

B. C. PIPERS' NEWSLETTER



**The official monthly publication of
the British Columbia Pipers' Association**

MARCH, 1962.

No. 24.

AN ASSOCIATION FOR THE PRESERVATION OF BAGPIPE MUSIC
AND THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF PIPE PLAYING IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

30th ANNUAL GATHERING

BRITISH COLUMBIA PIPERS' ASSOCIATION

SEAFORTH ARMOURY
1650 Burrard Street
Vancouver, B.C.

SATURDAY, MARCH 24th, 1962.

9:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m.

Judge: Mr. John Wilson, Toronto, Ontario.

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Published monthly by the British Columbia Pipers' Association.

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EDITOR:	C. I. Walker
CIRCULATION:	Donald Urquhart Wm. A. McAdie

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ANNUAL GATHERING - MARCH 24th.

On March 24th, the 30th Annual Gathering of the British Columbia Pipers' Association will be held at the Seaforth Armoury. This Gathering, which is expected to attract a record number of competitors, is the culmination of our year's activities.

The judge at the Annual Gathering will be Mr. John Wilson, of Toronto, Ontario, one of the leading exponents of the bagpipe in North America. One might fully appreciate the stature of John Wilson in the Canadian piping community, by reading an extract of a letter from Mr. George Duncan, of Detroit, Michigan, the judge at last year's gathering. Mr. Duncan, who has competed against and judged with Mr. Wilson for many years, is one of his closest piping associates.

"I am glad to note that the B.C. Pipers' are having John Wilson this year. I think very highly of John as an individual and a piper. His piping records are second to none. He has, at one time or other, won every trophy I can think of open to pipers in Scotland, and this includes the Piobaireachd Competitions at Oban, Inverness, Cowal, Lochaber and London, etc. John was born in Edinburgh in 1906 and was the star pupil of the great Roddie Campbell, who passed away in August, 1937. John joined the Army in 1939 and was Pipe Major of the 4/5 th Camerons - captured by the Germans at Dieppe and spent a long time as a prisoner of war".

The programme will be as follows:

Morning Session: - 9:00 a.m.

1. Junior Amateur Piobaireachd
2. Amateur Piobaireachd
3. Senior Amateur Old Highland Airs (Open to Amateurs not competing in other events)
4. Novice Marches

Afternoon Session: - 1:30 p.m.

5. Juvenile Marches
6. Juvenile Strathspeys and Reels
7. Junior Amateur Marches
8. Junior Amateur Strathspeys and Reels
9. Quartette Competitions (Junior Bands)
10. Amateur Marches
11. Amateur Strathspeys and Reels
12. Open Piobaireachd

Evening Session: - 7:00 p m.

13. Old Highland Airs - Veterans 60 and over
14. Open Marches
15. Open Highland Dancing - Strathspey and Reel
16. Quartette Competition (Senior Bands)
17. Open Strathspeys and Reels
18. Miniature Pipe Band Competitions
19. Open Jigs

We would point out that in events No. 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 10, & 11, it will probably be necessary to hold short leets. These elimination contests are conducted as a matter of necessity, resulting from the increased entries during the past few years. The judge of the short leet will select the top five performers, and these will play in a final contest. The short leet will be conducted in the lecture room, and will commence at 9:00 a.m. Pipe Major Donald MacKenzie, of Powell River, will judge these elimination contests.

In solo competitions, prizes will be awarded as follows:

1 - 2 Competitors	1 prize
3 "	2 prizes
4 - 9 "	3 "
10 & more "	4 "

The admission covering the entire day will be \$1.00 for adults and 50¢ for children. Refreshments will be available. Parking, at the rear of the Armoury, is excellent.

We will look forward to seeing you all at the Indoor Gathering.

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CEILIDH - MARCH 22nd, 1962.

A Ceilidh, in honour of John Wilson, Toronto, Ontario, will be held in the band room of the Seaforth Armoury on Thursday, March 22nd.

All members and wives are invited to attend and meet Mr. Wilson.

A small assessment will be made to cover expenses.

- 0 -

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B.C. PIPERS' NEWSLETTER

You are now reading the 24th issue of the Newsletter. Next month we will be starting our third year of publication, and certain changes to the Newsletter are planned, which are intended to make the magazine more attractive. We would appreciate hearing your comments on the changes.

