



## Object of the Newsletter

*To promote the appreciation of fine Scotch Whisky, the area from which it comes, the people that inhabit the land and it's history. By the way, I do not profess to be an expert, I am merely expressing an opinion on the whiskies I am tasting.*

I now look at Glenmorangie "Signet." Using whiskies aged from 35 to 40 Years old, this whisky earned the Best Single Malt Scotch Trophy at the International Wine and Spirits Competition in 2013, as well as a number of other awards both before and after.

What do I think of it; mmmmmmm chocolate!! I was quite taken aback, when I first tasted this whisky at WhiskyFest last year in San Francisco. (That is a reason you should consider going to a whiskyFest at some point in your scotch drinking life, the lovely surprises awaiting you, that you would otherwise never get).

It really tasted like I was eating or drinking chocolate, I had it again recently in "The Angel's share" hotel bar in Edinburgh, Scotland, and also in Milos (Greek restaurant) in the Cosmopolitan in Las Vegas and yes, it's still all about the chocolate.

The whisky gets it's unique chocolate flavor by the marriage of two types of malted barley: Cadboll malted barley (which adds some creaminess to the whisky), and malted chocolate barley (often used to create craft beers, such as brown ales, porters, stouts).

You can buy Glenmorangie "Signet" for around \$160.00 a bottle.

### Tasting Notes;

**Nose** - Cocoa, oranges, malt

**Palate** - Dark chocolate, coffee, molasses

**Finish** - Long with cocoa, cream, orange and coffee

*"Slainte Mhath"*

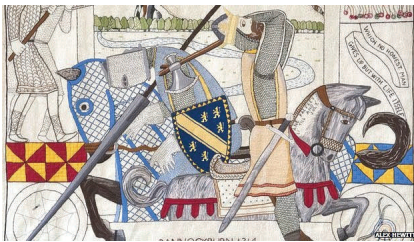
*Paul Bissett*





## Great Tapestry of Scotland unveiled at Parliament

A TAPESTRY which tells Scotland's colourful story from pre-history to modern times has been unveiled at the Scottish Parliament. Measuring 143 meters long (almost 500ft), the Great Tapestry of Scotland is one of the biggest in the world.



Its 160 beautifully detailed panels capture important moments during the country's 420 million-year history. The unique piece of art was devised by Scottish author Alexander McCall Smith along with historian Alistair Moffat and artist Andrew Crummy. One thousand embroiderers aged four to 94 brought Scotland's history to life.

The work took more than 50,000 hours to complete and will be exhibited in the Main Hall of the Scottish Parliament until 21 September. Presiding Officer Tricia Marwick MSP, who unveiled the tapestry, said: "To see it in its entirety is truly breathtaking. It is fitting that this tapestry, by the people of Scotland for the people of Scotland, should be unveiled in our nation's parliament.

"The scale of the project is immense but the detail in each and every panel vividly illustrates Scotland's rich and diverse history. "The overall glorious effect of the Great Tapestry is a testament to the hours of work and creativity of 1,000 stitchers from across Scotland." Ms Marwick added: "I would encourage people from across Scotland to come see this magnificent artwork.

"There is no other piece of art out there that tells so much about Scotland's story."

McCall Smith said the tapestry brought Scotland's history to life. "This is a wonderful day for the artist and the hundreds of stitchers behind this project," he said. "Today marks the end of the first part of this tapestry's life – the stage of its inception and creation. "Now we start the second stage, when the tapestry begins its life's work. And that life's work is to bring pleasure to the many thousands of people who will see it each year. "The history of Scotland is a fascinating tale. This tapestry will bring that story to life in a way that no other single artefact can match.

"What we are seeing with its unveiling at the Scottish Parliament is the revealing to the world of a treasure of astonishing beauty and interest."

Meanwhile, a call was issued yesterday to enlist thousands of volunteers to help transcribe more than a million historic Scottish records. Transcribe Scotland's Places is the biggest "crowd-sourcing" project of its kind in Scotland and will focus on records of people and places dating from 1645 to 1880. This includes more than 150,000 pages of old handwriting in Scots, English and Gaelic detailing information about land taxation, taxes on clocks, windows and farm horses, as well as Ordnance Survey "name books" which were part of the first official record of Scottish places and place names. It is hoped the information processed as part of this project, one of the first of its kind in the UK, will boost knowledge and understanding of Scotland and its people.



