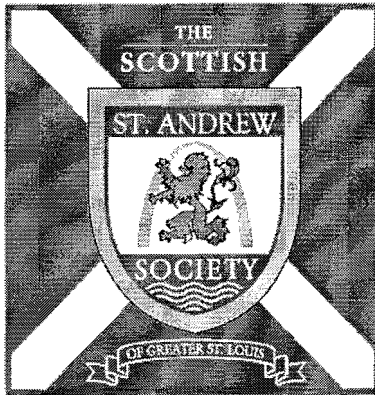
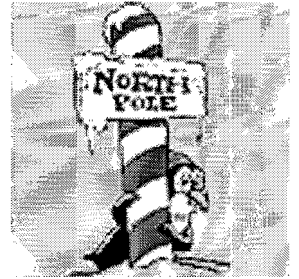


SCOTTISH ST. ANDREW SOCIETY  
OF GREATER ST. LOUIS

PRESIDENT'S EDITORIAL

**D**ear Members,

We've had a couple of super events since the previous Thistle Times.... The St Andrew's Night celebration turned out to be a night to remember. We had around 120 people attend and I think 120 people enjoyed the evening. There was a magnificent spread of food (I saw more than one couple go for seconds!), all kinds of dancing, singing (led by our resident star, Alex Sutherland), and some serious socializing (helped by a wee dram here and there). The Calling of the Clans was quite a spectacle, and we seem to gain more clans every year.



The Christmas party was excellent with a good selection of food and lots of merriment. The Fifes and Drum did a super job, with a repertoire covering Scottish songs and Christmas carols. And our piano star, Winnie, led the impromptu choir in several traditional carols. The entrance of Santa was a sight worth seeing. The weans were so excited they ran up and grabbed him —looked like a rugby scrum was forming!

Many thanks to "Santa" and to all the helpers who made these two events happen. We appreciate the effort that these volunteers make, and it's great to see everyone enjoying them.

The next event is our really big night, the Burns Celebration —so hope to see you at the Adams Mark.

RESERVE NOW.....

January 24th, 1998  
BURNS NIGHT CELEBRATION  
—reservation form attached

**Merry  
Christmas  
&  
A Happy  
New Year**



**inside...**

- Upcoming Events*
- Out and About*
- Seasonal Traditions*
- Caledonia Corner*
- Toasts & Things*

# Upcoming Events

Next

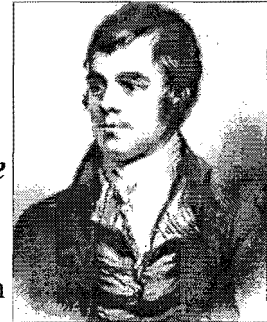


Event

## **BURNS NIGHT CELEBRATION** **Saturday January 24th, 5:45pm**

*Reservation forms are attached for your immediate use — there will be a cut-off date for seat placements.*

Up to January 14th we will try to accommodate seating with



Other events for the year:

February 16th, "Scottish History with a Twist" by Dr. Tom Forrester,  
at Mary Institute/Country Day School

March 16th, "Views of Scotland" at Mary Institute/Country Day School

April: Ceilidh plus Tartan Day Celebration. Working on the details.

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If you would like  
to help out, call  
Marilyn Geery  
314 916 5344

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## **BURNS NIGHT at the Tap Room**

Will be on January 22nd, 1998, starting at 6:00pm. The "Dorians" Ceilidh Band will be playing upstairs (cover charge applies). For more information call (314) 241 2337.



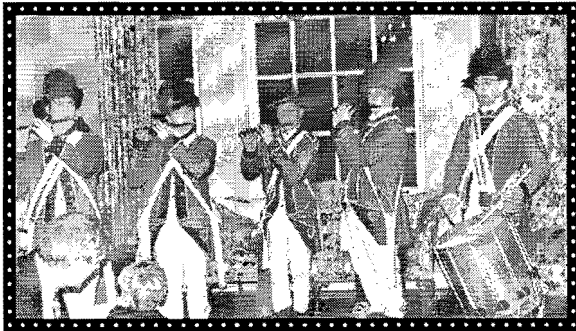
### **Ever wonder where Christmas cards originated?**

While this is a difficult fact to establish with any certainty, the records claim that it was in Scotland. On December 17th, 1841, Charles Drummond, a publisher and bookseller of Kirkgate, Leith, placed a Yuletide greeting card in his shop window. The original idea may have come from his friend, a Thomas Sturrock of Edinburgh. This "first" card was engraved to include a laughing chubby-cheeked boy.

