



# Scottish Mountains

Presentation to the Calgary Burns Club

March 9, 2004

The Welcoming sweep of Ben Dorain (3,524') that greets travellers  
heading north from Tyndrun to Bridge of Orchy



**Munros?**

**Corbetts?**

**Marilyns?**

**Murdos?**

**Grahams?**

**Donalds?**

Winter at its best – Ben Achaladair (3,409') and Beinn An Dothaidh (3,287')

# What am I talking about?

**Munros?**

**Corbetts?**

**Marilyns?**

**Murdos?**

**Grahams?**

**Donalds?**

Winter at its best – Ben Achaladair (3,409) and Beinn An Dothaidh (3,287')



These are all designations of Scotland's mountains

Over the years, individuals have created lists of Scottish Mountains and Tops that meet certain criteria and in most cases the lists are named after that individual

This evening we are going to review the origin of the lists and their criteria

Ben Mheadhoin (3,878') in the Cairngorms

# The Munros

The first group we are going to look at are the Munros.

This list of mountains and tops is named for Sir Hugh Munro. He first published his list in the Scottish Mountaineering Club (SMC) Journal in 1891. Unfortunately the list was unfinished at the time of his death in 1919 and he did not write down precise definitions on all aspects of the list.

Ben Nevis, (4,409') the highest mountain in the UK and surrounding hills -

# Munros

His original intention was to list the Scottish mountains of 3000 ft and over, which were of 'sufficient separation' from neighbouring tops to merit a listing.

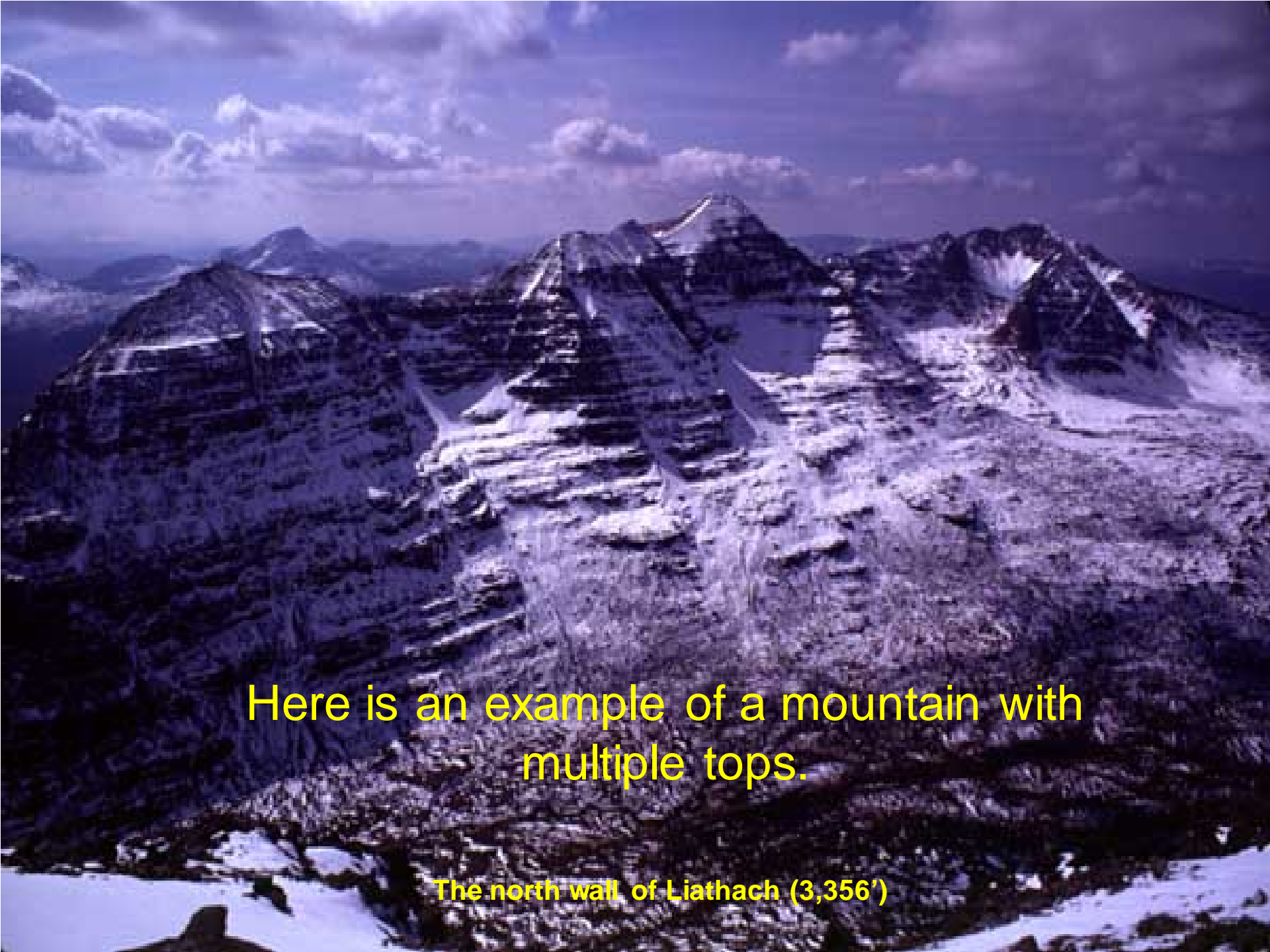
The list has been revised several times over the years and the current list, from the 1997 revision, includes 284 Munros and 511 tops.

