

THE SCOTS CANADIAN

Issue XVI

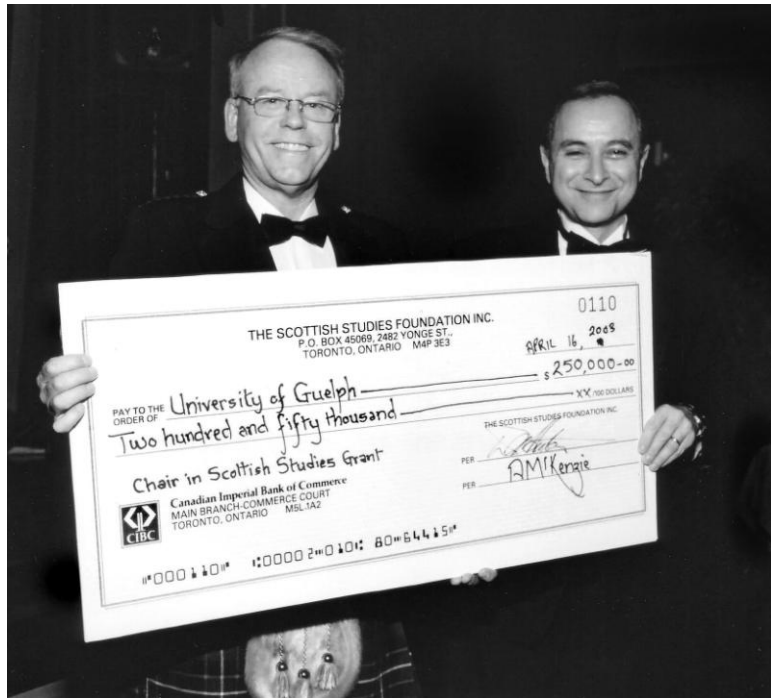
Newsletter of the Scottish Studies Society: ISSN No. 1491-2759

Summer 2003

University of Guelph to appoint Chair of Scottish Studies

After almost two decades of fundraising led by the Scottish Studies Foundation and Society, the University of Guelph's outgoing President, Dr. Mordechai Rozanski, announced at the 2003 Tartan Day Ball that the University was moving to establish the Chair of Scottish Studies.

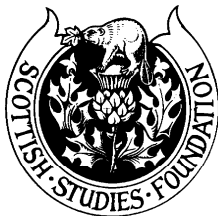
College of Arts Dean Jacqueline Murray, a strong supporter of the initiative, has struck a selection committee and an advertisement for the position has been drafted, approved, and circulated, with a closing date for nominations and applications of December 15.



Scottish Studies Foundation President, David Hunter presents a \$250,000 cheque to University of Guelph's outgoing President, Dr. Mordechai Rozanski. This, along with other major donations, was instrumental in the University's decision to establish the Chair.

Scots Wha Hae

*a desire to nurture and preserve
their heritage in Canada
are invited to join*



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*a charitable organization
dedicated to actively supporting the
Scottish Studies Program*

*at
The University of Guelph*

Charitable registration
No. 119253490 RR0001
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The appointment of the Chair will cap years of effort and generous support from hundreds of Foundation members, corporations, students and others.

In filling the Chair, the University seeks a senior academic who will provide inspired leadership in scholarship and community outreach related to the history and culture of Scotland.

The criteria that the University has set for the position are that the Chair possess a demonstrated record of excellence in research, teaching, and service, work creatively with other members of the Scottish Studies program and to advance more general interest in the subject.

The Selection Committee will also seek evidence of commitment to path breaking research, a strong record of graduate instruction, and a demonstrated ability to work with non-academic communities are prerequisites for the Chair.

The University of Guelph offers an attractive environment for such a scholar, with a Scottish Studies Library and Archival Collection unrivalled outside the United

Kingdom, a strong contingent of graduate scholars with impressive records of achievement, and a tradition of support for partnerships between the Scottish Studies Program and the wider community.

