiss', 'Rantin' Roarin' Willie' and 'MacPherson's Farewell' and later, 'The Caledonian Society of London'.

At the February Little Dinner, a company of 42 members and 37 guests heard the President introduce Mr WB Young, Chairman Imperial Chemical Industries, and invite him to deliver the Sentiment 'Scots in Industry' which he duly did. After a jocular start, he outlined the part played by Scotland and Scots from the start of the industrial revolution in the late Eighteenth Century, explaining how Scots had contributed worldwide. Initially Scottish industry was largely heavy industry, exemplified by James Watt and the steam engine, and textiles but other natures followed. The roots in Scotland of what later became Imperial Chemical Industries lay in Alfred Nobel's explosives plant at Ardeer opened in the 1870s that was later part of the amalgamation that formed ICI in 1926. He then described the part played by ICI in British industry, not least in World War Two, and outlined some of the highlights of his own career, suitably illustrated with lighter anecdotes, before finishing by thanking the Society for its hospitality.

Alex Wilson proposed the toast to the guests in his usual style and Hugh Cubitt, Chairman of the Housing Corporation, then spoke on their behalf and kept the company well entertained in the process. New member Harry Simpson was listed to be introduced that night.

Paschal Allan, and not David Young as shown on the menu card, sang accompanied by the Society's own Fraser McLuskey and Lance Corporal Ian King piped the set 'Dream Angus', 'Within a Mile of Edinburgh Toun', 'Loch Ruan', 'The Marquis of Huntly's Highland Fling', 'Knievie Knick Knack' and 'The 51st Highland Division at Wadi Akarit', returning later for the Society's strathspey.

The March Little Dinner was honoured by the presence of His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Reverend and Right Honourable Robert Runcie MC. This was the second time the Society had been addressed by a holder of the appointment, the previous occasion having been in March 1938. 55 members and 63 guests heard His Grace's Sentiment. Maintaining a light touch throughout, he started by saying he was not quite sure what was meant by a Sentiment in the context of the company that night but what he hoped to do was to give a feeling of what the work of an Archbishop of Canterbury involved. Some earlier holders of the post had been marvellous in different ways, and he gave historic examples. Several had Scottish backgrounds, as he had himself - hence his pleasure in

visiting the Society. He recounted his childhood memories of Burns, of watching the Kilmarnock football team and of how his war service had been with the Scots Guards. Returning to the duties of his appointment, he was responsible for some three hundred parishes in Kent with all that that involved. He felt that peoples' spiritual values were to a great extent a local, cultural thing and this was particularly so in Scotland. He was also responsible for shaping the strategy of the Church of England and this had led him to believe in the importance of education and training for clergy and lay workers. The third part of his role was in maintaining good relations with other Christian bodies and trying to minimise the effects of religious bigotry – as some Scots might say, Christian unity but not yet! His fourth responsibility was presiding over the international Anglican community. Unlike the Pope, he could not do this by direction but rather by compromise, discussion and persuasion in a world where developing nations were steadily becoming more influential. He gave a taste of his recent travel experiences, with a number of Scottish aspects. His final responsibility was as a senior representative of Christianity in the country both representationally and in the House of Lords, giving opinions on matters of the day. He finished by saying that he hoped he had done justice to his Scottish upbringing and had adequately explained his five roles, and thanked the Society for having him.

Sir William Slimmings welcomed the guests and the Reverend DS Russell, General Secretary of the Baptist Union, replied. JA Barclay and FA Taylor were welcomed into the Society that night as new members.

David Young, accompanied by Fraser McLuskey, sang 'Bonnie Strathyre', 'Bonnie Wee Thing', 'My Ain Folk', 'Northern Lights of old Aberdeen' and 'Bonnie Mary of Argyll'. Lance Corporal Ian King played 'Going Home', 'Captain Norman Orr Ewing', 'O'er the Hills to Ballindalloch', an unnamed reel, 'St Patrick's Day', 'Garryowen' and 'The Caledonian Society of London'.

The Ladies' Festival followed its usual format with a satisfactory 44 members and 110 guests present. At the start of the evening, Alex Wilson addressed the haggis. Later, after being welcomed by the President, Lord Thomson of Monifieth, Chairman of the Independent Television Authority and Liberal Democrat politician, delivered the Sentiment 'Scotland, Westminster and the World'. He started by saying that he was honoured by the invitation to speak and that Daniel McCoshan's singing would be a hard act to follow. He would say a few words about the relations between Scots forth of Scotland, and London Scots in particular, and Scots at home in Scotland. Scots changed when they left Scotland, and tended to become more united in their Scottishness, frequently by forming Caledonian societies. There was a distinctive Scottish national character and he illustrated this point by a story about Mungo Park, the nineteenth century explorer in Africa. Now, there did appear to be some differences in attitude developing between Scots abroad and those at home who were perhaps becoming more inward looking, and he told a number of anecdotes of politics in Scotland. The United Kingdom was a united kingdom of nations, a stroke of political genius in creating a great nation from its disparate composite parts, within which Scotland had a great role to play. He quoted the Timex watch company in his home town of Dundee as an example as the computer age advanced. It would be a disaster if opinion in Scotland developed the belief that the country would be better off outside either the United Kingdom or the Europe Community, and he finished with a strong plug for the latter, pointing out that membership did not reduce Scottishness in any sense but brought many advantages.

