

Calgary Claver

April 2017 Volume 2, Issue 1

# Calgary Claver



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

#### Gentlemen.

Welcome to the April edition of the 'Calgary Claver'. Wow, what a start to the year, and most of the members now getting a well deserved rest coming out of the Burns Supper season.

Here we are on our second volume in 2017, and our first issue for this year.

For myself, this past year has flown by and heading up to the AGM in May for the changing of "The Guard" to look after the Calgary Burns Club interests.

We lost a dear friend and avid Burnsian in Trevor Ramage, who will be dearly missed. There are a few references to Trevor contained within this issue.

The annual Burns Supper went very smoothly where we welcomed some special guests from Edmonton Burns Club including President Scott Montgomery, and the RBANA President Colin Harris. We also reciprocated where 10 members and singers attended their supper. (Middle picture Paul, Henry and Trekker with Rabbie in Edmonton)

As the snow starts to recede from a long winter, we are looking forward to a visitation from the RBWF President Bobby Kane later this month, and looks like we have a good number of members attending the RBANA meeting in Medicine Hat also in April.

Finally I would like to thank you all for your support over the past year, and hope you all have a wonderful and warm summer.

**Henry Cairney** 



- 1. Flora MacDonald grave (Skye)
- 2. Edmonton Visit 2017
- 3. CBC Banquet 2017

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### CANADA 150 YEARS (TREKKER ARMSTRONG)

On March 2<sup>nd</sup>, Dr. Paul Armstrong, Jim Hutchens and Trekker Armstrong met with Andrew McIntyre, Senior Policy Advisor for the Office of the Mayor. This was an exploratory meeting and information exchange on possible collaboration by the Calgary Burns Club and City of Calgary. Specifically, discussion was held on the City of Calgary's plans for Canada 150 Celebration and the opportunity for the Calgary Burns Club to participate. Mr. McIntyre supported the idea and took the action to identify potential events.

In addition, the concept of a Calgary Burns Club legacy was discussed in the form of a Robert Burns bust or statue and potential venues, such as Central Memorial Park or the new Calgary Central Library. Mr. McIntyre expressed interest and offered to facilitate the discussion with various branches of the City of Calgary (e.g. Calgary Parks).

On closing of the meeting Mr. McIntyre offered to provide a tour of the Grant MacEwan Library in Historic City Hall (across the foyer from the Mayor's office). Mr. McIntyre was impressed to learn of the close association of the Calgary Burns Club and the artifacts in the Library. From our donated bronze statue of Robert Burns, to the portrait of the Clubs late patron.



Mr McIntyre with our Bronze Statue



Grant MacEwan portrait



Quotes by Sir Walter Scott: "Oh what a tangled web we weave, when first we practice to deceive!"

Love rules the court, the camp, the grove, And men below, and saints above: For love is heaven, and heaven is love.

To all, to each, a fair good night, And pleasing dreams, and slumbers light

# ENTERTAINMENT (JIM HUTCHENS)

#### December:

Tis the season to be Jolly, and Jolly we were.

First the annual Christmas quiz, prepared by Ian Denness, but due to illness, he was unable to attend. Accordingly, Jim Hope-Ross filled the role of quizmaster. There were four sections – Burns, Sport, Knowledge of Canada and Miscellaneous. The eventual winners were Brian Lunan, Kyle Scott, Wayne McCullough, Jamie Osborne and the guest A.J. Rosenthac. They were rewarded with a small gift each. Jim Hutchens and Paul Kane played out a skit as the characters Jack and Victor of the TV program Fair Game, while poking fun at various Club members.
Sandy Paterson was set to tell a joke about the Coconut Dug and asked if anyone had heard it before.

When advised everyone had, he immediately returned to his seat.

Jim Hope-Ross, gave a brief prelude to his Carnie presentation for January on Bawdy Burns. He then recited an obscure and lewd verse he had learnt when he was 7 (what a memory!!), so old that the title is lost in the distant past.

Finally, the Singers closed the entertainment with renditions of Silent Night and Mary's Boy Child.

The entertainment for January was dedicated to the works of The Bard .

A huge thanks goes out to the following for tremendous presentations and for the obvious hard work they put into their preparation:

The CBC Singers (2 songs), Jim Hutchens, David Hood, Derek Larg, Ron Pratt, George Muir, Bob Ferrier & Ron Budd, Paul Armstrong, Gordon McCulloch, Maurice McAtamney & Jim Hutchens and ended with the CBC Singers (3 songs).