The Newsletter has grown from a three page circular sent to seventy-five members to a thirty page bulletin which is sent all over the world, and has a circulation of over two hundred. We are extremely grateful to our advertisers, subscribers, and contributors for all of their assistance and we hope that this support will continue during the coming year.

We would suggest that you don't send your copy of the Newsletter to a friend after reading it, but keep it, and send him a subscription instead.

The following news items were taken from recent issues of the "Weekly Scotsman":

NEIL DECIDES TO CALL IT A DAY:

"Scots impresario Neil Kirk, who has pioneered North American tours for such Scottish entertainers as Robert Wilson and Kenneth McKellar, plans to retire in 1963.

But the 69 year-old former Dundonian hopes his trans-Atlantic concert tours will continue after his "swan-song". "I'd like someone like Robert Wilson or Kenneth McKellar to take over from me," Mr. Kirk said on a recent visit to Glasgow.

He watched the Andy Stewart Show in Ayr, adding: "It would be grand to have both Andy and a singing star like, say, Kenneth McKellar, on the same bill". "

- 0 -

JAPANESE PIPING STUDENT

"Young Yukio Satoh may well be the only Japanese student of the bagpipes in the world, and he's come to Edinburgh to learn how it's done.

Mr. Satoh (22) came to Scotland from Kamakura, a town very near Tokio. He's a special student at Edinburgh University, taking a non-graduating course in Scottish history, and he gets a weekly lesson on the chanter in a Edinburgh night school.

"When I go back to Japan," said Mr. Satoh, smiling, "I may be the only piper. Perhaps I shall begin a pipe band in my own country."

He's quite modest, however. When asked how he's getting along with the chanter, Yukio said: "Perhaps you should ask my teacher."

Mr. Satoh is connected with the staff of the Japanese Embassy in London, but chose to live in Scotland while learning English.

"We believe we should learn as much about the country in which we live as possible," he explained. "So I am studying history here and learning the pipes".

Pipe Major George Stoddart of R. G. Hardie & Co. introduced him to the chanter and sent him along to the piping class. "

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SCOTTISH PIPERS' ASSOCIATION PROFESSIONAL COMPETITION - JANUARY 20th, 1962.

Piobaireachd:

1. Ronald Lawrie - "The MacNab's Salute"
2. Iain MacFadyen - "The Blind Piper's Obstinacy"
3. John MacFadyen - "MacKenzie of Applecross's Salute"
4. William Connell - "The Groat"
5. John MacDougall - "The Lament for the Earl of Antrim"

Marches:

1. James MacGregor
2. Seumas MacNeill
3. John MacFadyen
4. Norman Gillies
5. Peter MacFarquhar

Strathspeys and Reels:

1. Hector MacFadyen
2. James MacGregor
3. Seumas MacNeill

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ANNUAL GATHERING - OPEN PIOBAIREACHD

In the Annual Gathering, March 24th, and in the Games at Vancouver, Seattle, Portland, Victoria, and Nanaimo, the Open Piobaireachd Competition will be conducted in the following manner.

All competitors will submit two piobaireachd to the judge, who will select which of the two tunes will be played. One of these tunes will be of the competitors' choice, and the other will be selected from the following list of six tunes:

The Earl of Seaforth's Salute
MacKay's Banner
Donald MacKenzie's Lament for his Father
In Praise of Morag
I Got a Kiss of the King's Hand
The Vaunting.

- 0 -



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THE ARMY SCHOOL OF PIPING, EDINBURGH CASTLE

by P.M. John MacLellan

Since 1959, when the Army took over the running of the School of Piping (before this the School existed as the Piobaireachd Society's Army Class) the work done by the School for Piping in the Army has been able to go a head with quite definite results.

One of the first tasks done was to re-constitute the Army Piping Committee, which has as its Chairman the G.O.C. Scottish Command, the D.A.A.G. as Secretary, and as members the Instructor and the representative Pipe Majors of the Highland, Lowland and North Irish Brigades, and a representative Pipe Major from the Guards. So that the link with the Piobaireachd Society is not lost, an officer who is a member of this Society is also co-opted to the committee.

This committee meets once yearly, and discusses all of the various Army piping problems from music to equipment, and lays down the policy of the School for the next year.

At present, three types of courses are run.