In an addition to the menu card programme, the President thanked the Honorary Office Bearers for their work during the session. He then led the toast to the Society and, in accordance with tradition, the Vice President proposed that to the guests, starting by saying that in his year as Vice President he enjoyed was the only opportunity that a member had to greet guests when ladies were present, and then making a special welcome for a number of widows of late Past Presidents. Miss Jean Waddell, of the Church Missionary Society, spoke for the guests. The President was saluted by the Past Presidents, Immediate Past President Sir William Slimmings proposed the toast to the President and the latter was presented with the Gold Badge by Lady Slimmings.

Daniel McCoshan sang his selection ably supported by Fraser McLuskey seated at the piano once again. The pipe set was played by the Society's Honorary Piper Lance Corporal Ian King of the London Scottish and had clearly been specially chosen for the ladies' occasion – 'Australian Ladies', 'Lady Loudon', 'Jenny Dang the Weaver', 'Marri Bahn Og', 'The Irish Washerwoman' and 'The Two Ronnie's Maggie'. Ian King returned later to play the Society's strathspey.

Society Business. The Council met five four times during the year (November, January, February, March and June). The January and February meetings were at the Hotel Russell and the others at the Royal Scottish Corporation. The AGM was held at the Royal Scottish Corporation in June.

A foolscap size duplicated membership list was produced during the session.

£275 was donated to each charity from Society funds. It was decided to reduce the cost of the provision of Gold Badges by changing from gold to silver gilt, hopefully roughly halving the cost of a badge from £425 to £215.

Past President George Deans seems to have ceased to be Honorary Golf Secretary early in the session. EEC Mekie took over and made the arrangements for that year's competition.

In moves to address disappointing dinner attendances, consideration was given to changing some dinners to the Caledonian Club but it was decided to remain at the Hotel Russell for the time being. It was also decided not to pursue a suggestion that one or more lunches replace less well supported dinners.

The presentation of two miniature Gold Badges, once worn by ladies at the Festival, was accepted with gratitude, one from the widow of Past President James Moxon. It was decided that one should be worn by the Vice President, thus replacing a similar badge that had been lost earlier, and the Honorary Secretary. Unfortunately both went missing some years later.

Five items of Society silver were lost from the Hotel Russell, probably following the November little Dinner. These were the handsome Paton Cup, presented by President George Paton in 1919 and used as a top table centre piece at dinners, the London Scottish Quaich, presented by President HC Stewart Hunter in 1967, and the three silver menu holders presented by John Aldridge in 1950. All were covered by an insurance claim but only the Quaich was replaced.



The Paton Cup

The losses led to a full property check which revealed that two further items were missing. The miniature Gold Badge, mentioned previously as having been lost, had been presented in 1958 by Mrs Miln, widow of Past President William Miln, and worn by Vice Presidents after 1958 but could not now be traced. The second missing item was the silver and granite bracelet inscribed ‘To Marchioness of Ely in recollection of the Dhu Loch 3rd October 1870 from Victoria R’ and presented by Hugh M Reid in 1916. It had last been recorded as present in June 1968. Finally on the subject of property, it was noted that the Society banner, presented by Dame Gertrude Smith Young in 1910 and which had formerly been displayed behind the President’s chair, was now in tatters and of no further use.

There was an unexpected difficulty in identifying a candidate for election as Vice President at that year’s AGM. Apparently the favoured person said that he would be honoured to accept in a later year but could not do so immediately. It was decided to create the new post of Junior Vice President, with the traditional Vice President becoming Senior Vice President. In this

way, it was hoped to reduce the risk of lacking a candidate for Senior Vice President at future AGMs.

At the AGM, Professor JAD Anderson was appointed to the Chair as President. The posts of Senior Vice President and Junior Vice President remained unfilled with authority to appoint delegated to the Past Presidents. WR Smith succeeded RD Holliday as Honorary Treasurer. The Reverend Donald Wallace was recorded as having taken over as Honorary Historian from Past President Robert Leitch but Wallace does not seem to have taken up the duties.

Membership. The membership total was 127, with 84 Ordinary members, at the start of the session and had fallen to 124 and 78 respectively by its end. The death JA Riach (member since 1978-1979) was noted with regret. Seven members resigned and two were deleted. Seven new members joined.

SESSION 1982-1983



President Professor JAD Anderson

Office Bearers

President	Professor JAD Anderson TD MA MD FFCM
Senior Vice President	Robert Cassels
Junior Vice President	D Keith Robertson FRICS
Honorary Secretary	Ian S McLeod
Honorary Treasurer	WR Smith FIB(S) FIB
Honorary Auditor	Michael J Knight CA
Honorary Historian	Vacant
Honorary Dinner Secretary	TF Hodge MRSH MInstM
Honorary Golf Secretary	EEC Mekie JP
Honorary Piper	Corporal Ian King

