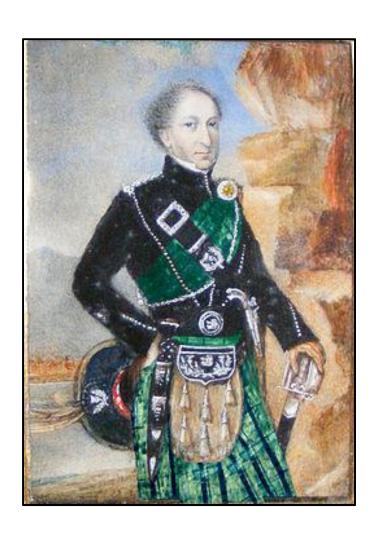
Historical Customs and Dress of Scotland



Christy Morgan

February 2014

Traditional Highland Dress - Male



Includes:

Kilts ("skirts") or Trews (trousers)

Sporran – pouches worn around the waist to function as pockets

Sgian Dubh – short-bladed knife tucked into the kilt hose

Ghillies Brogues – tongueless shoes

Dress Act of 1746

The Dress Act of 1746 was part of the Act of Proscription which made wearing "the Highland Dress" illegal in Scotland. The intended purpose was to weaken Scottish support for the restoration of the Stuart King James II of England to the thrones of England, Scotland, and Ireland... known as the Jacobite Risings, which occurred between 1689 and 1746.

Punishment for Noncompliance – "For the first offence, shall be liable to be imprisoned for 6 months, and on the second offence, to be transported to any of His Majesty's plantations beyond the seas, there to remain for the space of seven years." (Wikipedia – Dress Act)

The law was repealed 36 years later in 1782. By that time, kilts and tartans were no longer ordinary Highland wear.

Clan Tartans

Evidence in the literature suggests that the concept of a tartan being associated with an particular clan may be a relatively modern invention (after 1745). Some writings suggest that clan identification was achieved <u>solely</u> through decoration of the bonnet with the clan crest, colored ribbons, or other items such as sprigs of heather or feathers.

At a meeting of the Celtic Union in Edinburgh in 1948, it was stated by Lord Lyon King of Arms, Sir Francis J. Grant that:

"Records establish that tartans had been worn in Scotland as far back as 1440. But present-day tartans were not old. They only went back to the reign of George IV. Tartans worn before 1745 were quite different."

Kilt

- Made of woolen cloth with a tartan pattern. Knee length with pleats in back.
- Identified as traditional Scottish dress in the 16th century.
- Historically informal wear, but usually considered formal wear today.
- The modern kilt evolved from the "belted plaid" or "great kilt," a full length garment whose upper half was worn as a cloak draped over the shoulder (see picture) or over the head.



http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kilt

Highland chieftain Lord Mungo Murray wearing belted plaid, around 1680.

Kilt Pin

The kilt pin is usually worn on the lower corner of the outer flap of a kilt. It does not pin the outer fabric to the inner fabric, but instead is pinned to the outer flap to add weight, thereby preventing the flap from blowing open. Many kilt pins are decorated with clan symbols, national emblems, or native animals and plants.





Trews

Also written as:

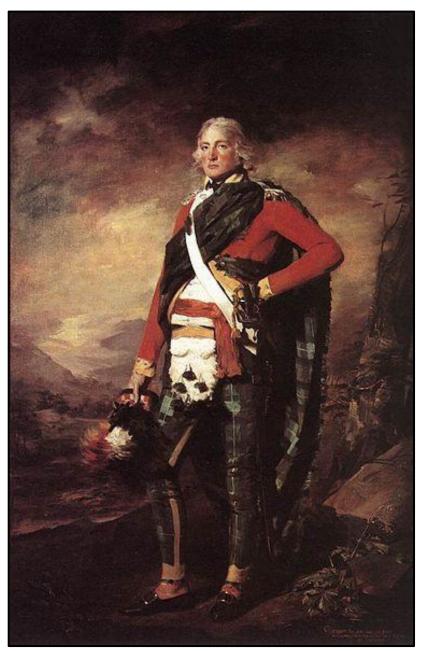
trowse

triubhas - Scottish Gaelic

truis – anglicized spelling

- Woven tartan cloth trousers dating from 1538.
- Used in winter, during which the kilt did not provide adequate warmth.