The Potential Pipe Majors' course last seven months. The first month of this course is preliminary in nature, and should a candidate show that he is unsuitable at the end of four weeks, he can be returned to his Unit. The main essential on any course is naturally improvement, so in this respect about 75% of the time is devoted to practice and playing. Piobaireachd features largely in this, but also covered are Marches, Strathspeys and Reels, and playing for dancing. As much band work as possible is done, and usually the playing in concert is left to the latter part of the course.

Theory of music, and the history of piping is also studied. The examination at the end of the course is a two day affair. The first day comprises of a written examination - writing music from memory, theory of music and history of piping. On the second day the candidates are examined by a board from the Piobaireachd Society in practical playing.

Once a week, a lesson is given in Highland Dancing by an expert dancing instructor, so that this most essential part of a Pipe Major's knowledge is not left out.

The second type of course lasts for six weeks, and is for senior Pipers whose playing shows that they may eventually reach the potential Pipe Major standard.

For Territorial Army Units two one week courses are run, so that the good T.A. pipers can get in a good weeks practice unhampered by his normal everyday cares of civilian life. This course is most beneficial and although time is short, quite an amount can be got through. The course is short, as usually the candidates cannot get away for a longer period from their civilian work.

The School has made strenuous effort to improve the standard of the piping equipment issued through Ordnance channels, and the following system has been adopted by the Army authorities. Before a firm is placed on the contract list, the instrument is submitted for test to a board of Army Pipe Majors at the Castle. This Board decides whether or not they think the particular chanter, drones, etc. are passable. After a contract is made and the firm produces the order, Pipe Major MacLellan personally tests the instruments before they are dispatched to Ordnance stores. In such a way, the Army know that the pipes are of good quality, and the bagpipe firms have the satisfaction of knowing that their standards are high.

Many other irons are in the fire at the moment, such as a musical grading of Pipers and Drummers, consisting of various musical tests graded so that with service and educational qualifications the Pipers can gain his pay by his musical ability. These tests also provide an incentive to better his performance to reach the next grade.

The foremost aim of the School, as has always been in the past, is the furtherment and improvement of Piping in the Army. Now that the School is purely a military project, it is found that that contact with the powers-that-be at the War Office are easier to make and maintain than in days gone-by. One must not forget, however, the sterling work done over the past four decades by the Piobaireachd Society who provided Pipe Major Willie Ross as their instructor to the Army Class, who worked so hard to produce Pipe Majors of the highest standard.

Pipe Major John MacLellan
Army School of Piping
Edinburgh Castle

- 0 -

SALUTE TO THE QUEENS OWN HIGHLANDERS

P.M. John MacLellan

We are pleased to include in the Newsletter "Salute to the Queens Own Highlanders", composed by Pipe Major John MacLellan.

Pipe Major MacLellan, who recently played his composition on the B.B.C., has kindly forwarded this tune, and we are confident that you will find it of considerable interest and importance.

- 0 -

SALUTE TO THE QUEENS OWN HIGHLANDERS

J. A. MacLellan 1961

URLAR

1.

VAR. 1 SINGLING

2.

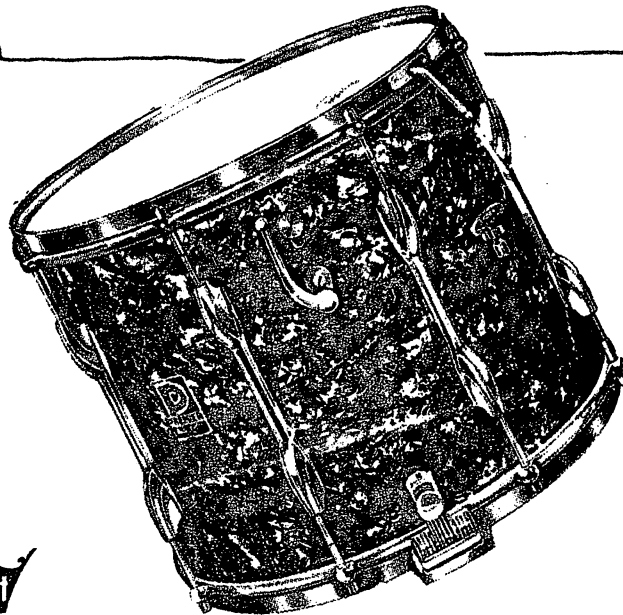
VAR. 1 DOUBLING

3.