The President. Jock Anderson was an Edinburgh man, educated at Loretto School, Worcester College, Oxford and Edinburgh University. Qualifying in Medicine, he completed National Service in the Royal Army Medical Corps, serving in the Suez Canal Zone, and was then a General Practitioner in Edinburgh. With major interests in Rheumatology and Community Medicine, he underwent further training and entered academia, teaching at the London School of Hygiene, Guy's Hospital and, at the time of his Presidency, in a Professorial Chair at the University of London. His military service continued in the Territorial Army, firstly as Medical Officer of the 7/9th Battalion, Royal Scots in Edinburgh and then with the London Scottish. Subsequently, he held combatant appointments, commanding the London Scottish Company of the 51st Highland Volunteers, later serving as Territorial Army Colonel, London District and Regimental Colonel of the London Scottish. His other interests included refereeing rugby. He was a member of the Committee of Management of the Royal Scottish Corporation, Deputy Lieutenant for Richmond and an elder at St Columba's. He joined the Society in 1965-1966 and first served on Council in 1971-1972. Jock Anderson resigned from the Society in 1995-1996, after taking up an academic appointment in the United Arab Emirates, and died in Edinburgh in October 2000.

Social Programme. There was again a buffet supper immediately following the previous year's AGM in June 1982 and this was followed by the usual six dinners, all at the Hotel

Russell. The total dinner attendance made a welcome recovery to a respectable total of 623 members and guests. The golf outing, followed by a dinner, was held in May.

Donald Wallace is minuted as having been appointed Honorary Historian at the previous AGM but there is no evidence that he actually took over; at least three of this session's recordings being made by the previous Historian. We do know that an unsuccessful attempt was made to transcribe the March and April tapes and that these tapes were subsequently lost.

On an evening with a legal theme, Professor Keith Simpson, Professor Emeritus of Forensic Medicine of the University of London, was welcomed as author of the Sentiment at the October dinner when he spoke on 'Facing the Lawyer' to a gathering of 46 members and 20 guests. After a few opening remarks, he started by describing the quality of lawyers that he had met in court while acting as an expert witness, and the advantage of the 'uniform' that they wore when in action. He went on to describe some of his personal experiences in court and said that perhaps, after all, he was qualified to speak on facing lawyers. One of the first things that had to be assessed was the experience and backgrounds of those speaking in court – both lawyers and witnesses – and then to act accordingly, with an agile mind. It was important to be thoroughly familiar with anything that you were to present in court, and to be able to understand the language and phraseology used. A further fundamental point was that, however much one might enjoy the intellectual duelling in court, the real essential was to determine the truth. Meeting and speaking to lawyers had been the author's pleasure for many years. All this was well illustrated with anecdotes, and he finished by thanking the company for their hospitality.

After the interval, the London Ayrshire Golf Cup was presented to TA Muir. The lot of welcoming the guests fell to a Society lawyer, Bill Macpherson of Cluny, and was discharged in his usual fluent and light touch style. The Right Honourable Sir John Arnold PC, President of the Family Division, Royal Courts of Justice, replied for the guests. New members JC Douglas, WB Kirkpatrick and APC Niekirk are believed to have been welcomed and introduced.

John Clifford presented a programme of songs with Past President Fraser McLuskey at the piano. Piping was provided by Corporal Ian King with his selection 'The Shieling', 'The Royal Scots Polka', 'Cutty's Wedding', 'The Fairy Dance', 'The Lark on the Clear Air' and 'The 10th HLI Crossing the Rhine'.

Eighty-seven members and guests were present at the November London Scottish dinner when Lieutenant General Sir Henry Leask, a former General Officer Commanding Scotland and also commanding officer of the 1st Battalion London Scottish during its post-World War Two demobilisation, discharged his duty as author of the Sentiment by speaking of 'The Regiment as a Family'. He started by referring to the part played by the Society in the raising of the London Scottish in 1859 and how it was that most members of the public recognised the family nature of the Army. He wondered how this nature, which was particularly British and perhaps even more so Scottish, had arisen. Perhaps it was a form of tribalism harnessed by good command, planning and training all leading to high morale. The most important

outcome of these was the creation of regimental spirit, esprit de corps as seen throughout the Army and very much so in Scottish units. An outward sign of this, and also a strong aid to military performance, were the differences of uniform, badges and tartans. Some of the recent standardisations in this area were surely a mistake. The family image was very important, as was encouraging a soldier's identification with his regiment, based on bonds with his most immediate comrades in his platoon. He gave examples based on his own wartime experience. He finished by saying that the family spirit had served the nation well in the past and would surely continue to do so.

After the interval, the President proposed the toast to the London Scottish Regiment. The task of welcoming the guests had been accepted by Brigadier JJH Simpson. He started by saying a few words about London Scottish medical officers, when he mentioned the President and also Douglas Smith, and then spoke of the Regiment more generally before getting down to the meat of his address. The response was by Brigadier Peter Tower, Chief of Staff London District, who included some highly complementary comments on the current Territorial Army. The programme for the evening showed new member AN Cormack as being introduced.

With Past President Fraser McLuskey at the piano, George MacPherson sang his selection and three pipers of the London Scottish, including the Society's Honorary Piper Corporal Ian King, played the set 'Kilworth Hills', 'Orange and Blue', 'Kate Dalrymple', 'Rhu Vaternish', 'Black Bear' (a change from the menu card), 'The Cockney Jocks' and 'Highland Laddie'. Ian King added the Society's strathspey later.

