

2009 International Folk Alliance Sings Memphis



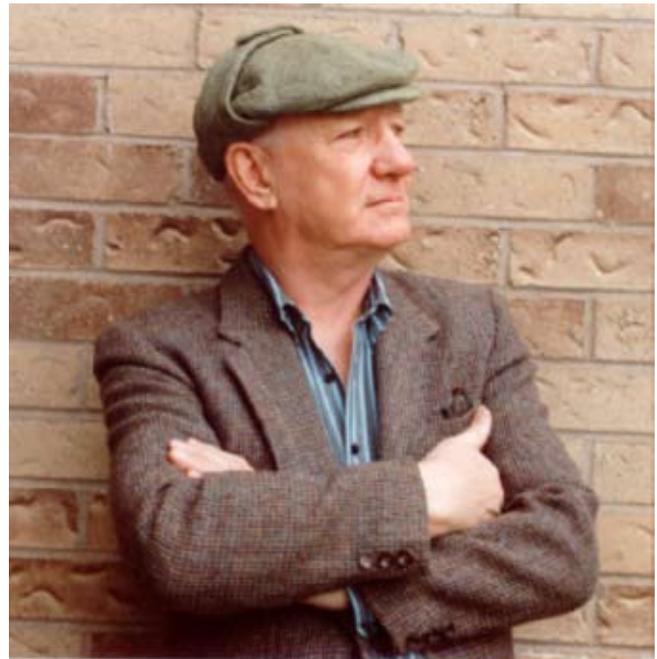
The North American Folk Music and Dance Alliance exists to foster and promote traditional, contemporary, and multicultural folk music and dance, and related performing arts in North America. The Folk Alliance seeks to strengthen and advance organizational and individual initiatives in folk music and dance through education, networking, advocacy, and professional and field development.

The weekend of Feb 18-22 gave me the opportunity to meet Enoch Kent, one of Scotland's best known ballad singers. He has five cd's to his credit and at the tender age of 77, he tells me, "I am not through yet." Getting to meet Enoch face to face and visit with him over dinner and for scones and jam was a highlight of my week. He was

generous enough to give me all five of his cd's for taking him out to dinner the previous night and then sat down and recorded a few songs and stories on an inexpensive tape recorder.

His voice is strong without being overpowering and his distinctive style speaks to his native influence. He resides in Canada now but was raised in Glasgow. Andy Cohen, who he was staying with, told me that Enoch was simply brilliant in all of his 6 shows. I can personally vouch for only his first cd, on which I found several songs that touched me enough to listen to them numerous times trying

to pick up his nuances. If you haven't heard of him or his music, you have missed a real treat. Also, if you haven't ever been to one of these conferences and you are a music lover, it may be well worth your time effort to reserve the time for next year's event, which is held in Memphis annually. SRich



Memphis Scottish Society Inc., Board

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maryann.lucas@memphisscots.com

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sammy.rich@memphisscots.com

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louis.garner@memphisscots.com

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george.malone@memphisscots.com

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Geoffery Meece 388-0441
geoffrey.meece@memphisscots.com

Becky Trafford 385-7628
becky.trafford@memphisscots.com

SCOTTISH CONNECTION

Here's a little known fact about Texas' Sam Houston, who as it turns out, has a **Scottish Connection**.

Exempted from Iain Lundy Scotland on Sunday, August 6, 2006:

He was one of the greatest military and political heroes in United States history, a founding father of modern-day Texas after whom the fourth largest city in America is named.

On March 2 every year, Texans celebrate Sam Houston's birthday and Texas Independence Day in memory of the man whose vision and outlook shaped their start. But evidence recently come to light reveals that the greatest influence in Houston's life came not from his fellow Americans but from his Scottish ancestry and the works of Robert Burns.

He drew inspiration from one particular Burns poem, 'Epistle To A Young Friend', which he memorised as a child and referred to throughout

his life for guidance. In a letter to his teenage son, Sam Jr., Houston called the poem "one of the most salutary and safest guides I have met with in life" and "a beautiful emanation of heart and intellect."

Now, after years of gathering dust in the vaults of the Sam Houston Memorial Museum in Huntsville, Texas, the Burns poetry book which belonged to Houston's mother and which he read avidly, has been put on public display along with details of his Scottish heritage.

"That poem by Burns was really his lost polestar that guided him through life," said Texas-based author James L. Haley, who wrote a book on the life and career of Houston.

