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EXHIBITION

1955



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STOCKISTS OF FINA PETROL

*By Ramsay
13.1.1955*

The Mauchline Burns Club

PRESENTS

*The
Mauchline Exhibition*

OF

Relics of Bygone Days

AND

Present Day Industry



Old Church Halls, Mauchline

Saturday, 15th, to Friday, 21st January, 1955

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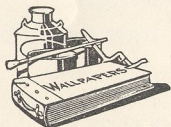
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Foreword

THE display you see before you is an attempt to present, in small compass, a record of the life and activities of Mauchline and its people—Mauchline as it is, and as it was.

The original intention was to celebrate the Festival Year by exhibiting some local relics of Robert Burns and his times that had never before been shown to the public. This plan, however, has branched and blossomed forth, like Aaron's rod, until it has brought within its scope almost everything that could be collected of what remains from the past. The record, unfortunately, cannot be a full one. Much has inevitably been lost, but it is hoped that enough remains to prove interesting and attractive to all who have a taste for such things.

By way of contrast, and to provide added interest, local trades and industries have also been asked to show specimens of their present work, and the response has been most pleasing. From the modern exhibits it will be clear that Mauchline, like most other communities, has changed greatly in that century-and-a-half since Burns's day. The old crafts, and those who worked at them, have gone, and others have taken their place. Nevertheless, it will be plain to all that the tradition of skill and pride of craftsmanship has lived on.

This Exhibition is, I believe, unique in its way. Nothing of the kind has been undertaken in Mauchline before, and it may never be done again. On behalf of the Burns Club, I therefore take this opportunity of thanking our exhibitors and all others who have worked with us so willingly to make the Exhibition possible.

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Relics of Bygone Days

EXHIBITS OF PARTICULAR INTEREST

The Covenanters' Flag.

Historically, perhaps the most interesting object on view. A relic of the "Killing Time," and of the persecution and religious bigotry that raged in Scotland three-hundred years ago. The villagers and peasantry of the parish played a prominent part in the rising throughout the west, and paid a heavy price.

Records of the Parish.

Minutes of the Kirk Session. The first dates from 1669. The entries made in Burns's time are by the hand of the Rev. William ("Daddy") Auld, who had to discipline the poet on occasions, and for whom Burns had a most wholesome respect. These Minutes have never before been publicly displayed. There is also some fine old Communion Plate of the early eighteenth century.

Minutes of Lodge St. David (Garbolton).

These Minutes of Burns's Mother Lodge have been much sought after, and are highly prized in Masonic circles. There are also some Emblems and Insignia of the Lodge dating from the poet's time.

Documents.

A few old Documents and Deeds relating to, or bearing the signatures of, some of the poet's friends and contemporaries—John Richmond, David Sillar, Gavin Hamilton and Dr. John Mackenzie.

Clocks.

The two specimens shown are the work of the late-eighteenth-century clockmaker, John Brown ("Clockie Broom") of Burns's day, one of the numerous band of Scottish tradesmen who plied this craft. Brown's clocks are now rare. There are still three in the district, but it is doubtful if more than half-a-dozen still exist.

Mauchline Boxworks.

At one time these works provided one of the staple industries of the village. Visitors will no doubt share our regret that this interesting craft is now lost. The Boxwork products, the work of skilled cabinetmakers, were highly finished and beautifully decorated. The objects made were in endless variety, and the exhibit is a fairly representative selection.

Woollens.

Like all rural communities, Mauchline had its Weavers. The old "Oo' Mill" at the Haugh has now gone, but some of the work is here shown. The Indenture of Apprenticeship drawn up by John Richmond, also on show, relates to the trade of Weaving.

China and Old Pottery.

Some Mauchline citizens have consented to lend their treasured heirlooms—not without some reluctance, naturally. Visitors will view them with due respect and appreciation.

Embroidery and Needlework.

A few old specimens are on show as a tribute to the skill, and the eyesight, of the needlewomen of former days. All of it was probably done by the aid of candles or lamp-light.

"Mauchline Holy Fair."

Painted by Duncan Carse (1816) has been kindly lent for the occasion.

General.