The January dinner started with Donald Wallace's address to the Haggis in front of 117 members and guests. It then witnessed a Burns Sentiment with a difference as Ian F Maclaren led up to the toast 'The Immortal Memory' with his Sentiment 'Heroes and Hero-worship' in which he addressed his subject in a Scottish context, and Burns' part in it. After the President introduced the speaker, explaining that he was a surgeon in Edinburgh who was also a leading member of the Royal Scottish Pipers' Society, Ian Maclaren started with a couple of anecdotes and questioned why he, of all people, should have been selected for the task. He then switched to his subject by quoting from James Hogg, the Ettrick Shepherd who shared the 25th of January as a birthday with Burns, as a reminder that Scotland had produced other poets besides Burns, including a number of Gaelic poets of the same era. Burns poetry went straight to the heart, so his unflattering comments on pipes and piping could be forgiven. The title of the Sentiment had been taken from the works of another great intellectual Scot, Thomas Carlyle - neglected today. In the series of lectures under the title, Carlyle offered Burns as a shining example of the hero as a man of letters. For all Burns shortcomings, he would always be first in the hearts of his countrymen. It was perhaps astonishing that a poet should be the national hero of such a dour, frugal race, perhaps yet another example of the Scottish paradox. What had the Scots contributed to the sum of human wellbeing? He made suggestions for the English, the Jews and the Americans and then added, for the Scots - the world's most popular drink, its most popular game and the most universally accepted song of friendship and conviviality, written by the national hero Robert Burns. Burns genius was inspired by a passionate love of his country developed in childhood by the poems and ballads of the old Scottish heroes. Burns himself was a hero worshipper as were many Scots, despite the lack of exposure to Scottish history in modern education. There had also been many notable Scottish villains and traitors, and he listed some. However, there seemed to be far

fewer more recent heroes, in Scotland at least, but Scots had made a greater impact overseas, and again he gave a series of examples. But modern heroes were hard to find in Scotland. In the 1920s and 1930s there had been sporting heroes – for example Eric Liddell, more recently of Chariots of Fire fame, John Thomson the Celtic and Scotland goal keeper who was fatally injured in a match and Benny Lynch the archetypical Scottish boxer. Scotland needed heroes badly; there was pride, courage, enthusiasm and love of country but it needed something to ignite it, from wherever this might come. Another Robert Burns would be ideal. After excusing himself for the length of his contribution, he proposed the toast ‘The Immortal Memory of Robert Burns’.

David McLean Watt welcomed the guests, mentioning that those present had got off lightly, a hundred and thirty years ago there had been fifteen toasts. David Pepper, Vice Chairman of Rolls Royce, replied. New members PG Wegwood and I Sinclair were listed for introduction that night.

Ably supported by Past President Fraser McLuskey at the piano, Daniel McCoshan’s selection of songs included ‘My Love is like a Red, Red, Rose’. Corporal Ian King played the set ‘The Day we went to Africa’, ‘The Rhodesian Regiment’, ‘Because he was a Bonnie Laddie’, ‘Jenny Dang the Weaver’, ‘I am a Young Man that lived with my Mother’ and ‘The Midlothian Amateur Pipe Band’ following up later with the Society’s strathspey ‘The Caledonian Society of London’.

February had as its Sentiment ‘Youth in Transit’ given by the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the London Central Young Men’s Christian Association, Professor David Miller, to a company 50 members and 36 guests. In it, he started by saying that he would be quite brief. He was an Englishman whose experiences of visiting Scotland had belied the reputation of its people for meanness. He had been involved with the YMCA for a good many years. The Association had begun in 1844 as a Christian movement among apprentices coming to London with the aim of the development of Christian manhood in body, mind and spirit, these three points being the reason for the YMCA red triangle. The aim continued to be the physical, intellectual and spiritual growth of young people and, although some might now claim that the physical and social aspects had overtaken the original missionary purposes, it was still fair to say that the YMCA stood for the full and proper development of the powers of young manhood. Thus the YMCA has always been concerned with youth in transit from childhood to adulthood. How this was done had changed as had society. In the mid-1960s the Central YMCA reviewed its purposes and had decided to erect a new building, at a cost of some fifteen million pounds, which had opened in 1977. This had presented great opportunities and, to help harness these, the Association had sought to discover the aspirations of its potential clientele. One outcome was confirmation that these young people were by no means pre-occupied with personal material matters, and he gave a breakdown of the opinions expressed saying that while traditional church-going was not prevalent, there was still fundamental support for Christian ideals. Perhaps these youngsters would not do badly, and the national future was not so bleak.

Past President Alan Niekirk proposed the toast to the guests but before doing so, he drew attention to the fact that the evening was the 50th anniversary of the introduction to the Society of the most senior Past President J Murray Napier, an announcement that was greeted with applause. During his speech, he said he was delighted to see several sons of members

among the guests. Dr JC Houston, Dean of the Medical and Dental Schools at Guy's Hospital, replied to the welcome.

Paschal Allen's programme of songs included 'Bring to me a Pint o' Wine', 'Laird o' Cockpen' and 'The Mountains of Mourne' with Fraser McLuskey at the piano. Corporal Ian King's pipe set was 'The Willow Tree', 'The Banks of Allanwater', 'I See Mull' 'The Maids of the Black Glen', 'Colonel Macleod' and 'Ballochyle'.