# Mountains versus Tops?

A mountain is considered to be a distinct formation. Separate from any other mountains in the area.

Tops are another thing. They are summits on the same mountain. On any mountain there could be several tops.

Beinn Dearg (2,999') and Beinn Alligin (3,232')



Here is an example of a mountain with multiple tops.

The north wall of Liathach (3,356')

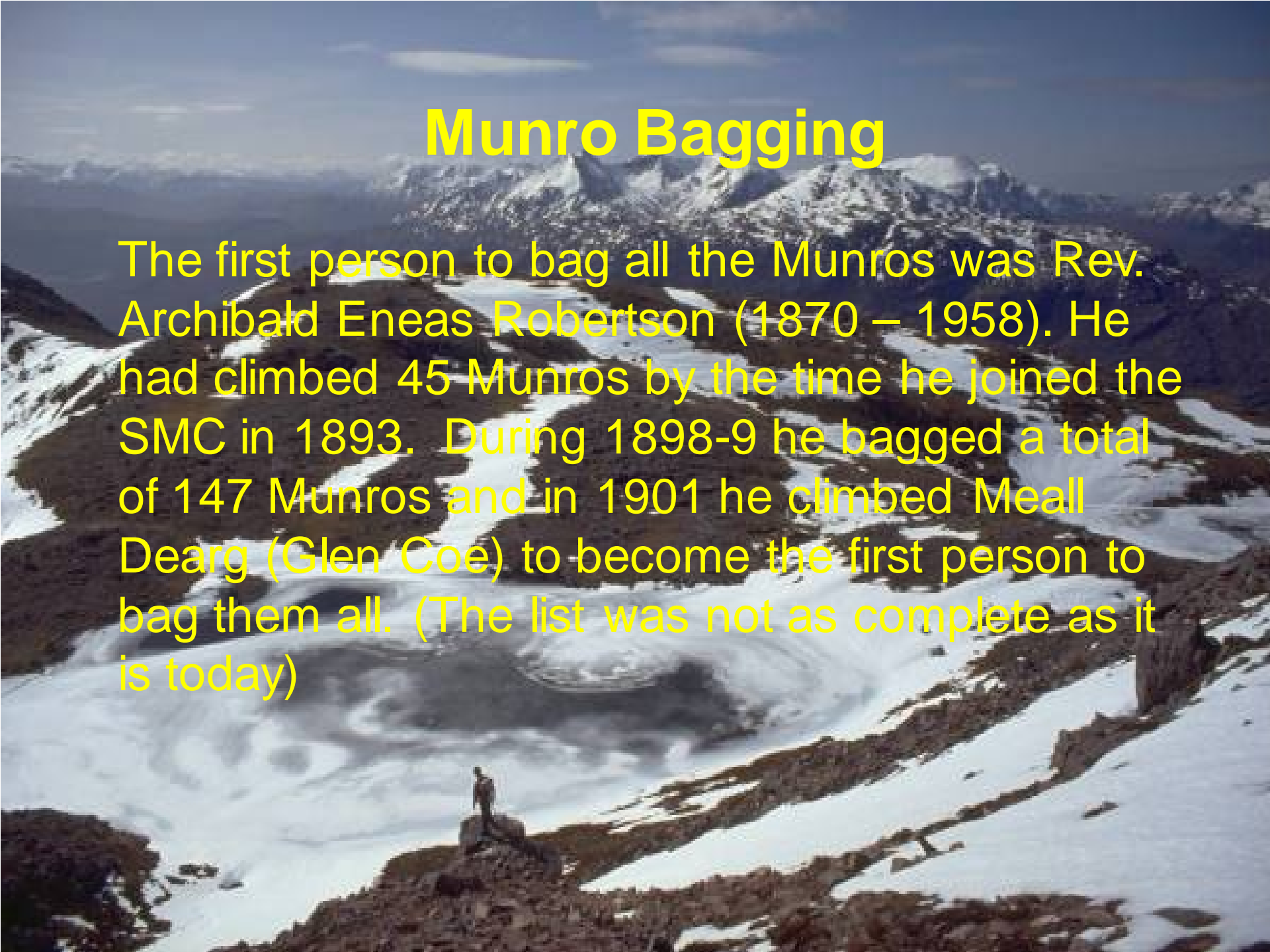
# Munro Bagging?

