## **SCOTTISH**



# **FOUNDATION**

Issue XVII

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Autumn, 1996

## Foundation's 5th annual Tall Ship Cruise captures the spirit of Canada's Scots pioneers

What care we tho' white the Minch, What care we for wind or weather?

These rousing words from the Mingulay Boat Song aptly capture the spirit of over two hundred hardy adventurers who braved the elements to attend this year's tall ship cruises on the old Ontario sailing ship, the Empire Sandy. The annual event was organized by the Foundation to commemorate the anniversary of Scots pioneer vessel, the Hector, which arrived in Pictou, Nova Scotia from Ullapool in Scotland on September 13, 1773. Unlike our cruises in previous years, when a good supply of sunblock was necessary -- well, let's just say that this year's event was somewhat climatically challenged!

Originally scheduled for September 8, the event had to be postponed by two weeks because of high winds from the remnants of hurricane "Fran". (Shades of the original Hector voyage, which was also set back two weeks due to a storm!) Despite that, once on board, the pioneer spirit prevailed and below decks the Empire Sandy came alive to the songs, music and dancing of Scotland and Cape Breton Island. It turned out to be a great adventure and certainly was a day to remember!

This year we were honoured to have renowned Cape Breton fiddler, Sandy MacIntyre and his band, on the morning cruise. Sandy's brand-new CD, Steeped in



Bill Cockburn



New SSF member, Jeanne Ferguson, on board the Empire Sandy

Tradition, was officially released the same day and the event brought together Canada's East Coast and Scots communities to celebrate their common culture.

Sandy also introduced us to sensational eleven-year-old fiddler, Jeffrey Gosse from Caledon East, Ont., who treated us to a stunning frenzy of traditional reels. Jeffrey has been a student of Sandy's for five years and in Sandy's words... "his name is destined to be on the lips of every lover of Cape just considered it all part of the fun! Breton music in the near and foreseeable future." Jeffrey is a tangible example that ancient Scots traditions are alive and well here in Canada.

In the afternoon The Heritage Band consisting of Andy and Edna Clark and John Mahone soon had the dance floor hopping!

Throughout the day the stirring music of pipers Bill Cockburn and John Wakefield ensured that absolutely no one was in danger of dozing off and, as usual, Georgina Finlay's team of dancers dazzled everyone by making the intricate steps of Scottish Country Dancing dance look deceptively simple.

For sailing enthusiasts, there was no question that this was our most exciting excursion on the Empire Sandy to date. Strong winds filled the sails, taking us far beyond Toronto Island into Lake Ontario in record time. At one point, a group of intrepid adventurers on deck were quite surprised (to say the least) when a large wave crashed over the ship on top of them. Fortunately, judging by the laughter, they

Proof of the event's success became clear when it was time to say good-bye. People who had arrived in the rain with a kind of "why am I here?" look, left with smiles on their faces and folks who had never met before parted the best of friends.

All of this just goes to prove that things aren't always best when they're perfect -they're best when they're memorable!

And by the way, for those of you wondering what on earth the word "Minch" means -- its that channel of water between the mainland of Scotland and the Hebridean Islands -- not exactly renowned for being calm and placid!

## FROM THE CHAIR

## Foundation Chairman, Alan McKenzie brings you his latest report

Fig. 1. Was especially pleased to be able to present the first annual W. Stanford Reid Award to graduate student, Scott McLean at the October 5th colloquium at Guelph.

Scott began his studies with an interest in Viking history pertaining to the British Isles but has since broadened his scope to encompass a wide variety of Medieval topics.

The award takes the form of a \$500 prize and accompanying certificate and is given to an outstanding student (graduate or undergraduate) in Scottish Studies. The award recognizes the outstanding role that Professor W. Stanford Reid played in founding the Canadian Association for Scottish Studies (CASS) which evolved into the Scottish Studies Foundation.

After graduating from McGill at the Westminster Theological Seminary, Dr. Stanford Reid completed his Ph.D. at the University of Pennsylvania. He then returned to Montreal and served for 25 years in the History Department of McGill.

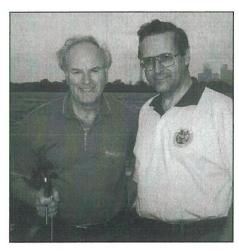
He was the founding chair of the Department of History at the University of Guelph and was the creator of the Scottish Studies program.

