

The Last Hopeful Epistle of Bonnie Prince Charlie



***When the drumbeat of war echoed
in Great Britain for the last time***

TheSpace@Surgeons Hall, Nicholson Street. August 5th – 20th 2011

Acknowledgements

We would like to thank the Drambuie Liqueur Company for their contribution of a case of Drambuie, "the Gift of the Prince", for the enjoyment of our audience.

We would also like to thank Phonographic Performance Limited for a licence to use the following music in the production:

Will Ye No Come Back Again, Phil Coulter on piano, from his album *Scottish Tranquillity*

Loch Lomond, Claire Hamilton on harp, from the album *Music of the Highlands*

The Skye Boat Song, Claire Hamilton on harp, from the album *Music of the Highlands*

Highland Cathedral, played by the Massed Bands & Pipes & Drums of the Army Regiments, from the album *Pure Bagpipe Magic*

Clichy, Paris, November 5th, 1746.

Prince Charles Edward Stuart, son of the putative King James VIII of Scotland and III of England, recently returned to France after six months in the heather as a fugitive following his defeat at the Battle of Culloden, sits down at his desk to pen a letter to King Louis of France.

Yet remarkably, this letter is not written out of desperation, but is imbued with a distinct sense of optimism for the future.....

The Last Hopeful Epistle of Bonnie Prince Charlie draws on the Prince's own account of the events of the '45 to reassess the campaign and the Prince's place in Scottish history.

Bonnie Prince Charlie: Unlucky Hero or Reckless Gambler?

The Last Hopeful Epistle of Bonnie Prince Charlie gives a new perspective on the man whose over-optimism – or was it incompetence? – left a scar on the soul of Scotland that endures to this day.

Where would we be now if the Jacobites had not turned back at Derby? What is the enduring legacy of the tragic events of 1745, and how do they continue to shape attitudes that remain to this day, as Scotland re-assesses its relationship with the Auld Enemy?

The production draws on a recently discovered letter and memorandum hand written by Prince Charles Edward Stuart to King Louis XIV on November 5, 1746, immediately after his escape to France after Culloden, which sets out his detailed account of the campaign and his plans and vision for the future.

This memorandum was acquired from the heirs of the Marquis d'Argenson, the Minister of War of King Louis XIV, when they sold it by auction. Last year, a graphological analysis of Bonnie Prince Charlie's character based on his handwriting was prepared by Elaine Quigley, Past Chairman of the British Institute of Graphologists. The writer was not identified, so her analysis was undertaken anonymously, and gives a fascinating insight to the Prince's character.

Programme

1. *Clichy, November 5th 1746*
2. *Newhaven, June 2002*
3. *Moidart, July 1745*
4. *A Graphological Analysis of the Prince's Character*
5. *Prestonpans, September 1745*
6. *Holyrood, October 1745*
7. *Derby, December 1745*
8. *Carlisle, December 1745*
9. *Falkirk, January 1746*
10. *Culloden, April 1746*
11. *The Highlands, April – September 1746*
12. *The Aftermath*

Key Dates of the '45

July 23rd 1745: Prince Charles Edward Stuart lands at Eriskay on South Uist in the Outer Hebrides

August 19th 1745: The Stuart standard is raised at Glenfinnan, with 700 Camerons under Lochiel and 500 MacDonalds under Keppoch forming the nucleus of his Highland Army

September 16th 1745: the Jacobites enter Edinburgh.

September 21st 1745: Prince Charles' army scores a decisive victory over the Hanoverians under Sir John Cope at Prestonpans.

November 8th 1745: the Jacobite Army crosses the Esk and marches into England.

November 14th 1745: Capitulation of Carlisle

December 5th 1745: A Council of War held in Derby takes the decision to retreat

December 25th 1745: the Jacobite Army enters Glasgow during its retreat

January 16th 1746: Battle of Falkirk

April 16th 1746: Battle of Culloden

September 19th 1746: the Prince escapes to France

November 5th 1746: Prince Charles submits a memorandum to the King of France asking for his support in raising a new Army

January 31st 1788: the Prince dies in exile in Rome, having never returned to Scotland

The Prince's Account of the Campaign

Memoire

La situation dans laquelle j'ay Laisse l'Ecosse
a mon depart merite toute l'attention de Votre
Majesté ce Royaume est a la veille de se voir
anéantir et le Gouvernement d'Angleterre est re-
solu de Confondre les Sujets qui n'ont resté
de les avec ceux qui ont epris les armes pour moi.
D'où il est aisé de conclure que le mecon-
tentement de cette Nation est generale
et que j'y trouverois aujourd'hui trois par-
tisans pour un que j'y trouve en depar-
quant.