- Scotland's Munros are like a magnet to climbers and hill walkers.

The Scottish Mountaineering Club reports that as of summer 2003 over 3,000 people have reported to have bagged all 284. Many of them have done all the Munros more than once.

# Munro Bagging

The first person to bag all the Munros was Rev. Archibald Eneas Robertson (1870 – 1958). He had climbed 45 Munros by the time he joined the SMC in 1893. During 1898-9 he bagged a total of 147 Munros and in 1901 he climbed Meall Dearg (Glen Coe) to become the first person to bag them all. (The list was not as complete as it is today)



# The Murdos

Then we have the Murdos

They are 3,000 foot mountains or tops in Scotland with a 98' (30m) drop on all sides

They include most Munros and tops over 3,000'

There are currently 444 Murdos on the list

Sgurr nan Gilleann on the Isle of Skye (3,166')



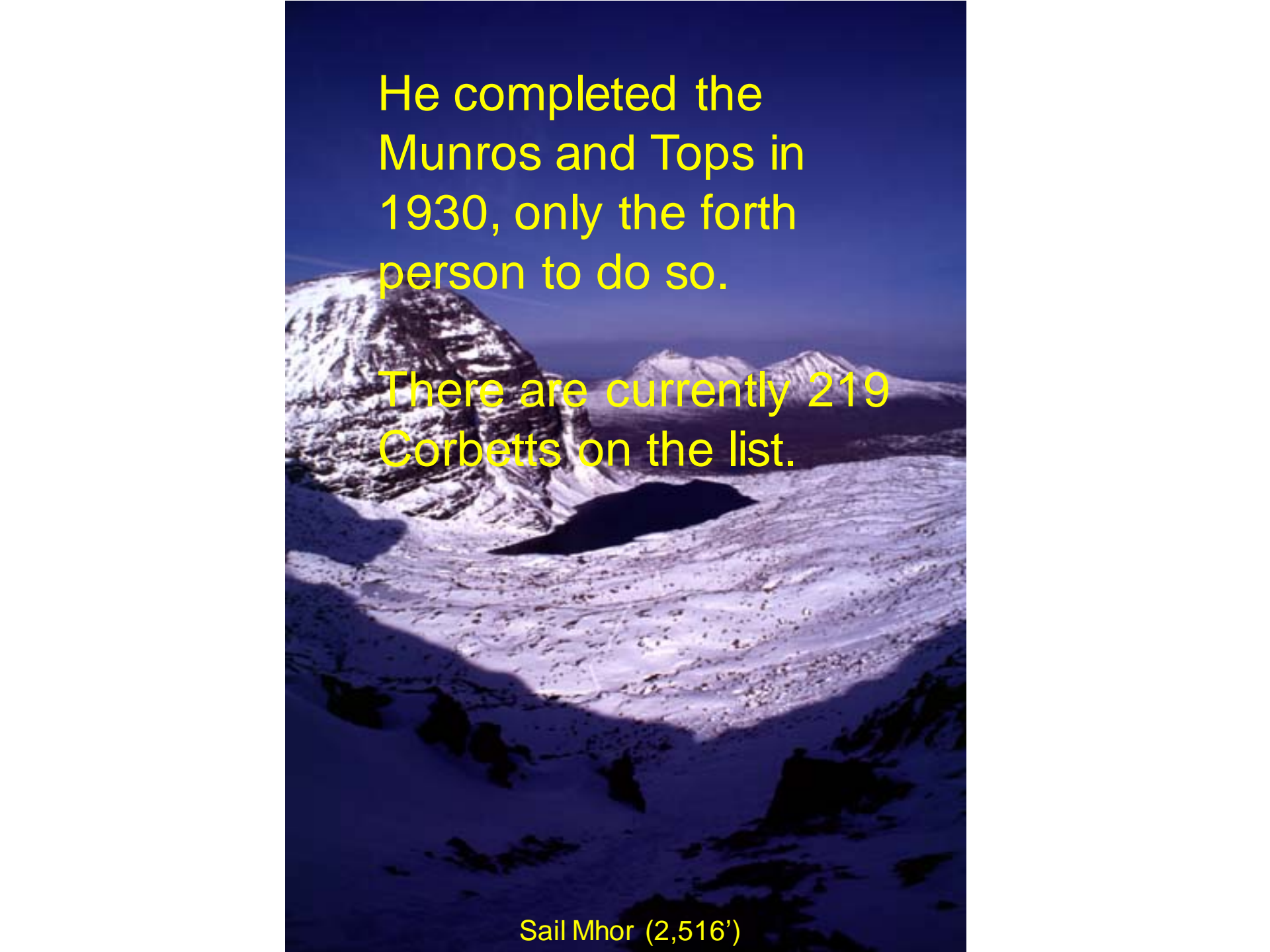
This is a Murdo as  
part of Beinn Eighe

