



A HISTORY OF THE ORDER OF THE SCOTTISH SAMURAI

By

*Charles Gene Abel &
Albert Adams Thomson*

2019 - 2021

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Editor

Gordon Casely
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Foreword – Lord Bruce



I am delighted to be asked to write a foreword for this booklet. Seated at my desk in the library of Broomhall House in lockdown, I'm writing while the world outside readjusts to another protracted period of social isolation.

In front of me sits a nineteenth century table decoration – in silver, bronze and coral – forming a group of cranes clustered on a rock (*right*). A gift of the last Shogun but one, Tokugawa Iemochi, it was presented to my ancestor in 1858 once he had negotiated the first substantive commercial and diplomatic treaty between the United Kingdom and the Empire of Japan.

In Japanese mythology, the crane is an important creature signifying authority. There is an idiom that runs, “tsuru no hito koe”, which translates literally as “one word from the crane” ie the one who has the final word is not challenged. It is deeply inspiring therefore to reveal that last year a series of unexpected encounters led Sensei Ronnie Watt, founder of the Order, to uncover the story of how a native American of Scottish parentage introduced the teaching of English to Japan exactly ten years before my ancestor set foot in the country.



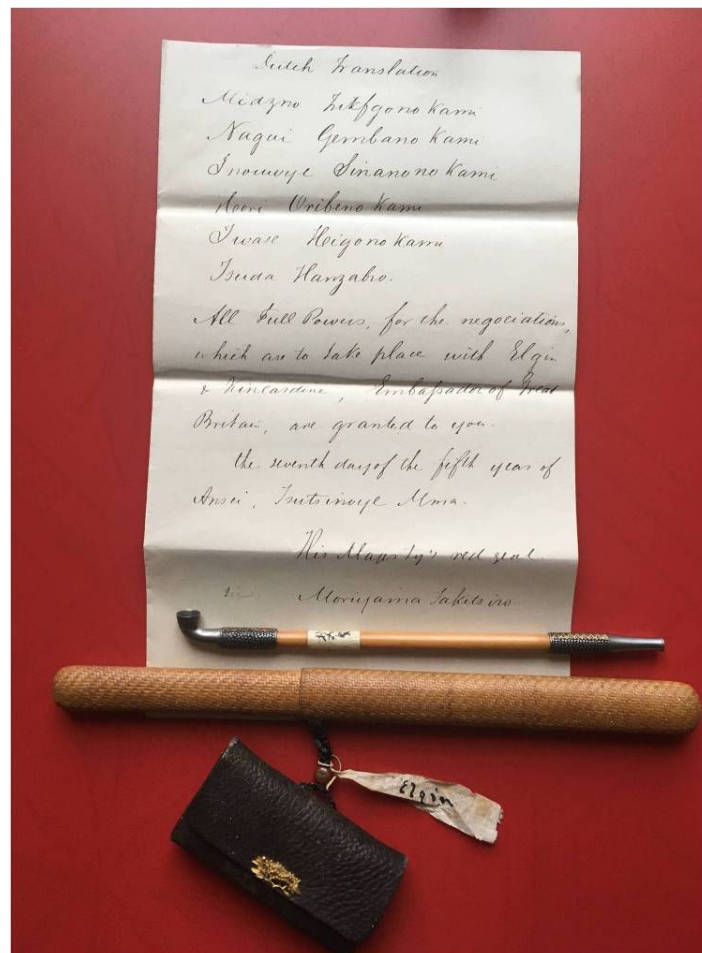
Landing in northern Japan in 1848 as a shipwrecked whaler, MacDonald survived to tell an extraordinary story of how his value as a teacher of conversational English guaranteed his safe conduct to Nagasaki. Although MacDonald's Japanese sojourn was cut short when he was extradited on an American ship in 1849, he succeeded in equipping a new generation of interpreters with a sophisticated grasp of English. This skill would become essential in the years ahead as Japan embarked on a series of trade agreements with foreign governments.

Later this year, Ranald MacDonald a Chinook Indian from Columbia River whose father was a Scottish overseer with the Hudson Bay Company, will be awarded the highest honour in the Order of the Scottish Samurai, *in retrospect*.

After listening to Ronnie recounting the tale of Ranald MacDonald, I realised immediately that in the great tradition of the OSS, there were many more coincidences to discover! Before he left Canada to join a whaling ship in New York, Ranald had stayed in St Thomas, Ontario, a significant place in the story of my family because it is where the Elgin Regiment, Canada's oldest county regiment, is based. My father has served as honorary colonel since 1970.

When Ranald left Nagasaki hurriedly in 1849, he left behind a class of 14 young Samurai, one of whom Einsouke Moriyama would end up as chief interpreter to the Shogunate. Moriyama was deeply involved in the treaty negotiations with James Bruce, 8th Earl of Elgin. In this sense he truly had the last word, and was not to be challenged.

In our archives at Broomhall we have documents written in his hand, and also his pipe (*below*) which he gave as a present to my ancestor, along with a pouch of tobacco. Such is the continuum of history, and such is the importance of the OSS in keeping these fascinating stories alive, to inspire future acts of greatness.



Foreword – Nozomu Takaoka, Consul General of Japan

2020 turned out to be a very challenging year. People's activities were severely constrained because of the virus but I am heartened to be reminded that the Scottish Samurais continue to make great contributions to raise our spirits and to promote Japan-Scotland friendship.

Our old friend and Karate Master Ronnie Watt OBE ORS actually expanded his scope of activities by establishing online Karate classes, benefiting hundreds of his disciples young and old. He showed to the world that the combination of technology and Japanese spirit can help us all to adapt to the New Normal. If only we could suppress the virus through the power of sport!



It is also heart warming to learn that the Scottish Samurai committee continues to recognise many Great Shoguns, Shoguns and Hatamotos, including Mayor Taue of Nagasaki City and other Japanese recipients who have already received their awards in Japan. I hope that we will soon be able to celebrate the Scottish awardees in Scotland as well. Their precious contribution to Japan-Scotland relations should be appreciated more than ever in this difficult period.

I would like to inform you that during this period, the Consulate General of Japan is also working very hard with the Scottish Government to support Japanese companies operating in Scotland in their efforts to maintain and even expand their operations and employment rates despite the challenges imposed by the pandemic.

I would also like to remind Scottish Samurais of the recently signed milestone agreement between our two countries: the Japan-UK Economic Partnership Agreement, which entered into force on the first day of 2021.

This agreement will open up new opportunities for Scottish industry including fisheries, distilleries and the finance sector to expand their markets in Japan. The agreement will also promote digital transactions and e-commerce between us by establishing a transparent and fair framework. Japanese investors will be also encouraged to invest more in Scotland. These positive developments should greatly benefit many Samurais who are involved directly or indirectly with business with Japan.

We are still in the seemingly long tunnel of the pandemic. But when we are through this, we will emerge stronger and victorious, empowered by the Samurai spirit. I am looking forward to joining the celebration of all the awardees when the moment is right, hopefully in the near future.

Mr Nozomu Takaoka
Consul General of Japan in Edinburgh

1 – The Order of the **Scottish Samurai** (OSS)

The Order of the Scottish Samurai (OSS) was founded, overseen and privately funded by Ronnie Watt (*right*) with the National Karate Federation being a recognised awarding body inspired by Thomas Blake Glover.

The constitution governing both the Order and the Scottish Samurai Awards was drawn up and ratified in January 2016. The OSS constitution is legally registered to protect the trademark of **The Scottish Samurai Awards**.

The OSS is a *not for profit* organisation with a charitable purpose, one aim being to recognise those who have achieved excellence in their field or who have made a substantial contribution to their communities.

Ronnie Watt oversees the direction, strategy, operation and ongoing changes in the Order. While Ronnie leads the Order, an executive awarding council consists of the Consul General of Japan in Scotland; Charles, Lord Bruce; Lady (Alice Enders) Bruce; Tommy Dreelan, owner of the Celtic Speed Racing Team; and film producer Compton Ross.

Additional support is also provided by members of the OSS Board and others including family members, individuals, organisations and OSS members who uphold the values of the Order. Membership of the board is by invitation and each board member contributes on a voluntary basis.

Members are regularly updated on the activities of the Order and encouraged to make a personal contribution as they feel to be appropriate, but are under no obligation to do so. OSS members are expected to uphold and demonstrate the values of the Order at all times. Members not doing so or who by their actions may bring the OSS into disrepute or potential disrepute may have awards removed.

Potential OSS recipients are nominated by Ronnie Watt, by patrons, the board or by any member. Such nominations are forwarded with supporting curriculum vitae to the general secretary via Ronnie Watt for consideration. Initial approval by the OSS Board is required before being shortlisted for consideration by the Approving Panel.

