

The Tartan

The Clan MacDougall Society of North America

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Historic MacDougall of MacDougall papers
- Celebrating 850 years of MacDougall history
- Beloved Scottish books

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A Message From Our Chief

We would like to wish all the MacDougall Clanspeople a very Happy Christmas and a rewarding New Year 2014.

Development at Dunollie has been growing, especially during the Spring and Summer of 2013, with an increase of visitors to the 1745 House, where there have been new exhibitions to view - including one on Admiral John MacDougall, 25th Chief. We have housed the Book of Kells for a few weeks, and outside we have had an ancient, life sized Galley on display while being renovated to sail the Hebridean seas. A large number of volunteers, as well as paid staff, have been enthusiastically working on various projects. On June 27th, Her Royal Highness, Princess Anne, honoured us by visiting us, as she is very supportive of voluntary work and seems to spend quite some time in the Western Highlands and Islands, She spoke to many of those present, and all were most impressed by her friendliness.

The big news for everyone to take note of is the fact that we having a Clan Gathering from Sunday 24th to Friday 29th of August in 2014. This should include :- A welcome at Dunollie, a formal Dinner and Ceilidh, a boat trip sailing past MacDougall Castles, a trip to Kerrera and Gylen Castle and a visit to the Oban Highland Games.

For detailed information, please try our website :- www.dunollie.org, or our organiser, Mary Freer on e-mail :- mary@dunollie.org

We look forward to seeing as many of you as can manage to travel for the Scottish MacDougall Gathering.

With all Good Wishes

Morag

Morag MacDougall of MacDougall



A Message From Our President

As we are about to enter 2014, I hope you share the excitement about Clan MacDougall Society. We have accomplished much through the years, thanks to the efforts of so many people, and have set our sights on accomplishing much more.

Paid membership has increased by nearly nine-percent since 2012. To continue the momentum, we now offer special half-price, first-year membership for joining at Games and for family members. Why are we pushing growth? Because the purposes set forth for the Society call on us to promote our shared heritage and undertake good works like scholarships and the preservation of the Clan's historic sites.

We also use online technology to support this growth. We recently passed 1,000 "likes" on Facebook and we are active on Twitter. Our website will include a members-only section with, we hope, access to recently digitized genealogy data and other exclusives for those who join.

Looking ahead, 2014 will be a significant year for Clan MacDougall. Our Chief will host our International Gathering in late August in Oban. Over here, we need to increase member participation in our activities and leadership. We need to fill key Regional Commissioner and State Representative vacancies.

There are many ways you can participate by contacting me or any member of the Board. But we also need your active support through your paid-up membership dues. To all active members, thank you very much for your valuable support of a strong Clan MacDougall Society. We are truly grateful.

A fine new year to all.

Malcolm

Malcolm MacDougall



"2014 will be a significant year for Clan MacDougall. Our Chief will host our International Gathering in late August in Oban."

The Clan MacDougall Society of North America

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JOHN A. MCDUGALL MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM 2013



**Malcolm MacDougall, the
Christensen sisters, Nancy Kane**

Ten scholarships ranging from \$100 to \$500 and totaling \$1920 were awarded in 2013. The recipients were a diverse group: the youngest was a first grader and the oldest was a college student. Waverly Noble and sisters Clarissa, Annabella and Regina Christensen received scholarships in Highland Dancing. All are students of Erin McDougal Barton, a former scholarship recipient herself. Kathleen Brown, a piper and the most advanced performer of all applicants, was awarded a scholarship to study at the Invermark School this summer. Kathleen's great-grandmother was a MacDougall. Tyler Weaver, a history major at Tarleton State University in Texas, received a scholarship to study this summer in Edinburgh. Maiah and Maren Seul, both students at the Calder School of Highland Dance, received scholarships to help pay for lessons. Abigail Moore and Ginger South, the first applicants in Scottish Country Dancing, were awarded scholarships to attend the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society 2013 Summer School at St. Andrews.

We were gratified to receive many thank you notes from our scholarship recipients. We are proud of their efforts to learn Scottish culture in the various disciplines of dance, piping and history and we wish them well in their future endeavors.