The appointment will be the fourth in the Program, with three members of the History Department already hired in the field of Scottish History

Members of the Foundation will be invited to attend the public lectures by short-listed candidates for the position. The dates of their visits to campus will be appear in the next issue of the Newsletter and will be posted on the new Scottish Studies website (www.uoguelph.ca/scottish) after December 15.

The faculty, staff and students at Guelph are very grateful indeed for the long-standing support of the Scottish Studies Foundation and Society as well as the Scottish-Canadian community at large whose efforts have helped achieve this ambitious goal.

Letter from the Chair

Dear Fellow Members,

As you can see from our news on the front page, things have moved at an amazing pace since my last message to you.

The wheels are now in motion to establish a Chair in Scottish Studies at the University of Guelph and after 17 years of dedicated effort, it's hard for those of us on the Board to actually comprehend that our major objective is about to be realized!

All of this is due to the tremendous support from all of our members who, in raising the awareness of recognizing Canada's strong Scottish heritage, have been successful in attracting significant monetary pledges and donations from major donors.

Thanks to your support and the University of Guelph's faith in our ability to continue our fundraising efforts, Canada will now be in the forefront of Scottish Studies in North America.

In this regard, perhaps you might like to read this letter which I received from Jacqueline Murray who is the University of Guelph's College of Arts Dean:

Thank you again for the wonderful Tartan Day Dinner hosted by Scottish Studies Society. The evening was a grand success and served to enhance the profile of Scottish Studies in Toronto and beyond.

As you will recall, Dr. Rozanski announced that a generous gift from Michael MacMillan was helping to bridge the gap between the Scottish Studies campaign's goal of \$2 million and our current situation. We still need to raise approximately \$160,00 to fully realize the \$2 million campaign. Thanks to your efforts, and those of other volunteers, active campaigning continues with proposals to Canadian corporations, foundations and individuals.

Hitherto, the primary geographic focus of the campaign has been in Southern Ontario.



Jacqueline Murray

Recently, however, new contacts have been made with Scottish cultural groups, some of which appear to be promising. For example, we have had discussions with the St. Andrew's Societies of Montreal, Toronto, and Sarnia and with the 78th Fraser Highlanders (York Garrison).

Although additional funds are still required to complete the campaign, we believe that the time has now come to move forward and begin to recruit the Chair of Scottish Studies. To that end, the selection committee will be struck this summer with the goal to recommend an appointment for the 2004-05 academic year. The Chair will be funded temporarily from a combination of internal monies and endowment income until the endowment itself is able to sustain it. We are indeed appreciative of the University of Guelph's generosity in helping to support the Chair before all the pledges have been fulfilled in 2011.

The successful candidate for this position will be a recognized scholar of Scottish Studies, who will enhance Guelph's reputation as an internationally acclaimed centre in the field. We are confident the presence of the Chair will serve as a magnet for our Scottish Studies Program and enhance Guelph's profile as the premier centre for Scottish Studies in North America.

Once the endowment is fully realized, we will be seeking additional financial support to enhance further our renowned Scottish Studies library collection, to create student scholarships and travel grants, and to extend our community outreach initiatives.

All this activity would not have been possible without the generous support of benefactors such as you. The Scottish Studies Foundation gift will soon allow us to create the first chair in Scottish Studies in North America. Thank you for making this dream a reality.

Yours sincerely,

Jacqueline Murray, Ph.D. Dean



Michael MacMillan, Alliance Atlantis CEO and Scot of the Year 1999—a key player in Guelph's decision to establish the Chair

So to celebrate this achievement, I do hope as many of you as possible will make it out on Sunday August 31 to our annual Tall Ship Cruise on Canada's tallest sailing ship the *Empire Sandy*. As I'm sure you all know, this event commemorates the arrival of the Scots pioneers in Pictou, Nova Scotia back in 1773 on the old ship *Hector* after a long and difficult voyage. So look out some tartan or plaid clothing and come down to Harbourfront in Toronto to help us recapture the pioneer spirit.

And to those of you in other parts of the country or around the globe, thank you again for your wonderful support – you have made a dream come true.