The Approving Panel consists of the OSS head, and at least two other OSS board members. The nominee may (but not necessarily) be asked to attend a meeting with the approval panel or anyone acting on their behalf. The awards are bestowed at different levels at either the annual Scottish Samurai Award Ceremony or a special grading ceremony of the National Karate Federation.



Samurai Award recipients automatically becomes a member of the Order. Those admitted to the Order are entitled to use the post-nominal letters **OSS** followed by the appropriate rank in Japanese characters.

Example for Shogun Rank – Joe Smith OSS将軍

The full list of post nominal letters and ranks are shown below.

OSS 大将	Great Taisho and Taisho
OSS 大將軍	Great Shogun
OSS 將軍	Shogun
OSS 伝説の侍	Legendary Samurai
OSS	Samurai

Note: Due to the Coronavirus pandemic, the OSS booklet for 2019-2020 could not be printed in May 2020 as usual. In view of this delay it was decided to make this a double issue for the years 2019 to 2021.

I know nothing about surpassing others. I only know how to outdo myself.
Bushido

2 – Consuls General of Japan

Although the Order is a recognised awarding body overseen by Ronnie Watt, it is governed by a constitution and an executive awarding council, the Great Taisho.

Since 2004, patrons of the Order have included the serving Consuls General of Japan in Scotland, allowing strong friendship to develop between them and members of the Order. In terms of Japanese-Scottish relationships, this is seen in north east Scotland as both vital and valuable. Personal relationships between Ronnie Watt, Lord Bruce and the Consuls General have been an important part in the continuing development of the Order both in Scotland and Japan generating great friendship.

Nozomu Takaoka

The current Consul General Mr Nozomu Takaoka, a graduate of Tokyo University, joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) in 1982. His career has taken him to posts in Europe, Egypt and the USA before taking up a post as Director, Exchange Programs Division, Cultural Affairs Bureau, MFA, in 2001. In 2002 and 2005 he served as Councillor (Minister) in the Embassy of Japan in Italy.



Mr Takaoka was posted to Sweden then Iran before becoming Consul General of Japan in Houston in 2013.

2015 saw him become managing director of the Organisation for Small & Medium Enterprises and Regional Innovation of Japan before taking up his present post in Edinburgh.

Mr Nozomu Takaoka is married with one daughter and one son. He is also the author of four books (in Japanese) on world affairs.

List of Consul Generals who are members of the Order of the Scottish Samurai –

Mr Nozomu Takaoka	2018 -
Mr Daisuke Matsunaga	2016 – 2018
Mr Hajime Kitaoka	2013 – 2016
Mr Masataka Tarahara	2009 – 2013
Mr Kenichi Suganuma	2007 – 2009
Mr Shuhei Takahashi	2004 – 2007

3 – **Scottish Samurai Awards Update (2019)** by Hayley Bloodworth

In a world when so many things are seemingly breaking down, the bonds of friendship between samurai around the world grew stronger.

In 2019, the Order of the Scottish Samurai (OSS) held its first annual dinner in the splendid surroundings of Trinity Hall, the home of the Seven Incorporated Trades of Aberdeen. With Charles, Lord Bruce, Consul General Nozomu Takaoka and many guests present, the evening proved only one of the highlights of a remarkable year for Ronnie Watt and the OSS.



Where did it all come from? Some fifty years ago, a young man from Aberdeen who was recovering from a near-catastrophic injury to his leg, took up karate as a way to try to rehabilitate his injury. He was not to know at that point that this discipline would become his passion and his life. Twenty-five years later that same man was given a sports award from the city of Aberdeen for his significant achievements in karate because of his love of the martial discipline and the culture of Japan. Inspired by Thomas Blake Glover, he asked for that first award to be renamed a Samurai Award.

Sensei Ronnie is constantly at great pains to say that it is not about him; nevertheless, we are all Scottish Samurai because of him.

Worldwide, we now have over 240 individual samurai and organisations listed with numbers growing every year. Samurai are leaders from all walks of life: artists, musicians, scientists, surgeons, diplomats, and university professors of robotics, history, pharmacy and leadership to name but a few, practitioners of Japanese martial disciplines, successful and pioneering business people, entrepreneurs and many more.

A Samurai is one who serves and the award of being a Scottish Samurai is for someone who has provided excellence in service for the greater good, and, more importantly, one who has done so in the spirit of respect, honour and friendship.

The Scottish Samurai is a global community of friendship and kinship, a community bound together in the spirit by the ancient values of discipline, endeavour, strength and humility which are still as relevant today as they have ever been; a community already working on initiatives for collaboration, the exploration of trading initiatives and the paths to greater peace.

At the heart of the Scottish Samurai is the guardianship of the very special friendship and connection between Scotland and Japan. This emanates from a deep connection, respect for and understanding of each other's cultures and history.

This relationship has its roots in history from the treaty for commerce and trade signed by Lord Bruce's ancestor, the 8th Earl of Elgin with the Tokugawa Shogunate in 1858; through Thomas Blake Glover; and which carries on today through joint initiatives and collaboration nurtured and shepherded by people, many of whom are members of the Order of the Scottish Samurai.

In October 2018 a delegation of twelve Samurai led by Sensei Ronnie and Charles, Lord Bruce were warmly received and embraced with such generosity in six Japanese cities. This meeting of minds and hearts, this bond of trust and respect, crystallised when the Samurai were invited to tea and conversation with senior Japanese Government executives in the inner cabinet office of the Diet, the Japanese Parliament.

The Scottish delegation was very humbled by this gesture of friendship from Japan. A massive heartfelt thanks are extended to Sensei's Kazuo and Etsuko for their hard work organising the trip and for looking after everyone so warmly and thoughtfully with the greatest amount of care throughout.

The year 2019 proved a busy time with a fantastic award ceremony at Broomhall House and a wonderful weekend when 15 school children and their teachers from Japan were hosted by members of the Scottish Samurai in their homes in an exchange of culture and friendship. The weekend was a great success with friendships created - and tears shed at the end of the visit. It is hoped that these connections can grow and deepen and that exchanges like these can develop.

The Order of the Scottish Samurai also supported Sensei Kazuo in arranging a very well attended Japan Day event at Trinity Hall and we continue to work closely with Aberdeen University on joint initiatives.

The close association with the University of Aberdeen was recognised in June 2019 when Sensei Ronnie Watt was among a number of celebrated people receiving honorary degrees at Aberdeen University. Time Team presenter Sir Tony Robinson and forensic anthropologist Professor Dame Sue Black, Ronnie Watt OBE ORS and others were recognised for the work carried out in their chosen fields.

Ronnie, president of the National Karate Institute and founder of the Scottish Samurai Awards, was awarded the degree of Master of the University (MUniv). It is wonderful to see Ronnie being recognised.

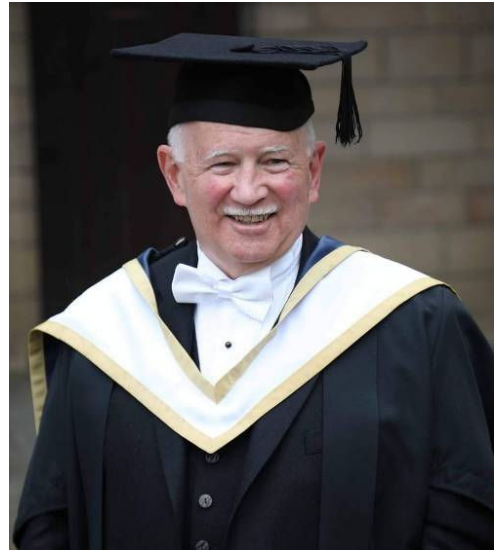
As the order continues to grow, we continue to work closely with, and support the Japan Society of Scotland and we are also looking to support the organisers of the Lonach Highland Games in the hope of promoting exchange tourism around traditional Scottish and Japanese Cultures.

The order is already planning ahead including another delegation visit to Japan; so please watch this space!!

4 – Ronald Stewart Watt Graduation – Thomas A McKean

Ronnie Watt is an interesting character. You'll know from his biography that he has trained more than twenty-thousand young people and adults in the skills of Shotokan Karate, a resolute discipline for mind and body. But you may not know what he has overcome to do that, a journey in which determination and the art of karate have played a central role.

In his late teens, Ronnie was working in engineering. 'Health and Safety was a bit different then', he says, 'I got ma leg pulled into this big cast planer and I nearly got my leg cut off – the bones came right through.' In the hospital for a year, he missed activity and sports. When he got out, driven by a will to keep going, he made his



way back to health through martial arts, quickly becoming fascinated by Japan and Japanese culture, climbing up the ranks of karate, competing with the British team in Sarajevo, and in Japan, where, as he says, he 'saw more karate floors than tourist sites.' Training in Japan was very hard and his favourite Japanese phrase was 'Where is the bus to go home?' But the martial arts had become a permanent part of his desire to overcome.