"There is one line in the poem about being lost in the tempest of life and he never lost sight of that image during his lifetime. He even signed

an autographed book for a young cousin using that image...."

Houston, whose great grandfather had left the family home in Renfrewshire and settled in the New World via Ireland, went on to have eight children....

In a letter to his son, Sam Jr., Houston wrote, "I would commend to your particular attention a poem of Burns. It is his advice to a young friend Andrew. In my course of life I have found it one of the most salutary as well as one of the safest guides I have met with in life."

Burns wrote the poem in 1786 and sent it to Andrew Hunter Aiken, the son of a family friend, who he refers to as "Dear Andrew".

So, next time you're in Houston or you watch the Rockets, Astros, or Texans play, remember Sam Houston and his **Scottish Connection**.

Bits and Pieces

Thanks to Ben Kemker:

Many thanks to Ben Kemker, who upon very late notice (3 hours), was able to represent MSSSI in kilt & with pipes skirling at Mt. Pisgah Middle School's Culture Night on Thursday, February 28th. We all look forward to his presentation in April.

Clanjamfry News

The website for Clanjamfry has been updated with new dates and pictures. The honored clan is MacLean.

<http://clanjamfrymemphis.org>

On a sadder note, we need to inform you that Larry Bettis, Arkansas Commissioner for Clan Campbell passed away recently. Larry was a supporter of Clanjamfry and will be missed. See picture on pg. 6. Thanks, Lee

The Board has asked the following three members to serve on the Scholarship Committee for 2009. They will be voted on officially at the monthly meeting by the members. They are Dena Warth, Allen Simpson, and Mary Clausi.

GRACE NOTES

Grace Notes is the official publication of the Memphis Scottish Society, Inc. It is published monthly. Like the Society itself, the credo of *Grace Notes* is "to foster education and promote understanding of things Scottish."

If you have something of interest to readers of this newsletter, please submit a typewritten manuscript to the editorial staff. If the article or notice is very brief (30 words or fewer), e-mail or just use the telephone. *Grace Notes* will accept and publish good quality photographs.

The deadline for all submissions is the second week of each month preceding the month of publication. Please include a self-addressed stamped envelope with each submission, if you want the material returned.

Editorial Staff
 Mary Ann Lucas - maryann.lucas@memphisscots.com Editor, (901-725-1879)
 Sammy Rich - sammy.rich@memphisscots.com Publisher, (901-272-7159)
 Gavin Anderson - gavin.anderson@memphisscots.com Circulation Editor, (901-682-5485)
 Melissa Gibson - melissa.gibson@memphisscots.com Line Editor, (901 299-3170)

Please address all correspondence to:
Grace Notes
 The Memphis Scottish Society, Inc.
 gracenotes@memphisscots.com
 P. O. Box 241934
 Memphis, TN 38124-1934

to foster education and
 promote understanding of
 things Scottish



Toast to the Lassies

As a writer of poetry myself I am truly honored to be here. I believe everyone here will agree with me that Robert Burns was one the greatest classical writers that ever lived. The fact that we are gathered here to honor a man who died over two hundred years ago attests to his eternal mark in literature.

The one theme that is most prevalent in literature is love. Burns was definitely a romantic. He wrote MY LOVE IS LIKE A RED RED ROSE. Of course with his reputation of being a notorious ladies' man he was probably thinking of a garden full of beautiful roses and he was the busy bee up to the task of pollinating as many as time would allow. If they had bumper stickers in those days on the back of his carriage it would have read "SO MANY LASSIES, SO LITTLE TIME.

I can't personally relate to being a lady's man but I can relate to the emotion of love.

There is one classic ritual that goes hand and hand with love that is the marriage proposal.

I remember mine like it was yesterday. March 3rd, Four Flames Restaurant on Poplar Ave. Despite it being crowded, silence prevailed as all eyes turned to our table to witness the traditional pose of a person on one knee, with the right hand holding a small black box. A soft aaahhh was heard when the box was opened revealing a pure gold ring. Then the four hardest words in the English language were nervously uttered. Will you marry me? I looked into Elaine's clear blue eyes and said, "Hell, yes I'll marry you, Elaine. Now get up darling. This is embarrassing and besides you're demolishing your new panty hose." Ah the memories.

It seems only fitting on Burn's Night to toast the lassies in the form of a poem.