Nancy Kane, Committee Chair

MacDougall of MacDougall Papers, Dunollie House, Oban, Argyllshire, Scotland

Background

The MacDougall of MacDougall Papers are housed in the temperature- and humidity-controlled archive room in the 1745 House. To date (November 2013) the collection fills over 60 archival boxes, with as always, more papers waiting to be catalogued. Two major surveys of the MacDougall of MacDougall Papers were carried out and listed by the National Register of Archives (Scotland). The NRA(S) is based in Edinburgh and is the national body responsible for the overall care and guidance for private archival col-



MacDougall of MacDougall Papers, Dunollie House, Oban, Argyllshire, Scotland (cont)

“[The MacDougall of MacDougall collection] makes for fascinating reading and allows us to ‘turn the clock back’ and look in on the daily life of the family at Dunollie

lections in Scotland. In the early 1950s, NRA(S)/141 was compiled by Alexander MacDougall of MacDougall, 29th Clan Chief, but later subsumed into the 1976 catalogue carried out by Murdo MacDonald, then archivist for Argyllshire. Murdo had been invited by Coline MacDougall, 30th Chief, to carry out this survey. This survey was never released to the public or given an NRA(S) designation. It runs to twenty pages and gives an invaluable and detailed summary of papers in the MacDougall of MacDougall Collection. Prior to this in 1973 NRA(S)/887 was completed. Then in September 2010 Dr Rosie, head of NRA(S), along with a colleague, visited Dunollie to assess the state of the MacDougall of MacDougall Collection. Dr Rosie was unable to spend more than 2 days at Dunollie, but carried out much valuable work, and with her colleague catalogued and listed 26 archival boxes, in addition to writing a report, leaving guidelines and assuring us of future help when required.



Oban Harbor from Dunollie Castle

Archivist and Volunteers

It was at this stage that I got involved in working in Dunollie archives. In April 2010 I met Elaine McChesney, Dunollie's Curator at a field course in Argyll, and in the course of conversation mentioned that I had spent many years of my working life as research assistant to my former supervisor, Professor Allan Macinnes, Head of History at Kings College, Old Aberdeen. During that time I worked in archives on both sides of the Atlantic, and just loved working in archives and transcribing old documents. I left my email address with Elaine and thought no more about it. Fortunately one thing led to another ... Initially I received some payment for my work as archivist mainly thanks to

MacDougall of MacDougall Papers, Dunollie House, Oban, Argyllshire, Scotland (cont)

the generosity of the Clan MacDougall Society of North America, but now work as lead archival volunteer and have an excellent band of archival volunteers to help with the mammoth task of conserving and continuing to catalogue this wonderful collection.

The MacDougall of MacDougall Collection

The MacDougall of MacDougall Collection is in many ways a 'virgin' collection. Apart from the *Highland Postbag: The Correspondence of Four MacDougall Chiefs 1715-1865* and Hope MacDougall's *Kerrera: Mirror of History*, little has been published from the archive. The earliest document in the archive goes back to 1450 and is listed in NRA(S)/141 as: '4 January 1450-1451, notarial copy of a charter by John Stewart of Lorne to John of Lorne called Mcdowlle and John Ker his eldest son of the lands of [the island of] Kerrera'. From this date, through to the early twentieth century, no period in the Clan's turbulent history has been omitted. For example, the Clan's Royalist involvement in the Carolinian Civil Wars of the seventeenth century and their Jacobite involvement in the 1715 Rising at Sheriffmuir are well represented. The life and career of Admiral Sir John MacDougal, KGB (1685-1789), his involvement in the Canton Opium Wars, and the financial challenge to fund his children's education and his wife, Sophy's struggle to feed a large extended family and staff, during the Famine Years of the 1840s, are exceptionally well represented. The MacDougalls threw nothing out! It makes for fascinating reading and allows us to 'turn the clock back' and look in on the daily life of the family at Dunollie. Interspersed among the many legal papers is a wonderful collection of family memorabilia viz: children's letters to 'Papa', receipts for clothing, invitations to dine with Duke of Argyll at Inveraray Castle or to attend a ball given by Queen Victoria at Buckingham Palace. Diaries, almanacs, 'cow books' donkey

lists, newspapers – the earliest being *Edinburgh Courant*, 19 February, 1705 - rent books, inventories of household plenishings, bills giving details of funeral costs and much, much more allow us to piece together MacDougall life Dunollie and overseas.



Linda Fryer with two volunteers



MacDougall Papers (cont)

Access

Unfortunately access to material in the archives is extremely limited. There are several reasons for this. Firstly, space is at a premium at Dunollie. We are fortunate to have an archival store within the 1745 House, and next to it a reading room. The reading room (where the photograph was taken) cannot accommodate more than three people studying at the one time. It is also contains exhibits from the Hope MacDougall Collection and therefore this room is open to the public, often causing distractions for researchers. Secondly, none of the catalogues have been officially digitized or made available on line, although I have digitized the catalogues for 'in house' use to help with the 'Learning and Events' run by Dunollie staff. This has made locating material for the Admiral Sir John, and other exhibitions, easier and less time consuming. Additionally, we have senior school pupils from Oban High School working on tasks for their Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, University of the Third Age (U3A) shared learning sessions and research staff from the University of the Highlands and Islands. Lastly, Dunollie has no full-time archivist to continue with cataloguing, answering queries, etc. but relies on volunteers whose time is usually limited.