In March, with 58 members and 45 guests present, the Sentiment was delivered by the Lord Advocate, Lord Mackay of Clashfern, under the title of 'A Scots Lawyer in London'. Glen Bowie welcomed the guests and CF Strang, Chairman of Ault & Wiborg, spoke on their behalf.

Songs were performed by David Young with Fraser McLuskey at the piano. Corporal Ian King's set reflected the St Patrick's Day date with 'Brian Boru's March', 'Endearing Young Charms', 'The Wind that shakes the Barley', 'The Boys from Blue Hill', 'St Patrick's Day' and 'Garryowen'.

The Ladies' Festival witnessed another good attendance of 47 members and 117 guests. Tom Hodge addressed the Haggis and the Sentiment was 'Lady in the Lords', a slight change from that printed on the menu card, by The Baroness Philips JP, Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Greater London. The President called the toast to the Society and Senior Vice President Robert Cassels that for the guests for whom Neville Thompson, Honorary Treasurer for the Royal Society for Mentally Handicapped Adults and Children, responded.

As the evening progressed, the time came to salute the President, propose his health and present him with the Gold Badge. The task of proposing the toast fell to Past President Fraser McLuskey and Mrs McLuskey pinned on the Badge.

Daniel McCoshan entertained in song and Ian King's set was 'The Mingulay Boat Song', 'The High Road to Gairloch', 'The Boy's Lament for his Dragon', 'The Campbeltown Kiltie Ball', 'The Kilt is my Delight', 'Clara's Journey', 'The Pigeon on the Gate', 'The Steamboat' and 'The Bugle Horn'. Fraser McLuskey was at his customary place at the piano.

The gathering closed, in the usual manner, with the Society's Strathspey, 'Auld Lang Syne' and the National Anthem.

Society Business. The Council met six times during the year (August, October, November, March, May and June). The October and November January meetings were at the Hotel Russell and the others at the Royal Scottish Corporation. The AGM was held at the Royal Scottish Corporation in June.

A foolscap size duplicated membership list was produced during the session. A general revision of the Constitution and Rules was initiated (and would be completed in 1985-1986).

£325 was donated to each charity from Society funds. The dinner charge excluding wine had been £10.50 per head, with a surcharge to cover the extra haggis course in January and April, in 1982-1983 and it was agreed to increase it to £11 for 1983-1984.

A decision in principle was made to prepare a Chronicles record covering the sessions 1967-1968 to 1982-1983 inclusive. This was to be in a format reduced from that used for earlier years and would include details of office bearers and members of Council as well as a summary of dinners and other details available from Council's annual report that had been produced annually from 1972-1973. From session 1983-1984, President would be responsible for producing a record of their own year which was to include texts of Sentiments if this could be done practicably. This was the most determined attempt to continue the production of the Chronicles since the failure to publish a further volume in 1973-1974 but the only results seem to have been the unsuccessful attempts made to transcribe tapes during this session and the next.

The posts of Senior and Junior Vice President were filled by Robert Cassels and Keith Robertson respectively early in the session. At the AGM, Robert Cassels was appointed to the Chair as President and the posts of Senior Vice President and Junior Vice President were filled by D Keith Robertson and John Paton. The post of Honorary Historian seems to have remained vacant.

Membership. The membership total was 124, with 78 Ordinary members, at the start of the session and had risen to 127 and 75 respectively by its end. There was one resignation and four new members joined.

SESSION 1983-1984



President Robert Cassels as a Younger Man

Office Bearers

President	Robert Cassels
Senior Vice President	D Keith Robertson FRICS
Junior Vice President	John AD Paton CA
Honorary Secretary	Ian S McLeod
Honorary Treasurer	WR Smith FIB(S) FIB
Honorary Auditor	Michael J Knight CA
Honorary Historian	Vacant
Honorary Dinner Secretary	TF Hodge MRSH MInstM
Honorary Golf Secretary	EEC Mekie JP
Honorary Piper	Corporal Ian King

The President. Robert (Bob) Cassels was an Edinburgh man, educated at Daniel Stewart's College in that city. On leaving school, he joined the Commercial Bank of Scotland to which he returned after war service in the Royal Air Force. Transferred to London in 1947, he was, at various times, Head of the Trustee Department in Lombard Street and Investment Manager at Drummond's Branch of the Royal Bank of Scotland. He joined the Society in 1962-1963 and first served on Council in 1970-1971. He lived at Petts Wood, in Kent, during these years when he was also an active member of his school's former pupils' club in London and a member, and sometime committee man, of the slightly extravagantly named East India, Devonshire, Sports and Public Schools Club in St James. He was a prominent chess player and enjoyed golf and sailing. Sadly, Bob Cassels became ill soon after demitting office and died in June 1985 while still Immediate Past President.

Social Programme. The now usual programme was followed starting with a buffet supper following the previous session's AGM, the season of six dinners and the golf outing in May. All dinners were held at the Hotel Russell in Russell Square. Unfortunately, the total attendance for the six dinners fell back to 587 members and guests, after the improvement of the previous year.

With Fraser McLuskey away from London for the year in which he was Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, temporary arrangements were made to ensure that the piano was occupied on dinner nights. The post of Honorary Historian remained vacant but taping of speeches continued under ad hoc arrangements until Frank Taylor assumed the role around the middle of the dinner season. An unsuccessful attempt was made to transcribe the recordings of the January Little Dinner.