We had The Singers open the entertainment with Ae Fond Kiss and Behold My Love followed by Bruce Gordon (Ye Banks and Braes), Merv Howard (Songs of Scotland and The Waltz of the Angels). The Singers again regaled us with two more songs (The Old Meal Mill and In the Cold Blast). New member Ken Carr gave his introduction speech to the Club.

The monthly paper from the Carnie Group was presented by Ian Denness: The subject being an obscure Burns poem written 1793: Address to General Dumouriez, which was not published until 1810, after Burn's death.

Jim Little stepped up with an impromptu rendition from the region of his Scottish childhood called the Grangemouth Ferry variation.

#### March:

Well, what can be said about the entertainment for March.

Due to a string of unfortunate events, the majority of our lineup had to call off at the last minute, but once again our members came through in superb form at less the 24 hours' notice. Being close to St. Patrick's Day, Jim Hutchens opened with an Irish song (Mary of Dungloe). George

Muir explained how the rules for the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow in 2016 were changed to be advantageous to Scotland, especially those from underprivileged backgrounds. Maurice McAtamney sang two songs and Derek Larg gave us one of the late Bob Young's cracking jokes.

Don Humphries did his new member presentation. Gordon McCulloch brought the entertainment to a close with his usual unreserved line of humor based on some of his life experiences and concluded with one of his signature songs. The talent in the Calgary Burns Club is truly outstanding!

# 41ST BURNS SUPPER 2017 (TREKKER ARMSTRONG)

The  $41^{st}$  Annual Burns Supper was held on Friday  $20^{th}$  January in the Calgary Telus Convention Centre with 524 Members and guests in attendance.

Trekker Armstrong 1st VP and organizer, acted as MC for the first part of the evening. Merv Howitt gave the Selkirk Grace and David Hood, William Lawson, Bruce Gordon and Paul Kane delivered the Removes. As part of our traditional evening, the Loyal Toast was presented by Bill Spiers.

A replica of a Robert Burns statue was provided for each table, thanks to the efforts of Tony Grace, Bill Laing, Paul Armstrong, Jim McLaughlin, Bill MacLachlan and Trekker Armstrong.

Wonderful singing from Ron Pratt and the CBC Singers, performing, "O Canada", Scots Wha Hae", "Hail Caledonia", "Bring On The Whisky", "Birks of Aberfeldy" and "The Star of Rabbie Burns".

The Haggis was carried by Jim Osborne accompanied by Sword-bearers Ken Carr, Steven Campbell and piped in by 2 members of the Calgary Police Service Pipe Band. Jamie Osborne, son of Jim Osborne, then delivered the Address to the Haggis.

In celebrating Canada's 150th anniversary of Confederation the program included recognition of the Scots' contribution in making us who we are as a country. In honour of Canada's Anniversary, the Club's Bard Jim McLaughlin recited his poem "The Scots Who Built This Canada". In addition, a copy of Club Life Member Jack Whyte's "Toast to Canada" was provided to each table to take home.

The Calgary Police Service Pipe Band entertained the guests with a variety of Scottish songs.

After the interval, the head table was piped in by Club Member Kyle Scott consisting of CBC President Henry Cairney, the evening's speaker, Willie Gibson, Gordon McCulloch, Gerry Wood and the newest Ordinary Member Don Humphreys, Edmonton Burns Club President Scott Montgomery and the President of Robert Burns Association of North America {RBANA} Colin Harris. The MC duties were then passed from Trekker Armstrong to President Henry Cairney who gave the President's remarks.

An entertaining and unique "Immortal Memory" was then delivered by Willie Gibson who flew over from Bonnie Scotland for the event.

A humorous and engaging Toast to the Lassies was delivered by Gordon McCulloch with no lassies present to counter a reply. An emotional Toast to Absent Friends was offered by Gerry Wood followed by the song "Absent Friends" from the Singers.

Henry Cairney then gave his closing remarks and the evening concluded with the singing of "Auld Lang Syne" .