I wrote this to describe the way we laddies feel toward you. I call it Honesty

Honesty

Now my dear you've been a good sport but my time of jesting is through.

So listen all as I open my heart with words both tender and true.

The Lord has blessed us with Lassies sent to fill their pre-destined roles.

Aye, we men are the muscles Ye lassies the heart and our souls.

If this glass held bitter brew we could drink in total bliss.

For it twould taste of honey sweet when chased with our lassies' kiss.

If every man here was 95 and this toast was our last glass

We would look in our sweetheart's eyes and see only our bonnie young lass.

Join me in praise of all lassies whether she be friend, lover, or wife. For they are the sweetest portion in this warm mix that we call life.

To the lassies. Geoffrey Meece

Due to an abundance of material to include in this month's Grace Notes, The Reply by Elaine will be run next month. What a nice problem to have when it comes time to put this newsletter out.

Lineage Society Presentations and Local Author Book Signing

John Schultz and hopefully other MSSJ members will be participating in the event coming up on **March 7 at the Germantown Regional History and Genealogy Center.** The event is from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. John and the other participants will each have about 7 minutes to tell about the mission of their society, its activities, and requirements for membership.

This is the order of the presentations: Author, Jama Richardson, will tell how her family history is woven into her stories.

Memphis Scottish Society--John Schultz, Past President

Huguenot Society, Manakintown, VA--Olivia Chandler
TN State Soc., Daughters of the American Colonists--Linda Mansur
DAR, Chief Piomingo Chapter--Debra Nimitz
Sons of the American Revolution & Sons of the Confederate Veterans--Clark Doan

Q and A about these societies

15 minute break with refreshments
United Daughters of the Confederacy
Jama Richardson & Martha Smylie
1812 Sons--Mr. Chandler
US Daughters of 1812 & New

England Women Society -- Bettie Gustafson
Jama Richardson, local author, again, if there is a different crowd

Q and A about these societies

Feel welcome to bring your friends and neighbors.

Jennifer Baker, Germantown Regional History & Genealogy Center
7779 Poplar Pike, Germantown, TN
38138, [901-757-8480](tel:901-757-8480)

The 2009 Immortal Memory

Many of our members fondly remember the presentation of the Immortal Memory at Burns' Nicht this January by Andrew and Angela Massengale, accompanied by Bill Fuller, the Director of Cantiamo!, a vocal ensemble. The Board has decided to honor both Andrew and Angela with an honorary membership and we hope to see them soon at some of our meetings! Andrew has many Scottish family ties, including, Massengale, Matheson, Gordon, Cooper, Anderson, and Murray while Angela has Mothershed on her side of the family tree.

The songs they sang that night were **My Love Is Like a Red, Red, Rose**, a choral arrangement by James Mulholland that Angela has had since her high school days at Hutchison, **John Anderson My Jo** from the Skene manuscript, **Afton Water** by Alexander Hume and **A Highland Lad My Love Was Born**. These are certainly four of Burn's well-known songs that we all know and love. Thank you for sharing these renditions with us. Below is biographical information from Drew and Angela.

Drew Massengale has lived in Memphis for seven years, during which time he has sung with the Memphis Chamber Choir and the Rhodes Mastersingers, among others. He has appeared in stage productions with such companies as Theatre Memphis, DeSoto Family Theatre, Little Theatre of Crittenden County, and Opera Memphis, and was a featured soloist for the Como Opera Guild's 2006-2007 Performing Artists Series.

A Music History student at the University of Memphis, Drew currently sings professionally with the St. Mary's Episcopal Cathedral Choir. He plans to continue his performance career through solo work as well as with his vocal ensemble, "Cantiamo!", and his improvisational theatre troupe, "Running Gag Improv."

Angela Garretson-Massengale has lived in Memphis most of her life, and is a graduate of the Hutchison School. A recipient of the prestigious Ocie Higgins Music Award, she studied piano performance at Mississippi University for Women under Kathy Anderson and James Allen before moving back to Memphis in 2001.

Angela has worked as an accompanist, orchestral pianist, and music/theater director at Bishop Byrne High School, Immaculate Conception Cathedral School, Threshold Theatre, and Playhouse on the Square. She also held the post of Interim Executive Producer of Memphis Theatre Project during their 2006-2007 season.

