



Queensland Highland Pipers' Society

NEWSLETTER

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Print Post Approved
PP 445886/0003

Publisher: Q.H.P.S
PO Box 1252
COORPAROO DC 4151

September 1998

Price 60 Cents

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Next Meeting

Monday 28th September

**Souths Leagues Club, Jane Street, West End.
at 7.45 pm**

The Meeting will be a "Pipers' Night" if the advertised special program can not be arranged, so please bring your pipes to have a tune.

Please remember the rule that smoking will not be permitted during the meeting.

All comments made in this newsletter reflect the views of the author and do not necessarily reflect the policy or views of the Queensland Highland Pipers' Society or of any officer or member of the Society.

CONTACT YOUR SOCIETY ELECTRONCALLY

Society Secretary Alex McConnell can be contacted by electronic mail. The Internet address is: alexm@ozemail.com.au

THE PIPER'S DIARY**SEPTEMBER**

- 23rd NSW Pipers Society – Uniting Church Hall, Holterman St, Crows Nest
 26th NSW Pipers Society Silver Chalice Piobaireachd Contest
- 26th Wynnum Highland Gathering – Solo and Band Contest – Kitchener Park,
 Wynnum
- 28th **Society Meeting**

OCTOBER

- 2nd R U Brown Piobaireachd Society of SA meeting (Adelaide)
 3rd R U Brown Piobaireachd Society – Piobaireachd Contest - Adelaide
 3rd Celtic Celebration Day, Zillmere – Contact Rab Lawrie 07 3269 2892 –
 Northern Eagles Australian Football Club, Zillmere Road, Zillmere.
Incorporating the Qld Solo Piping Championships
- 4th R U Brown Piobaireachd Society – Solo Piping Contest - Adelaide
 4th ***Queensland Pipe Band Championships, Laidley Sports Centre***
- 10th Combined Clans Ceilidh – Irish Club, Brisbane. 7pm - \$22 adult, \$11
 child (includes savouries and fork supper). Bookings Duncan
 Cameron (07 3341 3658), Maclolm McDonald (07 3207 6322) or
 Joy Darrell (07 3299 1709). Post payments and bookings to the
 Secretary, Clans Congress of Qld, PO Box 363, Spring Hill, 4004.
- 11th NSW State Solo Championships – Birrong School, enq. 02 9743 9294
 17th WA Pipers' Society Meeting
 26th **Society Meeting**

NOVEMBER

- 21st WA Pipers' Society Meeting
 23rd Society Meeting – Pair of Pipers and Christmas Party

DECEMBER

- 5-6th Daylesford Highland Gathering (Victoria) – Saturday Street March, Band
 Contest; Sunday Miniature Bands and Solos, Victoria Park,
 Daylesford
- 6th Combined Scottish Societies Band Contest NSW – 02 9869 1499

If you need more details about any of the above events and a contact is not mentioned, ring the Society Secretary (3397 4512 after hours) and we will see what we can dig up for you.

**Scottish Radio
Programs**

SBS Radio – Brisbane FM 93.3 - Thursday nights 10-11pm
4EB - AM 1053 – Thursday afternoons 3-4pm

AUGUST MEETING

Our August meeting was well attended – about fifty members turned up for the Annual Meeting and the 6/8 contest, with the exception of your scribe who had to be interstate for work!

The minutes of the annual meeting, the President's Annual Report and the Financial Report are published elsewhere in the newsletter, so what follows is the report of the rest of the meeting including the contest.

Maurie DeHayr has kindly provided his notes on the contest following

6/8 MARCH COMPETITION

Judge Maurie DeHayr

As programmed this competition followed the Annual Meeting of the Society and though it attracted only 10 players (divided into two divisions), the event proved to be well received by an attentive audience.

The 6/8 march rhythm does not appear to be popular with a lot of players today. This is a pity as there is some fine music to be heard within this time signature which has been exploited by some great composers over the years.

Jim Muir commenced proceedings with two fine compositions - *P.M. Donald MacLean of Lewis and Angus McKinnon*, his pipe was a little out on top though the consistency of his drones gave evidence of some solid work beforehand. He played his tunes perhaps too cautiously and a couple of chokes and some difficulty maintaining rhythm in the 3rd part of Angus McKinnon marred his effort.