Central to karate is the philosophy of budo, just as important as the physical art itself. Students of karate seek *perfection of character*, they *refrain from violence*, they *endeavour*, they *respect others*, and are *faithful*. This does *not* mean, not to compete and you will be heading out into a competitive world. But the philosophy Ronnie teaches, and exemplifies, is instructive: 'You *need* your competitor in order for *you* to develop. If they are not there, you can't develop. You must strive to keep your opponent improving, so that *you* improve. And if you meet with a more powerful opponent, you *learn* from them and become stronger.' So this life of his has been one of perseverance, focus, dedication, not just to the cause of karate, but to other people.

'Karate in the hands of good people is a [source of] cultural and spiritual development.' This is a reminder of *your* role. Choose what you do, do it well to the best of your ability, and do it with a conscience and responsibility. Karate makes you a master of your own body, a master of your own destiny. Follow Ronnie's model and be the mistress or master of *your* own destiny.

There is a moral in all this: find a passion and an interest and follow it. It will lead you somewhere very interesting. As Ronnie says, 'It's something in your soul like Van Gogh or Goya – I'm a karate artist. Karate is like an art, a philosophy, a way of life. It's a mental and physical culture.'

For Ronnie, karate is now a battle against life and muscle soreness comes into play (magnesium helps, by the way). Don't tell anybody, he says, but everything that happens in life catches up with you – what you do and how you act – which reminds us of another lesson from Japanese culture that Ronnie is fond of mentioning: Respect the elders, for older people have knowledge and experience, but they – not just you youngsters – also have *potential!* Learn from them.

Ronnie is thus someone who exemplifies who we want to be as citizens of Aberdeen, of Scotland, and the world. Ronnie and I know that you can be people of character who inspire others with your actions. He is the only person in the UK to have achieved the 9th Dan, an achievement which, as he reminds us, is a battle against yourself to achieve *your potential*.

So go forth with Ronnie's example in mind and make a difference in the world.

Graduation, June 2019
Thomas A McKean



Very Rev Professor Iain Torrance, Ronnie Watt and Dr Thomas McKean
after the graduation ceremony

5 – **Scottish Samurai Award (2019) Ceremony at Broomhall House**

Thanks to Charles, Lord Bruce, his family home at Broomhall House in Fife was the venue for the Scottish Samurai Awards ceremony on 12th May 2019. The Order is fortunate to be able to hold its ceremony in one of Scotland's grand historic houses, the design of which is based on that of the White House in Washington.

Another fantastic turnout on the day saw members, award winners and family members welcomed on their arrival by Lord Bruce before the ceremony was opened by Hayley Bloodworth and Consul General of Japan, Mr Nozomu Takaoka.

Mr Takaoka and the Rev Canon Dr Joseph Morrow KStJ QC DL LLD both received Taisho awards from Lord Bruce, Mr Takaoka for services to Japan and Scotland, and Dr Morrow, Lord Lyon King of Arms, for services to heraldry in Scotland.

A number of Great Shogun awards were made including to Robert Watt, retired Chief Herald of Canada who travelled to Scotland to receive his award. Other notable Great Shogun award winners were Professors Thomas Weber and Paul Meador; 9th Dan Sensei Charles Gidley; and member of the National Karate Institute, Peter Adam.

For the first time in the history of the Scottish Samurai Awards, a posthumous award was made, in this case to Alexander Cameron Sim (1840 - 1900), for his introduction of sport to Japan.

Shogun awards were presented to Dr Morag McFadyen - and to Dr Darren Swanson who travelled from Australia to receive his award for services to historic literature. Dr Swanson is the author of the article on Alexander Cameron Sim in section 11.

A number of Legendary Samurai Awards were also made with the full list shown in Section 16.

Ronnie Watt then introduced new Special Budo Awards which were presented to Michael Dreelan (OSS Budo 1st Dan); Colin Taylor, Lord Dean of Guild (OSS Budo 1st Dan); and to Charles, Lord Bruce (OSS Budo 5th Dan). This short ceremony was followed by the presentation of Letters Patent by the Lord Lyon to armiger Michael Dreelan.

After a brief interlude, Dr Darren Swanson presented a short but enthralling presentation 'On the life and achievements of Alexander Cameron Sim'. Thereafter those present were provided with a breathtaking display of Martial Arts Laido (Japanese sword arts) by Sensei Robert Boyd. Becca Hobart then gave a fantastic display of traditional Scottish Dance followed by an enchanting harp solo by Dr Irene Watt.

Charles, Lord Bruce, heir to the earldom of Elgin & Kincardine, then provided an entertaining and informative guided tour of Broomhall describing in tales of the Bruce family and how it has been interlinked with the history of Scotland.

The Order of the Scottish Samurai showed its appreciation to Lord Bruce when Ronnie Watt presented a cheque for £500 for the Kolkata Scottish Heritage Trust. Lord Bruce, chairman of the trust, leads the project to restore the Scottish cemetery in Kolkata where more than 3000 Scots are buried.

Afterwards Ronnie Watt said “These awards recognise those who have given distinguished service, or made a significant contribution in their chosen field. They also show the remarkable commitment Samurai Award winners give to others”



Academic award winners at Broomhall House with Ronnie Watt far left next to Lord Bruce and Mr Nozomu Takaoka far right.



Left to right – Lord Lyon Dr Joe Morrow, Dr George Carruthers, Charles Gidley and Ronnie Watt.

6 – **Scottish Samurai Award (2019) Ceremony at Trinity Hall, Aberdeen**

Trinity Hall in Aberdeen, the home of the city's Seven Incorporated Trades, provided a wonderful backdrop for a spectacular evening hosted by the Order of the Scottish Samurai. Arranged and hosted by Ronnie Watt and his team, the evening on Wednesday 1st May 2019 consisted of a Samurai Awards presentation followed by a Budo Course and Aikido Seminar by Professor Will Reid, 8th Dan, who travelled to Aberdeen from Japan especially for the occasion.

The evening began with the presentation of eight Scottish Samurai Awards to those including Mervyn Donald, current Deacon Convener of the Incorporated Trades of Aberdeen; freelance journalist and author Duncan Harley; Dr Robert Ede; and John Mackay, secretary and one of the founders of the Wallace 700 Association.

In addition two special Budo Awards were made to entrepreneur brothers Tommy and Mike Dreelan, both staunch supports of the Scottish Samurai Awards,



Samurai and Budo award winners with Ronnie Watt and Professor Will Reed

Following the presentation, the award winners and families were given a guided tour of Trinity Hall by Taisho Albert Thomson, a member of the Aberdeen Shoemakers' Incorporation and author of three books relating to the Incorporated Trades.

Thereafter, with the wonderful stained-glass windows of the major Hall as a backdrop, Sensei Ronnie Watt and Professor Will Reed took all attendees through their paces. Professor Reed provided an enthralling display of budo in the preparation of the mind and body, defying attempts to push him over when standing on one leg.

The evening was a great success and ended with Professor Reed being given a short personal tour of Trinity hall.



Professor Will Reed passively resists Reeve Watt's push



Karateka at Trinity Hall with Budo Winners Mike and Tommy Dreelan

7 – **Scottish Samurai** Annual Dinner (2019) by Gordon Casely

An inaugural dinner of the Order of the Scottish Samurai in Aberdeen was held on 11th September 2019 to celebrate the growing links between Scotland and Japan. A full house of distinguished guests was headed by Charles, Lord Bruce, direct descendant of the Earl of Elgin who promoted trade between our two nations 150 years ago, and Mr Nozomu Takaoka, Consul General of Japan.

The event in Trinity Hall was organised by Taisho Albert Thomson, and was the brainchild of Sensei Ronnie Watt OBE ORS, founder of the Order Scottish Samurai.

Ronnie's brainchild has grown considerably since then, and the dinner brought together some 60 guests, many of whom have been honoured as Scottish Samurai.

The several speeches were short and to the point, with Consul General Mr Takaoka's remarks receiving enthusiastic applause. Lord Bruce showed us all what a polished performer he is, with a splendid address covering seven major points delivered deftly without hesitation, and without a single note.

Perhaps the warmest reception was given to Mr Fumio Shiki (*right*), chairman of the Nagasaki Karate Association, who - dressed in traditional montsuki (a formal black silk kimono) over his hakama – surmounted his halting English to give appreciative thanks for the evening.