Angela is the owner of the Massengale Music Studio, which offers piano and voice classes to students of all ages, and is based out of the Yarbrough School of Music in Bartlett, TN. Currently working on a degree in History at the University of Memphis, Angela continues to perform as a singer alongside her husband with the St. Mary's Episcopal Cathedral Choir, and in the vocal ensemble group "Cantiamo!"

"This membership with the Scottish Society is truly an honor for us. Every artist is driven to create memorable work. The knowledge that such a distinguished group of people appreciates our art is a blessing that many performers never get to experience. Thank you!"

BBC to Record Six Hundred works of Robert Burns

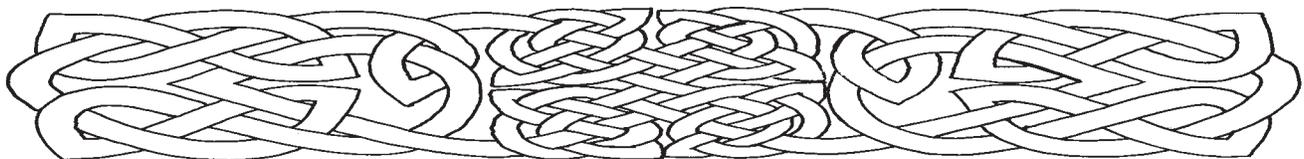
The BBC has embarked on a three-year project to record more than six hundred works of Robert Burns. The project was launched on January 25, 2009, the 250th anniversary of Burn's birth.

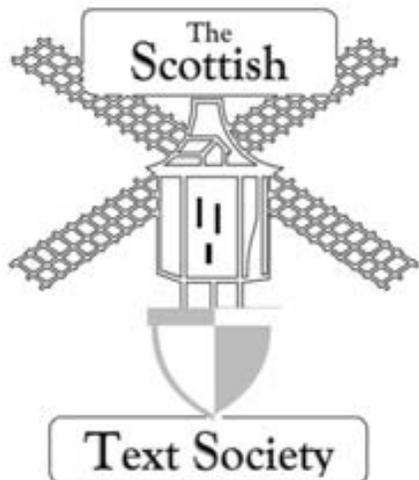
"Burns still resonates hugely more than two centuries after he penned over 600 poems and songs, both here in Scotland and beyond,"

said the head of radio for BBC Scotland, Jeff Zycinski. (Wonder what clan THAT's a sept of?) "This project will ensure that his works are available to everyone for years to come."

Though prepared with posterity in mind, the archive has specific appeal for contemporary Burn's lovers: many of the voices featured in the

archive are current celebrities, including First Minister Alex Salmond and actors Alan Cumming, Robert Carlyle, and Robbie Coltrane. Even the Prince of Wales is participating, having recited for the project "A Red, Red Rose" and "My Heart's in the Highlands", described as "two of his favorites".





Scottish Text Society
27 George Street
Edinburgh EH8 9LD

www.scottishtextsociety.org

Members of Caledonian,
St. Andrew's, and other Scottish
Societies of North America

We are writing to invite you to consider becoming a member of the Scottish Text Society. Membership in the Society conveys many benefits for anyone concerned with the understanding of Scottish literature, history, and culture.

The Scottish Text Society is a major publisher of important texts from Scotland's literary history. Since 1882 it has played a significant part in reviving interest in the literature

and languages of Scotland. The Society's editions are both authoritative and accessible, meeting the highest standards of scholarship. To date, the Society has published some 150 volumes, covering poetry, drama, and prose, from the fourteenth to the nineteenth centuries. The majority of its editions are in the high period of Older Scots literature, from 1500 to 1700.

In 2008 the Society published the first modern edition of *The Poems of Walter Kennedy*, edited by Nicole Meier, and an authoritative new edition of *Golagros and Gawane*, edited by Ralph Hanna. It has also made available to members a DVD publication of *The Chapman and Myllar Prints*, to mark the 500th anniversary of printing in Scotland. Other editions currently available include reprints of the Society's editions of the two great epic poems of the wars of independence, Barbour's *Bruce* and Hary's *Wallace*; a new edition of Sir Gilbert Hay's *The Buke of the Law of Armys*; a revised edition of *The Shorter Poems of Gavin Douglas*; a new edition of the poetry of Scotland's greatest Renaissance poet, Alexander Montgomerie; and Sir David Hume's *History of the House of Angus*, which has not been available in print since the eighteenth century.

