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, smoof, snoofe.

Ow, Owe always for the diphthong in powe, knowe, growe, howe, 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 gutteral 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!