The Triple Butress, Beinn Eighe (3,189')

# The Corbetts

Moving down our list we have the Corbetts. This is a list of Scottish hills between 2,500' and 3,000' with a drop of at least 500' between each listed hill.

John Rooke Corbett was a member of the SMC and in the years between the two World Wars compiled the first list.



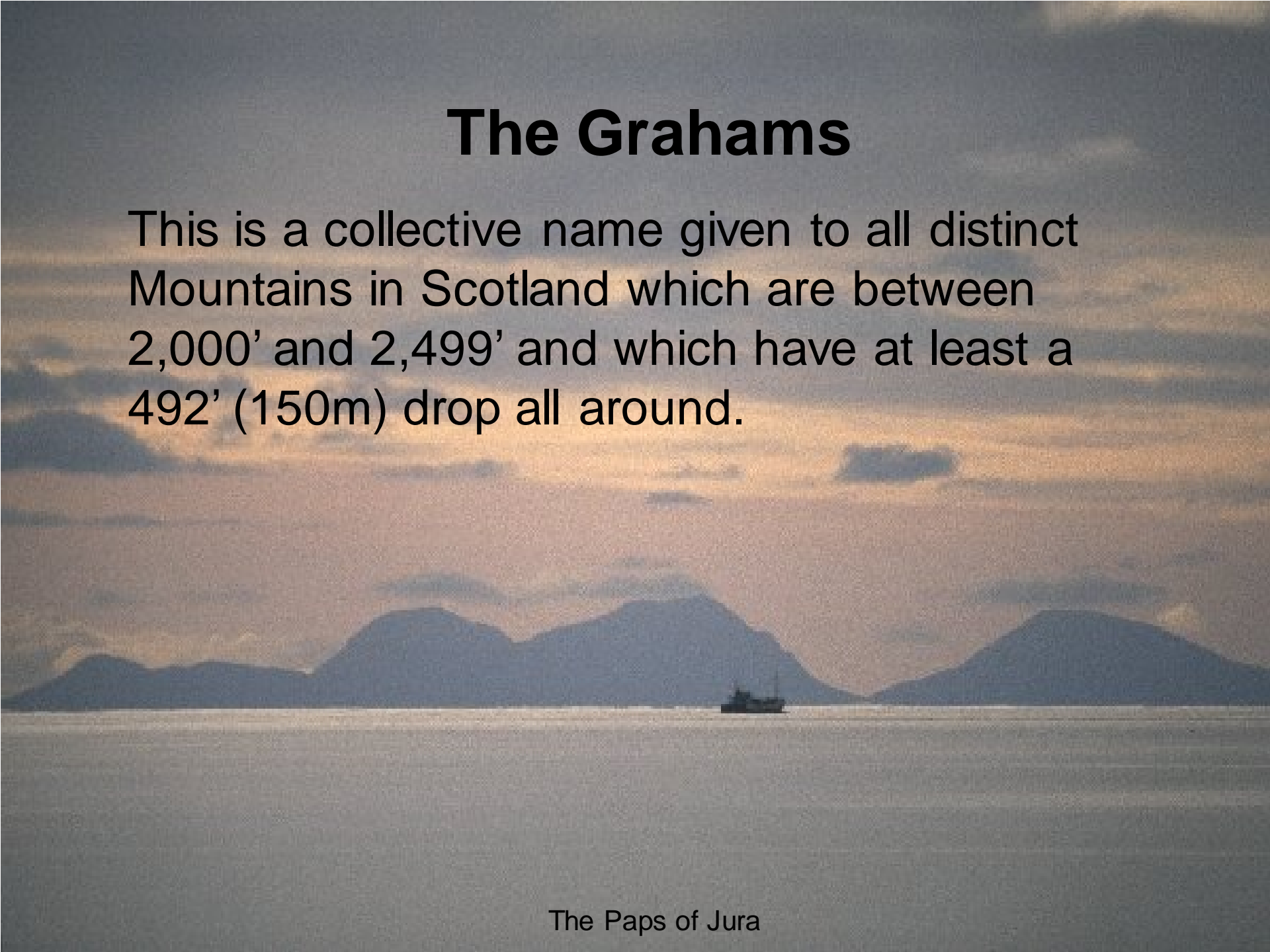
He completed the  
Munros and Tops in  
1930, only the forth  
person to do so.