The Future

Tentative plans are afoot to create a pan-Argyll archive with its own archivist. This ambitious, and of course expensive, scheme plans to make available to researchers, material from all major archives in Argyll e.g. Inveraray Castle, Argyll and Bute Archives, Dunollie etc. Each centre would retain its own archive, but there would be collaboration to put all material online. It will take time and a lot of careful planning, but undoubtedly is the way forward.

Linda Fryer MLitt,
FSAScot, lead volunteer archivist, Dunollie House

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Celebrating 850 Years of the Clan MacDougall

Kinsmen from around the world are warmly invited to join Madam MacDougall of MacDougall, 31st Clan Chief, for a spectacular Clan Gathering in 2014 at Dunollie in Oban which coincides with the 850th anniversary of the foundation of the Clan.

We have Robin MacDougall, Younger of Dunollie, to thank for flagging up the anniversary year. The death of Somerled, Lord of the Isles, in 1163, and the subsequent inheritance of Dunollie by his son Dugall, places a marker for the moment that the Clan MacDougall began to develop its own story, and in celebration we are developing an expanded and even more exciting programme.

Events and activities will focus strongly on the Medieval period of the first five Chiefs, when the Clan was establishing its territory and was at the height of its power. Castles will be a major theme, not least because Dunollie Castle will be scaffolded and under repair at last.

The schedule is growing all the time. It will combine traditional activities such as the walk to Gylen and a trip to the MacDougall graveyard, together with new and exciting activities. These include a fast rib sea trip around the Clan Castles in the Firth of Lorn, and a guided day on Lismore. Outings will be timetabled simultaneously so that there are plenty of spaces, and people can make their own schedule.

The Gathering will be launched in splendid style. If it is anything like the last Gathering in 2009, the afternoon of Registration on Sunday 24th August will be a fantastic day of greeting of old friends and making new ones. People will receive a welcome pack including a free pass to Dunollie Museum for the week, special offers on other local attractions, vouchers for local eateries, and all the orientation and local brochures that they could need.

Everyone will gather in their finery in the evening for a Reception at Dunollie hosted by Madam MacDougall of MacDougall and her family. A surprise event is currently in the planning stages for the Reception, hopefully to be confirmed nearer the time. Suffice to say that it will launch the Gathering in grand style!

There is something on each night, as well as busy days. Monday evening is the dinner and ceilidh at the Argyllshire Gathering Halls, with a carefully chosen Scottish menu, a live band, and entertainment including award-winning Highland dancers who are then going to join us for the Scottish country dancing and help with the less familiar steps. The event for Tuesday evening is still under wraps but looking promising, and Wednesday is scheduled for an evening of a talks and slideshow at Dunollie – just one of several opportunities for serious history.

Madam MacDougall will be 'at home' for the mornings of Monday and Wednesday, when she traditionally hosts morning coffee in the sitting room, and as always the whole family will join the walk to Gylen, which takes place on Tuesday.

Despite the programme of outings, there will be many opportunities to explore Dunollie which is open as a visitor attraction for the first time at a Clan Gathering, with superb displays, walks, and the wonderful new Willow Hall in the grounds.

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Celebrating 850 Years of the Clan

MacDougall (cont)

The Castle will still be partially accessible, and will be particularly interesting as the re-pair programme will be in full flow.

One of the special activities for the week will revolve around 'John the Viking', a re-enactor and superb craftsman who spent much of this summer at Dunollie and is extremely knowledgeable about crafts, ancient ship galleys and much more. Always dressed in the plaid, John will be running workshops on costume and other crafts for members of the public and Clansfolk, and we would very much like our North American MacDougalls to come to our Gathering in the same costumes they might wear to their own Games. You are often more interestingly dressed than we are with a wider repertoire of re-enactment garb, and it would be wonderful if you could show us how you do it and liven up the party! You will have trouble upstaging John the Viking, so no holds barred.

Thursday is the day of the Oban Games, and the whole gathered MacDougall Clan will march with the local Chiefs and Stewards from the centre of Oban to the Games field. Dunollie will have a stand in the Heritage Tent, and it is hoped that the Clan MacDougall societies from overseas may wish to take neighbouring stands and showcase what they do. After the Games, which is always a great day, we have scheduled in the traditional activity of visiting the pub. If the weather is good we may go for fish and chips on the pier, and just generally relax and share the last night of the Gathering with the new and old MacDougall friends before people start to disperse on Friday.

www.dunollie.org will be the place to keep tabs on the programme as it is finalised, and a whole new section is to be set up for the Clan MacDougall Gathering 2014, including accommodation, travel information, and a booking page for the various activities. For the first time, we will be asking people attending the Clan Gathering to pay a joining fee to help support all the work that is going into planning what will be the busiest Gathering in living memory. The cost will be \$50 per adult, with no charge for people aged 18 and under, to be booked and paid online via the website in the New Year.