Sir John Sinclair by Henry Raeburn, 1794–95. Sir John wears leathertrimmed trews of fabric cut on the straight grain.



http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trews

Trews – Traditional

Traditional trews are actually long hose, not trousers. These hose came all the way up to the waist and were attached to a linen cloth. They were fastened at the lower leg, below the knee, by a garter. (The garter is the precursor to the garter flashes shown in a later slide.)



Battle of Culloden by
David Morier,
painted circa 1745,
shows traditional
trews with garter.

www.reconstructinghistory.com

Trews - Modern



http://www.blacktieguide.com

Modern trews are:

- more like trousers (i.e. less fitted).
- often high-waisted.
- usually to be worn with a short jacket.
- made from fabric cut on the straight grain but without a side seam.



Day Sporran

- simple pouch
- brown leather
- minimal decoration, with tassels or Celtic knots



http://www.heritageofscotland.com

Dress Sporran

- larger than day sporrans
- highly decorated, often with sterling or silver-plated cantles trimming the top of the pouch and a furcovered face with fur or hair tassels.



Sporran Types

Animal Mask Sporran

• animal's head used as closure flap

Horse Hair Sporran

 used by military regiments and piper bands



Ghillies Brogues



http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Brogue_shoe

Functional Design

- No tongue on the tops of the shoes. This allows the shoes to dry more quickly after becoming wet.
- Long laces wrap around <u>above</u> the ankle and ties <u>below</u> the calves. This keeps the laces clear of mud and prevents the shoes from coming off when being pulled from mud.

Despite their functional design, ghillies brogues are most often seen at formal occasions.

The ghillie brogue is named after the ghillie, the traditional Scottish gamekeeper and outdoorsman.

Kilt Hose and Flashes

Kilt hose are long woolen stockings normally worn knee-high with the upper part of the hose folded back down to create a thicker cuff just below the knee. They can also be found in diced patterns, which are required wear for Highland dancers. The most common color of hose however, is the cream, or 'off-white' hose, the color of unbleached wool.





 $http://www.scottishtradingcompany.com/index.php?main_page=product_info\&products_id=810$

http://www.your-kilt.com/kilt-hose.html

Kilt Hose and Flashes



Garter flashes are straps worn inside the cuff of the hose to hold them in place. The flashes are short strips of fabric hanging from the garter, mostly matching the tartan or complementary in color to the kilt fabric.

Garter Flashes



http://kiltshop.scottishtartans.org/garter flashes.html

Sgian-dubh

First Appearance of the Sgian Dubh



34. A purely practical hunting (grafloch) knife with 9½ inch blade and how hilt. A utilitarian relative of a dirk, it clearly has no decorutive pretensions.

35. A companion to the left gralloch knife is this small tool with 3½ inchblade suitable for skinning and the more delicate tasks of butchery. What would seem to be the utilization ancestor of the less functional but more decorative sgian dulb.

with substantial 4½ inch horn hill and clipped 3½ inch blade. The scabbard is tooled in the manner popular around 1800 with dots, concentric circles and sunbursts. It shows no attachment for hanging, suggesting it was worn in the stocking top, as is the fully developed synan dubb.

 A Scottish knife neither disk norsgian dubh; possibly a sgian-achlais or ampit dagger of the mid-18th century. Royal Museum of Scotland.

The sgian-dubh (pronounced skee-ən-DOO) is a small, single-edged knife. Sgiandubh means "black or hidden knife." The Sgian-dubh may have evolved from the Sgian-dubh, a larger knife concealed under the arm.

In additional to serving as a utility knife and as a weapon, the sgian-dubh was used for preparing and eating meat and fruit and for cutting bread and cheese.