Michael McCormack played *Auld Adam and Dr. Ross* on a strong, resonant instrument. His tempo was rather fast and no doubt contributed to some finger faults particularly 'tachums'.

Philip Cowan was next to play having chosen *Ballochyle and Ellen Orr* as his tunes. He played at a good steady pace though he had a tendency to rush the ends of the measures and thus spoil his rhythm. His pipe was well set up with drones well set to the chanter.

Daniel McDiarmid had chosen *Dundee City Police and Dr. Ross* as his tunes. Though his chanter was well set he didn't quite get his drones set and so the quality of his instrument suffered. His playing was quite steady for the most part though unfortunately a couple of chokes seemed to unsettle him and his fingering fell away toward the end of the set.

Lea Ahakova played his tunes - *Ishobel T McDonald* and *Redford Cottage* on a well set pipe which held well throughout. His tempo and rhythm were steady for the most part though he tended to labor a little in the 3rd part of *Redford Cottage*. However a good effort and a little more consistent than others.

Matthew Supranowicz was next to play, his tunes being *Jeannie Mauchline* and *The McNeills of Ugadale*. He commenced at a steady tempo and needed a little more expression in his tunes. He suffered from an occasional overblown High A and a wee choke.

Steve Taylor was the final competitor in this section playing *Angus McKinnon* and *Ellen Orr*. Whilst his chanter was well set his drones were out from the start and unfortunately deteriorated. His playing was rather even and perhaps marching would help Steve to show more expression.

The Senior section saw three players competing the first being **Cael Wright** who played *The RSPBA Jubilee March* and *Doug Thoresen's Unnamed Tune*. Playing at a good tempo his expression gave life to the tunes. His chanter was well set but unfortunately the drones were out from the start and could have come down a shade, the Bass drone also was a little coarse to the tenors.

Rod Smith played *Ellen Orr* and *P.M. Bill Boyle* on what was to be the best instrument of the night, with drones enhancing a well set chanter. Rod gave his tunes good expression and showed the benefit of concentrating on 'note values' throughout.

Bruce Grice was the final player of the competition, playing *Dovecote Park* and *The Atholl Highlanders*. His pipe was well set and holding throughout. *Dovecote Park* was played with good expression at a fine tempo however he tended to 'lose his way' in the final tune.

Results - Junior

1. Lea Ahakova **2.** Philip Cowan **3.** Matthew Supranowicz and Michael McCormack

Senior

1. Rod Smith **2.** Cael Wright **3.** Bruce Grice.

Maurie DeHayr spoke for a few minutes on the competition before the President awarded the prizes.

Announcements

- Blair McDonald's untimely death

- Peter O'Neill's 75th Birthday last weekend
- Two more members joined tonight (Chris Farley - learns from Doug Thoresen, Malcolm Edwards - Red Hackle band)

- At British Overseas Highland Dancing Championships at Glasgow, Australia got the first six places. 1. NSW, 2. Qld, 3. Qld, 4. Qld, 5. Tas, 6. NSW

Raffle Drawn Joan O'Neill,
won by Hetty Jessop.

Minutes of A.G.M. of Q.H.P.S. held on Monday 24th August 1998 at Souths Leagues Club – Davies Park, Brisbane.