Take remainder from singling above.

4. TAOR. SING. (T) 5. TAOR. DOUBLING. (T) 6. CRUNLUATH SING. (C) 7. CRUN. DOUB. (C')

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LETTER FROM VICTORIA

The December Newsletter contains an article by Roderick MacLeod about pipe tunes and their composers. This can be a very controversial subject, as most of the older tunes have been altered, some added to, and some renamed. Some tunes have half a dozen names, and many different tunes have the same name. Many of the older composers get credit for composing tunes that someone else composed.

Rod says D. Galbraith composed "Capt. Campbell of Drum a Voisk". My information on this tune is that Duncan Campbell composed "Capt. Campbell of Drumvuick", and Galbraith changed the name to "Drum a Voisk", and got credit for composing it. The same tune is in Glen's book as "Drumvuick", by Campbell. Campbell also composed "Sir Charles Forbes of Edlinglassie" and "The Edinburgh Volunteers".

James Mauchline was Pipe Major of the Seaforth Highlanders around 1850, and composed quite a list of tunes. Some of them are "Haste to the Wedding", "Here's to Him Over the Water", "Top of Ben Lomond", "The Scottish Pipers' Society", "Miss Ada Crawford" and "The Portree Men". Mauchline also composed the first two parts of "The Barren Rocks of Aden", the third and fourth parts being added by Alexander MacKellar, a piper in Mauchline's band who is credited with the whole tune. Mauchline composed a number of Piobaireachd, and the two that found most popularity were "The Vale of Keppoch" and "The Lament for Patrick MacCrimmon".

Angus MacKay composed "Glengarry Gathering" and "Balmoral Highlanders". However, he was more of an adapter than a composer. He is supposed to have adapted "The Duke of Roxburgh's Farewell to Blackmount Forest" from "Miss Forbes's Farewell to Banff", and "Balmoral Castle" from "Mrs. MacLeod of Raasay", and "Abercairny Highlanders" from "The Ranting Highlandman", which in turn was taken from the English Air "Where Does Bonnie Annie Lie". "Highland Wedding" was called "The Breadalbane Fencibles", which was adapted from "Stumpies Strathspey".

John McColl is supposed to have composed "Arthur Bignold of Lochrosque", but previous to the appearance of this tune, Pipe Major Honeyman composed a tune which he called "James Mauchline", and which was the same as "Arthur Bignold", but with six parts. Honeyman also composed "Lord Alexander Kennedy" and "The Carse of Stirling".

Willie MacDonald, brother of Johnnie MacDonald of Inverness, composed "Leaving Glenurquhart". Their uncle Duncan MacDonald composed the first two parts of "The Braes of Castle Grant", and G.S. MacLennan added the third and fourth parts.

"Lady Loudon", supposed to have been composed by Wm. Gow, has been called "The Minister and Lady Loudon", "Miss Lucy Campbell's Strathspey", "Miss Louisa Campbell's Delight", "Sharp John's Lass" and "Gie the Lad to Some Ain".

"Armiston Castle", composed by Pipe Major Paton of the Cameron Highlanders, is printed in Ross's collection of 1885 as "J.D.K. MacCallum Esquire's Strathspey".

Robert Meldrum composed "The 93rd's Farewell to Edinburgh", "The Thin Red Line", "The Downe of Rothiemurchus", "Lily Long Wade's Welcome to Inverness", "Tomintoul Highlanders", "John MacGregor Murray's March", and many more.

Pipe Major MacKinnon of the Highland Light Infantry composed "The 74th's Farewell to Edinburgh".

Hugh MacKay is supposed to have composed "Donald Cameron", but on the other hand, this tune is said also to be adapted from four or five different tunes.

At one time "Inverness Gathering" was called "Culloden Bay".

Katie Ramsay was the first woman composer of pipe music, and composed "The First Scottish Horse". I believe that she became the Duchess of Athol.

It is a great pity that a proper record of composers, and an up-to-date file of tunes had not been started many years ago, in order to help eliminate the conflicting stories. Views held on this very interesting subject, as nearly everything written about composers and their tunes, is based on supposition.

"He scewed the pipes, and gart them skirl
Till roof and rafter a' did dir!".

Peter George
President
Vancouver Island Pipers' Society
Victoria, B.C.