Ce sera tromper Votre Majesté que de la
flatter que je pourrois encor soulever
l'Ecosse, si le Parlement a le tems et
l'oyer d'y mettre les Loix penales en
Execution et Votre Majesté doit renon-
cer pour Jamais au secours d'une revolution
dans pays la; Et moi, je n'aurai de ressource
que dans les Cours des Sujets du Roi mon
Pere, quant il plaira a la providence de le
rappeller.

Le Nombre des Sujets aguerris ne m'a jamais
manqué en Ecosse, j'ay manqué tout a la fois
d'argent de vivres et d'une poignée de
troupes regulieres, avec un seul de ces
trois secours, je serois encor aujourd'hui
maître de l'Ecosse, et vraisemblablement
de toute l'Angleterre.

Avec trois mil Hommes de Troopes Regles
je penetrerois en Angleterre immédiatement
apres avoir defait le Sieur Cope, et rien ne
s'opposoit alors a mon arrivée a Londres,
puisque l'Electeur estoit absent et que
les Troupes Angloises n'avoient pas enco-
re repasseés.

Avec de vivres jeus été en estat de poursui-
vre le Sieur Hawley a la Bataille de
Falkirk, et de detruire tout son armée
qui estoit la fleur des Troupes Angloises.

Si j'eus reçu deux mois plutôt la Moitié
seulement de l'argent que Votre Majesté
m'a envoyé, j'eus combattu Le Prince
Guillaume, d'Hannover avec un nombre
égal et je l'eus sûrement battu puisqu'
avec quatre mil hommes contre douze
j'ai longtems fait pancher la victoire
et que douze cens hommes de troupes
Régles l'eurent décidé en ma faveur
adieu et su de toute mon armée.
Ces Contrétems peuvent encore se re=
parer si Votre Majesté veut me confier
un Corps de dix huit ou vingt mil hommes.
C'est dans son sein seul que je déposerai
l'usage que j'en veu faire. Je l'employerai
utilement pour ses intérêts et pour les
miens. Ces intérêts sont inépendables,
et doivent être regardés comme tels
par tous ceux qui ont l'Honneur d'ap=
procher de Votre Majesté et qui ont
sa Gloire, et l'Avantage de son Royaume
à Cour.

A Word on Drambuie

“Drambuie is a honey- and herb-flavoured golden liqueur made from aged malt whisky, heather honey and a secret blend of herbs and spices. The flavour suggests saffron, honey, anise, nutmeg and herbs.

The name "Drambuie" comes from the Scottish Gaelic phrase an dram buidheach, meaning "the drink that satisfies", or possibly an dram buidhe meaning "the yellow drink".

After the Battle of Culloden in 1746, Prince Charles Edward Stuart fled to the island of Skye. There, he was given sanctuary by Captain John MacKinnon of Clan MacKinnon. According to family legend, after staying with the captain, the prince rewarded him with this prized drink recipe.

The first commercial distribution of Drambuie, in Edinburgh, was in 1910. Only twelve cases were originally sold. In 1916, Drambuie became the first liqueur to be allowed in the cellars of the House of Lords, and Drambuie began to ship world-wide to stationed British soldiers.

The bottle has a new interlocking ‘DD’ Drambuie icon behind the brand name and this also appears on the neck. The sword-slashes on the neck are a reminder of the brand's alleged origins of the Jacobite uprising of 1745 and the four diamonds represent those values closely associated with Bonnie Prince Charlie – Risk, Rebellion, Passion and Mystery.”

(from Wikipedia)

The Last Hopeful Epistle of Bonnie Prince Charlie is produced by the Trinity Theatre Company. Narrated by Michael Nevin; narration written by Michael Nevin and Caroline Nevin. Music and lighting by Paul Nevin.

Trinity Theatre Co. Tel: 0131 552 6089

theSpace@Surgeons Hall, Nicholson Street.

August 5th – 20th 2011, 6.05 p.m. – 6.55 p.m.

Tickets: www.edfringe.com. Tel: 0131 226 0000 or 0845 508 8515. £8 and £5 (conc).

Price includes programme and “The Gift of the Prince” – a glass of Drambuie.