The October Sentiment, 'Development in Scotland', was provided by James Ennis, a consultant to the Scottish Development Agency, to a gathering of 42 members and 29 guests. After introductory jokes, he started by describing the reason for unemployment in Scotland, pointing out that it was not as bad as it had been some years previously but was still worse than in much of the United Kingdom. A major problem was the collapse of heavy engineering but this was partly offset by the increase of small businesses. Another positive factor was the growth of new industries such as electronics, in health care and those associated with the North Sea oilfield, all of which were attracting private sector and international investment, whereas previously most development investment had come from the public purse. He also mentioned the large part played by service industries such as banking and insurance. The main bodies responsible for encouraging economic development in Scotland were the Scottish Tourist Board, the Scottish Youth Employment organisation, the Scottish Council for Development and Industry, the Highland and Islands Development Board and the Scottish Development Agency and these bodies now had their London offices collocated at the Scottish Centre in Cockspur Street. He made the point that the critical factor was the availability and quality of labour, with financial incentives coming second, and finished with a couple of lighter anecdotes.

TA Muir was to have been presented with the London Ayrshire Society Golf Cup but was unable to be present due to his wife having been involved in a minor car accident. Iain Stewart Hunter welcomed the guests, and started by saying how good it was to be back after the summer break before discharging his duty warmly but succinctly. PWJ Duffield, a lawyer and livery man, responded briefly and sincerely. New members TG Hutson, Major TRS Lyon and AS Winter were formally welcomed into the Society.

Brother Caledonian Len Sneddon was at the piano for the first time. Paschal Allan sang 'Just a Wearying for You', 'Laird o' Cockpen', 'Road to Mandalay', 'Old Man River' and 'The Policeman's Song'. The pipe set played by Piper Ian McDougal was 'My Home', 'Atholl and Breadalbane Gathering', 'Orange and Blue', 'The Kilt is my Delight' and 'Battle of the Somme'.

November was, as usual, the London Scottish evening and was attended by 51 members and 40 guests. This year the Sentiment offered an account of the Palace of Westminster. The author was the Serjeant at Arms in the House of Commons, Major Victor Le Fanu, and the title of the Sentiment was that of his appointment. He described the role of the Parliamentary Staff, explaining how they advised on practice and procedures rather than policy, and provided administrative and social services and information for Members. The relations between them and the Members was critical to the working of the House. He then ran through

the responsibilities and working of the various departments quoting the historic origins as well as current practices, and offered some thoughts on the accommodation provided by the Palace, the plusses and minuses of this related to the functions carried out there, and what might change in future. He finished by saying that the most important part of his job was in dealing with people and how the highest standards in work of this type were critical to the working of the Palace, as they were to that of national life generally.

The President proposed the toast to the Regiment, Lieutenant Colonel John Cormack led the greeting of the guests and REM Craker, Regional Director of the Midland Bank, replied with a humour much appreciated at that time of night.

George MacPherson entertained in song with Len Sneddon returning to the piano. Corporal Ian King and two other pipers of the London Scottish played 'Kilworth Hills', 'Orange and Blue', 'The Piper o' Drummond', 'Waly, Waly', 'Highland Laddie' and 'Lieutenant Colonel AF Niekirk'. Ian King also played the Society's strathspey at the end of the evening.

An assembly of 51 members and 40 guests participated in the customary celebration of Robert Burns in January. Donald Wallace addressed the Haggis and the Sentiment was provided by a well-known speaker on the circuit, the Reverend Charles MacNeil, a Royal Air Force Chaplain. He started by saying that he was not sure that a minister of the Kirk was the right man for the job, and he was not quite sure, either, whether he should sing a song, preach a sermon or take up a collection. He felt more at home toasting the Lassies. Nevertheless, he hoped he would do justice to the memory of Scotland's national bard. It was remarkable that among the many thousands who would toast the memory over the next few weeks would be ministers who would find it difficult to write their next sermon but could go on for hours extolling the virtues of a self-confessed philanderer and pursuer of women. Burns was a founder of the Tarbolton Batchelors' Club one of the rules of which required its members to be the professed lover of one or more of the fair sex. It was only in Scotland that the names Burns and God were synonymous terms. How was this celebration possible among a canny, hard-headed lot of Calvinists? As a hard-headed, canny, Calvinist, the speaker would like to emphasise that Burns was a God fearing man as his poetry manifestly shows and it was his pleasurable task to make this clear to the company. He invited the congregation to picture the west coast of Scotland two hundred and twenty-five years ago. There was a cold wind sweeping the cottages in the small village of Alloway near Ayr, and looking through a window of one of the rougher buildings one would have seen a child who, as a peasant poet, would have more influence on the life and character of a nation than any other man in Scottish history. At this time, Scotland was still suffering from the aftermath of Culloden and there was much social unrest. The Burns family would also suffer from the series of farms they would work, each one less successful than its predecessor, and this was the background that made him. In his voice one could hear all the sorrows, all the joys, all the dreams, the dashed hopes that had been lying dormant in the hearts of men and women throughout Scotland for generations – illustrated by a quotation from 'Man was made to mourn'. He knew he had failed as a farmer, and by the time he was twenty-five he was writing poetry and letters of intensity and force. Shortly after, he became involved with the first of a series of women, including Jane Armour who he eventually married. With the respective fathers after him and the Kirk breathing hell fire and damnation, he considered escaping by emigration to Jamaica. It was the publication of his poems that turned the tide and he was welcomed by