He has published in excess of ten books, of which two of the best known are *Skipper from Leith* and *Trumpeter of God*, his biography of John Knox. He has also published a long list of articles on Scottish History and Scottish Presbyterianism.

Unfortunately, due to illness, Dr. Reid was unable to present the award in person and I was honoured to have the privilege to make the presentation for him.

Since my last report, one of the more unusual things we did was to have a table displaying a wide range of items Scottish at the Celtic Harbourfront festival for three days. The table was staffed by a number of members from time to time and in particular, Ed and Anne Patrick were present for all of the three days. We met a wide range of people, signed up ten new members, including two patrons, sold a few items and received some welcome funds into the donations box thoughtfully provided by Dr. Paul Thomson.

The Sail Past was a great success from an entertainment point of view and we made



Sandy MacIntyre and Alan McKenzie

many new friends as a result, but the rotten weather kept many people away and we suffered a financial loss. However, because of the many hardy souls who turned up the loss was not too bad - about \$500 or so. And it must be said that we had just a marvelous time. The entertainment on board was terrific and the Scots were not going to let a little rain spoil their fun. One was heard to say as he gazed up into the sky that perhaps it was aye threatening to be dry!

What we lost on the swings of the Sail Past we certainly made up on the roundabouts of our very first golf tournament. Our thanks for organizing this is due to Ed Patrick and Ian Bain. Although we only had 40 golfers, from my perspective as a non-golfer and erstwhile Treasurer of the Foundation I was delighted with the financial result which produced over \$2,500 for the Foundation. I must also acknowledge the great support given by many organizations in giving gifts for prizes and for draws. Specifically we must mention Air Canada who donated two tickets to Scotland, and also a number of valuable gifts from our good friends at United Distillers, specifically Rawlings, and Glenfiddich. It was the prizes that helped make the event such a financial success as we were able to sell over \$800 in draw tickets.

The Financial year ended on September 30th and unless there are some surprises I do not know about, we can expect another good year financially. As I write, our net income

shows a healthy surplus of \$45,000 with our capital having grown from \$125,000 to \$170,000 in one year.

The forthcoming year is going to be just as busy and with our Scot of the Year now named as His Honour Henry Jackman, who has Campbell ancestry, we expect to have good attendance at the next Tartan Day Celebration Dinner and Scot of the Year Awards.

We have also agreed to support a visit to Toronto of the Rowan Tree Company in October, 1997. I recently had the pleasure of listening to a CD of this small theatre company which specializes in songs and stories from the Borders of Scotland. As a result, I can say that theirs is a performance I personally will not want to miss.

Meanwhile we need your support as members. So if you have not yet renewed your membership to the Scottish Studies Foundation then please do so now. Just pop a cheque for \$20 (or more if a family membership or a sponsorship is proposed) in the mail to the Foundation's address. And do pass the word on to others.

I am enjoying the challenge in my new role as chairman and would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support to date.

Alan McKenzie, FSA Scot



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Contributions to this newsletter are most welcome. For information please contact David Hunter (416) 482-8227 (home) or (416) 595-4112 (business)

Charitable registration No. 0757302-21-13

# Foundation's first Golf Tournament a whacking success!

By Ed Patrick SSF Governor and Tournament Chairman

Forty happy hookers and serious slicers turned out for a day of fun in the sun at Bolton on September 20 for the inaugural Scottish Studies Foundation Johnnie Walker Charity Golf Tournament.

The event was a success in every way, thanks to the support of our major sponsor, United Distillers Canada, which supplied a

All the golfers and additional guests enjoyed a splendid roast beef dinner at the course prior to the presentation of prizes and the draw for the main door prize: a trip for two to Scotland courtesy of Air Canada. The winner was Craig Bain.

The SSF would like to extend grateful thanks to our sponsors and to all the donors who generously supported the event and provided prizes for the golfers. Thanks also go to the tournament co-ordinators, Anne



Triple Winner, Craig Bain accepts three bottles of fine Scotch from Martin Rawlings of United Distillers

custom-designed permanent trophy, keeper plaques for the winners and a host of superbly tasteful prizes.

The winning foursome in the best-ball tourney was: Derek Dodd, Andre Kennedy, Craig Bain and Andre McKinnon. They carded a low-gross score of 62, four strokes ahead of the UDC foursome of Martin Rawlings, Robert Mirtsou, John Brandon and Kenton Tasker.

In third place were Alan Voves, Del MacMillan, Mark Martin and Larry Lokun.