Sgian-dubh



http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sgian-dubh

The sgian-dubh is worn tucked into the top of the kilt hose with only the upper portion of the hilt visible. It is normally worn on the right leg, but can also be worn on the left.

The sgian-dubh may have evolved from the sgian-achlais, a larger knife concealed under the armpit. Etiquette required guests to leave all weapons at the door, but custom allowed guests to keep one unconcealed weapon for self-defense. And so, a theory suggests that the sgian-achlais was removed from concealment and placed in the kilt hose for ready access.

Bonnet

The traditional Scottish bonnet is worn by men.

It is distinct from other folk bonnets, such as the beret, in that it:

- is usually made of wool.
- has a toorie (pom-pom) in the center.
- has an external hatband which passes around the head's circumference.



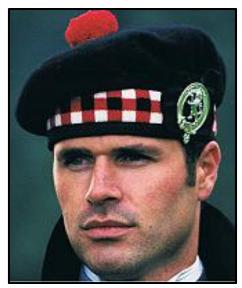
http://www.tartansauthority.com/highland-dress/modern/headgear/

In the 19th century, the Scottish bonnet was nicknamed the Tam o' Shanter (or Tam), after the hero of the Robert Burns' poem of the same name.

Balmoral Bonnet

The Balmoral bonnet (formerly known as the Kilmarnock bonnet, and named after Balmoral Castle) dates back to at least the 16th century. It is a knitted cap of soft wool with a voluminous, flat crown. It is traditionally blue in color and sometimes has a diced band (usually red-and-white check) around the lower edge and with a colored toorie (pom-pom) set in the middle of the crown. It can be used with both formal and informal dress.

It is an alternative to the similar and related Tam o'
Shanter cap (informal wear) and the Glengarry bonnet
(formal or informal wear).



http://www.tartansauthority.com/highland-dress/modern/headgear/



http://www.tartansauthority.com/highland-dress/ancient/

Glengarry Bonnet

The Glengarry bonnet:

- is made of thick-milled woolen material.
- is decorated with a toorie (pom pom) on top.
- is frequently decorated with a rosette cockade on the left side.
- has ribbons hanging down from the back.



http://www.exchange3d.com/3D%20Model%20of%20Glengarry%20Bonnet/prod 16071.html

It is normally worn as part of Scottish military or civilian Highland dress, either formal or informal.

The Royal Regiment of Scotland wears the Glengarry bonnet with a diced band and black cock feathers as its ceremonial headdress.

Traditional Highland Dress - Female

From Wikipedia:

"Female highland dress includes women's shoes, also called ghillies, that are tied in the same way but have thin soles for indoor wear and dancing.

Traditionally, women and girls do not wear kilts but may wear ankle-length tartan skirts.

A tartan sash or shawl may also be worn.

Women may also wear *dress tartans* which are modified versions which include white in place of a more prominent colour."

Arisaid



Modern Arisaid (with modern colors)

An arisaid (pronounced AIR-uh-sedge) is essentially a cloak that extends to the heels. It is usually made of undyed wool with a few bright lines or stripes on it. It is fastened at the breast with a metal brooch and around the waist with a leather belt.



http://www.lindaclifford.com/Arisaid.html

R. R. Mclan's 1845 illustration from "Costumes of the Clans"

Arisaid



The arisaid could also be used as a head covering.

William Sachceverell in 1688 writes:

"The usual habit of both sexes is the pladd; the women's much finer, the colours more lively, and the square much larger than the men's, and put me in the mind of the ancient Picts. This serves them for a veil and covers both head and body."

http://www.reconstructinghistory.com/

Sashes

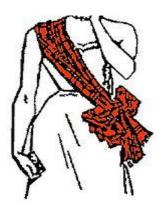
Sashes are worn across the upper half of the dress.



Clanswoman



The wife of a clan chief or the wife of a Colonel of a Scottish Regiment would wear a slightly wider sash over the left shoulder and secured with a brooch on the left shoulder.



Ladies married out of their clan but who wish to use their original clan tartan.