Needless to say, sales of these cards grew rapidly over the subsequent years with a range of styles being added. One common variation was to have cards containing sprigs of real heather, tied with tartan ribbons — maybe we should be claiming this as the "first" fragrance card! Throughout the years, cards began to take on more religious symbolism. Obviously, Christmas (or "holiday") cards are now found throughout the world, and all this from a wee shop windae in Leith.

# *Out and About: Society pictures*

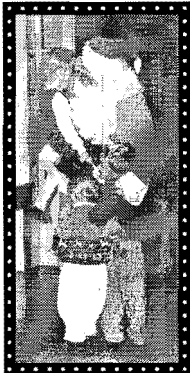
**T**he Christmas party was the setting for these merry scenes...



The Lewis and Clarke Fifes and Drum provided an excellent selection of seasonal music to start the evening.



Anticipation! Look, I saw something moving out there!



Popular guy!



You sure that's for me!



Another happy customer.....



The nimble fingers of Wayne Elrod



The carol singing added a final touch to the evening

# Caledonia Corner

**R**emember when you woke up on Christmas morning? The anticipation of those presents from Santa, and the perennial book that everyone found in their stocking — the Christmas annual (comic book). It was either “*The Beano*”, “*Oor Wullie*”, “*The Dandy*”, or “*The Broons*” and no Christmas was ever complete without one. What was your favorite? (What did you get this year?)

Apparently, children’s annuals can be traced back to 1645 when parents in Zurich gave their children printed news-sheets. Gradually, these evolved into annual books and, in 1828, the “*Juvenile Forget Me Not*” appeared. In the twentieth century, these annuals became established as the festive versions of weekly comics. The amazing thing is that these books are still around today. Even with computer games and high-tech toys showing up in stockings, the kids in Scotland continue to give these books very high ratings. Of course, today, there are a number of new characters and settings that have been added to the selection. Recently, a survey was conducted among children in Scotland to determine which of these was the most popular version. The results are amazing — selected ratings:

Annual	Rating out of 5
The Beano	4.5 (still the top stocking annual)
The Broons	4.0 (way up there still, and everyone thinks it’s funny)
Oor Wullie	3.5 (hanging in with the new stuff)
The Spice Girls	3.5 (pictures and facts about you know who, apparently popular in Scotland)
Shoot (soccer)	3.0 (review of the 1996-97 season and a must have for boys)
Mandy for Girls	1.5 (comic and photo-strips: one girl said “it’s really too soppy!”)
Batman & Robin	1.0 (too American for Scottish tastes, although the kids liked the movies)

## Wha wad ken?

**F**irst to answer all three correctly wins a Society lapel pin.....

1. What’s a “black bun”?
2. When was the battle of Killiecrankie?
3. Which is further north, Glasgow or Chicago?

Congratulations to Betty Marty who won last month.

### Answers:

1. Forth and Clyde Canal
2. Battle of Prestonpans: 21st September, 1745
3. Tattie-bogle is a scarecrow.

All replies to Jim McLaren

Phone: 314-532-5986

Fast e-mail: [mclaren@inverizon.com](mailto:mclaren@inverizon.com)

Snail mail: 2214 Stoneridge Terrace Ct.,  
Chesterfield, MO 63017

## **T**HE 1998 WORLD CUP

Just in case you missed it, Scotland did qualify for the World Cup — the main international football (soccer) tournament which is held every four years. Recall that the U.S. was the host for this prestigious event in 1994. The host country for the 1998 event is France, and ticket prices have just been announced.

Projections are that tickets will be hard to acquire, but for those that do it might mean taking out a second mortgage! For the lower rated games, tickets range from \$26 to \$61. For the Scotland-Brazil game, the cheapest ticket is \$35 and a seat in one of the best spots is running at \$212!

Then there’s travel and lodging on top, not to mention a few bottles of vino. Any bets that we see many Scottish fans trying to walk through the “Chunnel” .....

## Seasonal Traditions

**T**he medieval Feast of Yule began on December 25th and lasted till January 6th, and probably originated via Scandinavian “visitors” to Scotland. January 6th is “Uphalieday” which is equivalent to the Feast of Epiphany, and is the end of the Twelve Days of Christmas. Uphalieday is celebrated in various forms throughout Scotland: from family gatherings with special baked cakes to the fire festivals in the north (closely linked to Viking events).