Have a pleasant and safe summer.

*Sincerely,
David Hunter*

Haggis in Moscow

The Logistics of arranging a Burns Supper in Moscow, USSR 1975

by Gordon Hepburn

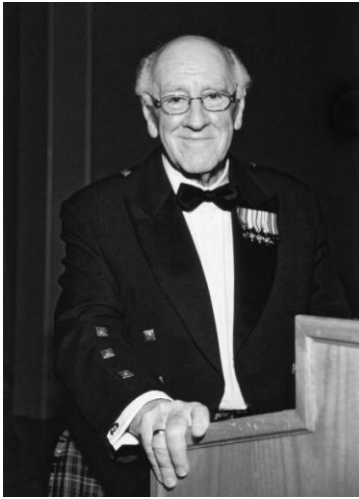
When I sold my travel agency interests in the early '70s to Nairn of Kirkcaldy, I accepted an appointment as marketing director of their travel group. From that moment on, I was always on the lookout for projects to get us maximum media exposure, especially if it was free.

I tried many promotions including highly successful golf groups to Spain with The Scotsman and Newcastle Journal newspapers. I even tried to bring to Scotland inbound golfing groups from Japan.

However, the P.R. generated by these events was minuscule compared to the jewel in the crown, my first Burns Supper to Moscow, in the then Soviet Union in 1975.

I was motoring to work in Kirkcaldy one morning listening to the radio when there was a programme on Burns and his popularity in the Soviet Union where his name was frequently coupled with that of Pushkin's. This sparked a flame of interest as it coincided with the time that Thomson Holidays introduced their winter city breaks for three and four nights including Moscow.

Within a week, I had provisionally reserved 150 places from Manchester, the nearest departure point, for a four-night package covering the 25th January, 1975. By then, I had made contact with Jock Thomson, general secretary of the Burns Federation, and George McAllister of the Scottish-Soviet Friendship Society. Both expressed great enthusiasm and proved to be



Gordon Hepburn, SSF Governor and organizer of the Society's Annual Burns Supper

towers of strength in their advice, counsel and cooperation.

By the end of the week I realised I had taken on a mammoth undertaking as I had no idea about the availability of haggis, neeps, tatties or the usquebagh in the Soviet Union.

Two weeks later I did an early morning interview with BBC Scotland radio and by the time I got to the office there was a phone call from Roy Bignall of Matthew Gloag & Sons Ltd. in Perth offering to sponsor copious amounts of the Famous Grouse. I almost hugged him over the phone. And within days, Bill Keith, master butcher and haggis-maker extraordinary of Dysart, Kirkcaldy came forward with an offer of 1 1/2 cwt of haggi, and a farmer friend, the infamous Bob Bell of Colinsburgh offered a similar quantity of "neeps". We had already established that the Soviet Union grew their own "tatties." At this time, I had not even considered the logistics of transporting these goods and getting them through Soviet Customs but I took the precaution of passing the good news along to George McAllister and Thomson Holidays.

Bookings started rolling in like wildfire. Within three weeks we had over 350 applications for 154 places. So many had to be put off for the first year and demand continued unabated for the next six years.

During the ensuing months while the media did us proud in terms of P.R., we had the interesting task of sorting out volunteers for the various toasts and entertainment functions, miraculously finding a wonderful piper in Pipe Sergeant Jimmy McCallum (of Prestwick Airport fame). Matthew Gloag of Perth laid on a fabulous send-off party and my overriding concern, which I kept pushing to the back of my mind, was how I was going to get all the Scotch, haggis and "neeps" past the Soviet customs.

At long last the big day arrived and we set off south from Glasgow to Manchester on

three packed coaches with all our baggage plus the haggis plus the "neeps". The Famous Grouse was delivered directly to the aircraft at Manchester Airport out of bond.

The coach and air journeys went very smoothly and uneventfully except for one thing during the flight to Moscow. With all the additional spirits we were carrying plus the haggis and "neeps", there was little room for duty-free spirits on board and we were limited to one drink each on the flight. Imagine our reaction on returning home to newspaper headlines in Scotland "Burnsians drink plane dry".