For entertainment, Charlie Abel not only showed himself master of the squeezebox, but had everyone singing old favourites. Then the husband-and-wife team of Graham White and Dr Irene Watt brought together their own combination of clarsach, singing, moothie (mouth organ) and bouzouki, with the accent very much on Doric and laughter.

This may only be the first OSS dinner, but everyone who was there very much hopes that it will continue as an annual event.

Gordon Casely

Some photographs of the evening follow.





8 – Scottish Samurai exchange visit (2019) to Aberdeen by Charles Gene Abel

The bonds of friendship between Aberdeen and Japan have long been in the making; connections such as Thomas Blake Glover, the Scottish Samurai, being celebrated in Japan and at last being recognised in Scotland after a century of history has passed. Ronnie Watt OBE ORS has been one of the most robust links between Aberdeen and Japan since the days of Glover. This was a link verified by the Japanese when he became only the second Scot after Glover to be awarded the Order of the Rising Sun.

Ronnie is a 9th Dan karate master who has taught karate in Aberdeen, and around Scotland and abroad for over 50 years. He also founded and organised the prestigious Scottish Samurai Awards, a system that over the last two decades has recognised the achievements of people from all walks of life. The self-funding awards are supported by his karate, donations, plus the hard work of the awards committee.

On the weekend of 22nd August 2019, some 15 Japanese school children from Nagasaki visited Aberdeen. Ronnie organised home-stays for them in Aberdeen through many of his friends and karateka. The children experienced a fantastic jam-packed weekend of Scottish culture and history. The weekend began with Lord Provost Barney Crockett welcoming the children and their families with a civic reception in the historic Town House, followed by trips across Aberdeen, to Dunnottar Castle (below), Stonehaven, Drum Castle and Crathes, culminating in a visit to the Lonach Gathering.



The children and families attended the Lonach Gathering accompanied by Ronnie, as well as the Consul General of Japan and Charles, Lord Bruce. Through the good offices of Samurai Andy Anderson, they were welcomed into the arena by the master of ceremonies Robert Lovie and introduced to the Lonach audience with the pipes resounding in the background.

Afterwards the party had their photographs taken in the centre of the area with two of the Lonach Highlanders (below).



On Sunday night the tour ended with a private party hosted by Pauline Dreelan. The party began with Ronnie's Aberdeen children giving a demonstration of karate. The Japanese children then joined in a bit of ceilidh dancing with Charlie Abel from Iron Broo Ceilidh Band providing the music on his accordion. The children (right) loved the Scottish music and dancing, and took to it like ducks to water.



One parent of the families commented on how much she enjoyed the company of the Japanese children during the stay. "They were so polite, and I will miss them. I was in tears when they left. It was very emotional. One of them was so fascinated by everything here, and they even took photos of what was in my fridge!" It is not our differences that define us. It's our humanity that unites us.

On Monday morning the groups met up for a tearful goodbye at Aberdeen Airport.

This is the second such visit that Ronnie has organised for Japanese children to visit Aberdeen. The visits have become a pilgrimage recreating the historic trips of Japanese students organised by Glover.

9 – Scottish Samurai Awards in Nagasaki (2019) by Kazuo Yamazaki

21st October 2019; Mayor Taue was presented with Scottish Samurai Award.

Mr. Ronald Stewart Watt OBE ORS a karate master from Aberdeen, Scotland in the United Kingdom, established the Order of the Scottish Samurai to honour those who have contributed to strengthening the relationship between Japan and Scotland. The name of the Order comes from Thomas Blake Glover, whose nickname was the Scottish Samurai.

On this day, on behalf of Sensei Ronnie Watt, I was privileged to present a Great Shogun award to Mr Tomihisa Taue, the Mayor of Nagasaki.

The Order was established in 1994 by Mr Watt and so far more than 200 people have received the award.

Upon reception of the accolade, Mayor Taue stated that he “appreciated Mr Watt’s hospitality in his efforts to make sure that the 15 junior high school students from Nagasaki had pleasant stays in Aberdeen especially in regard to his arrangement of the home stays in which he and Mr Yamazaki played a main role”.

Mayor Taue also thanked the people of Aberdeen for their warm welcome of the children and for their efforts in ensuring that the stay was a fruitful one.



Mayor Taue (far right) receiving his award from Sensei Kazuo



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Mr. Ronald Stewart Watt OBE
Hadley House, Culter House Road,
Milltimber, Aberdeen, AB13 0EN,
Scotland, UK

October 30, 2019

Dear Mr. Ronald Stewart Watt and Mrs. Gail Watt,

I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude toward the great honor of receiving the Scottish Samurai Award (the Great Shogun (*Sei-i Taishogun*), Award of the Order of the Scottish Samurai), an award you have been bestowing to those who have contributed to the promotion of relations between Japan and Scotland, from your friend Mr. Kazuo Yamazaki.

This year, there have been many opportunities for us to enjoy the strong bond between Scotland and Nagasaki what with your gracious arrangements in regard to the visit to Scotland by the children of Nagasaki in August, the Scottish Rugby team holding their training camps in Nagasaki in September, and the Cabinet Secretary for Culture, Tourism and External Affairs Fiona Hyslop's visit to Nagasaki as well as the presentation of the Scottish Samurai Award this October.

These events have brought the children who visited Aberdeen, myself, and the citizens of Nagasaki who had a chance to witness the Scottish Rugby team closer to Scotland. I will devote myself to ensure that friendly relations between Nagasaki and Scotland continue to strengthen. I would like to ask for your support in this capacity.

In closing, I pray for both of your good health and happiness and extend my deepest gratitude once again. I look forward to seeing you and your wife Gail in Nagasaki next year.

Yours sincerely,

Tomihisa Taue
Mayor of Nagasaki

Letter of thanks from Mayor Taue

10 – Scottish Samurai (2020) Update by Charles Gene Abel

Sometimes during times of darkness, a light still shines. In Aberdeen, Ronnie Watt's Karate continues to glow through this dark period in our city's history. Guiding students through their karate journey, showing them the path along the way with his National Karate Institute.

During the Covid19 lockdown, all regular classes ceased, and students were facing a long period with no Dojo and no training. Not willing to be knocked down by such a blow, Ronnie and his students very quickly mastered the art of Zoom, to continue karate training. Using Zoom's internet conferencing technology with fast broadband, Ronnie could teach from his living room to the students in their own homes. Live via the Zoom platform.

After some initial teething problems, Ronnie designed a new style of training to fit small places. By tweaking some of the traditional kata forms to suit and devising new training methods, he was able to keep people moving within the confines of their own home. Since starting on Zoom, things are looking up, and Ronnie has attracted some new students, both young and old. The lightening of restrictions allowed him to take some small groups for more dedicated training, with greater attention to detail, budo and grading. There is talk of a new hall where he hopes to get back to training in larger groups once the restrictions allow.

It has been heart-warming to see the results of the training come through from the more mature ranks of the National Karate Institute. Recently, at a grading outside Ronnie's house, held on his driveway Peter Stuart (71) achieved his brown belt after the grading which required him to perform 7 of the Shotokan kata and the Shodan syllabus.



Left to right, Brian Welch (80), Ronnie Watt (73) and Peter Stuart (71) after their grading.

Notably, Brian Welch (80) achieved his lifetime dream of becoming a Black Belt. It has been 10 years since his last grading and Brian was inspired to come back to Karate via Zoom by seeing others training during the lockdown. Brian had suffered a period of ill health and injury. He felt self-conscious about returning to a Karate class where many of the students are not surprisingly much younger. Zoom gave him the ideal opportunity to get back into shape at his own pace, in the comfort of his own home. It also meant he could stop and start as needed without feeling any pressure, easing himself back into karate since the start of the Zoom classes in March.

Many of the young children have also been inspiring. To see them improve and respond to the lessons of Karate and Budo that Ronnie Watt teaches is inspirational. Many are well on their way up the ranks and look set to become the keen champions of tomorrow.

Zoom has been a welcome addition to Ronnie's teaching tools, though it will never be a substitute for training in person. Especially not with a 9th Dan karate master like Ronnie, with an opponent and other karate students. Nevertheless, Zoom has been a vital connection between Ronnie and his students during the dark cloud of uncertainty that is the Covid19 pandemic.

Ronnie intends to continue the Zoom classes and points out how it can be an essential training method for students to top up their karate once things get back to normal. Though it has obvious disadvantages compared to one-on-one training in a dojo, there are some positives.

Zoom can be done anytime, anywhere with one or many students. Zoom is still an excellent vehicle for karate knowledge to travel, and for students to learn. For example, recently Ronnie has had students from around the world joining in his Zoom classes, from Japan, USA, Germany, Italy and Norway.

Zoom allowed Ronnie to continue the karate lessons during the lockdown. Where nobody could travel, meet or visit a dojo, the Zoom class has kept the karate alive and helped Ronnie shine the light into the darkness.