We would like to extend a welcome to William Forrest, who has recently arrived from Scotland to play with the MacMillan, Bloedel & Powell River Pipe Band. Willie was formerly a piper with the Grade One Band - Buckburn & District Pipe Band.



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SCOTLAND

VICTORIA HIGHLAND GAMES ASSOCIATION INDOOR MEET

The results of the Victoria Highland Games Association Indoor Meet, held on March 3rd in Victoria, are as follows:

Amateur 16 years and under - Marches:

1. Angus Stanfield
2. Stephone Geddes
3. Karen Ruddick
4. Bill Quigg

Amateur 16 years and under - Strathspeys and Reels:

1. Gordon Ross
2. Angus Stanfield
3. Stephen Geddes
4. Gordon Hamilton

Amateur - Open - Marches:

1. George Puritch
2. Ken Nelson
3. Bob MacPherson
4. Rilla Valair

Amateur - Open - Strathspeys and Reels:

1. Rilla Valair
2. Ken Nelson

Albert Duncan, of Burnaby, was the judge of these competitions.

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VANCOUVER ISLAND PIPERS' SOCIETY ANNUAL BANQUET

The Annual Banquet of the Vancouver Island Pipers' Society will be held on April 7th at Lougheed's Banquet Club, 1406 Douglas Street, Victoria. Dinner will be served at 7:00 p.m. A good programme is being arranged.

Tickets, which may be bought at the door, are \$5.00 double, and \$3.00 single. Any attendance from Vancouver would be warmly appreciated.

- James A. Berry -
Secretary Treasurer
Vancouver Island Pipers' Society

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PIPERS' AND DRUMMERS' STAG DINNER, SEATTLE

The Eleventh Annual Pipers' and Drummers' Stag Dinner, sponsored by a joint committee from the Washington Scottish, Seattle, Keith, Clan Gordon and Seattle Scottish Boys' Pipe Bands, will be held on March 17th, at the New Washington Hotel, Windsor Room, Seattle, Washington. Cocktail Hour will begin at 5:30 p.m., and dinner will commence at 6:30 p.m. Cost is \$5.00 per person.

Reservations are required, and if you intend to attend, contact Doug MacKenzie, 11519 29th S. W., Seattle 66, Wash. (CH 2-1168)

The following piping competitions will be held:

Novice Marches
Amateur Marches
Seattle & Vicinity March, Strathspey & Reel
Junior Quartets
Professional Jigs (2 jigs will be required)
Professional Slow Airs
Senior Quartets

A drumming competition will be held, consisting of pipe band drum sections. One of the highlights will be the Totem Pole Event, open to anyone, winner to be acclaimed by popular vote.

THE FAIR MAID OF BARRA

In the October issue of the Newsletter we erroneously printed "The Fair Maid of Barra". This tune, which we had in error assumed to be traditional, was in fact composed by John Campbell, and arranged by Seumas MacNeill. This tune appears in Mr. MacNeill's book, and is copyright.

We apologize to Messrs. Campbell and MacNeill for our mistake, and would assure both that no harm was intended.

VANCOUVER LADIES PIPE BAND FESTIVAL

The piping and drumming results of the Annual Vancouver Ladies Pipe Band Festival, held at the Cambrian Hall on February 17th, were as follows:

Under 12 Amateur Marches:

1. Robert Heggie 2. Raymond Irvine 3. Bill McMichael

Under 12 Amateur Strathspeys and Reels:

1. Raymond Irvine 2. Robert Heggie 3. David Irvine

Under 18 Novice Marches:

1. Laurie McIlvena 2. Iola Peace 3. Lindsay Maddock

Under 14 - Non-prize winners: Strathspeys and Reels:

1. Bill Lamont 2. Bobby Gallaher

Ladies Amateur Slow Airs (V.L.P.B. members only)

1. Rae Marie MacInnes

Individual Drumming:

1. Barrie Barnes 2. Graham Tawse 3. Robert Collins

Under 16 Amateur Marches:

1. Therese MacInnes 2. Robert McDonald 3. Bruce Topp

Under 16 Amateur Strathspeys and Reels:

1. Robert McDonald 2. John MacLeod 3. Bruce Topp

Over 16 Amateur Marches:

1. Bill Elder 2. Rae Marie MacInnes

Over 16 Amateur Strathspeys and Reels:

1. Bill Elder 2. Rae Marie MacInnes

Drum Corps Competition:

1. Seaforth Cadet Pipe Band.

The piping judge of these competitions was Mr. Ian Duncan, of Victoria, B.C. Mr. Robert Heatherington, of the MacMillan, Bloedel & Powell River Pipe Band, judged the drumming events.