- Opened 8.00 p.m.
- Apologies Ron Scott, Les Gray, Mac Grant, Jane Hancox
- Notice Of Meeting Newsletter and early program notifications
- Minutes of Previous Meeting As published in September 1997 Newsletter were taken as a true and correct record of events. Moved Dave Sinclair, seconded Jack McCandlish. Carried.
- Financial Statement Since the statement has not been audited the meeting approved acceptance of the financial statement if accepted by the Auditor, Andrew Vaschina.
- President's Report Read out by President. Copy of transcript enclosed.
- Election of Office Bearers The President vacated the chair and Maurie DeHayr was appointed returning officer.
- President** Moved Joan O'Neill, seconded Dave Sinclair – **Bob Payne**
- Vice Presidents** **Doug Thoresen** approved, **Matt Rigby** to be asked on return.
- Secretary/Treasurer** Bob Payne moved, Jack McCandlish seconded – **Alex McConnell**
- Auditor** **Andrew Vaschina**
- Patron** Maurie DeHayr said he would accept if nominated for Patron
- Asking for nominations – Jack McCandlish nominated Maurie DeHayr. Brian Wright nominated Doug Thoresen. Maurie was present, Doug wasn't.
- The subject was held over until Doug arrived. Doug was advised that both he and Maurie had been nominated for the position of Patron. Doug and Maurie went into a huddle and Doug advised all that, subject to approval **Maurie DeHayr** would be Patron and Doug would take up the more active role of Senior Vice-President. Both positions were overwhelmingly approved by those present.
- Affiliation to Q.P.B.A. That the Society continue to be affiliated with the Q.P.B.A. Moved Maurie DeHayr, seconded Brian Wright. Carried.
- Q.P.B.A. Delegates Alex McConnell. Robert Baker unable to attend this year because it clashes with the hours of his part-time job.
- Quorums for A.G.M. and other meetings to stay at 10 and 3 respectively. Approved
- Subscription To remain unchanged at \$20. (Dave Sinclair suggested perhaps that notices should be sent out.)

- General Business
- A. Could we change one night (e.g. pair of Pipers) to a Friday night to enable pipers from distant places to participate.
 - B. Suggestions for special evening. No ideas were forthcoming from the floor.

Meeting Closed 8.25 p.m.

President's Annual Report

Sadly, not long after the last A.G.M. our patron, Archie Galloway B.E.M. passed to higher service following a long and distinguished career.

Another of our earliest members, Bill Lyall, a former P/M of St Andrews' Pipe Band and founder member of the Red Hackle also passed on.

Our September meeting which took the form of a surprise celebration of Rosie McLelland's 90th birthday got the year off to a great start and showed what we can do when we all pull together. We had a feast of piping, involving much practice of John McColl's tunes, an abundant supper, and great fellowship.

We conducted six competitions throughout the year. Attendance by both participants and spectators were up on last year.

The meetings which get the least support are the A.G.M. (unless supported by a contest) and "pipers" nights, probably due to uncertainty about the program. Many people feel that if they attend the A.G.M. they will be coerced into a job. This is not so!

Successful enterprises survive on volunteers not conscripts. However original ideas are a rare commodity in this world. If you have any ideas which will enhance our programs please express your thoughts for consideration.

Some snippets worthy of mention are:

- Ron Fleming's tune reached the final selections in the Princess Diana composing competition.
- Stuart McLeod is the first member to join the Society by email.
- Brisbane lost its resident Bagpipe Maker - Brian Oman - to Scotland

The second volume of our music book is still in abeyance. All tunes are in the computer but the Secretary needs someone with computer skills, and that most elusive commodity "TIME", to help him if the project is to proceed.

While on the subject of assistance, the compilation of our regular newsletter is not only a labour of love, but also a major task. Anyone who can assist the editor by providing suitable publishable material will earn his undying gratitude.

We have again, young enthusiastic pipers keen to perform, which has taken much of the load from the shoulders of those stalwarts who have held the Society together for so long, and to whom we are greatly indebted. My thanks to Rod Smith for his innovative idea of playing a trio

with Lea Ahokava and Philip Cowan; and Doug Thoresen for bringing three other members of the Ormiston Band who played together prior to our Veterans' Competition.

I would like to thank our accredited Judges who willingly gave of their time and most of all our dedicated Secretary/Treasurer Alex McConnell who willingly continues to perform despite the great demands on his time.

I have learned this year that solo piping is very much alive and well. It has been a source of satisfaction to see a re-emergence of some of our old enthusiasm. To every member of the Society must go some of the credit for this.

Bob
Payne
President

QUEENSLAND HIGHLAND PIPERS' SOCIETY
Statement of Income and Expenditure
Year Ended 30/6/98

INCOME

DONATIONS	50.00
DOOR TAKINGS	712.80
INTEREST	1.36
RAFFLE RECEIPTS	364.50
SALES: Bar	332.30
SUBSCRIPTIONS	<u>1846.00</u>
TOTAL INCOME	<u>3306.96</u>