The Japanese word 'karate' comes from old Chinese and means 'empty hand'. Karate-do translates as the way of karate, and literally so 'the way of the empty hand'. Ironically, many of us are facing 'an empty hand' in our future due to Corona's impact and the economic collapse ahead of us. Training karate with Ronnie has helped many of his students stay focused and helped them through this darkness. "Ronnie has a gift", I've heard many people say that. I also agree, and it is a gift he enjoys and shares with others. Over the years, I have witnessed him share his valuable gift many times, with schools and universities etc. Karate is a priceless generosity that Ronnie has given to many of his students, and his karate teaching guides them into better versions of themselves.

Ronnie and his karate is a much-needed beacon of light during these dark times. The Queen did well recognising him with her OBE many years ago, as did the Japanese Government with the Order of the Rising sun, and the Aberdeen City Council, who made him a Burgess.

Age is no barrier to self-improvement. Anyone interested in joining the National Karate Institute should contact Ronnie through his website www.Karate.scot.

11 – Scottish Samurai Awards Japan (2020) by Professor Will Reed

For much of the world 2020 was a year which challenged our basic paradigms. The pandemic forced us to re-examine our core values, and to find ways to carry on despite conditions of lockdown and travel restrictions.

Thomas Blake Glover, whose name we celebrate in the Scottish Samurai Awards, inspires us to carry on as Entrepreneurial Samurai in the face of limitations. This year in Japan the Scottish Samurai Awards Ceremony was held at historic Erinji Temple (founded in 1380) in Yamanashi Prefecture on 14th December 2020, in correspondence to the 109th anniversary of the passing of Thomas Blake Glover on 16th December 1911.

We held the Scottish Samurai Awards Ceremony once before at Erinji in the fall of 2018, which was attended by Charles, Lord Bruce, Ronnie Watt, and over a dozen members of the Scottish Samurai Japan tour from Scotland. This year in 2020 it was presided over by Daisuke Matsunaga, former Consul General to Scotland, who delivered a speech in English and Japanese recognising the importance of the event, as well as Kendo Master Yamazaki Kazuo. Words of congratulations were presented from Ronnie Watt and read by William Reed.

The Ceremony included a breathtaking demonstration of the sword by Mugairyu Master Takeda Hougyoku, a performance of the Japanese Taiko Drum Master Sato Kensaku, and a collaboration performance by Calligraphy William Reed with Shakuhachi Player Shawn Renzoh Head. Furukawa Shuken, the Zen Master of Erinji Temple, spoke at the ceremony and graciously opened the entire temple to our use for the awards.

The event was covered by Yamanashi Broadcasting System's programme Tetete TV, which is viewed throughout the Prefecture. Four awards were granted. The Taisho Award was granted to Calligraphy Master William Reed and to Iaido Master Takeda Hougyoku, the Great Shogun Award was granted to Shakuhachi Player Shawn Renzoh Head and to Graphic Novelist Sean Michael Wilson. These awards are granted in recognition of exemplary achievements contributing to a better understanding of the Samurai Spirit in Japanese Culture, and building bridges of friendship and cultural exchange between Scotland and Japan.

In 2021 we will grant further recognition with rewards to people in various walks of life who uphold the values of the Order of the Scottish Samurai with contributions that keep the culture vibrant for present and future generations. The Collaboration Calligraphy painted by William Reed represents the aspirations of the Order of the Scottish Samurai with a Zen Poem. 心月孤円 光吞万象

“The Mind is bright like the Moon
Illuminating all things in its light”



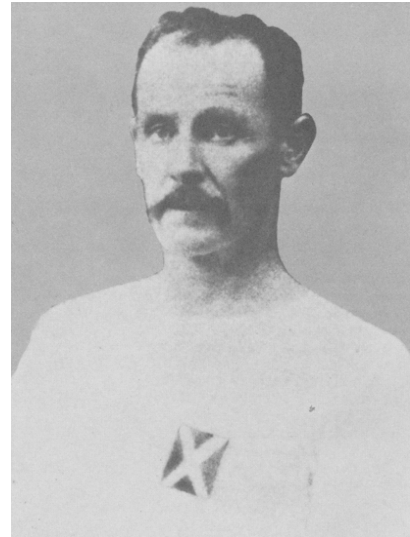
Daisuke Matsunaga awards Master Higyoku, Iaido Shihan, OSS Great Shogun Award.



Great Shogun Shawn Renzoh Head with Taisho's William Reed and Takeda Higyoku

12 – Japan’s Father of Modern Sport by Dr Darren Swanson

When Dr Darren Swanson was awarded the OSS Shogun award at Broomhall House in May 2019, he also gave a fascinating talk on Alexander Cameron Sim (right), the Aberlour businessman, and his life and achievements in Japan. Sim was posthumously made a Great Shogun at the same ceremony.



Dr Darren Swanson writes: While the life story of the ‘Scottish Samurai’ Thomas Blake Glover, has become well known throughout Scotland over the last 20 years, other lesser known Scottish contributors to Japan’s development have gone largely unnoticed. Most Scots are quick to raise a glass and declare ‘Wha’s like us?’, but few realise that Scotland’s presence in Meiji Japan extended well beyond Glover’s modest influence.

Japanese historian Olive Checkland described 19th century Scots in Japan as numerous to the point of being intriguingly conspicuous. Indeed, as the array of Scottish family names and birthplaces engraved on the tombstones of Japan’s foreign cemeteries reveal, far from being peripheral outliers, Scots were at the forefront of Japan’s modernisation. Whether it was the introduction of the latest engineering techniques (Richard Henry Burton, Henry Dyer) or the transformation of the Japanese banking industry (Alexander Shand), one need not look hard to find the mark of Scottish modernity in Japan.

Networks formed by Britain’s burgeoning empire, and the monopoly held in East Asian trade by the Scottish firm Jardine Matheson, allowed Scots from all walks of life access to the once notoriously reclusive country in the late 1800s. Yet there was one individual whose actions embodied the spirit of bushido, that virtuous samurai code emphasising courage, selflessness and honour that set him apart from his contemporaries and won him the respect of ordinary Japanese folk. Pioneer, athlete, entrepreneur, politician, fire chief – these were just some of the personas that Alexander Cameron Sim occupied during a life in Japan that remained unique among Japan’s foreign population.

The son of an Aberlour river fisherman, Alexander Cameron Sim was born in the small farming community of Boharm, Banffshire, in 1840. Despite humble beginnings, the Sim family produced two notable sons who would take markedly different paths, each becoming successful in his own right. Sim’s older brother George became a well-known naturalist and antiquarian in Aberdeen, while the younger Alexander journeyed south to train as a pharmacist in the London Royal Hospital. However, his early ambitions did not materialise quickly enough for him, leading Alexander to head east to take advantage of opportunities that the empire presented. After brief stints as a ‘druggist’ in Hong Kong and Shanghai, he found his way to Kobe via Nagasaki in 1870.

In 1858, with some reluctance, Japan signed the Treaty of Amity and Commerce with the United States, which opened Japanese ports to trade with the west. The Ansei Treaties followed soon after granting the major European powers, including Britain, the right to form settlements, or 'treaty ports' as they became known. This arrangement allowed their residents to be governed by their own representative countries rather than by the Japanese. Kobe was one of the last extraterritorial enclaves to appear, opening on 1st January 1869.

After taking over a medical hall on lot 18 of the foreign concession's main street, the young pioneer, along with several other local merchants, set up a sports club, known as the Kobe Regatta & Athletic Club (KR&AC) in June 1870.

Announcing his arrival in the fledgling township two months later, the local press referred to Alexander as a 'boating star from Hong Kong' which suggests that he had already become an athlete of considerable reputation. By a majority of votes, Alexander became captain of the club, the only person ever to hold this role, which was created especially for him. In the years that followed, the KR&AC went on to introduce sports such as cricket, rugby and athletics; and perhaps most significantly, organised the first 'official' football match in Japan, on 8th February 1888, resulting in a win for Kobe with Alexander as captain.

Still in existence today, the club is considered the oldest sports club of its kind in Japan. Throughout his tenure as captain, Alexander was the backbone of the group, overseeing and participating in nearly all the sporting fixtures held throughout his life. Club membership in the East Asian port went far beyond mere recreational pursuit, with a top position on the club committee often being synonymous with a senior role in municipal affairs of the settlement.

In the years that followed, Alexander became the settlement fire chief and eventually rose to the rank of vice-chairman of Kobe municipal council, prestigious positions generally reserved for high ranking individuals or successful businessmen. Alexander's life was significant as he not only single-handedly raised the profile of the settlement from a dusty backwater to a hub of sporting excellence, but more importantly, through his acts of selfless charity in times of disaster, he endeared himself to the local Japanese in a way that few, if any, foreigners of the time ever achieved. Crucially, he changes the role of the sports club from merely a place of recreation to an institution that would serve as the outward face of the foreign community.