# 2017 BURNS SUPPER PHOTOGRAPHS



Jim McLaughlin reciting his poem "The Scots Who Built This Canada"



Jamie Osborne in the Address to the Haggis



White Hat ceremony for our speaker Willie Gibson presented by Calgary Tourism Elaine Baumann at the Presidents Reception

# BURNS SONG (1785)

(RANTIN', ROVIN' ROBIN)

There was a lad was born in Kyle, But whatna day o' whatna style, I doubt it's hardly worth the while To be sae nice wi' Robin.

Chorus: Robin was a rovin' boy, Rantin', rovin', rantin', rovin', Robin was a rovin' boy, Rantin', rovin', Robin!

Our monarch's hindmost year but ane Was five-and-twenty days begun, 'Twas then a blast o' Janwar' win' Blew hansel in on Robin. Robin was, &c.

The gossip keekit in his loof, Quo' scho, "Wha lives will see the proof, This waly boy will be nae coof: I think we'll ca' him Robin." Robin was, &c.

"He'll hae misfortunes great <u>an'</u> sma', But aye a heart aboon them a', He'll be a credit till us a'-We'll a' be proud o' Robin." Robin was, &c.

"But sure as three times three mak nine, I see by ilka score and line, This chap will dearly like our kin', So leeze me on thee! Robin." Robin was, &c.

"Guid faith," quo', scho, "I doubt you gar The bonie lasses lie aspar; But twenty fauts ye may hae waur So blessins on thee! Robin." Robin was, &c.

# **FUTURE SPEAKERS**

2018 Jane Brown Past President RBWF 2019 Peter Hughes Past President RBWF 2020 Andy Harrower Director RBWF

# EVENTS 2017 (JAMIE OSBORNE)

April 8th - Tartan Day Celebration - Canmore Highland Games
April 11th - Members Meeting
April 27th - RBWF President Reception
April 28th - 30th - RBANA Conf. - Medicine Hat
May 9th - Calgary Burns Club AGM
May 13th - Valour Canada Gala
May 20th-22nd - Victoria Highland Games
June 17th - Red Deer Highland Games
June 17th - BC Highland Games - Port Coquitlam
June 18th - Ellerslie Highland Games
July 1st - Penticton Highland Games
July 1st - Penticton Highland Games
July 23rd - Calgary Burns Club Golf Tournament
July 29th - Foothills (Okotoks) Highland Games
September 2nd - Calgary Highland Games
September 3rd - Canmore Highland Games
2017/18 First Members meeting (TBA)

# **BOB CARNIE**



# OUR HERITAGE



#### Charter Ceremony 1975

Club president, Bob Watson, is holding the framed Club Charter from the Burns Federation (Kilmarnock).

From left to right: Alastair Ross, John Whitelock, Jacky Whyte, Alastair Sinclair, Jock Thompson, Andy Gibson, Grant MacEwan, Bob Watson. (Graham Underwood was unable to attend.)

Charter, executive and members of the Calgary Burns Club. September, 1975

# COMMUNICATION (JAMIE OSBORNE)

January and February have been quite busy on the communications side. We received well over 50 Christmas and Fraternal Greetings this year. I have circulated a list of the greetings we got, and are available to the membership by request. I personally have received many communications, mostly verbal, from guests that attended our dinner this year. All had the same thing to say, "This was the best dinner we have been to in a long time"! For that, I think that a big thank you is in order to Trekker, his sub committee, and the Burns Club Membership.

As for the second half of February and March, the communications side have been very quiet. Therefore, I will be circulating over the next little while some upcoming events for other groups. I have also made a list of upcoming events for this edition of the Claver. If you would like further information on these events, please feel free to contact me.

# THE CARNIE GROUP (JIM MCLAUGHLIN)

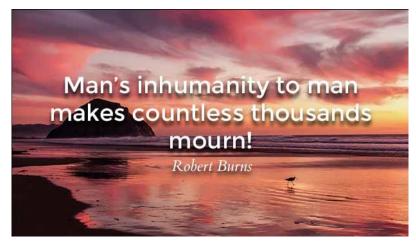
The Calgary Burns Club's Carnie Group was formed in 2007, and in an article that appeared in the last issue of The Calgary Claver, its purpose and achievements in the intervening period were described. Without restating what was presented there, suffice to say that the group has succeeded in producing a great many well-researched papers on various topics relating to the life and works of Robert Burns, as well as other Scottish poets and leading writers. Aspects of Scottish history and culture have also been the subject of these researches. In most cases, members of the group have presented papers on these topics at club meetings and many of these can be found on the club's website. In this issue, the Carnie Group would like to say something about the man whose name is attached to the group itself, namely former life member, past president and club bard, Bob Carnie. Bob joined the Calgary Burns Club in 1983 and remained a member until his death in September 2007, just under 10 years ago.