We hope many of you will come! It is going to be a really special Gathering.

Sent by Catherine Gillies and Mary Freer

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Gathering 2014

Merry
Christmas

Awarded Best Clan Display at the Victoria Highland Games

On May 18 and 19, 2013 one of the oldest Highland Games in North America celebrated its 150th anniversary in Victoria, British Columbia with a weekend attendance in excess of 25,000. Prince Andrew, Duke of York, presided as Honorary Chief of the Highland Games. In honour of this special anniversary, celebrations were held throughout Greater Victoria with nine days of events. These included the Tartan Parade, Kilted Golf Tournament, Tilted Kilt Pub Crawl (a popular event!), Torchlight Opening Ceremony, Highland Games and Celtic Festival, concluding with the Victoria Day parade with strong U.S. participation. Other highlights included the popular Victoria International Heavy Events Challenge, and the Canadian Invitational World Drum Major Championship.

Victoria has a long time Scottish connection, having been founded by Scottish fur traders. It has been the home of the past three generations of the family of the MacDowall clan chief, Fergus Macdowall. He and his family have traditionally hosted a joint Clan MacDowall / Clan MacDougall tent at the Victoria Highland Games, often with the participation of our past North West Regional Commissioner, Martin McDougall and his wife Ruth. This year I represented the Society on my first visit to Victoria and to its Highland Games. The area is every bit as lovely as I had expected, and everyone was so very nice to this visitor from central Canada.



**Prince Andrew presents award to
Fergus Macdowall**

I had the opportunity and the pleasure of meeting many members of our two clans, as well as numerous visitors who came to our clan tent. The beautiful display, warm hospitality, and Fergus' extensive knowledge of many clans makes it a popular stop for visitors. This year Fergus and his family were especially honoured on Sunday morning when Prince Andrew, the Honorary Chief of the Highland Games, came to the clan tent to personally present Fergus with the Award for Best Clan Display. It was a well-deserved recognition won in the face of tough competition from twenty other clan displays.

At the clan tent many of our clansmen thanked us for the telephone call they had received from Fergus inviting them to come to meet us. Until then most of them did not know that they have a Clan MacDougall Society to assist them. They much appreciated receiving our Society's new information handouts which we used at Victoria for the first time to tell clansmen about Clan MacDougall and Clan MacDowall. Several expressed a sincere interest in becoming members, and one now has.

I highly recommend a visit to see beautiful Victoria, its Highland Games, and a visit to the clan tent hosted by Fergus and his family to enjoy each of them as much as I did. In the meantime you may visit the Victoria Highland Games web site at: www.victoriahighlandgames.com or read more about the 2013 events at <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/british-columbia/story/2013/05/19/bc-prince-andrew-victoria-gallery.html>

By Scott MacDougall



The Names Coull, McCoul, Cole, Coyle, and Kyle in Clan MacDowall

In 2005 Clan Chief Fergus Macdowall confirmed that Kyle families and their surname variations, if they so wish, will be accepted as clan members

The names *Coull*, *McCoul*, *Cole*, *Coyle*, and *Kyle*, with or without the Mac, Mc, or M' prefix, are found within Clan MacDowall. Some of these names are more ancient than the name *Macdowall* itself, and some appear in other clans and families also, especially in Clan MacDougall.

Coull, *McCoul* may have arisen as phonetic spelling variations of *Macdowall* and these families have always been part of the clan. In some cases families came from elsewhere to live within the *Macdowall* territories in Galloway. A Clan Chief has the traditional power to accept such local families to be his followers and full members of his clan. In this later group are the Names *Coyle*, *Cole* and *Kyle* as variously spelled.