Thanks to Alexander's larger than life personality, the club became instilled with a sense of civic duty that had no parallel in the foreign ports of the east. Several relief missions that he organised stand out. In 1891, Kobe and Osaka were battered by a series of severe typhoons that crippled both cities. Less than two months later the country was rocked by what was considered then to be the most powerful earthquake that Japan had ever experienced, killing 10,000.

The record shows that in time of crisis, time and again the community looked to him for leadership. Without hesitation, Alexander sailed to the worst-affected areas in his own yacht to deliver emergency supplies and personally distributed the funds raised to those

most in need. Several years later in 1896, a devastating tsunami hit Japan's north coast on the Sanriku coastline, claiming the lives of 22,000, mostly fisher folk. Again, he spent weeks in the area co-ordinating the relief effort and supplying carpenters with the tools they needed to rebuild.

Such unselfish acts of kindness brought Sim to the attention of the Japanese government, who presented Alexander with a gift of six silver sakezuki, small ceremonial sake cups, for his role in relieving stricken the victims of the Sanriku earthquake.

In 1899, extraterritoriality in Japan finally came to an end. At the official handover ceremony, the honour of handing over control to the Japanese governor Hattori was granted to Alexander. Furthermore, in recognition for his services to the community, he was given the honorary role of chief advisor to the city's fire brigade.

In addition to his rich life as a sportsman and humanitarian, Alexander was also responsible for bringing the soft-drink Ramune to a mass market, selling it in a distinct marble bottle. Ramune, the Japanisation of the word 'lemonade', was in existence in Japan before Sim's arrival but his entrepreneurial flair saw his brand and recipe go on to conquer the national market to the point where the drink is still a firm favourite.

In 1900, at the age of 60, Alexander contracted typhoid from eating raw oysters in Osaka, succumbing to the disease several weeks later. His funeral, remembered in the Japan Chronicle in 1918, was said to be unlike any other seen before or after in the settlement. Kobe's Japanese population turned out en masse to line the streets and mourn his passing. In the following year, a monument was placed within the recreation grounds of the city in memory of his service to the people of Kobe.

In the years that followed, Alexander was remembered as the 'father of sport' in Japan and his legacy in Kobe's development was celebrated well into the 20th century. Nearly 20 years after his death, the local press chose to celebrate Alexander's life more than any other foreigner to symbolise the success of the port, which had, by then become one of East Asia's premier trading ports. In 2012, a 10km race recreating the event first won by Alexander in the mountains behind Kobe has now become a yearly fixture.

A true hero, Alexander Cameron Sim embodied the best that Scotland had to offer, and his indefatigable samurai spirit is still remembered with great fondness and gratitude by the people of Kobe today.

Dr Darren Swanson is a Scottish researcher specialising in Scotland's historical connections with Japan and wider East Asia. He currently lives in Sydney, Australia, where he is an associate lecturer at the School of Access Education at Central Queensland University. Dr Swanson was presented with his OSS Shogun Award at Broomhall House on 12th May 2019 for services to Historical Literature.

13 – Richard Hendry Brunton by Frederick Stewart & Albert Thomson

The historical connections between Scotland and Japan are considerable. Most in the north east of Scotland know of Thomas Blake Glover - but less known are Banffshire man Alexander Cameron Sim, Japan's father of modern sport, and Kirkintilloch-born Jessie Roberta Cowan, known as Rita and the "Scottish Mother of Japanese Whisky". Frederick Stewart adds another Scot to that list; Richard Henry Brunton, Father of Japanese lighthouses. Frederick and Albert take up the story:

Richard Henry Brunton FRGS (26 December 1841-24 April 1901) was born in the coastguard house in Muchalls, Kincardineshire, now 11 Marine Terrace, to Richard Brunton a semi-retired lieutenant in the Royal Navy and Margaret *née* Telford. By the time the young boy was nine years old, the family had moved to Burghead in Morayshire and his father had been retained in the Royal Navy on half pay.



In 1856, after private schooling in Scotland, he trained as an engineer under John Willet of Aberdeen. He worked for Willet as an assistant on the construction of railways in the Scottish highlands. The Caledonian railway had only reached Muchalls and then Aberdeen in the late 1850s, so it is probable that Richard would have been involved in the expansion of the railway from Aberdeen north and east to Inverness and Fraserburgh.

Brunton moved to London in 1864, where he continued work in the surveying and building of railways. In 1865 at Bonnington in Edinburgh he married Elizabeth Charlotte Wauchope. Later they had two daughters.

In 1868, being keen to advance himself, Brunton as a 26-year-old applied for an executive engineering post in India. He was rejected as being too young and inexperienced. His next application was, however, more successful.

On recommendations from David and Thomson Stevenson, engineers to the Northern Lighthouse Board, he was appointed chief engineer to the lighthouse department of the Japanese government, which was to be located at the port of Yokohama.

Following few months of intensive study with the Stevensons in Edinburgh along with visits to lighthouses and lightships along the British coast, and being elected as an associate of the Institution of Civil Engineers in 1868, he embarked from Southampton. He was accompanied by his wife and two assistant engineers arriving in Yokohama on 8 August 1868. The lighthouse department to which he was assigned was based in Yokohama with workshops and storerooms put up in a four-acre compound and there he established a system for lighthouse keepers modelled on the Northern Lighthouse Board of Scotland.

When Richard Brunton left Japan in 1876, he had overseen the construction of 26 lighthouses (known as “Brunton’s children”), established two lightships, 13 buoys and three beacons along Japan’s rugged coastline, and the creation of an effective lighthouse service.

We should remember that Brunton had to adapt his building techniques in a country where earthquakes were prevalent.

Aside from his work on lighthouses Brunton (*right*) also surveyed and drew the first detailed maps of Yokohama, planned its sewage system, street paving and gas lights, established a telegraph system, and designed and built the settlement’s first iron bridge. Brunton also helped found Japan’s first school of civil engineering, and in recognition of his efforts was received by Emperor Meiji in an audience in 1871.



Brunton’s personal view of the young Japanese men who applied for posts as lighthouse keepers was not flattering. He listed their deficiencies which included considered drunkenness, sleeping on their watches; threatening European light keepers with their swords, letting the lights become extinguished, falsifying returns and bare-faced deception (Brunton, *Building Japan*, pp 143–4). Whatever his personal view, it did not take Japan long as a nation to alter that perception.

On 4 April 1875 Hirobumi Ito, then Minister for Public Works, wrote to Brunton that “The work entrusted to you of erecting and maintaining lighthouses on the coast of Japan has been executed to the most complete and perfect satisfaction of the Government of Japan”. However, Brunton’s contract was not renewed and he was given a year’s notice, leaving Japan in the spring of 1876.

If his work was considered satisfactory, why was his contract not renewed? There appears to be no doubt that he offended many in Japan by his high-handed ways. Brunton, a traditional colonial administrator, could not tolerate interference of his authority. However final decisions remained in Japanese hands, and because of that they found him abrasive, frequently attempting to assert his will.

On his return to Britain, Brunton delivered a paper on 14 November 1876 to the Institution of Civil Engineers entitled ‘*The Japan Lights*’, describing the technical details of his work in Japan.

By the time of his return to Britain, Brunton had been made a Fellow of the Geological Society. In 1878 he became manager of Young’s Paraffin Oil Company of Glasgow for three years.

In 1881 he bought a business producing architectural ornaments and practised as an architect and engineer in London, providing the ornamental detail for theatres, hotels, and large houses.

He died at his home, 45 Courtfield Road, South Kensington, London, on 24 April 1901 and was buried at West Norwood cemetery.

There were celebrations in Yokohama in 1991 marking the 150th anniversary of Brunton's birth and his contribution to modern engineering in Japan which attracted new attention to his career, largely forgotten in Britain.

Richard Henry Brunton's replacement headstone (*right*) at West Norwood Cemetery dates from 1991. It was paid for by the Yokohama Chamber of Commerce on the 150th anniversary of his birth.

Yokohama became a centre for modern engineering techniques introduced by Brunton and it has been noted that he made a considerable contribution to the development of the city. His contributions to the improvement of Yokohama touched on many aspects urban planning and civil engineering.

The Yokohama museum today shows examples of his work for the city, and nearby in recognition for his work, stands his bust (*below*).



14 – Scottish Mother of Japanese Whisky by Albert Thomson

Kirkintilloch is a small town located in East Dunbartonshire about 13 kilometres north east of Glasgow and in 1896, the birthplace of Jessie Roberta Cowan (*right*), whom everyone called 'Rita'.