This winter festival period was often referred to as the “Daft Days” — one is tempted to think this name was a prophecy for the commercialization that we see today! The French also influenced the Scottish activities, especially during the reign of Mary Queen of Scots, and a ballroom character became part of the Christmas festivities. Called the Lord of Misrule (or sometimes the Abbot of Unreason), this fellow would appear at various social events from Hallowmas to Candlemas. Later, a second character, called the Boy Bishop, joined the act and appeared on Childermas (December 26th, or Holy Innocents Day) — this figure was apparently especially popular in Dunfermline in the early 1300’s.

Although “Christmas time” (as in the Daft Days) was essentially a festival of the winter solstice, it later became merged with the Christian Nativity. Some aspects of the evolving Christmas festival were lost during the Reformation. However, these were largely re-discovered during the Victorian Christmas era, and amplified in the writings of Sir Walter Scott. While much of the nostalgia of Christmas can be traced to this era, some of the traditions of the earlier festivals were retained. Turkey and crackers are relics of the old Celtic festivals. Scottish Christmas trees became common following the introduction of the custom, at Balmoral, by Prince Albert. Before lights were available, a candle was placed in a window as a “torch of welcome” for friends and family. Mistletoe (Gaelic, *nuadhulig*, meaning “heal-all”) came into the Victorian Christmas, but the kissing traces back to Druid fertility rites.

It is interesting to listen to the recent U.S. debate over Christmas which is really such a hybrid of traditions and customs from through the ages. Returning to a “winter holiday festival” is clearly not something new, but it would be a pity to lose the accumulated heritage that we all carry into the festive season.

During the “Daft Days” and for the majority of Scotland, there was a secular event that was more celebrated than Christmas itself. Called New Year, or “Ne’erday,” it too had roots in the ancient customs and beliefs. As the last bells toll on the auld year, Scotland erupts into a centuries old party called “Hogmanay” (New Year’s Eve). While the turning of the year had long been a recognized festival, the fixing of January 1st as the official Scottish New Year, was decreed by James VI at Holyrood Palace in the year 1599. Is there anyone with Scottish blood who doesn’t carry the anticipation of Ne’erday in their veins? Just like the majestic salmon that knows it must return to its river of birth, the Scots must have a great “redding-up” (clean-up) around the house. Everything must be fixed and working, the clothes all mended, all the chores completed, and everything set-up for the great Hogmanay event!

The ritual of first-footing (visiting of friends and neighbors) with an exchange of shortbread, and your “New Year” from the family bottle, is symbolic of the old Celtic food offerings. The very first visitor to a house is called the “First Foot” and should carry particular gifts to ensure good luck for the coming year. The gifts vary by region, and may include cake or shortbread, coal, drink, salt, fish, and wheat sheafs. Of course, ideally, the “First Foot” should be a tall, dark-haired and handsome male to avoid the bad luck omens that go with the opposite characteristics....oh!oh! It’s time to get the hoover and dusters out again....

# 70 ASYS & 74 MGS

**A** selection of the many faces of Robert Burns, born January 25th, 1759, in the Ayrshire village of Alloway:

## The Selkirk Grace

Some hae meat and canna eat  
And some wad eat that want it;  
But we hae meat and we can eat,  
Sae let the Lord be thankit.

## From To a Mouse

I'm truly sorry Man's dominion  
Has broken Nature's social union,  
An' justifies that ill opinion,  
Which makes thee startle,  
At me, thy poor earth-born  
companion,



Statue of Burns by John Flaxman

## From Tam O' Shanter

Now, wha this tale o' truth shall read,  
Ilk man and mother's son, take heed;  
Whene'er to drink you are inclin'd,  
Or cutty sarks run in your mind,  
Think! ye may buy the joys o'er dear,  
Remember Tam o' Shanter's mare.

## From A Red, Red Rose

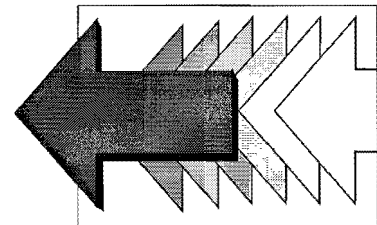
Till a' the seas gang dry, my Dear,  
And the rocks melt wi' the sun;  
O I will love thee still, my dear,  
While the sands o' life shall run.



Believe it or not!

Bill Nicoll found this one in the "Scotsman" newspaper. Apparently, these chaps were shooting "clay pigeons" when along came a friendly stag.....

**Happy New Year  
to Yin an' A'**



**H**ope you all enjoyed reading our very own newsletter, the **Thistle Times**.

Comments, and new material to the Editor:

Jim McLaren, 2214 Stoneridge Terrace Court, Chesterfield, MO 63017

or call (314) 532-5986, or e-mail: [mclaren@inverizon.com](mailto:mclaren@inverizon.com).