Depending on ancient or local dialects and accents, a single surname may have more than one pronunciation today. Some of these pronunciations include:

- Those rhyming with the word *coil*, typical of the names *Coile*, *Coyl*, *Coyle* or *MacCoyle* etc. and sometimes a local pronunciation of the name *Kyle* in the UK and Ireland.
- Those rhyming with the word *cool*, typical of the names *Coull* or *McCoul*.
- Those rhyming with the word *soul* typical of the names *Cole* or *Coles* and sometimes *Coull*.
- Those rhyming with the word *style* typical of the names *Cyll* or *Kyle* in North America and Australia

There is an independent *Kyle Family Society* based in the US with a web site at: www.kylesociety.org. Chief Fergus Macdowall is the Patron of the *Kyle Family Society*. In its Society name, the *Kyle Family Society* uses the surname "*Kyle*" for simplicity to encompass all variations of its surname spellings and pronunciations. The Society has members with several origins and spellings of the surname. Surname spellings and their variations include:

Cael, Caeles, Caelus, Caelius, Cill, Cil, Coales, Coales, Coel, Coelius, Cole, Cola, Coil, Coile, Coils, Coilius, Colees, Coles, Coleye, Colles, Collye, Colye, Coals, Coils, Cooles, Cooyles, Cooyell, Cooyles, Coull, Coyl, Coyles, Coyll, Coylle, Coylles, Coyls, Cyll, Kaal, Kaale, Kail, Kaile, Kaul, Kayle, Kayll, Keil, Kile, Koil, Koile, Koiles, Koill, Koyel, Koyl, Kuyle, Kyolle, Kyle, Kyll, Kille and others.

In 2005 Clan Chief Fergus Macdowall confirmed that Kyle families and their surname variations, if they so wish, will be accepted as clan members as variants of the *Coull*, *McCoul*, etc. name of the Clan MacDowall. As members of Clan MacDowall these families are eligible to join the Clan MacDougall Society of North America and to participate in its games, parades, and other activities.

The Names Coull, McCoul, Cole, Coyle, and Kyle in Clan MacDowall (cont)

The *Kyle Family Society* is focused on members of Scots or Scots/Irish descent, most of whom probably trace their lineage back to the District of Kyle in Ayrshire which is located just to the north of Galloway in southwest Scotland. It seems that at least some of these *Kyle* families took their surname from that local District of Kyle. There are two leading explanations for how the District of Kyle obtained its name. According to a local tradition, the name derives from the ancient King Coel Hen, popularly known as Old King Cole who appears to have ruled in the early 5th century. However another explanation is that the District of Kyle seems to have anciently been covered with forest, so the District of Kyle may very probably have got its name from the Celtic *coille*, "a wood". The local population was confluent with the north of Wales and their language was the northern Celtic Brythonic language similar to Welsh Gaelic, so either explanation is possible.

Centuries of invasions by Northumbrians, Vikings, and Scots caused the population to disperse widely. Kyles endured much hard fortune in the centuries of border disputes, religious wars, and other troubles that afflicted Scotland and particularly the Lowlands.

Many Kyles hoped to find opportunity by emigrating to nearby Ireland but often found more hardship there. Many migrated further, primarily to the US, Canada and Australia --- often after a stay of generations in Ireland. During these turbulent centuries some most likely found their way into or out of the *Macdowall* feudal territories in adjacent Galloway. They are welcome members of Clan MacDowall as advocated by the famed Scottish heraldic genealogist Hugh Peskett.

By Scott MacDougald, Jaeame Koyil and Clan Chief Fergus Macdowall of Garthland



Happy Event at Richmond Games

At the Games in Richmond, Virginia, on November 19, two visitors to our tent, Brian Blevins and Betty Goodman brought us some delightful news. Both are members of the Saint Andrews Legion Pipes and Drums. During the massed bands, Brian had proposed and Betty said yes. Ashby McCown snapped the picture of the happy couple.



Scottish Books Known and Loved

In recent issues of *The Tartan*, we have recommended a number of books about Scotland and Argyl. Reading is our best option for learning about our homeland; actually living there for a year would be beyond most of us. We have tried to find books for you that are authoritative and well written. My collaborators – Scott, Walter, and Hugh – know Scotland and its literature extremely well. Scott and Walter have served for many years on our Board; Hugh edits the *Somerled*, our United Kingdom newsletter. For this issue, I thought you would like to know what we ourselves have enjoyed reading and why. Let me start off with two of my own recent favorites.

“*The Game of Kings*” by Dorothy Dunnett appeared in 1997; it is the first of a series of six, devoted to the trials and adventures of a minor Scottish nobleman (Francis Crawford of Lymond, master of Culter.) The action takes place in 1547, when Mary of Guise was regent of Scotland. Our hero, Lymond, has returned to Scotland to clear his name of a charge of treason and to aid his country against the machinations of, who else, the English.

From this barest of summaries, Dorothy Dunnett elaborates the quarrels, uncertain alliances, state secrets, religious and territorial rivalries that the English under Edward VI sought to exploit, and that Mary of Guise sought to overcome for the sake of her faith and her daughter the future Mary Queen of Scots. There are numerous characters in this story and many story threads. The style is rather formal and intricate, like many of our tartans, but compelling; it pulls you along yet also makes you look back to be sure you have the right order of events and characters in mind. The dialogue for all the characters is plausible in expression and sentiment. The period is colorfully portrayed without any obvious anachronisms. The expository parts, which are extensive, always fit the action with an occasional comic passage.

