



SELKIRK COLONIAL SOCIETY

1992

New Year Message

1 Croft Terrace
Selkirk
TD7 4LX

Dear

Jessie

As I write, Christmas is still some way off, but by the time you receive this, the festive season will be just round the corner, so herewith is our annual greeting to remind you that it is not only at the Common Riding that we think of you all.

We are still in recession and everyone in Selkirk is finding money tight, but those of us who are senior citizens know that we are still a long way above the breadline and keep hoping that things will take an upturn in the not too distant future. Our number of returned members at this years Common Riding were about average, and already there are names being whispered about 1993.

There has been sadness, too. We have lost some very dear friends in 1992 and, although I have no intention of including an obituary column in this or any other newsletter, I cannot let the occasion pass without referring to the death of Maisie Hogg. Maisie, in her own way, probably did more for the Colonial Society than any other person. During the years of Bill's chairmanship, "Ambleside" was a home from home for all who made the trip back to Selkirk. She held an "open house" after the Wednesday night reception each year so that the Standardbearer could meet intimately with other members, and it was quite normal to have the telephone ring about two o'clock in the morning with calls from Canada or Australia or wherever. In a fine final gesture, Maisie bequeathed one hundred pounds to the Society.



Maisie Hogg as we all remember her.

As I mentioned in the Common Riding Newsletter, we had a video recording made of this year's Colour Bussin' and Reception. This was commissioned as an archival record rather than a money-spinner, and twenty-five copies at £14 were purchased. Of these there are still half-a-dozen left, so anyone who would like one, please contact myself. We also have plenty of audio cassettes, Volume II, in stock, priced £5.

If I might wear my Treasurer's cap for a paragraph, I would thank all of you for your financial support over the last two years. We have been able to purchase a new casting flag which was used this year (to perfection, I might add) by Trevor Walters. In October, we took delivery of a new Ceremonial Flag which will have considerably more impact on the Common Riding procession — which is what flags are all about. After all that, we still have a healthy financial cushion in the bank. One problem has been highlighted, however: that is the cost it incurs to you to send your subscriptions home. Between exchange rate and bank commission, it costs you dearly. This raises the question: is there any among you who would be willing to act as a secretary/treasurer for your particular part of the world, and collect memberships to send on in a lump sum? Please think about it, as the minimum bank charge would cover quite a large amount instead of being payable on each and every subscription. We in Selkirk would like to think that we could return to providing the meal at the reception free, but all that depends on annual subscriptions being paid — the proceeds of the Bussin' Concert simply no longer meet the expenses incurred. In addition, we, as a Society, lag behind the other Common Riding Incorporations, etc., in support for the Common Riding Trust, the bands, the games and other causes to which we would like to make contributions.

Finally, all of the members here in Selkirk join in sending all of you who are overseas our very warmest greetings and best wishes, and hope to see you back in the Royal Burgh in June — Colonials' Night, Wednesday 16th; Common Riding, Friday 18th!

Yours aye,

Jack Harper

Jack Harper, Chairman