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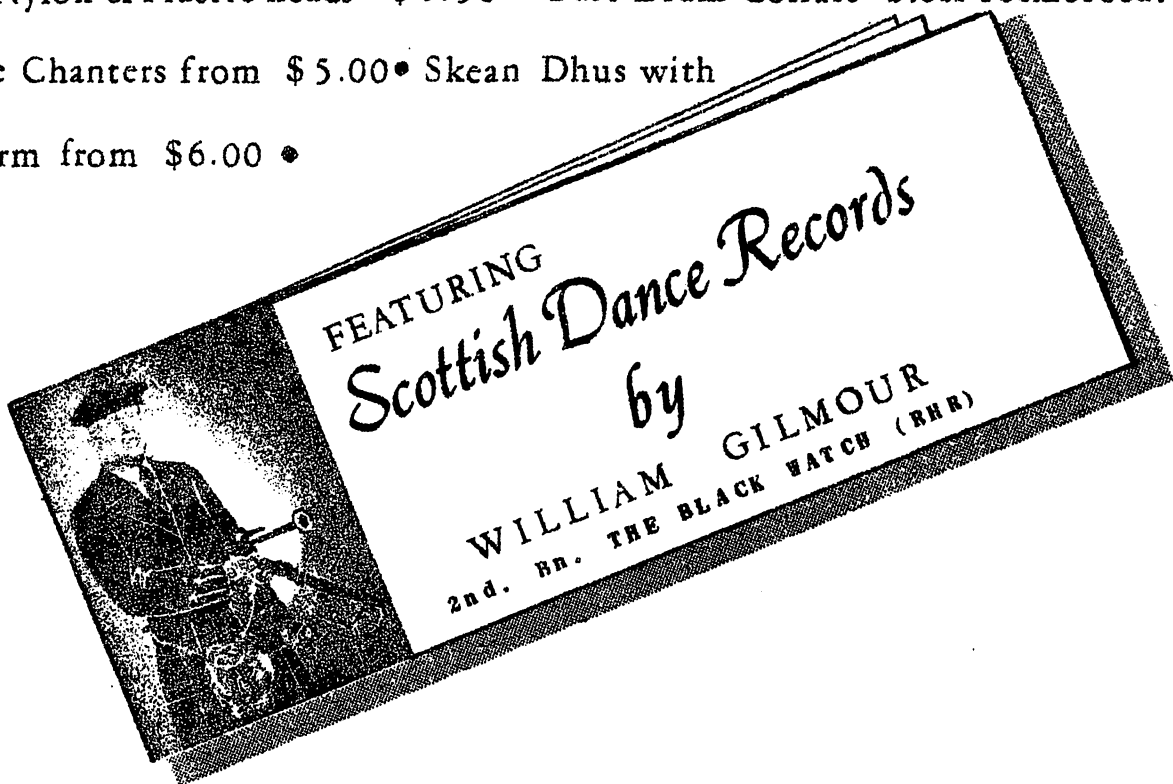
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AN APPRECIATION OF PIOBAIREACHD:

It is well worth a piper's while to drop in at the Library and read the article on pages 329 - 339 in Harper's Magazine, Volume 168, February, 1934 issue. This article is entitled: "Great Music of the Bagpipes: an Approach to Pibroch", by Leland Hall. The author is an American who writes entertainingly of a trip to Scotland. Though a trained musician, he had never studied pipe music, but made a point of hearing piobaireachd by some of the best players of the day. In addition to admiring "the prodigious skill of the piper's fingers", he states his conviction that piobaireachd fully satisfied musical requirements, and must certainly be considered "Great Music".

Quite possibly the article educated some people regarding the pipes. It is well calculated to do so. Anyway, as literature, it is very good reading indeed.

James A. Berry
Secretary Treasurer
Vancouver Island Pipers' Society

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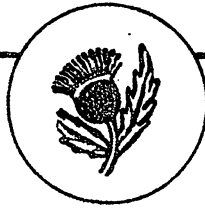
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