Her early days have been called a 'model of middle-class gentility' during which she had home governesses, learned the piano and had an education that included music, English and French.

However, life changed during the First World War. Her fiancé was killed in Damascus and in 1918 her father, a doctor, died of a heart attack. The loss of her father meant that the family finances were difficult, and it became apparent that they needed to do something to keep their home. Rita's mother decided to take in a lodger, a decision that was not accepted by some of her conservative neighbours, when that person turned out to be 25-year-old Masataka Taketsuru from Japan. Little did Rita realise, just how much this was the change her life.

Masataka Taketsuru (*right*) had arrived in Scotland to study the art of whisky-making, taking up chemistry at Glasgow University before becoming an apprentice at Longmorn Distillery in Speyside and later at Hazelburn Distillery in Campbeltown.

Masataka was a handsome man with a black-belt in jujitsu and a love of hunting and fishing. Rita and Masataka soon formed a deep, strong bond and fell in love even though there was opposition. No one thought that she would go through with the wedding but they underestimated her strong will and passion for Masataka. They were married at Calton Registry Office in Glasgow in January 1920.

Shortly after their marriage, Rita followed her husband, whom she nicknamed 'Massan', back to Japan hoping to pursue his dream of building his own distillery. While studying in Glasgow, he had travelled around Scotland following his true passion: making Scotch whisky. He had worked for a drinks company in Japan, which sent him to study the distilleries of the region and the whisky production methods.



However, Masataka found that Japan was not the same as when he had left it, with the country in deep recession after the war. He found his return home difficult, especially with a new wife, in what was for her, a foreign land, with strange food, customs and language.

With the Japanese economy in recession, Masataka's managers were more interested in quick profits with cheaply-flavoured spirits rather than spending time understanding the more complex processes of making *bona fide* whisky to compete with Scotch. Disenchanted, Masataka resigned from the company and Rita, to help with family finances, earned much needed money by teaching English to housewives and children while integrating into the culture of her new home.

In 1923, the founder of the Suntory Group, Shinjiro Torii, having learned Masataka's experience in Scotland, brought him into the company to help build a whisky distillery in Yamazaki, Kyoto.

Unfortunately, Masataka was not totally happy, disagreeing with Torii over actual production of whisky. These disagreements reached a peak in 1929. Masataka was demoted to become manager of a beer factory in Yokohama. He resigned, once again finding himself out of work. It was now clear that to fulfil his dream; Masataka would have to form his own company.

Investors were needed and thanks to Rita, who had been teaching English to the wife of successful businessman, Shotaro Kaga, investors were found to back the project. As a result, in 1934, Dai Nihon Kaju, now known as Nikka Whisky, was formed with a distillery at Yoichi on the island of Hokkaido. Built in the Scottish style, Masataka was of the view that the islands underdeveloped and somewhat inhospitable land was perfect with access to barley, peat, coal and water.

In the early days of the project Rita continued to provide not only emotional support but also financial during the hardest times through teaching English and piano lessons. She also made a huge effort to adapt to Japanese culture learning how to cook traditional Japanese dishes.

Rita began to feel accepted in her adopted country, becoming a Japanese citizen. But the outbreak of the Second World War threatened to change everything. The war meant that imported Scotch whisky was no longer available and the Yoichi distillery, being classified as an essential industry, went on to make its first profit in 1940.

For Rita however, the war brought difficult times. As a Japanese citizen, she avoided internment, but was still regarded with suspicion. The secret police believed she was potentially a spy with radio equipment, accused of sending radio messages to Allied submarines. This she strenuously denied, in spite of raids on her home with neighbours turning against her, throwing stones at her house and refusing to talk to her.

The secret police raids were disappointing, never finding any evidence. Unconvinced, they began to shadow Rita, especially as she went to the distillery with Masataka's lunch box. However, the company workers attempted to speak up and defend her.

Throughout all these trials and tribulations, Rita remained strong and by the end of the war the distillery was in a very strong position financially.

Unfortunately Rita and Masataka could not have children although they did adopt a girl called Rima in 1930. As they had no male heir, they adopted Takeshi, Masataka's 20-year-old nephew, who later married and gave them two grandchildren.

Rita died in 1961, aged 63, while a distraught and heartbroken Masataka lived on for another 18 years before being buried with his wife in August, 1979. However, Rita's legacy as the Scottish mother of Japanese whisky lives on in her adopted nation and especially in Yoichi, whose main street is named Rita Road. She has also given her name to a kindergarten that she helped to establish.

In 1998, a museum was built in memory of Rita and her husband, who became known as the father of Japanese whisky. The museum features a mock-up of Rita's living room and Scottish-style dining room.

There are also numerous references to the Rita Taketsuru Fan Club with pilgrimages made to the burial site of the mother and father of Japanese whisky. Pilgrims bring Scottish offerings of heather, jars of honey, oatcakes and even haggis. There is even one reference to an occasion when three men in addition to their offerings opened a flask of whisky to toast Rita at her grave.

The love story between Rita and Masataka (*below*) has hit the TV screen in Japan while in Scotland a stage play celebrating the life of Rita was released in Scotland. The play *Water Of Life*, by Alan Muir was performed at a gala dinner in Kirkintilloch. It is hoped that the play will be staged around Scotland's distilleries and hopefully in Japan.

Rita may have left us in 1961, but her spirit lives on and it may be said that she and her husband Masataka personify the historic and cultural blend of Scotland and Japan. Two nations, two cultures, one lasting friendship.



15 – Conquered By No One – Neil McLennan

Celebrations to mark the 700th anniversary of The Declaration of Arbroath were put on hold due to the current and ongoing coronavirus pandemic. However, a new book exploring the untold stories of the Scots behind the document continued at pace despite current restrictions.

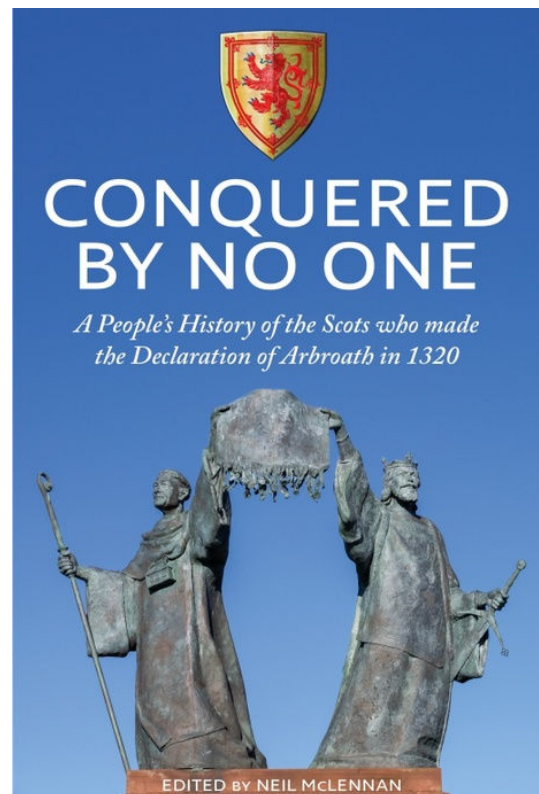
A team of more than 50 writers, including members of the Order of the Scottish Samurai, have collaborated to bring to life a 'people's history' of the barons and nobles who sealed the 1320 letter intended to confirm Scotland's status as an independent sovereign state. The book, *Conquered by No One*, was written along the historic timeline of The Declaration, widely thought to have been drawn up in Arbroath Abbey.

Edited and coordinated by Neil McLennan, a former history teacher and now Director of Leadership Programmes at the University of Aberdeen, it includes chapters of each of the 39 names in the letter and others associated with it. Some chapters have been written by their direct descendants.

It also includes a fresh translation of The Declaration and Pope John XXII's response by Dr Roger Collins of the University of Edinburgh and Dr Marie-Luise Ehrenschtndtner of the University of Aberdeen which will help reconsider the meaning of key aspects of these documents.

Mr McLennan said: "700 years ago the document was drawn up, so it is a fitting date by which to have drafts for each of our chapters. In late April or May, the Declaration of Arbroath was sent to the Pope and he responded on August 28, so we are following this historic timeline for publication. The project was audacious at best when we first started with fifty people from across the country - ranging from historians and writers to teachers and civic figures - contributing to a single text. The current restrictions on freedom of movement have caused some difficulties but we have chapters and biographers for each noble and baron whose name appears in the historic Declaration of Arbroath. It has been a truly cooperative effort and we thank each of them for bringing history alive. Readers will be fascinated with the stories of the people behind the treaty, never before shared in this way, and moreover the local stories which impact on each area of Scotland."