EXPENSES

BANK CHARGES	15.30
DEPRECIATION	58.00
POSTAGE	745.46
PRINTING	118.42
PRIZE MONEY:	
Hornpipe and Jig	215.00
Jimmy Durham Trophy	120.00
Pairs of Pipers	70.00
Patron's Trophy	110.00
Veterans' Contest	<u>95.00</u>
	610.00
PURCHASES FOR RESALE: Bar	273.80
RAFFLES	135.80
RENT	500.00
STATIONERY	55.34
SUNDRY EXPENSES	127.00
SUPPERS	<u>52.63</u>

TOTAL EXPENSES 2691.75

SURPLUS 615.21

A J McConnell

Treasurer

QUEENSLAND HIGHLAND PIPERS' SOCIETY
Statement of Assets and Liabilities
As at 30/6/98

	Last year	This Year
<u>ASSETS</u>		
Cash and Bank Accounts		
Cash	100.00	100.00
Cheque Account	<u>734.08</u>	<u>1407.29</u>
Total Cash and Bank Accounts	<u>834.08</u>	<u>1507.29</u>
Other Assets		
Photocopier	389.00	350.00
Typewriter	<u>186.00</u>	<u>167.00</u>
TOTAL Other Assets	<u>575.00</u>	<u>517.00</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>1409.08</u>	<u>2024.29</u>
<u>LIABILITIES & EQUITY</u>		
LIABILITIES	0.00	0.00
EQUITY		
Members' Funds	<u>1409.08</u>	<u>2024.29</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	<u>1409.08</u>	<u>2024.29</u>

NOTES:

1. The books have not yet been audited as I have had to go interstate for each of the last 8 weeks for work. Andrew Vaschina has agreed to take on the job of auditing the accounts and I will get the books to him as soon as I can. I suggest that the accounts be approved by the meeting subject to audit.

2. Last year, although there was an overall deficit because of the 1996 Stuart Crystal Championships, there was a surplus of \$1112.05 in respect of the other operations of the Society, so the surplus of \$615.21 this year is actually a little down on last year. This reflects a decrease in subscriptions (last year we had a major exercise in getting overdue subs up to date which boosted these figures) but there has been an improvement in meeting attendances and therefore in door takings.

A J McConnell

Treasurer

1998/99 SUBSCRIPTIONS ARE NOW DUE (\$20)

Instead of sending out notices to everyone this year, I'm going to restrict that to those who don't pay early (and those who haven't paid for last year yet!) Please fill in this slip and return with your money.

Name _____

New Address (if any) _____

Proposed Society Meeting Program for 1998

The following list shows a proposed program for the year. It's not quite final, so if you would like to have some input, we would welcome it. There are two nights listed as **Special Program**. A couple of suggestions for these are a lecture on some aspect of piping, perhaps a discussion about either the instrument or current trends in pipe music, or even a Video or CD night - there are starting to be quite a few resources of this type available.

September	<i>Special Program</i>	November	Pair of Pipers (Medley) and Christmas Party
October	<i>Special Program</i>		

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<p>Write to: ALBA Publications, PO Box 8024, Wynnum North, Qld 4178</p>
--

<p>or Phone 07 3396 9025</p>

<p>FOR SALE</p>	<p>BRISBANE CLANS PIPES AND DRUMS ARE LOOKING FOR EXTRA PIPERS.</p>
------------------------	--

<p>SET OF SILVER AND IVORY MOUNTED DAVID NAILL PIPES, WITH CHANTER</p>
--

<p>ALSO A SET OF WARWICK SMALLPIPES</p>

<p>PLEASE CONTACT PIPE MAJOR BILL SHARP 3277 6869 THEY PRACTICE ON FRIDAYS AT 7.30PM AT THE QPBA ROOMS</p>
--

<p>RESULTS</p>

The Northern Hemisphere season is in full swing - so we have a good selection of results this month - look on the last page to see if we managed to sneak the World Pipe Band Championships in as a Stop Press