The Society's continued vitality depends, first, on the supply of

scholarly editions suitable to be included in its series and, second, on the maintenance of subscriptions and sales of volumes at a level which will cover the printing and distribution costs of new and reprinted books. The Society's volumes are printed and distributed by Boydell & Brewer (Rochester, NY and Woodbridge, Suffolk), a highly successful scholarly publisher. The Society has members all over the world. In return for their subscriptions, members receive the Society's annual volume or volumes published by the Society in its main series in that year and the right to buy back copies and other non-series publications at a discount.

Subscription rates are available for your review at <http://www.scottishtextsociety.org/>, where details of how to join the Society are also to be found. Annual membership fees may be paid using Paypal.

Even if you decide that individual membership is not for you, we would be grateful if you could share this letter with anyone you think might have an interest in Scottish literature.

Sincerely, Jonathan A. Glenn
Associate Provost and Professor of English
University of Central Arkansas
Conway, Arkansas 72035

A Celtic Music Event - The Crossing

For over seventeen years the Crossing has been crafting music to warm up your heart and get your feet moving. With their intricate arrangements of traditional and original Celtic tunes, the Crossing has been received enthusiastically by Americans and Celts alike. Instrumentation includes Highland pipes, fiddle, whistle, flute, harp, guitars, bouzouki, cello, and bodhran, just

to name a few. Their song lyrics express a concern for the least of God's people and a celebration of the greatness of God Himself. The Crossing is a group whose love for Celtic music is enriched by love for the one who created the Celtic peoples and their lands.

The First Baptist Church of Memphis, corner of Poplar and Parkway, invites you to attend this concert of the

Celtic Group, The Crossing. Sunday March 22nd at 6:00 p.m., suggested donation is \$10 per person. Examples of their music can be found online at www.thecrossing.us. Check them out. They are outstanding and I feel confident that you will find the concert equally enjoyable. Hope to see you there. SRich

Drummer News

Ladies & Gentlemen, Pipers & Drummers:

The owner of Celtic Crossing in Memphis, is interested in hosting any and all pipers, drummers and aficionados of all things Scottish, on Monday April 6th for the 2009 Tartan Day.

As for me, being a weekday, I can only participate after work hours, so that's mainly what we'll look to, though DJ may expand it a bit for

the pub. He has mentioned maybe doing some kind of specials, say some Scottish beers or whiskeys, also using his regular promotional talents & methods such as flyers, email blasts, etc..

So.. I need to know who's interested, who's committed and what you might be interested in doing. I'd love to have as many pipers and drummers as possible, no matter what band, if any, you or they belong to.

We can designate a short list of tunes for everyone to be ready with, and also others can play what they will, as they can. Hopefully the weather will be such that we can stay outside in comfort.

So.. let me hear ya, and please make it soon, so I can get word back to DJ.

David Corbett
www.neacpipes.com

Scottish Snippets

The "Scottish Snippets" newsletter is now produced every second week, while the "Colour Supplement" of recently taken, larger-size graphics of Scottish scenes, flora and fauna is continuing on a weekly basis.

This week's collection includes:
~ Special Royal Mail set of stamps to mark the 250th anniversary of

the birth of Robert Burns on 25th of January;

~ The City Chambers in Glasgow being used as the backdrop for a 15-minute "slide-show" illustrating the life of Burns;

~ The City Chambers covered in musical notation as part of the presentation; "Auld Lang Syne" across the City Chambers at the

end of the slide show;
~ A substantial clump of snowdrops (first of the year!) in bloom at the side of a country road, just north of Glasgow.

For all these graphics and further information, see:
<http://www.rampantscotland.com/colour/supplement090131.htm>

Larry Bettis



CSWT - May Day Ceilidh Picnic

I am Dena Shewmaker, Vice President and Vendor Chair for the Celtic Society of West TN.

The CSWT is holding a May Day Ceilidh Picnic at Lambuth University in Jackson, TN. on Saturday, May 2, 2009 from 11:00 am - 4:00 pm.

We are planning booth spaces for 3 vendors, 2 society groups, a genealogy tent, and will have 3 performance groups. Games and activities will take place throughout the day. Families from all over the region will be invited to bring a picnic lunch and enjoy the day with old-fashioned sack races, Celtic music, and learn more about the heritage of the Celts.

We would very much like for the Memphis Scottish Society to participate if possible. Anybody that wants to help us man the tent, please contact Sammy Rich @ 272-7159 or srich1001@comcast.net.