Before departing from Manchester, I was advised by the Thomson ground staff that the Scotch, etc. was all consigned in my name as my personal baggage. You can understand, therefore, that one Scotch on the plane did little to alleviate my concerns. However, I need not have worried.

On arrival at Moscow Airport, I am singled out as "THE MAN" and introduced to my Intourist guide --a beautiful but unsmiling girl. We enlist five porters, pick up my baggage, the cases of Scotch etc. and whiz through a special immigration and customs area, with only a cursory glance at my passport and NO QUESTIONS at all about my extraordinary load of personal baggage! I was "dumfooned." Where else in the world could something like this be facilitated at a major world capital?

In due course, we arrived at our hotel by which time I had prompted my guide that a secure place was required to house my "extra luggage" until it was needed two days later. The question was asked at reception and even I knew what a repetitive "niet" meant. And so I had to take everything up to my small but functional single room where there was little room to swing a cat before we got everything in. My next problem was how to tip the five hotel porters as I had more or less used up my small US bills at the airport but, having learned that a bottle of Scotch had a black market value of just under US \$100, I opened up a case and handed a bottle to the lead man.

The bottle totally disappeared into his voluminous trouser pocket and then he proceeded to point to his other four colleagues, clearly indicating that I should produce another four bottles. In the end, I had to shoo them out the room with little grace.

My sense of relief at getting everything safely stored away, particularly the Scotch, was quickly dispelled when I went up to bed after dinner and a drink and the smell of turnips was so overpowering that, after two nights, I'm sure I smelt like a "neep."

Over the next thirty six hours, while our party enjoyed the sights and thrills of Moscow, George McAllister, my Intourist guide and, with the occasional help from

Tom Campbell, a wonderful man from the Kilmarnock Howff Club and a fluent Russian speaker to boot, I dotted the I's and crossed the T's for the forthcoming event. The cooperation from the Soviets was outstanding and there was only one incident of record.

With my guide I had gone to see the chef, who was in charge of the supper, to ensure that he had the know-how to prepare the haggis. There appeared to be a degree of difficulty in translation and I reckoned a softening-up process was called for. And so, I told my guide that if he got it right, the chef would be the happy recipient of a bottle of the "Famous Grouse". Instantly the atmosphere changed, the wee chef turned to me, put his hands together in supplication and said something to me which caused my guide not only to smile but actually laugh for the first time. He had said, "Master, I will be your slave. I will sweat for you". And that he did. The haggis on the night was cooked to perfection!

The big night arrived and it was a Burns Supper of great distinction. The supper was a banquet extraordinaire with many "worthies" contributing to its success. Provost Robertson of Dumfries, President of the Burns Federation chaired the evening and John Kidd, President of the jolly Beggars Club, Kinross, addressed the haggis.

The Immortal Memory was superbly proposed by the Secretary of the Federation and Tom McIlwraith, President of the Edinburgh District Association of Burns Clubs and Mrs. Peggie Thomson of Kilmarnock exchanged insults and compliments in the toast of, and reply to, The Lassies.

In his toast to the guests, Tom Campbell of the Kilmarnock Howff Club, outlined, in both Russian and English, Russia's interest in Burns from 1830, when the sixteen-year-old Mikhail Lermontov translated the haunting refrain of "Ae Fond Kiss".

The evening was graced with a number of prominent Russian Burnsians, including Immanuel and Nasha Marshak, Professor Rita Rait Kobelova, Dr. Gabriel Feldman and Alexi Surkov, himself a distinguished poet, who got a stirring response from the guests.