Often worn by
Scottish country
dancers or where
the lady wishes to
keep the front of
her dress clear of
the sash - as when
wearing the ribbons
or decorations of
any chivalric order.

Plaid Brooch or Cairngorm Brooch

- Used to fasten the tartan sash across the breast.
- Cairngorm is a variety of smoky quartz crystal found in the Cairngorm Mountains of Scotland. It usually has a smoky yellow-brown color, though some specimens are a greybrown.







Penannular Brooch (Celtic Brooch)

Penannuar means that it does not form a complete circle. The brooches have a long pin attached by its head to a ring. The pin can move freely around the ring as far as the terminals.

To use: The pin was stabbed through the folds of a cloak and then one end of the ring was pushed under the sharp end of the pin where it came out of the cloth. The ring was then turned until the pin tip lay securely locked in place beyond the raised bump of the decorated terminal. Used to fasten the clothes, and therefore often larger than the plaid brooch.

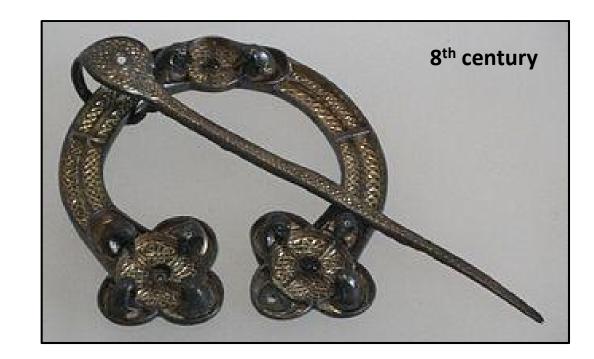


Penannular Brooch (Celtic Brooch)

Penannular brooches were used as far back as the Iron Age and Roman period, but are especially associated with the highly ornate brooches produced in precious metal for the elites of Ireland and Scotland from about 700 to 900.

They are the most significant objects in high-quality secular metalwork from

Early Medieval Celtic art.



Pictish penannular brooch, silver with gilding and glass

CUSTOMS

- Scottish Dance
- Highland Games
- Holidays
- National Symbols

Scottish Dance

There are many Scottish dances, however, traditional Scottish dancing generally falls into one of four main categories:

Ceilidh – Very sociable, easy-going and good exercise when the pace increases.

Cape Breton Step Dancing – Mainly solo and for stage performance.

Preserved in Nova Scotia by Scottish emigrants, and making a comeback in Scotland. Very similar to Irish hard shoe dancing.

Scottish Country Dancing – A few couples arrange themselves either in two lines or in a square, and complete a set of formations enough times to bring them back to their opening positions.

Highland Dancing – Performed in competition. Usually performed solo by young people. A very colorful and lively style of dance.

Aboyne Dress

Aboyne Dress is the name given to the prescribed attire for female dancers in the Scottish national dances.

The Aboyne Dress is composed of a tartan skirt, a white blouse, and a velvet waistcoat with a pinned-on sash.

It was developed in the 1970s to create performance attire for women that differed from the attire (kilt, jacket, bonnet, and sporran) worn by men.



Highland Games – Dance Competition

The Gillie Callum or "Scottish sword dance" was recorded from as early as the 15th century. In the dance, the dancer crosses two swords on the ground in an "X" shape and then dances around and within the four quadrants of the crossed swords.



http://www.clanmacfarlane.org/public_html/welcome.html

http://www.visitscotland.com/about/arts-culture/uniquely-scottish/highland-games

Highland Games – Music Competition

The highland games include a wide range of piping and drumming competitions, including solo piping and drumming, small group ensembles, and pipe bands. Other musical entertainment includes fiddling, harp circles, and Celtic bands.



http://www.demotix.com/news/2347091/162nd-bridge-allan-highland-games-pipe-band-competition#media-2347018

