

Ian

From: ak [andrew.kelly@orange.net]
Sent: 29 September 2004 15:50
To: info
Subject: cultural article[Scanned]

Dear Sir

Although my letter will probably not contribute much to achieving what your commission sets out to do, I felt inspired to reply to your article in the Edinburgh Evening news 29-09-04.

Having been on this planet for a brief 29 years and lived in Edinburgh for the same amount of time I confess to being unaware to many aspects of our Scottish culture, aspects which you touched upon - Stephen Deazley the composer, Audubon's Birds of America being in a Scottish library and more to the point the fact that they are available to me through one form or another.

Which brings me to the belief that as a city and nation we are uneducated or unaware as to our cultural possessions, I know myself that while I was in school Scottish history and culture was never on the curriculum, no doubt as it would be seen to be as boring! Ask most Scotsmen or women if they are proud of their country and they would be vociferous in their praise yet ask them about what great new things are happening in Scotland and I believe there would be a muted silence. We are at the forefront of new technology yet we are not using it to our gain, Price is an issue to any family or person who just barely manages to get by if they are asked to pay five or six pounds a head to get into an exhibition or show, the internet is a wonderful platform to take interactive tours and to educate while being fun and modern yet more money is probably spent advertising iron bru than events at our theater's and museums and what is available on-line.

My wish is to be well informed and also not to be scared to go out at night in fear of being attacked by drunken yobs, we have the beautiful princess street gardens in edinburgh yet after dark it is a no-go area, how many more people are missing out on a night at the theatre or a cultural event because they are scared?

Start in schools and work our way out, we need to be proud of our culture and cutting edge in our approach, there should not be a gap between what is available to the " rich and poor ".

If only the Scottish Parliament - (amazing building let down by negative attitudes) would do something constructive for Scotland and stop their silly bickering this could be a better place to live, learn and enjoy our culture.

16/03/2005

I hope your commission makes a difference to our country and I am delighted that such a thing exists.

Kind Regards
Andrew Kelly