Craig Bain won the Johnnie Walker closest-to-the-pin prize, his father, Ian Bain, won the An Quaich closest-to-the-pin contest, and Mark Scenna won the Appleton Rum closest-to-the-pin event.

Patrick and SSF chairman Alan McKenzie, who expended a great deal of time and energy to ensure that the event ran smoothly. Past chairman Bill Somerville acted as the official videographer and photographer, capturing all the high points (and low ones, too) of the tournament.

For the record, other groups and individuals who played in the inaugural tournament were: representing Air Canada, Meg Folan, Daryl Richmond, Michael Docherty and Scott Graham; the British Consulate-General in Toronto, Freda Jackson, Richard Higgins and Kevin Smith; Alex Heron and Jim McGuigan; George Martin, Murray McPhail and John Scott; Dave Hyde, Ray Roddy, Rob Barclay and Mike Lalonde; Frank Romano, Don Carter, Randy Lemire and Barry Dorsey; Todd

## **Upcoming Events**

#### "Our Club" Lunches

Held on alternate Fridays at 12:30 p.m., these lunches are the brainchild of folk singer and graphic artist Enoch Kent and take place in Toronto at The Jack Russell Pub, 27 Wellesley Street East across the street from the subway station. The lunches, originally planned to take about an hour (dream on!) feature a guest speaker, usually with some Scots-Canadian connection, who gives a 20 minute talk on a topic in their area of expertise. To date, a wide range of subjects have been covered: banking, travel, communications, education as well as a number of personal anecdotal topics all of which are delivered in a light-hearted vein. For more information on these lunches, please contact Gina Erichsen at (416) 928-0760 or give the people at the Jack Russell a call at (416) 967-9442.

## February 7 to 9, 1997 Caledonian Foundation Scottish Weekend -- Sarasota, Florida.

Those of you fortunate enough to be spending the winter down south next year can enjoy Scotland in sunny Florida at this event which will feature an illustrated talk by the Earl of Dalkeith on the Buccleuch Collection of art and furniture, a seminar on Education and the arts in Scotland and a communications conference attended by representatives of over 40 Scottish organizations in North America. For information, contact Duncan MacDonald at (508) 693-3135.

## April 5, 1997 Tartan Day Dinner.

The Honourable Henry N. R. Jackman, retiring Lieutenant Governor of the Province of Ontario will be presented with the Foundation's "Scot of the Year" Award at this prestigious event. The event will take place at Toronto's historic King Edward Hotel and will feature a special menu prepared under the supervision of executive chef, John Higgins; formerly of Buckingham Palace and Scotland's famous Gleneagles Hotel.

Courage, Neil Hiscocks and Mark Scenna; Donna Peacock and Marcello Iorio.

By the way, if you weren't able to play in this year's tournament but would still like to support the event in future years, you can buy a custom logoed golf shirt from SSF for only \$25. A limited number are available, in L and XL sizes, from Alan McKenzie (905) 842-2106 or Ed Patrick (416) 964-8180) or from the Scottish Company at (416) 223-1314.

## In Search of Stevenson in Samoa

by Catherine Kerrigan

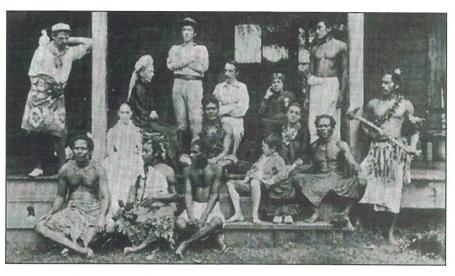
Early in 1996, University of Guelph professor, Catherine Kerrigan fulfilled a lifetime ambition by visiting the South Seas island of Samoa. Plagued by ill-health, Robert Louis Stevenson spent his last years in the favourable climate of this exotic location in an attempt to prolong his life. Professor Kerrigan is the editor of The Collected Works of Robert Louis Stevenson which covers all of Stevenson's writings. It is a major project and is expected to take a decade to complete.

f all the places which Robert Louis Stevenson visited in his brief but adventurous life, the islands of Samoa in the South Seas is the one which continues to fascinate readers and travellers alike. Since the time I first began research for the Centenary Editions of Stevenson's works, I had wanted to go to Samoa and now that I am working on his journals of the South Seas, I finally had to go. In February I travelled to the islands--not on a beautiful copper-bottom schooner as Stevenson had done, but on the weekly Air New Zealand flight from Hawaii to Apia.