Doctor Robert Hay Carnie - to give him his full title - was born in Dundee, Scotland in

Doctor Robert Hay Carnie - to give him his full title - was born in Dundee, Scotland in 1928. He received his MA in English and Philosophy and then a PhD in English literature, both from the University of St. Andrews. Before emigrating to Canada, he taught mainly 18th Century Scottish literature in a number of colleges and universities, including Bedford College London and the universities of St. Andrews, Western Nigeria and Dundee. Finally, in the early 1980's he took up a position at the University of Calgary and retained the title of Professor Emeritus into his retirement. His achievements during his career are too numerous to list here; it is enough to say that he was a very distinguished scholar with many publications to his credit. In his later years in Calgary he had amassed a collection of close to 3000 books - many quite rare - of Scottish and English literature, which served him well in his continuing research and publication efforts. But one of Bob's abiding passions was the collecting of (mainly signed) book cover designs of old Scottish publications, and in the year 2000, with the sponsorship of the Calgary Burns Club, he published the 'Burns Illustrated: A Short Study of Selected Illustrations (1795-1925) of the Poems and Songs of Robert Burns'. A number of copies of this finely illustrated volume still reside within the club's archives and are often presented to speakers at our annual Burns Supper.

A more important commentary on Bob should focus on what he meant to the club and the friends he made there, most of whom are still active members. It is not an exaggeration to describe him as 'unique' in that his knowledge of the poet Robert Burns and of Scottish history and literature was unmatched within the club, and probably even throughout Canada. In being appointed club bard, that depth and quality of knowledge was recognized, but a true appreciation of the gift of his contributions to the club could only be fully appreciated upon listening to the many wonderful presentations he treated us to over the years. It was not just the content of his papers that was so transfixing, but also the manner of his delivery. Invariably, we were in thrall, perhaps held by that singular glint in his eye (sometimes challenging, sometimes mischievous) and the Dundonian lilt in his voice. Bob was a gracious, gentle and truly delightful man, and those of us who knew him will continue to miss him. He was a mentor and friend to so many of us, and however modestly - his spirit and his purpose live on in the work of the club's Carnie Group. We can continue to honour his name by 'keeping up the good work' in that worthwhile endeavour.

4



Famous Robert Burns Quotes: "Man's inhumanity to man makes countless thousands mourn""

(Man Was Made To Mourn; A Dirge 1784)

"His locked, letter'd, braw brass collar Shew'd him the gentleman an' scholar"

(The Twa Dogs; (A Tale) 1786

# THE CBC SINGERS (RON PRATT)

January again was our busiest month, no surprise there. In addition to our Club Dinner, we had representation at 15 to 20 other functions, about half of which entailed addressing the "wee beastie", and almost all of them requiring a good hour of singing entertainment. Most of these engagements were annual call backs, with immediate requests to come back again.

We were saddened with the loss of one of the original members of the group, Mr. Trevor Ramage on January 15th. Our group provided some upbeat numbers at Trevor's Celebration of Life service, songs that Trevor always enjoyed singing, and Bob Ferrier sang beautiful renditions of "Some Say Love" and that gem by Robert Burns, "O Were I On Parnassus Hill". Trevor will be sorely missed at our practices and functions.

For the year ended March 31, the singers participated in some 40 functions/events and in addition to countless smiles and toe tapping, we sold a fair number of CDs and received donations of approximately \$3,500.

# BURNS WORLD NEWS (TONY GRACE)

The RBANA AGM and Annual Conference are fast approaching. It is being held just next door to us in Medicine Hat – an easy drive from Calgary, on the  $28^{th}$  to the  $30^{th}$  of April. There will be a ceilidh on the Friday night which knowing the talent in Medicine Hat will be an enjoyable evening. The AGM is on the Saturday morning and in the afternoon there is the annual Dr. Connor quiz. In the evening there is the formal dinner with entertainment. Sunday closes the event with a non-denominational church service. For those who wish there is a golf tournament on the Friday morning and for those partners not wishing to attend the AGM there is an optional city tour. Several of our Club members have already registered and there is still time for anyone interested to apply. Forms are available on the RBANA Website, but if you have trouble contact Jamie Osborne or Tony Grace.