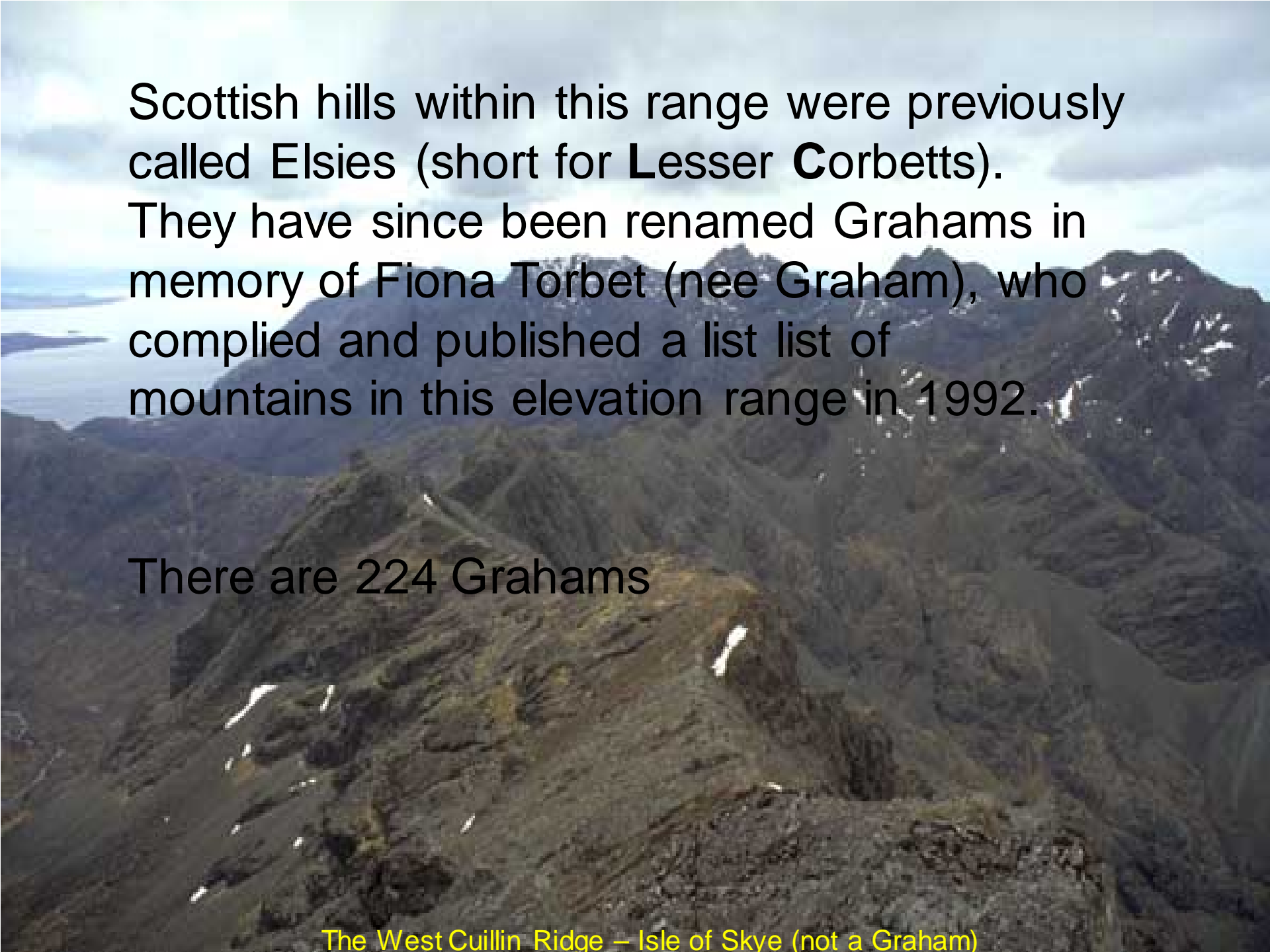
There are currently 219  
Corbetts on the list.