Despite my less than romantic travel arrangements, Samoa did not disappoint. The island is everyone's fantasy of a tropical paradise. The vegetation is lush and rich with fruits like bananas, coconuts and breadfruit which are there for the picking.

Apia, the main town, has some modern buildings, but the fala, an elevated hut with open sides and a thatched roof, still predominates there and in the surrounding villages. The islands (there are two) are mountainous and covered with dark green bush which Stevenson, when he started to clear land to build his house, found almost impenetrable. But the most stunning part of landscape is the beautiful bay at Apia, a perfect crescent of the translucent, pearl-green Pacific.

My first night in Samoa was spent at Aggie Gray's in an air-conditioned room. I had the choice of staying in one of the hotel's falas (they are all named after film stars--the Marlon Brando Fala, the William Holden Fala, and yes, the John Wayne Fala) but although eager to



The Stevenson household at Vailima, Samoa, July 1892

experience island life, I felt I needed to acclimatize gradually. Aggie Gray was the original owner of the hotel who started out selling hamburgers to American marines stationed there during the Second World War, and she is reputed to be the model for Bloody Mary in the musical South Pacific.

With its colourful history and modern amenities, the hotel was a good place to start out, but I had been determined to live, if I could, with a Samoan family. On the bus from the airport to Apia, I had spoken to a native Samoan (Samoans are bilingual in Samoan and English) who told me he was building a small family hotel just down the road from Aggie's and I should come and stay with him. The next morning, I dutifully went to see him, met his family, moved in, and spent the rest of my stay with them. I

> learned so much about Samoan life and customs from the family and was treated as an honoured guest and friend.

So much of the attraction of Samoa is the simplicity of the way of life. Unlike third-world countries, there is little poverty and no hunger. The diet is mainly fruit and fish with the occasional roast pig served usually at island feasts. Dress too is simple. The parua (a piece of colourful cloth wrapped around the

body) is worn by both men and women and, as every traveller to Samoa has commented, native Samoans are strikingly beautiful, graceful, courteous and friendly.

I was delighted to find that Stevenson was still very much a presence in Samoa. In 1994, the centenary of his death, the house he built with his wife, Fanny, was restored. Using photographs of the original, the rooms were reconstructed and copies of the furnishings made to decorate them. The beautiful gardens which Fanny laboured daily to create have also been returned to their former grace, and it was sheer delight to sit on the front verandah, where the Stevensons had spent their evenings, looking at the spectacular sunsets on the Bay of Apia.

However, what I found more important than the restored house was the spiritual presence of Stevenson in Samoa, for he is still known there by his Samoan name, Tusitala, the Teller of Tales. Like his native Scotland, Samoa has a long oral tradition. When Stevenson arrived on the islands, he would introduce himself by telling tales of the Highland chiefs and clans, and the Samoans would reciprocate by telling stories of their chiefly traditions. But Stevenson also saw other similarities between the Samoans and the Scots. In the years he lived there, he witnessed the attempts of the colonial powers to exploit the natives and disperse their clans, and when the growing troubles erupted into war, Stevenson came out in support of the independent Samoan Chief, Mataafa. When the war was over, Mataafa and his clan thanked Stevenson by building a road into the Stevenson's house. It was named "The Road of the Loving Heart" and can still be seen in Samoa today. So too can Stevenson's grave which, in accordance with his wishes, is on the summit of Mount Apia. Written on his tomb are the words "The Tomb of Tusitala" and, from the Bible, Ruth's words to Naomi: "Thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God; where thou diest, will I die...." ■



Robert Louis Stevenson

# Funds needed to complete launch of Hector replica

In May, SSF chairman, Alan McKenzie met with Dan Currie, President of the Ship Hector Foundation. He filed this report based on conversation over lunch and from Ship Hector's first newsletter which was issued in the Fall of 1995

The Ship Hector Foundation was founded for the purpose of raising funds for the building, maintenance, and operation of a full-size replica of Scottish pioneer ship *Hector* which arrived in Nova Scotia with some of Canada's first Scottish settlers in 1773. It is a non-profit organization staffed by volunteers who are working locally, nationally, and internationally to put the necessary funding in place.

Construction commenced on the Pictou waterfront in 1990 and the intention is to have the project completed by 1998 to coincide with the 225th anniversary of the original vessel's arrival.

