Works Received


NEWS FROM HISTORIC SCOTLAND

Legacies of a Seafaring Nation:

Harbours and piers, lighthouses, warehouses, custom houses, ice houses, shipyards, boatyards - the buildings and structures that have been created to serve seaborne trade and fishing in Scotland are both numerous and distinctive.

This is not surprising, for Scotland’s claim to pre-eminence in many areas of maritime activity is a strong one. The development of both the steamship and sailing ship during the 19th and 20th centuries was led by Scottish designers and builders. In harbour engineering and lighthouse - building too, Scots made notable contributions. Scots fishermen and their boats have also been renowned.

Such a maritime history inevitably involved, directly and indirectly, many people, and wherever one goes in Scotland one can find retired officers and crew members of both the Royal and Merchant Marines, fishermen, and men and women who work or have worked in the many trades, commercial activities and industries which cater for maritime activity. Historic Scotland has for many years sought to protect - through listing and scheduling - the physical evidence of Scotland’s maritime past. Listed buildings and structures include many lighthouses, ranging from the remote rock towers like Bell Rock and Skerryvore through the tall land-based sentinels like Ardnamurchan, Tarbat Ness and Butt of Lewis.

Another important group of listed structures comprises harbours and associated works. These range from little harbours
like Portsoy, Keiss and Dunure, to large Victorian works such as the Victoria Harbour, Dundee, and the giant Govan dry dock complex in Glasgow. Giant cantilever cranes on harbour walls are also listed, and harbour listings include features such as lighthouses, warehouses and ice houses, necessary for their workings.

Then, too, there are buildings and structures used in shipbuilding, marine engineering and other maritime industries. Notable examples include the splendid offices and engine works of the Fairfield Shipbuilding and Engineering Company Ltd in Govan, the pioneering North British Diesel Engine Works in Scotstoun, and the Linthouse Engine Works of Alexander Stephen and Sons.

From this brief summary, some of the great richness of Scotland’s built maritime heritage may be gleaned. Scotland’s distinction in the world is inextricably linked to her maritime history, and a surprisingly large amount of that history can be traced through what survives of the buildings and structures which served it. *Historic Scotland* has a vital role in passing on the best of that heritage to future generations.

**New Light Through Old Windows:**

*Historic Scotland* has recently become guardian of an exciting new charge - a fine example of Scotland’s maritime built heritage. In the mid-1980’s, *Historic Scotland* realised that automation was making lighthouses redundant, and took steps to list key examples of historic buildings. At the same time a survey of the best examples was conducted, in order to see whether one should be taken into State care. Because it is so typical of lighthouse development in Scotland, and is not too remote for visitors to get to, the choice fell on Kinnaird Head Lighthouse at Fraserburgh in Grampian.

Kinnaird Head was the very first lighthouse erected by the Commissioners for Northern Lights when they were set up in the
1780’s. Remarkably, it was built inside a 16th-century tower house which stands commandingly above the town and harbour of Fraserburgh, right in the north-east corner of Buchan. In 1824, the Lighthouse was rebuilt and extended by Robert Stevenson (Robert Louis Stevenson’s grandfather), one of the greatest Scottish lighthouse engineers.

Like most lighthouses, it was re-equipped from time to time. The current lantern dates from 1851 and the light apparatus from 1902. Apart from the replacement of the oil lamp by an electric bulb, the lighthouse itself has not changed since then.

Spynie Palace - Grand Residence of the Bishops of Moray

In 1207/8 the Bishop of Moray, Brice de Douglas, established the Church of the Holy Trinity at Spynie as his cathedral. Although his successor Andrew of Moray moved the bishop’s throne (cathedra) to the newly constructed cathedral at Elgin in 1224, Spynie remained the principal residence of the bishops of Moray until the final abolition of the episcopal form of government in the established Church of Scotland in 1688/89. Around the palace and along the shores of the loch would have clustered the buildings of the town of Spynie, whose inhabitants in the 14th and 15th centuries were engaged in fishing on the loch and on the open sea, brewing, butchery and other trades.

Nothing now remains of the 13th century palace, which was probably mostly of timber. The earliest surviving parts date from the 14th century, and suggest that by then the palace covered much of the same area as it does now. It was roughly rectangular in plan, with a central courtyard enclosed on the south by a range containing the main gate and a first floor chapel and on the west by a hall range; a rounded tower projected from the south-west corner.
In the 15th century the Great Tower was begun by Bishop David Stewart (1461-77), to be completed by his successor William Tulloch (1477-82). Around 1500 the large Laich Hall was built on the north side of the courtyard, and the old entry was replaced by a new gate on the east. Rectangular towers were added to the north-west and south-east corners and, under the last Catholic bishop, Patrick Hepburn (1539-73), these and the Great Tower were provided with wide-mouthed gun-loops.