Below is a simple guide to help you choose your single malt Whisky, and the flavor notes you should expect from it. Being Scottish I recommend you find a likely candidate and try it in a bar before buying the whole bottle. This Issue; Glenmorangie "Signet" For more information go to <https://glenmorangie.com>





## 8 Secrets and Myths from the Scotch Distilleries

Scotch Whisky distilleries have histories as wild as the land they're rooted in...full of smugglers, spirits and snatches of myth. Here are just a few of the distilleries most cracking secrets...

### **#1 The Whisky That Never Was**

In 2012, gritty film director Ken Loach brought *The Angel's Share* to our screens. The story's based on a whisky auction and tells the tale of a *unique cask of Islay's Malt Mill* which is never actually bottled...unless Irn Bru containers count.

The most interesting part is that the film's *Malt Mill* really did exist on Islay, and although the story's ultimately fictional, none of its spirit ever came to be properly bottled.

This is probably because there was no intention to make the liquid a single malt, but in 1962 a crudely sealed bottle with a **hand-written label** was found. This liquid isn't Whisky because it wasn't matured in an oak cask for three years, so what is it? To this day no one can say.

### **#2 Glenrothes' Ghost & Glen Grant**

Around the distillery's centenary in 1978, a worker saw a **ghost in the stillroom**, an old local in fact. The ghost was a man called **Byeway**, or Biawa Makalanga. As a boy, Byeway was discovered by Major James Grant, the proprietor of Glen Grant Distillery, during his 1894 hunting trip in Africa.

The boy had been abandoned after his family had been massacred in a tribal feud, and the Major took him under his wing. Byeway returned to England as the Major's butler. The Major left provisions for Byeway in his will, including a **room at Glen Grant House**, coal from the distillery and meals from the local hotel.

Byeway is remembered as being kind and gentle, with a broad Rothes accent. A photograph of him hangs in Glen Grant's visitor centre to this day. It seems he just took a wander over to Glenrothes, as a ghost, in 1978. As you do.

### **#3 Glen Grant's Bulb**

More thanks should go to the Major James Grant. As the **first man in the Highlands to own a car**, he was a forward-thinking specimen. Glen Grant was also the first distillery to have a light bulb illuminate its rooms.

### **#4 Glenrothes Great Fire**

The Great Fire of Glenrothes in 1922 is a tale worth telling. Amber nectar burst from its stores and trickled through the streets as a result of the catastrophe. Locals frantically tried to collect the liquid in any container they could find...**free Whisky!**

The cattle in surrounding fields and fish from the rivers also enjoyed a sore head the next morning.



#### **#5 White Stag of Arran**

This ethereal creature is well known to islanders. With few, precious sightings over the centuries of the majestic animal, which is believed to be a stag, it's said to bring **good fortune** to those who see it.

On the opening morning of the Arran Distillery, the animal was spotted in the Lochranza Meadow overlooking the new buildings. Sighted by the Distillery Manager and Head Distiller, they haven't done too badly off of it since.



#### **#6 Monk Madness**

Henry VIII, being slightly less of a philanthropist than the Major, dissolved the entire kingdom's monasteries. This left a lot of monks feeling, understandably, **misunderstood**.

Many of them turned to the **Whisky trade** and began distilling themselves, so it's likely that many of Scotland's distilleries found their feet this way. Some men of the cloth were even **smugglers...**Good work Henry.

#### **#7 Deanston Denominations**

This distillery was originally **a mill for curtain lace**, before sense took over. However, in the frenzy of the industrial revolution, there was a **shortage of coins** and workers were paid in the mill's own currency; foreign coins branded with the Deanston stamp. If that doesn't say you've bossed it as a distillery, we don't know what does.

#### **#8 Orwellian Notes**

George Orwell famously travelled to the Isle of Jura to write his **dystopian novel 1984**. It's possible that he made this choice because the island is peaceful for writing, and probably because, well who wouldn't need a stiff drink after writing that?

Jura masterfully casked **1,984 bottles** of a rich and aromatic Single Malt Whisky in 1984. We can now taste the honey, vanilla, morello cherries and peach syrup for ourselves in this batch of sweetness that was stashed away, just in case things did go as Pete Tong as George thought it might. Genius.

<http://flaviar.com/blog/scottish-whisky-distillery-secrets>