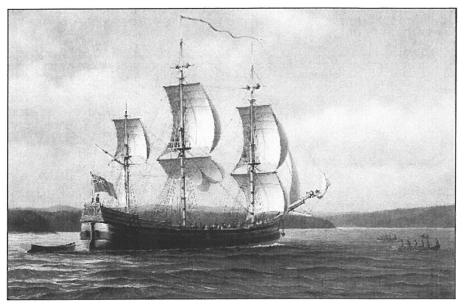
Unfortunately, the Hector Foundation has been caught in the trap of having commenced this major project only to find that government funds have dried up. This is a shame since the project is well advanced -- the hull is almost complete, work on the main deck is progressing and the bowsprit and one of the masts have been carved.

However, all is not lost. Next to the construction site, the Hector Foundation operates a profitable gift shop with a highly visible presence. It receives thousands of visitors who tour the Hector Quay each year.

For many, the *Hector* serves as a tangible link with their own family history. The ship has come to hold an indelible place in the history of all Scottish people and total strangers from many parts of North America exchange stories of how their families first



The Hector under construction in 1995



The Hector arriving in Pictou in 1773. From a painting by F. Wright

came to the New World.

The Hector Foundation, in cooperation with the Town of Pictou, has created "The Avenue of the Clans" on Caladh Avenue which runs adjacent to the Hector construction site. This provides an opportunity for clan societies and others to pay to have their tartans and crests prominently displayed on lamp posts along the street. The Scottish Studies Foundation has donated \$1,000 and will have its crest displayed against a Pictou tartan background.

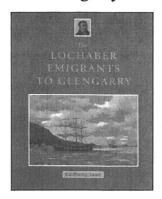
Also overlooking the site is a fine museum which is another great tourist attraction. Inside is a reproduction of a handwritten list of all passengers who were on board the *Hector* on its historic voyage to Pictou from Scotland's Lochbroom. This list was put together from memory by a surviving passenger some sixty years after the event.

Despite that, there seems to be general respect for its accuracy, probably because many of the passengers settled nearby and remained in the memory of that immigrant. In the 18th century, paperwork hardly exsisted and human memory skill was crucial for the

retention and dissemination of information.

SSF members wishing to support this cause should drop a line (and a cheque) to the Ship Hector Foundation, P.O. Box 1772, Pictou, N.S. B0K 1H0. Membership costs \$20 (or \$30 family) and will get you copies of the Newsletter of the Ship Hector Foundation. Tax receipts are issued to those who contribute \$10 or more.

# The Lochaber Emigrants to Glengarry



Edited by Ray Fleming

For anyone interested in the Scottish people, in Scotland and North America, this book is fascinating reading. It is now available from the Foundation.

In Canada and the United States today there are tens of thousands of descendants of Highland Scots who left Lochaber around 1800 to settle in Glengarry County. This book deals with the conditions in Scotland before migration, settlement experiences in Glengarry, and the spread of these Scots-Canadians from Glengarry to the American and Canadian west. There are fur trade and Metis connections, and even ties with the Caribbean. As well as colourful articles, this book contains a wealth of genealogical information, family trees, maps, photographs and other illustrations.

## Scotland's other national drink

A look at the ubiquitous cup of tea - an integral element in the Scots way of life

Readers might be surprised to learn that of a fascinating book by the tearoom, that quintessential British Perilla Kinchin entitled institution, was actually a Glasgow innovation.

Glasgow's first tearoom opened in 1875 and soon the city would become..."a very Tokyo for tearooms" to quote an observer at the time. All this was almost twenty years before the famous Lyons tearoom chain was opened in London.

Just why tearooms began in Glasgow and what was so special about them is the subject

Menu cover designed in the early 1900s by Jessie King for Miss Cranston

Tea and Taste. Glasgow **Tearooms** 1875-1975, published by White Cockade in the UK.

After the union of the Scots and English parliaments in 1707, Glasgow quickly became established as a major centre of trade with the thriving British colonies. Its first fortunes were built on tobacco, but by the 1830s on, tea and coffee became its major imports. By 1890 there were over thre hundred tea dealers in the city making Glasgow serious rival to London's merchants.

As Glasgow's prosperity grew, enterprising tea dealer, Stuart Cranston, came up with the concept of the

public tearoom. He foresaw the need for a place that businessmen could meet informally and at the same time saw an opportunity to expand his own business by promoting the sale of tea. His first tearoom opened in 1875 and was an instant success.

But it was his younger sister, the legendary Miss Cranston, who put the Glasgow tearoom on the international stage. She was firmly convinced that the key to success lay in attracting the women as well as the men of Glasgow's elite society -including those who secretly or otherwise aspired to join their ranks.