This unforgettable occasion came to a reluctant end when Anatoh Masko, invited us to witness the midnight changing of the guard at the Lenin Mausoleum. Regrettably valedictories and parting toasts caused us to miss the ceremony but we had a fitting ending to the evening with my dear friend, Pipe Sgt. Jimmy McCallum, rendering "Lochaber No More" and "The Flowers of the Forest", all the more surprising as music was not then permitted in Red Square; a most dignified occasion visibly affecting both Russians and Scots. ■

Scottish Studies artist's work supports the Alexander H. Brodie Memorial Award

Supporting student scholarships and raising funds that will enable students to travel is a key priority at the Scottish Studies program at the University of Guelph. A number of awards aimed at encouraging this are currently available and the hope is to substantially add to their values.

The Alexander H. Brodie Memorial Award is such an award and was established in memory of Professor Brodie who taught at several colleges in England before coming to the University's English Department in the late 1960s. Dr. Brodie was a major figure in the Scottish Studies Program, as well as in



Book sale in the Rosanski Hall foyer

the English program, and is fondly remembered by many.

Now former students, colleagues and friends of Dr. Brodie have come together with a plan to add funding to this prestigious graduate award.

Robin Baird Lewis, one of the first graduates from the Scottish Studies Program and a noted local artist and illustrator, has graciously agreed to release her graphite drawing of Jedburgh Abbey in Roxburghshire. It will be reproduced on an 8x10 acid free stock and comes in a museum quality package.



Graduate students

The edition is limited to fifty in number and each reproduction will be signed by the artist. Prints are available at a cost of \$60.00 with proceeds accruing to the Brodie Award. At this time only a few remain.

For more information please contact the Scottish Studies Office at the University of Guelph, 519-824-4120 ext 53209.

Robin Baird Lewis resides in Guelph as a peripatetic art teacher and freelance illustrator. Robin hails from a family of artists, craftsmen, art teachers and at least one psychologist. Since 1982, she has designed and illustrated Stinson's *Red is Best, Big or Little?* and Handman's *The Upside-down King of Minnikin* for Annick Press. Although versatile, Robin specializes in drawing children and delights in hiding family members and friends in her illustrations.

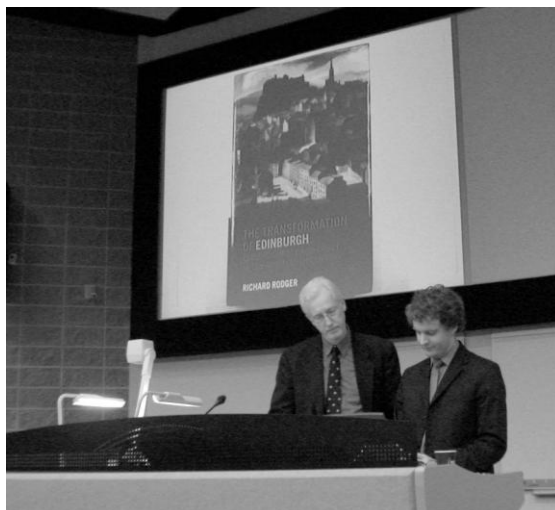
Scottish Studies Fall Colloquium to be held on October 4

Foundation members and guests are invited to attend this year's Fall Colloquium at the University of Guelph.

The event, entitled *Scottish History: New Perspectives* will be held on Saturday, October 4 2003 and will feature keynote speaker Professor Richard Rodger, winner of the 2003 Frank Watson Prize for his book *The Transformation of Edinburgh: Land, Property and Trust in the Nineteenth Century*.

Professor Rodger is Professor of Urban History and Director of the Centre for Urban History at the University of Leicester. For many years he has also been the editor of the prestigious journal *Urban History*, published by Cambridge University Press.

The Colloquium, which begins at 10:00, will be held in the new Rozanski Hall, room 102. Registration (\$37 for regular registration and \$30 for members of the Scottish Studies Foundation) includes a buffet lunch. Registration forms will be mailed early in September. Full details of the Colloquium will be posted shortly, and will appear on Guelph's Scottish Studies new website (www.uoguelph.ca/scottish).