society in Edinburgh. However life as a gentleman did not last and he became an excise man in Dumfries where he died at the age of only thirty-seven. He had fifteen children from his various affairs, none born in Holy wedlock. Burns never denied responsibility for these offspring and the finger of condemnation is pointed at him for the wrong reasons. He was no paragon of virtue and did not pretend to be one. Burns was a serial sinner who flouted the Kirk's teachings on morality. He could be coarse and vulgar, and the speaker referred to the unexpurgated version of his works, but he wrote true Doric and some quite exquisite verse. He also had tremendous power with satire which he applied against hypocrisy so effectively in 'Holy Willie's Prayer'. Many of his works were now classics of the English language but the cause of the extent to which he was now celebrated worldwide could not be just that. Perhaps it was because he could look and laugh at life, with all its problems, without bitterness and with a love for his fellow men. Burns believed in man as a child of God. He took his pleasure in hope and good faith and courage and in the joy of being alive. He provided in his work, from every stage from cradle to grave, man's reply to life. The speaker finished by asking those present to rise and toast 'The Immortal Memory' after which he received a rousing ovation and a toast wishing him well for his new post, in retirement from the Air Force, at the Scots Kirk in Brussels.

A second attempt was made to present the London Ayrshire Golf Cup to TA Muir but he was again unable to be present. John Barclay spoke of the guests and Ian Meldrum, an architect, responded.

Daniel McCoshan delighted the company in song accompanied by the Reverend J Miller at the piano. Corporal Ian King played the set 'The Weary Maid', 'Piper's Cave', 'Lady Carmichael's Strathspey', 'The Rose Tree', 'Ae Fond Kiss', 'The Little House under the Hill' and 'The Scottish Division', adding the Society's strathspey later.

The February Sentiment had the title of 'The Royal Air Force' and was delivered by Air Commodore Michael Stanton, Appeals Secretary of the Royal Force Benevolent Fund, to an audience of 43 members and 24 guests. He started by saying that it would be more interesting to consider the future, rather than the past, and that he would consider aerospace generally, and not just the RAF. Mankind tended to be resistant to change, perhaps due to distrust of the unknown. Indeed an unsettling aspect of life now was the ever increasing rate of change, not least in the aerospace world. Aviation might have started in China with a man lifting kite some thousand years ago. More recently, a French hot air balloon flew in 1783 and was followed one hundred and twenty years later by the first sustained powered flight. But only sixty-six years after that, man was on the Moon. So what was likely to happen in the next seventy or eighty years? The rate of change was not going to decrease but would accelerate and man would have to adapt to it. In 1940 a Spitfire cost five thousand pounds while the new Tornado cost thirteen million. Tornado was designed and built by a specially established multi-national company. Concorde and Jaguar were joint Anglo-French programmes. Cooperating with other nations was a bit like that with other Services, wholehearted provided it was done 'our way'. Progress in this area was more likely to be driven by commercial change at international and Common Market level than by politicians. In 1972 it was suggested that by 2060 the entire gross national product of the United States would only be sufficient to buy one fighter aircraft, thus indicating that the generation of aircraft expected to enter service in the first decade of the twenty-first century was likely to be the last. These aircraft would have to serve for many years, updated as necessary, and have operational

flexibility and high speed. Once they could no longer be sustained, a change would have to be made to much smaller and less costly military aircraft, perhaps unmanned. Threats were unpredictable but World population levels were becoming unsustainable and this would create tensions and also requirements for more productive use of land and marine resources. Aircraft would have roles in both. The technology already existed and the question was whether vision and readiness to allocate resources were up to it.

Past President Robert Leitch welcomed the guests in a speech well-seasoned with anecdotes and the guests' report was delivered in a suitable manner by Bill Eason, a City stockbroker and long-time friend of the President.

John Clifford was accompanied by the Reverend J Miller, who had returned at the piano, and sang 'Bonnie Lass o' Ballochmyle', 'Bonnie Wee Thing', 'Bonnie Mary of Argyll', 'The Road and the Miles to Dundee' and 'Westering Home'. Corporal Ian King played the set 'The Liberton Polka', 'Captain Horne', 'Colonel McLeod', 'The Canary'; and 'Brian Boru's March'.

A respectable 44 members and 33 guests were present in March to hear the veteran England cricketer Freddie Brown talk on 'Cricket'. He started by saying that Scotland was closely connected with his own cricket as he had toured Australia in 1932-1933 under the Captaincy of Douglas Jardine (a Scot) who he counted as a friend as he did another Scottish Captain of England, Mike Denness. He went on to speak of the fast bowler Ian Peebles of the late 1920s and 1930s, who hailed from Aberdeenshire, and of the great Scottish player Johnny Kerr who had refused to move to England. He pointed out that Scotland was running well organised courses and was active in the Nat West and Benson and Hedges competitions. However, cricket in England was not in good shape. Press allegations of drug use, poor international results and the recent years of underperformance in the Yorkshire county side leading to the resignation of the county club's General Committee were all aspects of this. Part of the problem was the amount of money now in the game. Previously cricketers had been underpaid but the reverse was now sometimes the case. Perhaps payment should be more closely related to results. He finished by saying that there were still good young players who were inspired to play for England, and not just for money. He wished Scotland good luck at Murrayfield where the Calcutta Cup was to be played for in two days' time.