The RBWF has just released the 2017 Burns Chronicle which contains some nineteen articles on a wide number of subjects linked to Robert Burns, including a planned new Bibliography – the first one in fifty years. Copies may still be obtained through the Federation. The Club will be meeting with the President of the Federation, Bobby Kane at the end of April when he will be visiting us with his wife Karen as part of his attendance at the RBANA Conference. Please note the evening of Thursday April 27th and plan to join us with your partner. Later in the year the Federation will be holding its AGM and Annual Conference at the Peebles Hydro Hotel in the Borders of Scotland on September 8th to the 10th.

#### CBC SINGERS CD'S

CD1 TWAS THE SCOTS
CD2 SCOTS WHA HAE
CD3 BRING ON THE WHISKY
CD4 THE THISTLE OF SCOTLAND
CD5 O ROWAN TREE

# BURNS SONG (1787)

A BOTTLE AND A FRIEND

There's nane that's blest of human kind, But the cheerful and the gay, man, Fal, la, la, &c.

Here's a bottle and an honest friend! What wad ye wish for mair, man? Wha kens, before his life may end, What his share may be o' care, man?

Then catch the moments as they fly, And use them as ye ought, man: Believe me, happiness is shy, And comes not aye when sought, man

# TREVOR RAMAGE



#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

President; Henry Cairney
Past President: Paul Armstrong
1st VP; Trekker Armstrong
2nd VP: Jim Hutchens
Secretary: Tony Grace
Communications: James Osborne
Steward: Maurice MacAtamney
Treasurer: Bill MacLachlan
Sponsorship: Vlad Dhillon
Director At Large: Stephen Nichol

# MEMBERSHIP NEWS (PAUL ARMSTRONG)

We were incredibly shocked and saddened to lose our Life Member and dear friend, Trevor Ramage, in January just before the Annual Burns Supper. Our thoughts and prayers were with Margaret and the family. A large number of Club Members attended a lovely and very emotional celebration of his life.

Since the last Claver submission there has been no change in Ordinary Membership and we currently have 36 of our 37 Members. There have been a number of guests who have attended our meetings this year and there is a good possibility that we will fill that opening by the AGM.

We are sorry to have received a letter of resignation from Wayne McCullough, one of our Associate Members. I have not received any news of additions to Members' families since December.

Wishing you all a Happy Easter!

Paul Armstrong Past President and Membership Director

# MEMBERSHIP SHIELD PRESENTATIONS



To Don Humphries presented by President Henry Cairney



To Ken Carr presented by 1st VP Trekker Armstrong



To John Young presented by 1st VP Trekker Armstrong

# 2016 FLASHBACK



Life membership presented to Ron Pratt by President Paul Armstrong



Presenting the "Gavel" to Henry Cairney from President Paul Armstrong

# TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE (ANSWERS BACK PAGE)

- Which song did the heading in the article below on this page come from? 1.
- 2.
- Which town and county in Ayrshire was Rabbie born in? Which profession saw his wrath in "Holy Wullie's Prayer"?

#### INTERMEDIATE

- Which woods in Ayrshire was Rabbie convinced to continue his poetry by Captain Richard Brown? 1.
- Name the poem which had a visitor crawling on a lady's hat?
- 3. Which profession did Rabbie serve with for the crown?

#### HARD

- Whats a "Tattie Bogle"?
- When did Rabbie marry Jean Armour?
- What was the title of his first major volume of verse in 1786? 3.

#### DIABOLICAL

- Dr Thomas Blacklock was a large influence on Rabbie, where was he born? (Town and County)
- Name Rabbie's pet who influenced "The Tale of Twa Dogs"?
- Who lived at Saughton Farm and influenced "The Merry Muses of Caledonia" 3.

# "YOUR THOUGHTS I WILL PROCLAIM!"

Arising out of another initiative the Board of Directors has been discussing the possibility of adopting a Club Mission Statement. You might ask why should we have a Mission Statement?

A Mission Statement is defined as:

"a formal summary of the aims and values of a company, organization, or individual".

In summary it is a short statement of the aims and goals of an entity, usually and organization and states the "raison d'être" for its existence.