DORNOCH GAMES - 8 AUGUST

Piobaireachd

1. Niall Matheson
2. Andrew Hall
3. Lewis Barclay
4. Michael Gray

March

1. James Stewart
2. Michael Gray
3. Callum MacKenzie
4. Lewis Barclay

Strathspey & Reel

1. James Stewart
2. Donald Macleod
3. Niall Matheson
4. Michael Gray

Jig

1. Niall Matheson
2. Bruce Omdnosan
3. Donald Macleod
4. James Stewart

**INVERGORDON GAMES -
22 AUGUST**

Piobaireachd

1. Alasdair Gillies
2. Colin Maclellan
3. Brian Donaldson

March

1. Brian Donaldson
2. Alasdair Gillies
3. Arthur Gillies

Strathspey & Reel

1. Alasdair Gillies
2. Brian Donaldson
3. J. Hazzard (Canada)

Judges were John D. Burgess and Jimmy Jackson

**Argyllshire Gathering - Oban
26 August.**

Senior Piobaireachd

1. Dr Angus MacDonald
2. Willie McCallum
3. Roddy MacLeod
4. Angus MacColl

Gold Medal

1. Niall Matheson
2. Stuart Samson

3. Iain Macey
4. Iain Speirs

Silver Medal

1. Matt MacIssac
2. Michael Rogers
3. Andrew Mathieson
4. Seumas Coyne
5. Liam Brown

A Grade March

1. Stuart Liddell
2. Peter Hunt
3. Douglas Murray
4. Niall Matheson
5. Gordon MacLean

A Grade Strathspey & Reel

1. Stuart Liddell
2. Seumas Coyne
3. Niall Stewart
4. Donald MacPhee
5. Iain Speirs

McDonald and a lament played by
Doug Thoresen

Jig

1. Gordon Walker
2. Donald MacPhee
3. Greg Wilson

B Grade March

1. Liam Brown
2. Herve Le Floch
3. Margaret Houlihan
4. Martin Kessler
5. Kelly Todd

B Grade Strathspey & Reel

1. Graham Roy
2. Neil Walker
3. Brian MacKenzie
4. Liam Brown
5. Fiona MacKay

**MacGregor Memorial Competition
(under 22)**

Two Piob out of 4 to be played

1. Margaret Houlihan
2. Brian May
3. John Mulhearn

IPSWICH – 29 AUGUST

A dull overcast day but about fifty solo competitors and eight bands. Some innovations including the use of ensemble judging (P/M David Barnes of the Qld Police and a dress and deportment competition for bands. Also, the massed bands were played on by a duty band (St Andrew's). And the Drum Majors' contest was carried out with the whole massed band playing for the drum majors - and ending up with the bands marching behind the Drum Majors up to the crowd.

This was followed by a minute's silence in memory of Blair

SOLOS**Elementary March**

1. Nathan Bedford
2. Steve Taylor
3. Michael McCormick

Elementary Air

1. Matthew Supranowicz
2. Nathan Bedford
3. Chris Bartholomeusz

Sub-Intermediate MSR

1. Phillip Cowan
2. Kerry Tuttle
3. Daniel McDiarmid

Sub Intermediate Jig

1. Phillip Cowan
2. Lea Ahokava
3. Kerry Tuttle

Intermediate MSR

1. Sarah Hancox
2. David Schelbach

Intermediate Hornpipe & Jig

1. S Hancox
2. D Schelbach

Open MSR

1. Cael Wright
2. Larry Flynn

Open Hornpipe & Jig

1. Cael Wright

Restricted Piobaireachd

1. Darryl Shoesmith

Mills Family Shield - Nathan Bedford -
Elementary Champion Piper

BANDS**Grade 4**

1. Ipswich Thistle
2. Redcliffe Scottish
3. Bundaberg Caledonian (piping preference)

Pipe Corps: Ipswich Thistle

Drum Corps Ipswich Thistle

Dress: Ipswich Thistle

Drill & Department: Wynnum RSL

Ensemble: Ipswich Thistle

Pat Hayes Memorial Trophy:

Ipswich Thistle (Gr 4 Musical Selection)

Grade 3/2

1. St Andrew's
 2. Qld Irish
- Pipe Corps: St Andrew's
Drum Corps: St Andrew's
Dress: Qld Irish
Drill & Department: St Andrew's
Ensemble: St Andrew's

D/M Competition

1. Hugh Miller
2. Vic Playford

J V Simpson Memorial Trophy:

Hugh Miller (D/M of the day)