Dena Shewmaker, CSWT Vice President
gendigg@msn.com <<mailto:gendigg@msn.com>>

Calendar of Events

Mondays

Caledonia Chorale 7 pm
Church of the Holy Communion,
Walnut Grove at Perkins,
272-7159

Thursdays

**Sgt. W.K. Singleton Pipes &
Drums**

6:30-8:30 at Bethel Pentecostal
Church, Stage Road in Bartlett;
call 386-2052 for info.

Wolf River Pipes & Drums,
6:30-9:30 at St. Luke's Lutheran;
Germantown Parkway. 753-9494

Fridays

Dancing: 7:30-10 pm, Idlewild
Presbyterian; 1750 Union Ave,
West Entrance - 274-1889

2nd, & 4th Friday:

Scottish Country Dancing.

Saturday, March 9

Lineage Society Presentations
10:00 - 12:00

Germantown Regional History
and Genealogy Center
7779 Poplar Ave.

Monday, March 9

MSSI Monthly Meeting
Jason's Deli @
Poplar & Highland
For directions call 757-4200 or
memphisscots.com.

6:00 pm Dinner
7:00 pm Program:
Joe Lyle - songs and
stories of the Jacobites.

Sunday, March 22

"The Crossing" a Celtic concert

6:00 PM First Baptist Church
Poplar and Parkway

Thursday, March 26

Board Meeting at 5:45
St. Lukes Lutheran
2000 N Gtown Pkwy

April 6

2009 Tartan Day Celebration
Celtic Crossing

April 17-19

29th Arkansas Scottish Festival
Batesville, AR

May 2

CSWT May Day Ceilidh Picnic
Lambuth Univ. Jackson, TN

Scottish/Celtic RadioMusic

Sundays, 6-7 p.m.

"The Thistle and Shamrock"
WKNO-FM 91.1

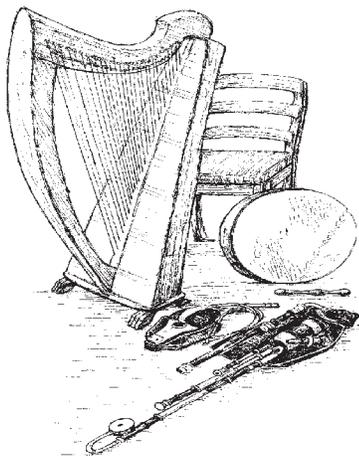
Saturdays, 10 a.m.

-1.m. "Strands of the Celtic
Knot" Robert Campbell, host
WEVL-FM 89.9

Sun and Mon 6 p.m. and

Fridays, 7 p.m.

"The Thistle & Shamrock,"
WMAV-FM 90.3



March 5: New Traditions
Music from traditional roots
absorbs new influences
and styles from the Celtic
heartlands and around the
world. Hear the best of the
emerging sounds.

March 12: Irish Classics
Early Bothy Band, Kevin
Burke, Paul Brady: it's all
here in our nostalgic browse
through Irish classics of the
'70s and '80s.

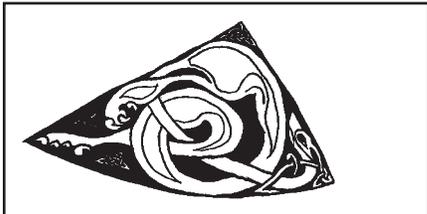
March 19: Solas
The music of Solas is always

exciting perhaps because
it's constantly evolving.
Meet Seamus Egan and
Win Horan who chat about
their roles in shaping Irish-
America's most influential
band and share loads of their
music with us.

March 26: Bass Rock
Contributions by acoustic
and electric bass to Celtic
music are subtle, imaginative
and, with players like
Alain Genty, firmly in the
foreground.



Pictured on the left is Mark Henderson and James Connelly. Mark is the official piper for the Memphis Police Department. James is a long time member of the Wolf River Pipes and Drums. Congratulations Mark!



The title of this month's stamp is Medusa. No small wonder at the choice for the name.

Next Monthly Meeting - Monday, March 9th
 Jason's Deli - Poplar and Highland
 Dinner at 6:00, Program @ 7:00 Joe Lyle "Jacobite Songs and Stories"
 Regular Board Meeting, March 26th at 5:45 St. Luke Evangelical Lutheran -
 2000 N. Germantown Parkway

GRACE NOTES
 The Memphis Scottish Society, Inc.
 P. O. Box 241934
 Memphis, TN 38124-1934