To accomplish this, she set out to ensure that a visit to her establishments would be an aesthetic experience that her customers would be sure to talk about and wish to

In doing so she drew on the creativity of Glasgow's artistic community to come up with designs of extraordinary beauty and originality, first with George Walton and later on, Charles Rennie Mackintosh. For



Miss Cranston's Buchanan Street tearoom showing classic Mackintosh art nouveau wall stencils

over twenty years she established herself as Mackintosh's loyal patron.

As a result, her elegantly appointed rooms gave people a chance to escape from their familiar environment and, for the moment, immerse themselves in the exotic avant garde interiors that Mackintosh created for her.

At the same time, her instinct for commerce encouraged her to introduce facilities for top-level business meetings, including the very latest in communications technology -- telephones, writing desks, telegrams and daily newspapers -- and for less serious moments, billiards, chess and draughts. In business as well as art, Miss Cranston was a women with an eye on the future.

Her ideas caught on, and tearooms sprung up all over Glasgow, and indeed throughout the British Isles, and remained a feature until well into the 1970s. ■

Perilla Kinchin studied Classics at Cambridge, Oxford and Victoria B.C. before a fascination

## JCOTTIJH JCENE

## An Aberdeen High Tea

High tea in Aberdeen is like no other meal on earth. It is the meal of the day, the meal par excellence, and the tired come home to it ravenous, driven by the granite streets, hounded in for energy to stoke against the menace.

Tea is drunk with the meal, and the order of it is this: First, one eats a plateful of sausages and eggs and mashed potatoes; then a second plateful to keep down the first. Eating, one assists the second plateful to its final home by mouthfuls of oatcake spread with butter. Then you eat oatcake with cheese. Then there are scones. Then cookies.

Then it is really time to begin on tea -- tea and bread and butter and crumpets and toasted rolls and cakes. Then some Dundee cake. Then -- about half-past seven -- someone shakes you out of the coma into which you have fallen and asks you persuasively if you wouldn't like another cup of tea and just *one* more egg and sausage....

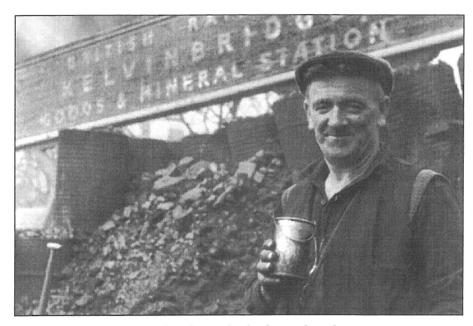
And all night, on top of this supper and one of those immense Aberdonian beds which appear to be made of knotted ship's cable, the investigator, through and transcending the howl of the November sleet-wind will hear the lorries and the drays, in platoons, clattering up and down Market Street. They do it for no other reason or purpose, except to keep you awake.

And in the morning when you descend with a grey face and an aching head, they will provide you with an immense Aberdeen breakfast; and if you halt and gasp somewhere through the third course they send for the manager who comes and questions you gravely as to why you don't like the food? --should he send for a doctor?

From *Scottish Scene* by Lewis Grassic Gibbon (J. Leslie Mitchell 1901-35)

Tearoom waitress: "Would you like a cake or a meringue?" Customer: "Actually you're right hen — Ah wid like a cake!"

Old Scots music hall joke



Tea break at Kelvinbridge coal yard

A hard-earned tea break was something that workers all over Scotland looked forward to and their favourite old tea cans were always near at hand. Shiny new cans were seldom seen for it did not take long for thick smoky fires to ingrain them in a black layer of soot. Brewing tea was a job given to the most junior workers, often those straight out of school. The slang expression, "awa' an' bile yer can!" (translation: "get lost!") is a reflection of the lowly nature of this task. The photograph was taken by Oscar Marzaroli in 1961 and is from his book, *Shades of Grey* published by Mainstream Publishing in 1987.



Farmhouse tea at John O' Groats

In this mid 1950s scene, William Nicholson and his sister are enjoying tea at their farmhouse near Keiss just south of John O' Groats. Shortbread, queen cakes, oatcakes, pancakes, scones and jam load the table. The couple are descended from John Groat, who in 1496, was granted rights by the Earl of Caithness to operate a ferry across the Pentland Firth to Orkney. The couples' father, a noted antiquarian, collected Norse relics which were displayed in the house. From A Stroll to John O' Groats by Isobel Wylie Hutchinson, National Geographic, July 1956.



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