There are a few difficulties even for the enthusiastic reader. As one of my friends remarked, this novel reads more like literature than like a story. Some of us prefer it that way, for Dorothy Dunnett certainly does not write like Ernest Hemingway. The hero, Lymond, is very heroic. Learned, quick to quote Latin or French, even quicker with a broadsword, handsome, strong – one could go on. Although his few imperfections are pointed out, that is the way heroes are.

Dorothy Dunnett’s success in making events and persons vivid draws from her extensive research, knowledge of her country, and, of course, talent as a storyteller. She was a woman of great ability. Her historical novels, of which I describe the first, soon established her as a foremost writer of historical fiction. There is a society devoted to her works. She was also a highly admired artist who exhibited frequently in Scotland’s national galleries. My experience with “*The Game of Kings*” is that I became deeply engrossed and did not surface for hours.

My other recent favorite is “*The Lost Art of Gratitude*” by Alexander McCall Smith. He must be one of Scotland’s best-known authors, doubtless due to his series about the founder-owner of the Ladies Number One Detective Agency. Those novels are set in

Reading is our
best option for
learning about
our homeland;
actually living
there for a year
would be
beyond most of
us

Scottish Books Known and Loved (cont)

Africa; Gratitude and the other four in its series take place in contemporary Edinburgh.

McCall Smith's genial style narrates Isabel Dalhousie's adventurous investigations. The crimes she investigates are those troubles among the middle classes that are slightly below the level of police attention. Isabel, just turning forty, is a moral philosopher, so her investigations inevitably have an ethical dimension. Her closest male friend tells her she ought not to get involved in other people's problems in the first place.

In this book, Isabel's major problem arises when a woman friend asks for help with a paternity issue. The child's father is not the woman's husband, but he wants some paternal access to the child, and he is making threats, so how to resolve this discretely? Disclosure would threaten the woman's marriage. Besides that, Isabel's niece is about to make a very unsuitable match; another philosopher questions her editorial honesty, and the neighborhood fox, which shelters in her garden, has been badly hurt. And in all of these, in one way or another, lies a moral dilemma: to act or not to act, to speak or to remain silent, to hold on or to let go.

In the midst of her problem solving, Isabel continues the active life of a busy professional woman, and McCall Smith tells us that she walks to the places we all have seen or have heard about. She crosses the Meadows on her way to the Old Town and then on to Charlotte Square, to take tea or lunch, or to visit an art gallery. As you close this book, you can't help speculating about the pleasure of living for a while in Edinburgh yourself.

Reviewed by Peter Clepper

Alistair Moffat is a Scottish historian who has written several very readable, informative, and reasonably priced books. His book, "THE FADED MAP Lost Kingdoms of Scotland", is so interesting and well written that I finished reading it then immediately picked it up again to reread the entire 260 pages. I have never done that before. This book is not fiction; it is much better than that!

The Faded Map is about the lost little Kingdoms that made up Scotland before Scotland came together as one nation. Written history begins with a Greek explorer who mapped these islands and described their people centuries before Romans arrived in the north of England and in Scotland. The book is very informative about those Romans, how they administered, and what they built and why. Things they left behind endured for centuries, shaping later events through the Dark Ages into the Middle Ages – things that determined where King Arthur and Merlin fought their battles, where borders were drawn, and why the flickering light of Christianity survived here in the north. It explains how the descendants of Roman Britain became the Welsh of today. It explains St. Patrick and how we know where he was born. It explains the old border markings still visible in the landscape, and how the voices of the ancient peoples are still audible in the accents of the spoken language. If you are looking for a gift to give to a reader who enjoys history then I suggest this book, and anything else written by Alistair Moffat.

"THE SEA KINGDOMS - The History of Celtic Britain and Ireland" is on my bookshelf but I have not yet begun to read it. Moffat has a talent for bringing the faded

**"THE FADED
MAP Lost
Kingdoms of
Scotland", is so
interesting and
well written that
I finished reading
it then
immediately
picked it up
again to reread
the entire 260
pages.**



Scottish Books Known and Loved (cont)

past to vibrant life. If you are interested in the stories, legends, languages, history, and culture of the Celts in the times when the British Isles were theirs, then I suggest these 316 pages are for you. It is about Moffatt's findings in the British Isles from the Hebrides to Wales to Cornwall to Ireland as he seeks out their connections to the history of Celtic Britain. This looks to be an excellent book to read on a winter evening, and I plan to do so.

