



A FEW OF THE WAR MEMORIAL YOUNG PIPERS.

REPORT OF
ANNUAL EXHIBITION
WAR MEMORIAL PIPERS
AND
PRESENTATION TO
PIPE-MAJOR J. GRANT.

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JUNE 1922.

AS on previous years this Exhibition was held in June in the afternoon and evening at Mr W. G. Burn Murdoch's studio and garden in Salisbury Road, Edinburgh. Numbers of the pupils' relatives and friends attended.

Mr Grant in the first part of the programme demonstrated his method of teaching by leading his latest pupils through their exercises on the chanter and with oral examination on the theory of pipe music. Six of these, who attended in naval uniform, are being trained for the Royal Naval Volunteer Reserve. The audience was impressed with the extremely satisfactory progress made by the pupils in their various stages.

At an interval the guests had tea and refreshment in the shade of the trees in the garden whilst the advanced pupils played marches on the lawn. In the bright sunshine the tartan and glitter of pipes and figures at tea tables in the shadow of the trees gave a pleasing appearance.

After all the pupils had tea, the advanced pupils, led by their teacher in the studio, played together on their chanters several marches, strathspeys and reels. The general construction of piobaireachd having been touched on, eight of the more advanced pupils played together on the chanter the greater part of the famous pibroch the "MacIntoshes Lament," after which the Rev. Neil Ross spoke on the subject of Mr Grant's work—done gratuitously—for the last five years. He said—

"Mr Grant, on account of the tuition which he himself received in early youth, hands down the direct MacCrimmon tradition. All his life he has shown a loyal devotion to pipe music, and has done a great deal by his example and his publications to foster that ancient legacy of the Gaelic race. For the past five years especially he has put his spare time and energy to effective use in teaching several classes of young pipers. He has handed on the old tradition and the old enthusiasm to a younger generation of players. It is with much pleasure that we who are here to-day offer him our congratulations on his work and on this recognition which he so richly deserves."

The Rev. Neil Ross, it may be recalled, is himself a highly skilled player of piobaireachd, having received his earliest tuition in the famous MacCrimmon country, and has cheered our soldiers in Flanders going to or coming from the trenches. In conclusion, he called upon Mrs Urmston to present the Memorial subscribed for by Mr Grant's well-wishers, amongst those were the following names:—

H.R.H. THE DUKE OF CONNAUGHT.

THE DUKE OF ATHOLL.

THE DUKE OF HAMILTON.

THE EARL OF DUNMORE.

THE EARL OF CASSILS.

LORD LOVAT.
LORD SEAFORTH.
Sir BRUCE SETON.
Lieut.-Col. JOHN MACRAE GILSTRAP.
Capt. W. HOME DRUMMOND MORAY.
Sir THOMAS GLEN COATS.
W. G. BURN MURDOCH, J.P.
JOHN BARTHOLOMEW, O.B.E., LL.B.
Major W. D. ALLAN.
JAMES OGILVIE.
A. W. LONG PARKHOUSE.
W. R. MOORE.
R. S. PATERSON.
Dr P. H. GILLIES.
Rev. NEIL ROSS, M.A., B.D.
C. H. URMSTON, W.S.
WM. BOYD, W.S.
Major J. G. JAMIESON, M.P.
GEORGE LAIDLAW.
Professor W. J. WATSON, LL.D.

Many friends and relatives of the pupils also subscribed. In the last five years there have been seventy-eight pupils, and thirty were present at this Exhibition. The Testimonial, according to Mr and Mrs Grant's desire, took the lasting form of a silver tea service and silver presentation cup.

Mrs Grant was thanked for the constant kindness she has shown to her husband's pupils at their house, and Mr Burn Murdoch was also accorded a hearty vote of thanks for hospitality and the use of his studio and garden. In acknowledging this, he congratulated the pupils on their being given to understand and admire whilst still in their boyhood the Pibroch masterpieces—"our greatest Scottish Art inheritance."

Mr Grant, in reply, said—"It is easier to teach than it is to find words to convey my expression of gratitude for such a handsome gift. We are content if, in this twentieth century, we may become pioneers of a new race of pipers who will play the pipes purely for the love of the art. I am proud to say that if I am spared, this work, which is only begun, will be continued, for I believe the playing of the Highland Bagpipe is a noble pastime, and is one of Scotland's greatest assets. I can assure those who are here, and also the subscribers who are not able to be present with us, that these gifts will always be treasured both by me and my wife, not only for their beauty, but for the sentiment which they convey."

Presented

to

Pipe-Major John Grant,

Highland Society of London Medallist

by a number of Subscribers

including H.R.H. The Duke of Connaught

and several of the Scottish nobility

in recognition

of his life-long devotion to pipe music

both by practice and publications

and especially

of his disinterested service to that art

by imparting to more than one

hundred younger performers

an enthusiastic efficiency

in the music and playing

of the national instrument.

Edinburgh, 28th June 1922.