Much of the Exhibition consists of objects, all noteworthy in themselves, which defy classification. At the time of going to press, many things are being collected as the result of belated search in odd corners. It is perhaps too late to acknowledge these here, but they are none the less appreciated by the Club and the public.



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Continued on page 11.

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MAUCHLINE

W. & A. AULD.—*Continued.*

Meantime, incubating capacity was greatly increased. The business is now a Commercial Chick Hatchery running several mammoth cabinet incubators with a total setting capacity of 27,000 eggs per week. There is also a considerable rearing plant for the production, principally, of four- and eight-weeks-old pullets for sale.

Chicks are sent by train all over Britain and by plane to Orkney, the Western Isles and Isle of Man.

The exhibit includes small observation electric incubators showing chicks actually hatching, and a Warm Floor Brooder with young growing pullets.

Stand No. 4.

ROBERT DALE & SONS, Burnsland Nurseries, Mauchline.

This firm, founded over thirty years ago, has specialised in the growing of Trees and Shrubs, and of late years has taking up the growing of Rose Bushes.

Plants produced from their exposed Nurseries are very hardy and vigorous, giving excellent results when moved to their permanent quarters.

An important item is the growing of Christmas Trees for the West of Scotland market.

Many of Ayrshire's younger plantations have been planted with young trees produced at Mauchline.

Stand No. 5.

NATIONAL COAL BOARD. West Ayr Area.

MINING AROUND MAUCLINE.

The earliest mining in Mauchline district was devoted to the search for precious metals and a number of these including copper, antimony, graphite, silver, pyrites and lead have been found in the district. None of these, however, proved of economic importance except iron ore which was exhausted in the middle of the nineteenth century.

Coal, however, has been worked near Mauchline for many centuries, the earliest workings recorded being those of the Monks of Fail near Tarbolton in 1497. These were probably the mines around Adamhill and coal was also worked extensively at Sorn and Crosshands during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. It is also on record that a day's wage in the eighteenth century was fourteenpence.

Coal mining ceased about the middle of the nineteenth century until 1928 when the development of Mauchline Colliery started, culminating in the sinking of new shafts and the erection of new plant in 1937 and 1938, forming the Mauchline Colliery as it is known to-day.

More recently, a mine was started near the outcrops of the seams at Lochlea in 1949 and is now producing coal, while a further modern mine is in course of development between Mauchline and Sorn. A large virgin area, now known as the Mauchline Basin, lies to the south of Mauchline and the proving of this by deep boring is presently being carried out. The future life of the Mauchline Coalfield, in the Lochlea, Mauchline and Sorn Areas, and in the deeper seams to be extracted from the large modern colliery at Killoch, costing approximately seven million pounds, and designed to produce one-and-a-half million tons of coal per annum, and other large collieries in the Mauchline Basin seem fairly well assured for many years.

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Stand No. 6.

THE SOUTH-WEST SCOTLAND ELECTRICITY BOARD.

At the Electricity Stand, photographs and coloured diagrams illustrate the making of electricity at the Power Station and its journey to the customer. Specially featured are the new 275,000-volt "super grid" line which is soon to form an additional power link with England and the Power Station, at present building alongside Barony Colliery, where some 200,000 tons of "slurry"—hitherto dumped as waste—will be used each year for generating electricity.

Barony Power Station will be the first in Great Britain to have boilers and coal-handling plant specially designed to burn ultra-low-grade fuel. Extensive electrical development in Ayrshire during recent years is well shown by a map of the 33,000-volt lines which form the "backbone" of the County's distribution system. A panel dealing with the Hydro-Electric Schemes points out that Scotland's water power now saves annually three-quarters-of-a-million tons of coal—which is, roughly, equal to one year's export of Scottish coal to foreign countries. That Scotland is well to the forefront in the search for new sources of electrical power is substantiated by details of experiments going on in Scotland into the use of wind power, and peat for burning in the newly-developed gas turbine.

The Atomic-Power Station now under construction at Dounreay in Caithness is also mentioned. Womenfolk will be specially interested by the "Electricity in the Home" Section where a selection of up-to-the-minute appliances will be on show, including, of course, cookers and water heaters.

Stand No. 7.

JAMES CAMPBELL & SON, Blacksmiths, Implement Makers, Etc., Mauchline.

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