Reviewed by Scott MacDougald

In the late 1970s, a strong bond was forged between the Clan MacDougall Society of the United States and members of the Clan in Nova Scotia. I look back at those years knowing that I can not express the deep respect and joy which those of us who represented the Society experienced in that lovely land of New Scotland and in the presence of her grand people. We made some of the strongest friendships of our lifetime, and we were aware of the privilege of being among those who still knew the Gaelic and who could repeat their lineage back seven generations. It was a true link with our Highland heritage. Even now I feel the thrill of those evening programs at the Antigonish Highland Games when the fiddle notes of a slow air found echo in one's soul and James MacPherson would sing of Bonnie Prince Charlie.

In those days there were few if any clan tents at the games in Antigonish. Surprised, I asked my friend Charles MacDougall about their absence. "We don't make much of the individual clans," he told me. "It isn't safe. All it takes is for someone, probably innocently enough, to play some tune to which there once were attached a derision for some clan. Then the spark is in the powder."

Such were the long memories, deep attachments, resentments as well as more noble traditions.

Kind as they were to us visitors, it was no wonder that there were quizzical looks cast our way by many of these transplanted Scots in Nova Scotia. We who arrived to represent the Society were sincere, and there was no doubt about our enthusiasm, but we must have seemed to them as though we were suckled on modern, Scottish spectaculars and wrapped in tartan with a touch of lace. Certainly we were not aware that not so long ago when Queen Victoria in her yacht arrived in Oban Harbor many of the burgh's inhabitants were in Glasgow driven to by hunger and begging in the streets! How useful "Scotland Farewell, The People of the Hector" by Donald MacKay would have been to us as we endeavored to comprehend the true conditions and circumstances, which shaped the lives and feelings of the majority of our Highland ancestors!

Donald MacKay has the qualification of lineage and profession for telling the story of the settling of the Pictou area of Nova Scotia by those nearly two hundred Scots who arrived in 1773 on the crowded Hector. MacKay is a noted journalist having spent a

**"On 7 July
1292 the
Family Name
spelling was
modified when
signing the
"Ragman Roll"
oath of fealty
required of all
Scottish
nobility by King
Edward I of
England."**

Scottish Books Known and Loved (cont)

lifetime reporting, researching and writing carried out in such notable positions as European correspondent of the UPI Broadcasting Services. One reads from page to page in his book caught-up in the development of his stories and accurate account. It is an important story not only for the over forty thousand descendents of the Scottish immigrants but to all whose roots are in the Highlands.

One joins the tattered groups of men, women, and children trudging toward Loch Bloom and the north west coast of Scotland. One learns what pushes these refugees of a lost war and a meager subsistence toward the boats bound for better chances in the new world. There were convincing stories of the opportunities that lay ahead, but what these displaced Scots found in Nova Scotia was an alien world of forest. While the land and the coast were largely vacant, the property interests, including those involving would-be developers from New England, were already complex when the Hector and her sea-battered Highlanders arrived. The threat of famine had not been left behind nor had the dividing differences between the Protestant and the Catholic immigrants. MacKay traces the slow building of community, the establishment of education and the preserving of a heritage.

Noble stories are not about paradises found ready-made and lost. They are about the triumphs of human attainment advancing forward from meager beginnings.

In the end, "Farewell to Scotland" is not a farewell at all. It is a welcome to the Scottish spirit, which is equal to the task of making a home in any wilderness.

Reviewed by Walter M. Macdougall

Being a Scot by birth and upbringing, my favourite Scottish novels contain a lot of direct speech in the Scots tongue, but I am aware that this article is appearing in a North American publication so am fighting shy of inflicting on 'Tartan' readers books which to a significant extent will be unintelligible.

I would love to ask you to try two of my favourite novels by Sir Walter Scott, "The Heart of Midlothian" and "The Antiquary", but the speech of central characters in both of these works is often broad Scots. I rate "The Heart of Midlothian" the greatest novel by Scott, whose own favourite was "The Antiquary", in which key character Edie Ochiltree gets my vote as the most delightfully humorous of all Scott's creations.

Robert Louis Stevenson's superb tale "Thrawn Janet" is widely called the finest short story in the Scots language, but it is incomprehensible to all unable to read broad Scots. Writing dialect speech is very difficult to do effectively and successfully. Scott mangled it badly when he put English words as spoken by Gaelic Highlanders on the page. He was much better with lowland Scots. Stevenson got it exactly right with "Thrawn Janet".