Both James I and James II made use of the Bishop of Moray’s hospitality when travelling in the north. In 1428-29 the Exchequer accounts record the considerable sum of £36.14s.4d being spent on salt for the king’s larders in Inverness, Darnaway and Spynie castles; and in 1456-7 a barrel of salted salmon from the river Spey was delivered to the palace and charged to the household account. After 1573, the bishops were Protestants and lived in the palace with their wives, families and servants. Around 1650, the palace is described as surrounded by charming gardens and a wood. From 1689 onwards, when it was annexed by the Crown along with other temporalities of the bishopric, the palace had a chequered history, passing in and out of state care on a number of occasions and undergoing several major repairs.

**Stirling Castle Kitchens:**

Visitors can now enjoy a fascinating glimpse of below stairs life at Stirling Castle, with the recreation of the historic kitchens which served the Great Hall. The new display is the latest part of the £20 million Stirling Castle development programme.

The Stirling kitchens may have included a wine cellar, pantry, larder, bakehouse, spice house, food preparation room and at the heart, the main cooking area with great roasting fires. We still have the main kitchen, the food preparation area and the bakehouse. They were well equipped: in 1543 it took 19 carriages
to transport the great larder and kitchen utensils, together with the wine cellar and bakehouse equipment.

The records show that the kitchens were no strangers to grand ceremony: they catered for the baptismal feasts of both Prince James, later to become James VI, and Prince Henry. Prince James’ baptism in 1566 was planned by Mary Queen of Scots, recreating the splendour of celebrations she had witnessed at the French court. She had to borrow £12,000 from the merchants of Edinburgh to pay for it. Accounts tell of three days of banqueting, masques, spectacle and fireworks. At dinner on the third day, the main element was an Arthurian round table. The food was served from a moving stage pulled by satyrs.

At the banquet for Prince Henry’s baptism, the *piece de resistance* was a ship, eighteen feet long and forty feet high, ‘floating’ on an artificial sea and carrying a variety of fish. As it was brought in, volleys were fired from its miniature guns.

The exhibits have been painstakingly researched. Lifelike figures recapture some of the atmosphere of a great medieval working kitchen. Specialists have tried to create an authentic feel of a medieval kitchen, but without all the smells which must have been absolutely appalling, especially the burnt fat from the meat roasting over the fires. The type of food that was eaten and the lavish presentation of the dishes are accurately represented, and period recipes give people a real flavour of the times.

**Unearthing the Mysteries of Clava Cairns:**

New light may soon be shed on the history of the intriguing cairn cemetery at Balnuaran of Clava, one of *Historic Scotland’s* most interesting mainland prehistoric monuments. Excavation was recently carried out by one of Britain’s foremost archaeologists, Professor Richard Bradley of Reading University.
The Clava Cairns lie in a quiet and atmospheric corner of the Nairn valley, close to Culloden battlefield. There are two 'passage graves', which were probably once roofed, with a passage leading to a central chamber, and one 'ring-cairn' with an open space within a flat platform of stones, with no passage linking it to the outside. The three cairns each have a stone circle round them, a characteristic that separates all the Clava-type cairns from other types. At least eight stones are decorated with cup marks.

The cairns were probably in use in the later Neolithic period, about 4,500 to 5,000 years ago. However, we actually know very little about when the cairns were built and for how long they remained part of the religious life of the people who built them. It is hoped that the excavation will recover evidence of the age of the cairns and their relationship with the stone circles.

The editors would like thank Historic Scotland for allowing reproduction of this material from their quarterly newsletter Welcome. For more information on Historic Scotland write to: Historic Scotland, 20 Brandon Street, Edinburgh EH3 5RA.
THE
FRANK WATSON
PRIZE IN
SCOTTISH HISTORY

The winner of the 1995 Frank Watson Prize in Scottish History was Carol Edington for her publication Court and Culture in Renaissance Scotland. Sir David Lindsay of the Mount. Tuckwell Press and University of Massachusetts Press.

Honourable mention goes to A. Gibson and T.C. Smout, Prices, Food and Wages in Scotland, 1550 - 1780. Cambridge University Press.

Submissions for the 1997 prize (books published in 1995 and 1996) should be submitted to:

E. Ewan, Chair, Frank Watson Prize Committee
Department of History
University of Guelph
Guelph, Ontario, Canada
N1G 2W1

The winner will be presented with the prize at Guelph and will present a paper to the Scottish Studies Programme.