Sail Mhor (2,516')

# The Grahams

This is a collective name given to all distinct Mountains in Scotland which are between 2,000' and 2,499' and which have at least a 492' (150m) drop all around.





Scottish hills within this range were previously called Elsie (short for **L**esser **C**orbetts). They have since been renamed Grahams in memory of Fiona Torbet (nee Graham), who compiled and published a list of mountains in this elevation range in 1992.

There are 224 Grahams

The West Cuillin Ridge – Isle of Skye (not a Graham)

# The Donalds

The next group that I'm going to talk about tonight are the Donalds

These are lowland Scottish hills of over 2,000' with at least a 100' drop.

They are named for Percy Donald who created the first list using this criteria and is believed to be the first person to climb them all.

There are currently 118 Donalds on the list.

Many Grahams are also Donalds.

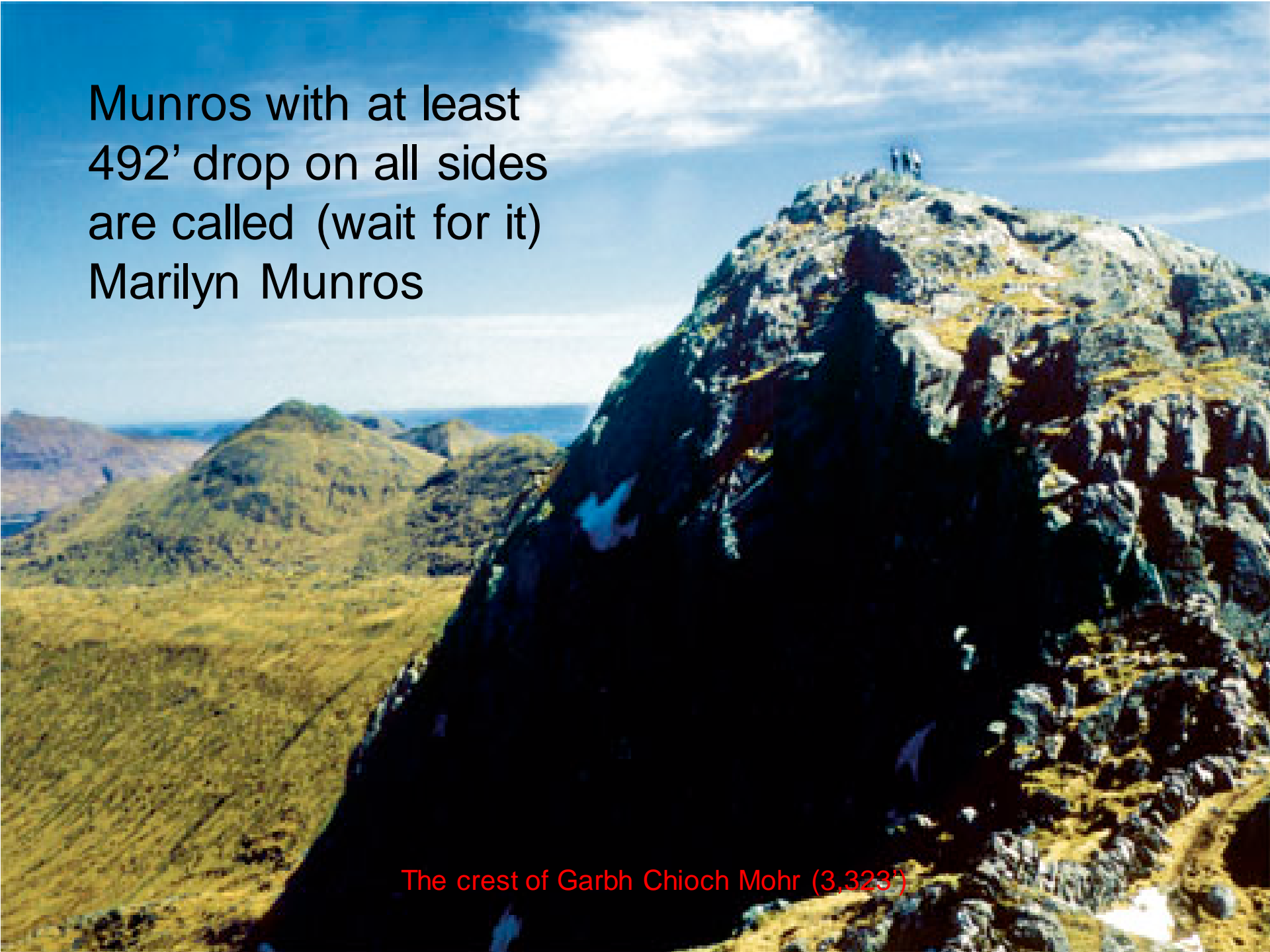
Blacklorg Hill (2,234')

The last category is the Marilyn's. Actually British Hills of any height with a 492' (150m) drop on all sides. This list was introduced 1992 and the idea was to list the hilliest hills irrespective of height.

An Sgurr

Munros with at least  
492' drop on all sides  
are called (wait for it)  
Marilyn Munros

The crest of Garbh Chioch Mohr (3,323')