The task of proposing the toast to the guests fell to Junior Vice President John Paton and Mr G MacDonald, manager of Drummond's Branch of the Royal Bank of Scotland, responded and thanked the hosts on behalf of the guests in a light hearted speech. Towards the end of the evening, the President proposed the toast to the Honorary Office Bearers and the Honorary Secretary replied.

With the Reverend J Miller at the piano again, Daniel McCoshan (and not David Young as shown on the card) sang his selection and Corporal Ian King played 'The Highland Cradle Song', 'Auchmountain's Bonnie Glen', 'Struan Robertson', 'Ardivasar Blacksmith', 'Doocot Park' and 'The Caledonian Society of London'.

The Ladies' Festival was enjoyed by 51 members and 113 guests, a total of 164 diners. Tom Hodge addressed the Haggis at the start of proceedings and, after the loyal toasts and the first selection of songs, the President welcomed Sir John Hill, a recent Chairman of the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority, as the author of the Sentiment 'Fact and Fiction in Public Opinion'. Sir John started by making the point that words can mean almost anything, and the same phrase could have very different meanings to different people. He was very pained by the way in which the public could be misled, for example by television programme produced more for impact than accuracy. Thus the public was unenthusiastic in the use of nuclear power, and this was not just in the United Kingdom. A study in the United States sought to prioritise public concerns over different risks. Returns from those who might be considered safety professionals were in accordance with published data but the views of the general public reflected a very poor appreciation of the relative importance of the hazards, with the more recently newsworthy being the most exaggerated. In the particular case of nuclear power, the difference was a factor of about ten thousand. Scots were generally better informed on nuclear power than the English and the nuclear generation per head of population in Scotland was about twice that in England, and hence the cost of electrical power was lower in Scotland than in England. The French had gone even further. Leaving nuclear power and returning to the United States, he told a scurrilous and amusing tale concerning the Central Intelligence Agency before returning to the events of the evening and to Scotland with another dubious story, and then finishing by thanking his hosts.

The President proposed the toast to the Society and Senior Vice President Keith Robertson welcomed the guests. The menu card shows that Lady Hill was to have replied but she seems to have been unable to do so and Sir John Hill returned to his feet to do so briefly but sincerely.

After the Past Presidents had gathered and saluted the President in congratulation and thanks for his year of office, Immediate Past President Jock Anderson proposed his health and Mrs JAD Anderson presented him with the Gold Badge of the Society. The President responded briefly, saying how the challenge of his year in office had ended up being made quite easy by all the help he had received, and he thanked the Past Presidents, Office Bearers and members for their support during the session.

Mary Macleod was at the piano that evening and provided accompaniment for Daniel McCoshan's selection. Corporal Ian King's set was 'The Australian Ladies', 'The Maids of the Black Glen', 'Sleepy Maggie', 'Eileen Aroon', 'Not the Bunny Hop' and 'Cock of the North'. The evening finished with the traditional routine of the Society's strathspey, 'Auld Lang Syne' and 'The Queen'.

Society Business. The Council met four times during the year (September, February, March and June). The February meeting was at the Hotel Russell and the others at the Royal Scottish Corporation. The AGM was held at the Royal Scottish Corporation in June.

£450 was donated to each charity from Society funds. The annual subscription was raised from £10 to £15, on the understanding that the cost of dinners would be subsidised by general funds, and new members were to be charged £15 for their badge. It was noted that the cost of a new style silver gilt 'Gold Badge' was now £280. An alternative smaller and cheaper

version had been costed at £60, with a further initial cost of £100 for a die, but no action was taken on this.

The large silver Quaich, on permanent loan from the Society to the Festival of Scotland in London, was removed from the list of property insured by the Society on the assumption that this was covered by the Festival. This was the Quaich originally purchased by the Society in 1953 for use as a trophy by the Caledonian Games Association. It had been returned in 1959 and in 1961 it was instead passed to the Festival, to be returned if the latter's gathering was discontinued. However, later investigation suggests that the gathering was discontinued after 1971 and that the piece was effectively lost about that time.

Frank Taylor seems to have taken over the duties of Honorary Historian at some point during the dinner season but this was not formalised until the AGM. Other appointments made at that meeting included Keith Robertson as President, John Paton as Senior Vice President and Eoin Mekié as Junior Vice President.

Membership. The membership total was 127, with 75 Ordinary members, at the start of the session and had risen marginally to 128 and 75 respectively by its end.

Past President William Millar died in March 1984. He had been born near Ecclefechan in Dumfries-shire and educated at Annan Academy. On leaving school he had entered banking and served the Commercial Bank of Scotland in various posts in Scotland before being sent to London in 1948. At the time of his Presidency in 1962-1963 he was the senior official in London of the National Commercial Bank of Scotland and was also on the London Committee of the Scottish Council (Development and Industry). Away from work, he was an active supporter of the Scout movement, a vice president and trustee of the London Dumfries-shire Association and a member of the Committee of Management of the Royal Scottish Corporation. He had joined the Society in 1951-1952 and had first served on Council in 1959-1960.

There were also four resignations and six new members joined.

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