From the archives Tony Grace discovered a discussion in the Minutes of the 1993 September and October meetings of the Club, interestingly called "Third Degree Burns"! There was a statement adopted and revised that was printed in the program of the RBWF conference when it was in Calgary in 1993. It reads:

"The Calgary Burns Club is dedicated to the study, understanding and appreciation of the life, times and writing of Scotland's national poet, Robert Burns. We also take pride in our interest in "things Scottish" and the preservation of Scottish Heritage in Canada."

Since the inception of the website there has been a statement on the Homepage the origin of which is unclear:

"The Calgary Burns Club holds the memory of Robert Burns and the fellowship arising out of that memory to be one of the most important aspects of being Scottish Calgarians. The Čalgary Burns Club fosters an interest in Scottish literature, art and music by sharing its talents with the community and through support of events involving Scottish cultural activ-

This would appear to be a very succinct summary of the aims and goals of the Club and seems like an improvement on the 1993 statement. The answer to the earlier question is simply another one, "Why not?".

The Board of Directors would certainly value your thoughts on this question and these should be directed to the President.

#### **SCORE**

- Write a book!! 12.
- 9-11 Smarty Pants!!
- 6-8 Nae bad!!
- A trier!!
- Aye weel!!
- Keep the day job!!

#### **BRIEF NEWS**

- The "Quill" poetry competition deadline is the April members meeting
- Archivist Jim McLaughlin is now preparing to start the archiving
- Tony Grace is digitizing past minutes of the club
- Henry Cairney is digitizing past dinner audio tapes and singers taped audio music
- Statue production imminent, new members to assist welcome
- Jim Hutchens and Trekker Armstrong are looking into new venues for the annual Burns Supper
- Members and partners evening on 27th April to meet RBWF President Bobby Kane
- Ladies Night cancelled for this year due to unforeseen circumstances

# CALGARY CLAVER

Thank you to all contributors.

If you have anything with a Robert Burns, or Scottish cultural interest you would like included in the April newsletter, please e-mail the compiler and editor, Henry Cairney at:

henry.cairney7@shaw.ca

#### Calgary Claver

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E-mail: calgaryburnsclub.com

Deadline for the August edition of the Calgary Claver is:

\*\*JULY 23rd 2017\*\*



#### THE TATTIE BOGLE

The tattie-bogle wags his airms: Caw! Caw! Caw! He hasna onie banes or thairms: Caw! Caw! Caw!

We corbies wha hae taken tent, And wamphl'd round, and glower'd asklent,

Noo gang hame lauchin owre the bent: Caw! Caw! Caw!

# "CLAVER HAVER"

# BOOK REVIEW "THE SCOTS"

#### (SUBMITTED BY STEPHEN NICHOL)

A Book Review of "The Scots: A Genetic Journey" by Alistair Moffat and James F. Wilson

Moffat and Wilson have collaborated to provide readers of Scottish heritage, with an up to date outline of Scottish history that incorporates the results of DNA analysis of now several thousands of curious Scots.

The book avoids involving the reader in extreme technical DNA detail and provides a refreshing update on the history of Scotland's people. If you enjoy Scottish history this will be a worthwhile read, with the added bonus that you may find details regarding your own family lines.

The book contains 23 plates and 8 illustrations that amplify aspects of the writing. The writing style is very readable and is well connected to the subject matter of the book. The reader will increase their timeframe of their knowledge of Scottish historical events and will be left with a connection with world that is beyond Scotland's borders.

The book is available in paperback form and as an e-book. It is published by Birlinn (www.birlinn.co.uk)

ISBN 987 178027 032 6; e-book ISBN 978 0 85790 020 3

# TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE (ANSWERS)

#### EASY

1. Ye Jacobites, 2. Alloway Ayrshire, 3. The Ministry

#### **INTERMEDIATE:**

1. Eglinton Woods, 2. Tae a Louse, 3. An Exciseman

#### HARD

1. A Scarecrow, 2. 1788, 3. Poem's Chiefly In The Scottish Dialect

#### DIABOLICAL:

1. Annan, Dumfriesshire, 2. Luath, 3. Robert Cleghorn



### THE AULD BRIG O'DOON

John Kennedy "The Auld Brig O'Doon, Alloway Ayrshire. (The National Galleries of Scotland)