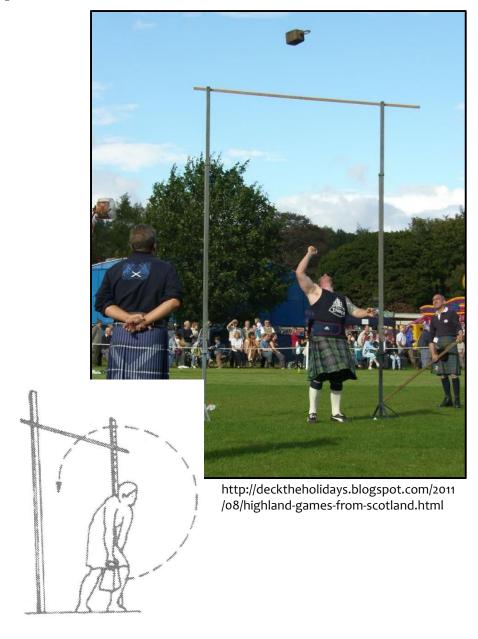
Highland Games – Athletic Competition

Weight Over the Bar

The weight is a steel or lead weight (with a bell, spherical or cylindrical shape) attached to a metal circular handle.

The weight is thrown one-handed over a bar set at increasing heights above the thrower.

The size of the weight varies with the competition class. Advanced male athletes throw a 56-lb weight.



http://okscotfest.com/events/highland-games/

Highland Games – Athletic Competition Weight Throw

Also known as the weight for distance event. The longest throw wins.

The weights are made of metal and have a handle attached either directly or by means of a chain. The weight is thrown using one hand only, usually

with a spinning technique. The light weight event has 28-lb weights for men and the heavy weight event has 56-lb weights for men.



 $http://shine.yahoo.com/visit-britain-us/sneak-away-wild-celtic-fling-scottish-highland-games- {\tt 213155147}. html$

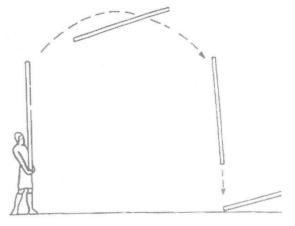
Highland Games – Athletic Competition Caber Toss

The caber toss involves tossing of a large wooden pole called a caber, similar to a telephone pole or power pole. It is said to have developed from the need to toss logs across narrow chasms to cross them. In Scotland, the caber is usually



http://www.holidayscotland.org/the-highland-games-of-scotland/

made from a Larch pine tree and is typically 19 feet 6 inches tall and weighs about 175 pounds.



http://okscotfest.com/events/highland-games/

Highland Games – Athletic Competition Stone Put

Similar to the modern-day shot put.

A large stone of variable weight is often used.



brothersofbriar.forumotion.com

Highland Games – Athletic Competition Maide Leisg (Lazy Stick)

Trial of strength performed by two men sitting on the ground with the soles of their feet pressing against each other. Thus seated, they held a stick between their hands which they pulled against each other until one of them was raised from the ground.

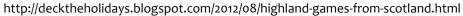


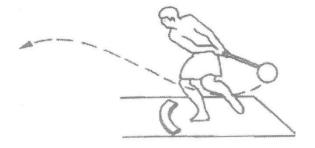
Highland Games – Athletic Competition Hammer Throw

The goal is to throw the hammer the farthest.

The men's hammer weighs 16 pounds and measures 3 feet 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches in length.



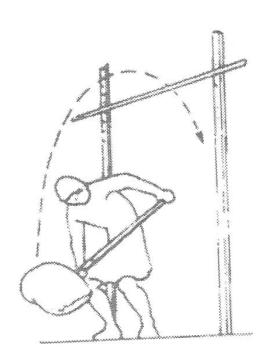




http://okscotfest.com/events/highland-games/

Highland Games – Athletic Competition Sheaf Toss

The sheaf toss was originally a traditional Scottish agricultural event contested at country fairs (not at the Highland Games). A pitchfork is used to hurl a burlap bag stuffed with straw over a horizontal bar above the competitor's head. Typical weight for the bag is 16-20 pounds.