Cowal Games - 29 August**Grade 1**

1. Shotts
2. Field Marshall Montgomery
3. Strathclyde Police
4. Scottish Power
5. Boghall
6. David Urquhart Travel

drumming

1. Royal Ulster Constabulary
2. Shotts

Grade 2

1. Bucksburn
2. Clan Sutherland
3. Dumbarton
4. Tamlaght O'Crilly
5. Royal Scots Dragoon Guards
6. Tayside Police

British Championships - 5/9/98**Rouken Glen Glasgow****Grade 1**

1. Shotts & Dykehead
2. Field Marshall Montgomery
3. Scottish Power
4. Boghall & Bathgate
5. Macnaughtons Vale of Athol
6. Royal Ulster Constabulary

Grade 2

1. Dumbarton & District
2. Clan Sutherland
3. Bucksburn & District
4. Scottish Gas
5. Boghall & Bathgate
6. Macenzie Caledonian

Grade 3A

1. Newtongrange
2. Mauchlin High Commissioner
3. Denny & Dunnypace
4. Killadeas
5. ESL Newcastle
6. Deeside Caledonia

Grade 3B

1. Dr Wright Memorial
2. Chorley
3. 42 Highlanders
4. Stonehaven

Juvenile

1. Paisley
2. Inverness Schools
3. 47th Coulter Boys Brigade
4. Boghall & Bathgate
5. Macnaughton's

**Northern Meeting, Inverness –
9th and 10th September****Gold Medal**

1. Stuart Sheddon
2. Donald MacPhee
3. Mary- Ann MacKinnon
4. Brian Donaldson
5. Euan MacCrimmon

Silver Medal

1. Bruce Gandy
2. Matt MacIssac
3. Ronan Maguire
4. William Geddes
5. Liam Brown

Clasp

1. Angus D. MacColl [Oban]
2. Greg Wilson [New Zealand]
3. Colin MacLellan [Canada]
4. William McCallum [Glasgow]
5. Bill Livingstone [Canada]

March, Strathspey and Reel

1. Alasdair Gillies [U.S.A]
2. William McCallum [Glasgow]
3. Roderick MacLeod [Glasgow]
4. William Morrison [Glasgow]

Hornpipe & Jig

1. Gordon Walker
2. Bruce Gandy
3. Angus MacColl
4. Willie MacCallum

A Grade March

1. John Patrick
2. Douglas Murray
3. Gordon MacLean
4. Stuart Samson

A Grade: Strathspey and Reel

1. Alan Bevan [Canada]
2. Douglas Murray [Fife]
3. Bruce Gandy [Canada]
4. John Patrick [Fife]

B Grade March

1. Graeme Roy
2. Margaret Houlihan

3. Donald MacKay
4. James MacHattie

B Grade Strathspey & Reel

1. Matt MacIssac
2. Ronan MacGuire
3. Liam Brown
4. Fraser Walker

SET TUNES FOR 1999

These are the tunes prescribed by the Piobaireachd Society
for the major competitions in 1999

Silver Medal

Clan Campbell's Gathering
Corrienessan's Salute
Lament for the Castle of Dunyveg
Little Prince - You are my choice
The Men went to Drink
MacCrimmon's Sweetheart
MacNeill is Lord There
Too Long in this Condition

Gold Medal

Battle of Sheriffmuir
Clanranald's salute
The Desperate Battle
Finlay's Lament
Hiharin Dro o dro

Lament for the only son
My King Has landed in Moidart
The Rout of the MacPhees

Clasp

Abercairney's Salute
The Battle of Waterloo
The Daughter's Lament
Lament for the Departure of King
James
The Laird of Annapool's Lament
Lament for Hugh
My Dearest on Earth Give me your
Kiss
The Sound of waves against Castle
Duntroon

Alastair MacSween – 1888-1955

By David Sinclair

Continuing the series started with Dave Sinclair's article last month, following are the letters mentioned in the article which establish the connection between Alastair MacSween and Angus Macpherson. The music for "The Prince's Salute" referred to in the second letter will be published next month. EDITOR

Achany House, Lairg, Sutherland.