# **Scottish Mountaineering Club**

**Was formed in 1889 as a result of correspondence in the Glasgow Herald initiated by William W. Naismith. Although other Scottish clubs existed at the time, these had only local membership.**

**Their publication the SMC Journal has remained in continuous publication from 1890 to present.**

**The club currently has approximately 400 members. Being able to meet technical climbing standards is required for membership.**

# Summary

**Munros** – 3,000' +

**Murdos** – 3,000' + Mountains and tops with 98' drop on all sides

**Corbetts** – 2,500' – 2,900' with a drop of 500'

**Grahams** 2,000' – 2,499' with a 492' drop

**Donalds** – Lowland hills over 2,000' with a 100' drop

**Marilyns** – any hill with a 492' drop on all sides



[www.lochaber.com](http://www.lochaber.com) 02/08/04 16:00:32





D. Hunter Copyright 1998 **Summit of Ben Nevis** [www.BritishScenery.org.uk](http://www.BritishScenery.org.uk)

# The Mountain Track



**BEN NEVIS**  
SUMMIT 4,408ft

McLean's Steep

4,000ft Cairn

Five Finger Gully

Surgeons Gully

Aonach Mòr 4,005ft

Carn Dearg 4,005ft

Carn Mòr Dearg 4,002ft

Meall an t-Suidhe 2,332ft

Lochan Meall an t-Suidhe

John's Wall Corner

Halfway Point (Height)  
275m above John's Wall

Red Burn Waterfall

Halfway Point (Distance)  
40m below Corner 1

Lochan Rise

Foot Bridge

Windy Corner

The Junction

Ian's Nevis Bridge 6ft

The Summit Trig Point

