

The Missing MacNaberries

H02 The Brooch of Lorne

This dance spectacular includes

T04 The Dirk Dance

*(see Mrs MacNab's handwritten notes
and Dance Descriptions)*

H02 The Brooch of Lorne

Description of The Brooch of Lorne by a former student

In an extract from a Vancouver dance history by Rosemary Coupe, she writes: 'Mavis Pickett, a former student of Mrs MacNab, describes the elaborate performance of a dance called *The Brooch of Lorne* honouring the brooch wrested from Robert the Bruce in 1306. It was designed to be seen from the balconies of the Seaforth Armoury, with the dancers making up a colossal Cairngorm brooch. The central 'jewel,' dancer Bill Elliot, enacted the spirit of Bruce in *The Dirk Dance*. Four more men were the 'claws' of the jewel, and surrounding them were concentric circles of 'rubies,' 'emeralds,' and 'sapphires' wearing red, blue, and green caps respectively. First one circle and then another would dance around the jewel. Lines of other dancers, dressed in white and silver, radiated out from them. Such dances were more decorative than historical, but they were splendidly conceived.'

Alternative description

Dr Hugh Thurston simply describes this dance as: one dancer performs highland fling steps whilst scores of others circle round.

Dr Hugh Thurston also in 1967 describes this dance in *The Thistle* no. 33

A few of the "special dances" deserve comment. *The Brooch of Lorne* is a spectacular dance that was often the main theme in Mrs MacNab's annual concerts. The formation consists of concentric rings of dancers; in the very centre a male dancer in a yellow shirt represents the cairngorm in the brooch.

Extract from Salute to the Clans Display Programme (date unknown)

Historical "The Brooch of Lorne"

Dance:

Led by Chieftain James McDougall

(Synopsis) - After the Battle of Methven 1306 where the English Army had taken the Scots unawares, Robert the Bruce and his men after many wanderings found themselves in the country of the McDougalls of Lorne. Bruce hopelessly outnumbered was compelled to retreat and a severe conflict took place at "Strathfillan". He ordered his men to retreat through the Pass of Brander he himself bringing up the rear and repeatedly turning back to drive off his assailants. One of the McDougalls seized hold of his plaid which was held across his breast by a large brooch. Bruce killed the man but in the hurry of the moment left his plaid and brooch in the dying grasp of the McDougall. This prized trophy was lost for many years but at present is in the possession of the McDougalls at Dunolly Castle, Argyllshire. The dance is a replica of the brooch. The 'Cairngorm' or the spirit of Robert the Bruce is portrayed by Bill Elliott in the "Dirk Dance". The sapphires, rubies, emeralds, make up the design of the brooch and the men are the claws around the 'Cairngorm'.

Bruce D. Robinson

Brooch of Lorne
January 14

Morning Enter from here Sapphires

(X Sapphires) →

10 Emeralds

10 Rubies

Sapphires
6 mochas

Afternoon

Pearls
Evening

Rubies
Enter

Emeralds
Enter

"All things come to him who waits but not while he waits."

January 15

Morning Brooch of Lorne

1. Dirty dance
(Spit of Scotland)

2. Enter Rubies
Sapphires

Remains left
on dias

Afternoon (6 mochas) ↓

Enter rubies

" emeralds

" pearls (bairns)

* Evening Boach dance

Bejins (or B d H)

- S. 123 hop in circle

- at same time R. + E.

Ship step 123 hop (small)

"The fare was only tolerable; but the overflowing of affections made it delicious."

Attic Philosopher

Bruce D. Robinson

January 16

Morning

Rubies move to R
Emeralds " " L

Back to place.

~~2 four foot waltzes.~~

~~2 reels~~ 2 partners set + turn 6
4

Afternoon

on each side
Rubies & Emeralds.

Mothers ~~do~~ Sapphires
~~reel 7~~ middle man R
dance & turn

Evening

- ① 3 hands in circles
slide around & back
- ② set & turn
- ③ set & turn (as in looking at Alby's work)
- ④ Reel 7 three

"At any price I can pay let me own myself."
Rubies & Emeralds - 6 each
do same as mothers

2 sets January 17 Partners

~~Rubies + Emeralds~~

- ① do same & cept
2 sets of partners

~~dance set & turn~~
turn by R hand
" " L hand

Afternoon

- ② set & turn R hand
" " " L "

turn by R hand
③ while sides do reel 73

Evening

Rubies face
out of ring
Emeralds face in &
stand opp. partners.

"The more recent the illustration the more effective it is. "Last night while using the All Purpose Cream..."

Mothers just four hands
around each other

Bruce D. Robinson

January 18

Morning Dance to partners
R + 8 -
Set twice (4 pd h)
Turn w/ hands (R)
Emeralds end inside
Rubies outside

Afternoon Repeat + return to place

all face into ring
Rubies move R
Emeralds move L

Mothers move R

Evening
Stop still - Scats w/ hair
sing 2 verses.

Look at Cain Goham →
~~all still - white singing~~
Four claws enter + kneel

Abraham Lincoln won his audiences by his neighborliness. He liked people.

January 19

Morning
Sapphires kneel
Rubies kneel
Emeralds kneel

(Commands given)

Afternoon

Claws raise
Cain Goham - up over head - (cheer steady)
while singer sings Scats w/ hair

Evening

Spotlight on center. Stone

Jerry
Jerry
Jerry
Jerry

Lexis -
Emeralds
Rubies
Sapphire
Claws - carry c.c.

When you ask an audience questions they feel they are an important part of the occasion.

Handwritten notes on adjacent page including "M + 8", "517", "St", "7 - 7", "2", "joy", "7", "R", "28"