http://okscotfest.com/events/highland-games/



http://mediagallery.usatoday.com/Grandfather+Mountain+Highland+Games

Holidays

Burns Supper – 25 Jan – to celebrate the poet Robert Burns

Labour Day – early May – to celebrate the achievements of workers

Victoria Day – late May – to celebrate the birth of Queen Victoria in recognition of her contribution to Scottish society

St Andrew's Day – 30 Nov – the feast day of St. Andrew, the patron saint of Scotland

Boxing Day – 26 Dec – official public holiday (by long-standing tradition)

Hogmanay (New Year) – 31 Dec – to celebrate the beginning of a new year

Religious Holidays

Good Friday – spring – to commemorate the death of Christ

Easter Day – spring – to celebrate the resurrection of Christ

Christmas – 25 Dec – to celebrate the birth of Christ

National Symbols

Declaration of Arbroath

- Declaration of Scottish independence, made in 1320.
- The document is held at the Vatican as it was originally sent to the Pope in the form of a letter.



 $\label{lem:http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Declaration_of_arbroath$

National Anthem

None officially, as Scotland is not a country.

However, The Flower of Scotland is the unofficial anthem, and is used in sports events in which Scotland competes.

Many versions on YouTube, but this one sounds nice:

http://www.youtube.c om/watch?v=NnKkN-DjXt8

Official Animal Unicorn since 12th century



http://heartsongsofthescottishhighlands.blogspot.com/2011/02/unicornheraldic-symbol-of-scotland.html

National Symbols – St Andrew and the Flag of Scotland



http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Andrew_the_A postle#Scotland

St. Andrew

- patron saint of Scotland from about the middle of the 10th century
- martyred by crucifixion on X-shaped cross
 (i.e. saltire), according to legend



http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Andrew the Apostle#Scotland

National Flag

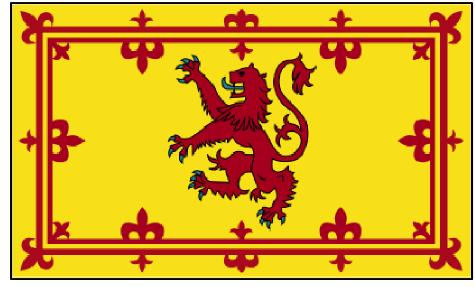
- known as the Saltire or St. Andrew's
 Cross
- use of a blue background is believed to date from at least the 15th century
- one legend related to a 9th century battle states that the blue represents the sky across which a miraculous saltire appeared as a good omen

National Symbols – The Royal Standard

Scotland is unusual in that it has two flags.

From Wikipedia...

"The Royal Standard of Scotland, also known as the Banner of the King of Scots or more commonly the



http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Royal_Standard_of_Scotland

Lion Rampant of Scotland, is the Scottish Royal Banner of Arms. Used historically by the King of Scots, the Royal Standard of Scotland differs from Scotland's national flag, The Saltire, in that its correct use is restricted by an Act of the Parliament of Scotland to only a few Great Officers of State who officially represent The Sovereign in Scotland. It is also used in an official capacity at Royal residences in Scotland when The Sovereign is not present."

National Symbols – Floral Emblem

Cirsium vulgare Spear Thistle



http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cirsium vulgare

From Wikipedia...

"According to a legend, an invading Norse army was attempting to sneak up at night upon a Scottish army's encampment. During this operation one barefoot Norseman had the misfortune to step upon a thistle, causing him to cry out in pain, thus alerting Scots to the presence of the Norse invaders.

Which species of thistle is referred to in the original legend is disputed. Popular modern usage favours Cotton Thistle (*Onopordum acanthium*), perhaps because of its more imposing appearance, though it is unlikely to have occurred in Scotland in mediaeval times; the Spear Thistle (*Cirsium vulgare*), an abundant native species in Scotland, is a more likely candidate. Other species, including Dwarf Thistle (*Cirsium acaule*), Musk Thistle (*Carduus nutans*), and Melancholy Thistle (*Cirsium heterophyllum*) have also been suggested."

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