Professor Richard Rodger and Dr. Kevin James review notes prior to the lecture



Professor Richard Rodger

Tartan Day Dinner Speech
by
Dr. Mordechai Rozanski
President, University of Guelph

Granite Club
Toronto, April 16, 2003

Thank you for the warm welcome! By the way, in honour of the Tartan Dinner and to feel more comfortable, allow me to inform you that tonight I am assuming the name of MacRozanski.

And, in my new persona, I bring greetings from the University of Guelph to each of you and particularly to all those associated with the Scottish Studies Foundation.

We are very appreciative of the wonderful partnership we have had with the Scottish Studies Foundation and proudly participate in the festivities surrounding the announcement of the Scot of the Year.

I am delighted to congratulate Alastair Gillespie and Iain Ronald on their selection as Scot of the Year. As you will hear later in greater detail, this designation honours their outstanding achievements, and places them among a distinguished company of previous honorees, several of whom are with us, tonight including Michael MacMillan, Kathie Macmillan and Alastair MacLeod.

Among their many accolades, one has a special meaning for me and my colleagues at Guelph. As with their predecessors, Iain and Alastair exemplify a profound commitment to education - a deeply rooted Scottish value that has been woven into the fabric of Canadian life. As we well know, Scots were the founders of many of our country's great universities and schools and have played key

roles in their on-going success. Simply put, the influence of Scots on education has been enormous, especially at the University of Guelph.

Over the years, many Scots have served as faculty and administrators at the University and from this group emerged the founders of our Scottish Studies program in the late 1960s. Since then, the program has grown substantially, achieving international stature thanks to our talented faculty and staff and to the great and generous help of the Scottish Studies Foundation.

Consider that Guelph has the only graduate program in North America devoted to the study both of Scotland and the achievements of people of Scottish descent around the world.

Consider also that our program boasts a special Scottish library collection, which is not only the largest outside Scotland, but is an unrivaled treasure on this continent.

Crucial to our ambition to sustain our position as one of the world's foremost centres of Scottish Studies is the creation of an endowed Chair - the first dedicated exclusively to Scottish Studies in North America.

As you have heard, the Scottish Studies Foundation has generously and magnificently pledged \$ 750,000 to establish this Chair.

This outstanding contribution was a giant step in the march to our two million dollar goal.

Other donors joined in the drive to support this important cause, and, as a result of their very typical Scottish generosity, we are now merely a stone's throw from fully funding the chair.

Tonight, building on the strength of this remarkable advance to our funding goal, I am delighted to announce that a generous donation from Michael MacMillan now makes it possible for us to proceed to establish the endowed Chair.

Michael, on behalf of the University of Guelph and everyone here, profound thanks. We're on our way. Let me tell more. This



Scots of the Year 2003 Alastair Gillespie and Iain Ronald

endowed chair, to be held by a world-class scholar, will allow us to expand our Scottish Studies curriculum, help attract talented faculty and promising new students, and will greatly increase the creative and reflective energy of our people in Scottish Studies. It will also serve as a magnet for more research funding.

With this Chair we will demonstrate, on an international basis, the success of the Scots, their enduring legacy and their many contributions to Canada and the world.

Our ability to share these messages through the creation of the chair and the further development of our Scottish Studies Program is largely the result of the diligence, devotion and relentless persuasiveness of our Scottish Studies campaign committee, namely, Iain Ronald, Alastair Gillespie, Ed Stewart, and Murray McEwan.

They have been assisted by dedicated volunteers including, Alan McKenzie, Ian Craig, Roy MacLaren, Sir Neil Shaw, John Cleghorn and Red Wilson. And, of course, I would like to thank their leader, chair of the Scottish Studies Foundation, David Hunter. Thank you all so much for your terrific efforts and great success.

In closing, allow me to say that while more always remains to be done, the generosity of all our donors, particularly, the Scottish Studies Foundation, has made the study of Scotland relevant to a new generation of Canadians, and provides a locus of pride for Canada's Scottish community in the contemporary cultural mosaic.

Please accept our University community's profound gratitude for your support, your inspiration and your vision. ■



Dr. Mordechai Rozanski and Scot of the year 2000 Kathie Macmillan



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