(A letter to his brother Malcolm, from Angus Macpherson)

5th. Feb. 1954

My dear Brother,

I was pleased to get your letter yesterday. I also received, two days previously, the Music composed and written by my Australian relation MacSween, and with it, I am having a very happy time. Now, you want my opinion of the Music and, I will give you a straight comment. My impression is that this Man is a Musical genius, and I would give a lot to have the pleasure of meeting him, he does not note his Music in what is commonly called the orthodox way or general rule, and I have, at first sight, a little difficulty with his notation but very soon fell to it, and with my practise chanter, soon discovered the theme of his works which appeal to me very much. I am particularly taken with "The Lament for 'Calum Ruadh'" and the Memorium for MacSween's father, and no doubt the other tunes, in time, will suit my taste. I feel proud to be connected with this Man, and when I see you I will learn more about him. As a rule a Man's works signify the true characteristics of his being and, I would say that from that this fellow is, in every sense of the word a Good Man both musical and otherwise. I am very much struck by his typed article on Piping and I endorse every word of it. What a joy it would have been to our old Father had he met MacSween, the latter would have heard in Catlodge, our old home as we did, the true genuine Piobaireachd of Donald Mor MacCrimmon and that of our relations The Bruces of Glenelg who were pupils of the MacCrimmon School of Piping in Skye. Like Pipe Major John MacDonald of Inverness, I am of the opinion that the MacCrimmon and Bruce Music ended in Catlodge our old home and that we shall not hear the like any more.

The Music book has revived my enthusiasm and last night I took up my pipes and as a compliment to my new found relation Alastair MacSween I played "Maol Donn" MacCrimmon's sweetheart. The old pipe was singing beautifully and I played as though Alastair was in the room beside me listening. Well now. Will you convey to him, when you write my affectionate regards or better still, perhaps, send him this letter. I am glad you keep well and hope to hear from you soon again.

*Your affectionate brother
Angus Macpherson.*

Achany House, Lairg, Sutherland

(A letter to Alastair MacSween, from Angus Macpherson)

7th. Feb. 1955

My dear Relation,

It is indeed a thrill in my life to connect you. There can be no doubt of our Blood Relationship, and our Piping connection through the Bruces of Skye and Glenelg. I have heard so much about you from my brother Malcolm that I feel I know you quite well. I was so glad to get your "AirMail" letter, also I have received your letter with Music enclosed sent by Ordinary Mail. Well now, I want this letter to go by "air" and so I must keep it within the correct weight, therefore, my answers to your various queries about "The Prince's Salute" must necessarily be shortened, and to be as brief as possible, and make myself quite clear to you, and I feel you will agree with me, it is quite impossible for anyone to put on paper the proper soul of a piobaireachd. As my dear old father often said, "It was the 'Score' and the 'books' that was the beginning of altering and spoiling the Ceol Mor," once the Piobaireachd got imprisoned in Bars it lost its true meaning and interpretation. The score is only useful as a reference to remind one of a tune one may be forgetting. To learn Piobaireachd correctly one must be in the company of the Master, but the person who is naturally gifted can usually, even from the score, come pretty near the correct interpretation and, it is here that I think your ability will tell. For me to start explaining by letter correspondence would, I fear just confuse the matter. I would say study well the score I have sent you and use your own good common sense and ability and I feel sure that you will make a commendable job of playing "The Prince's Salute". It is written in Common time, four beats to the bar. You cannot have five beats in a bar, play the first E in the ground as written, with the second A slightly longer; and in the 1st variation, this is what bothers so many to get the right time. Well, play as if the first bar ended on the G of the Taorluadh of 2nd Bar making the beat 4, and treat the E Taorluadh note in the 4th Bar in like manner and follow on in the same manner in the Doubling. As to the Taorluadh and Crunluadh, play this smart putting the time on the Theme Note, not too quick but by no means too slow and sluggish which is a very common fault. The only alternative to what I have tried to explain is, that you pack up and take a trip to the home of your Ancestors and to my fireside where you will be assured of a true Highland Welcome and Ceol Mor to your hearts content and "The Prince's Salute" in the ancient and better way of cantaireachd "orally". The Scots Guards have issued a very fine collection of tunes price 1 3/6, in it you will get my "Salute to Pipe Major Ross" and it may interest you to know that I am writing my Memoirs which I hope will be sale in Book form in May and there you will get my "Salute to the MacCrimmon Cairn" and I feel sure many other incidents and stories that will interest you. Now, my dear boy I will close for the present, my wife joins with best wishes and like me, hopes to have you with us some day.

Very sincerely your Relation, Angus Macpherson

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