

APPENDIX I

SCOTS STYLE SHEET

**As proposed at the Makar's Club meeting on
April 11, 1947 in a hostelry in Edinburgh**

Aa for older 'all' and colloquial 'a' : *caa, baa, smaa, faa, staa*. But *ava, awa, wha*.
And *snaw, blaw, craw*, etc.

Ae, Ai, Ay, or a(consonant)e for the open sound in *fray, frae, haim, cairt, maister, blae, hame, bane, byspale*. Also *ay* for yes; *aye* for always.

E, ee, ei, ie, and i for the sound of 'i' in French; according to old usage: *heed, deed, heid, deid, hie, Hieland, die; Hevin, sevin, eleven; ee, een, yestreen; ambition, king, tradition, sanctified*.

Eu for the sound in *neuk, deuk, leugh, leukit, beuk, eneuch* – pronounced variously from north to south and from east to west.

Ie for diminutive, adjectival and adverbial endings – *mannie, bonnie* and *lichtlie*.

Y for the diphthong 'a-i' in *wynd, mynd, hyst*, in distinction to plain short 'i' in *wind, bind, find*. (The practice of dropping the terminal 'd' to be discouraged in writing.)

Ou mainly for sound of French *ou* in *mou, mouth, sou, about, out, nou, hou, dour, douce, couthie, douth, toun, doun, round*; but *oo* according to old usage in words like *smooth, smool, snoove*.

Ow, Owe always for the diphthong in *powe, knowe, growe, thowe, rowe, gowpit, yowl*.

Ui or u(consonant)e for the modified 'u' sound, long and short, *puir, muir, fluir; guid, tuim, wuid; spune, shune, sune, tune, use, mune, abune*.

Ch guttural in all cases where this sound is to be represented, *socht, bocht, thocht, eneuch, teuch*; the obsolete 'gh' might profitably be dropped in 'through' and 'though' -- *throu, tho* – and 'laigh' spelt 'laich'. But 'delyte,' never rhyming with 'nicht'.

Verbal endings: *-an* for all present participles, but *-in* for the verbal noun in 'newbiggin', 'flyting', etc. Past tense and past participles for weak verbs in *-it, -t, and -ed*, according to euphony: *flypit, skailt, garred, loued, snawed*.

Ane for yin, een, etc. (one). *Ae*, not *yae*, before nouns. *Ain* for *own, his ain sel*, etc. But *awn* (*wha's aucht*) for 'own' (verb).

Pronouns: *wha*, interr. nom. and accus.; and ‘that’ as relative in preference to ‘wha’ or ‘whilk’. ‘Whatna’ rather than ‘whilk’ as interrogative adjective: *Whatna ane was that?*

To: Use this spelling before infinitive, and ‘til’ as a rule before nouns but euphony must be the guide. *We gaed til the kirk.*

Tae: *too* meaning *also*, and *toe*.

Apostrophes to be discouraged.

Negatives: *-na* affixed to verb, *nae* before nouns, and *no* normally: *I’m no that fou.*

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Evidently, some beer was consumed during the course of the deliberations which produced these guidelines and Professor A. J. Aitken later commented that it was a wonder they got as far as they did!

One of the participants had remarked to a waiter: “*This is gey guid beer, this. Coud we hae sum mair?*” But the waiter had responded by opening a window!