Although the book I am going to highly recommend has no broad Scots language, it is an unconventional novel and not easy reading. I bring it to your attention because I believe this deserves to rank among the great Scottish novels of the modern era. "The Big Music", written by New Zealand-born Kirsty Gunn, who is now Professor of Writ-

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Scottish Books Known and Loved (cont)

“The Big Music” of the title is piobaireachd (a Gaelic word spelled pibroch in English, pronounced pee-broch), the classical music of the Highland bagpipe.

ing Practice at the University of Dundee – coincidentally my native city – was published in 2012. I am not an expert in literature but have read widely and am of the opinion that Gunn has written a very important, groundbreaking work of great, world-class literature, indeed of Joycean stature.

“The Big Music” of the title is piobaireachd (a Gaelic word spelled pibroch in English, pronounced pee-broch), the classical music of the Highland bagpipe. Gunn’s father, of Scots ancestry, was a piper and she grew up familiar with the sound and structure of the music. While working some years ago on a short story she was given several files of old papers which she eventually realised appeared to contain elements in word form of a piobaireachd, which is also called Ceol Mor (Ceol is music, mor is big, hence Big Music).

Her novel, which took her seven years to write, is about a family of hereditary pipers from Sutherland in the far north of Scotland. John Sutherland, of The Grey House, is dying and trying to create a musical composition that will define his life. The women in his life feature prominently as he turns his memories, the feelings they engender, into pipe music.

Piobaireachd is played by only a single piper and contains a number of separate movements, each with a set Gaelic name and progressive musical development and purpose. The tunes of piobaireachd are slow, complex and unlike easily remembered ones played by pipe bands.

Gunn has constructed her novel as a literary version of a piobaireachd, her story being revealed through the nuances, rhythms and soul expressed by the music’s composer and player’s delivery. The main chapters are given the name of each of a piobaireachd’s movements. There are numerous footnotes to explain the background of some of her text, and extensive appendices with maps, piobaireachd musical notation, black and white sketches and text from the old papers on which she has based her novel, plus a glossary, so the reader is kept informed about technical details.

“The Big Music” is challenging but well worth the effort. Try listening to some piobaireachd to get into the idiom, then after skimming the book to familiarise yourself with the nature of the text, read a chapter and go back and read it aloud as if a piper is playing. Persevere. Try to relax into the aura, let it envelop you and take you into the majestic beauty of Sutherland, the life and psychology of the piper and his relationships. Gunn’s writing is inspired and original, her novel unique.

To those who take up the challenge, I hope you will come to find reading “The Big Music” a rewarding experience. Finally, to follow-up on Peter Clepper’s enjoyment of Dorothy Dunnett’s “Game of Kings” I urge you to read her superb novel “King Hereafter” about Macbeth. Her research uncovered fresh insight into that king’s genealogical identity and she incorporated it into her substantial book. Historians writing about the real Macbeth (as opposed to Shakespeare’s) frequently cite Dunnett’s research.

Reviewed by Hugh MacDougall

Final note: These should all be available through Amazon, if not your local library. Your reviewers own these books that they bring to your attention (i.e., they think they are worthwhile).

A Classical MacDougall

Before Ben MacDougall's eighth birthday, he became interested in the flute and tried out for lessons near his home. He was not accepted, but despite his disappointment, he persevered and took private lessons. That was fortunate, because Ben is now an award-winning young flutist, broadcaster, composer and writer. He recently made his first solo performance in his new homeland, America, at the Theatre House, Castleton Farms, near Warrenton, Virginia. Castleton is a major center for classical music in fields including orchestral and solo works and opera.

Born and raised in England, Ben is proud of his Scottish heritage – reflected in membership in our Society – through his paternal grandfather who hailed from Kilbride and Dunach on the shores of Loch Feochan, just south of Oban and Dunollie Castle. Ben studied at the Royal College of Music in London where he won both the Flute and Woodwind prizes.

Ben and his wife, soprano Megan Welker, recently moved to Boston, and he is looking forward to pursuing his interests on two continents. In previous visits to America, he participated as a composer of music for films in festivals in such cities as Los Angeles, Washington, Nashville, San Diego, Cleveland, and Richmond. He wrote the score for the award-winning film, "Apocalypse," and won the gold medal at the Indie Gathering Film Festival in Cleveland.

He has also made his mark as a broadcaster – he hosts a program on classical music for the BBC – and writes for classical music magazines. "I love good tunes, and that's what I write," he says.

"One of the greatest thrills for a composer is to leave the theater and hear someone singing one of their tunes." A work at his Castleton performance was a flute arrangement of Vivaldi's Four Seasons. Ben says he is pleased to live in America "and take part in the exciting music world here. I want to add to that."

**Ben is now
an award-
winning
young
flutist,
broadcaster,
composer
and writer.**



Ben MacDougall



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