Contributors include OSS members Charles, Lord Bruce - one of the most prominent living descendants of Robert the Bruce – who has written a chapter on his forefather;



Professor Steven Heys who wrote about Thomas Randolph, Earl of Moray; Kevin Greig on John de Fenton, Lord of Baikie and Beaufort; Darren Swanson on Fergus of Ardrossan; Anthony Maxwell, who has direct lineage to Eustace Maxwell; Albert Thomson on Alexander Straiton; Jim Millar who selected Alexander of Kinninmund, Adam Gordon and Edward de Mauduison; and Neil McLennan who in addition to editing the book wrote on Robert Keith, Marischal of Scotland, and assisted with William Ramsay.

Academics from across Scottish life and disciplines have also penned episodes with Professor Barbara Crawford, past president of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, detailing Magnus, Earl of Orkney; and Professor Murray Pittock, vice-principal of the University of Glasgow, writing on William Oliphant, Lord of Aberdalgie and Dupplin. Medieval historian Dr Fiona Watson has also supported the production of this new work. History educators and teachers from across Scotland, including Arbroath High teacher Manu Rio, also offer their perspectives together with Arbroath-born Advocate Paul Reid writing on Bernard, Abbot of Arbroath.

The historian Roger Collins, noted for his *Keepers of the Keys of Heaven: A History of the Papacy* also provides an evaluation of the role of Pope John XXII.

Mr McLennan said that bringing together so many writers from different backgrounds gives the book a unique perspective. “Just as the 1320 document brought together noblemen with differing views from very different parts of Scotland, we wanted *Conquered by No One* to represent a broad range of voices across Scottish life. The book is very much a people’s history bringing together for the first time the stories, motivations and viewpoints of those who collaborated to sign the Declaration of Arbroath – written by a wide range of enthusiastic teachers, historians, writers, civic figures from across Scottish cultural, education and civic life.”

Conquered by No One is now available for purchase on Amazon.

**It is good to face challenges in your youth.
He who has never suffered will not sufficiently temper his character.**
Yamamoto Tsunetomo

16 - Members of the Order of the Scottish Samurai

The following is a list of members of the Taisho, the executive awarding body, plus all members of the Order of the Scottish Samurai, with dates and details of their award. For more information, visit the Scottish Samurai website <http://scottishsamurai.org/>

GREAT TAISHO OSS 大将

Lord (Charles Edward) BRUCE

Ronnie WATT OBE, ORS

Honorary Great Taisho:

Shinzo ABE - Prime Minister of Japan (2018)

11th Earl of Elgin & 15th of Kincardine (Lord Andrew Douglas Alexander Thomas BRUCE) (2018)

Daisuke MATSUNAGA CGJ - Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan to the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia – (2020) having been a member since 2016

Rev Canon Dr Joseph MORROW CBE KstJ QC DL LLD – (2019) on promotion, as Lord Lyon King of Arms for services to heraldry in Scotland

Nozomu TAKAOKA – (2019) Consul General of Japan for services to Japan and Scotland

Very Rev Professor Iain TORRANCE KCVO – (2020) for services to Scotland

Natsu YAMAGUCHI - member of Japanese Parliament (2018)



TAISHO OSS 大将

Lady BRUCE, Dr Alice Enders – (2018) having been a member since 2015

Dr George CARRUTHERS KCHT – (2020) 9th Dan Hanshi on promotion for services to health care and Clan Carruthers history and heritage having been admitted as a Shogun in 2016

Sir Thomas Sean CONNERY – (2020) for services to Scotland

Mike DREELAN – (2018) having been a member since 2017

Tommy DREELAN – (2018) having been a member since 2012

Master Takeda HOUGYOKU – (2020) for services to international laido

James MILLAR – (2020) on promotion for services to Scotland, Japan and the community having been a member since 2007

Don OWENS (2020) 9th Dan Hanshi, Canada, OSS Taisho

Elizabeth Ann ROADS LVO - (2021) for services to heraldry in Scotland

Professor Will REED (8th Dan Japan) – (2020) on promotion for services to Japanese Culture and Martial Arts, having been admitted as a Shogun in 2017

Compton ROSS – (2018) having been a member since 2007

Stewart SPENCE MBE – (2018) having been a member since 2017

Colin TAYLOR – (2021) on promotion as Lord Dean of Guild, for services to Aberdeen and Scotland

Noriyasu TAKAHIRA (Japan) – (2020) for services to culture, world sport, Japan and Scotland

Tomihisa TAUE (Japan) – (2020) for services as Mayor of Nagasaki

Albert THOMSON KOSMA, KEG – (2018) having been a member since 2015

Alain VERBEECK (France) – (2020) 8th Dan on promotion for services to karate

Dr Fritz WENDLAND (Germany) – (2019) as founding President of the World Karate Confederation for worldwide contribution to karate and martial discipline

Kazuo YAMAZAKI (Japan) – (2018) having been a member since 2016

GREAT SHOGUN OSS 大將軍

George ADAM – (2016) former Lord Provost of Aberdeen, for services to Aberdeen, Scotland and Japan

Peter ADAM – (2019) for services to entrepreneurship in Scotland

Professor Darren ASHMORE – (2018) on promotion for services to the arts, culture, Scotland and Japan having been admitted as a Shogun in 2017

James A BINGHAM KstJ – (2019) for services to charity and the community

Sir Chay BLYTH CBE – (2017) for services to Scotland, pioneering and adventure

The Hon Adam BRUCE – (2016) Marchmont Herald at the Court of the Lord Lyon, for services to heraldry in Scotland

Christopher BRUCE – (2019) on promotion for over 35 years service to karate

Dr Charles Bradford BOW – (2021) for services to history, and for promoting relations between Japan, Asia and the West

Dr George BOYNE – (2021) for services to Education and Cultural development

Peter CARRY – (2015) for services to sport and martial discipline

Metropolitan Lorenzo CASATI GCCHT (Italy) – (2018) His Eminence, Metropolitan of the Ukrainian Autocephalous Orthodox Church Abroad and Archbishop of Palermo and All Italy, Grand Master of the Confraternity of the Most Holy Trinity having been a member since 2016

Gordon CASELY KstJ – (2018) for services to heraldry in Scotland

John-James (JJ) CHALMERS – (2020) for services to the nation and as an ambassador to the Invictus Games

Barney CROCKETT – (2018) Lord Provost of the City of Aberdeen for services to Aberdeen, Scotland and Japan

Dr Chris CROLY – (2019) for services to Aberdeen and the community

Neil CURTIS – (2019) for services to education, heritage and international relations

Sensei Charles GIDLEY 9th Dan – (2019) for services to a Japanese Martial Art

Professor Fiona GILBERT – (2017) for services to science

Martin GILBERT – (2016) for services to commerce, Scotland and Japan

Dame Professor Anne GLOVER – (2017) for services to science

Professor Neil GOW – (2017) for services to science

Roddy GOW OBE – (2020) for services to founding the Asia Scotland Institute

Robert HARRISON – (2021) for services to heraldry

Shawn Renzoh HEAD (2020) for services to Japanese Classical music and Martial Arts

Professor Takashi KATADA (Japan) – (2018) for services to Japanese culture and martial arts

Hironori KATAGIRI and Kate THOMSON – (2018) on promotion husband-and-wife sculptors, for their outstanding contribution to fine art in Scotland and Japan, having been admitted as Legendary Samurai in 2015

Dr George KERR, 10th Dan CBE ORS – (2020 for services to Culture and Martial Arts

Professor Michael LACKTORIN – (2018) on promotion for services to education, international arts, Scotland and Japan having been admitted as a Shogun in 2017

Dr Robert LOVIE – (2020) for services to Music and Culture

Joanna LUMLEY – (2017) for services for human rights for Survival International and the Gurkha Justice Campaign

Ranald MacDONALD – (2021) posthumous for his contribution to the History of Japan, North America and Scotland

Dr Morag McFADYEN – (2020) on promotion for services to education and to Scotland and Japan

Neil McLENNAN – (2019) for services to education, leadership and world peace initiatives

Chief Superintendent Thomas McLOUGHLIN – (2020) for service to Police Scotland and the community

Joseph MACKIE OBE KStJ (2020) for services to the Order of St John and to charity.

Paul MADDEN CMG – (2018) British Ambassador to Japan for services to Great Britain and Japan

Professor Paul MEALOR OstJ – (2019) for services to music and the arts

Mike MITCHELL – (2017) on promotion for services to bodybuilding and film, having been a member since 2015

Einsouke MORIYAMA – (2021) posthumous for services to history of Scotland and Japan

George POPPER (Hungary) – (2016) for worldwide security services

Professor Andrew PORTER – (2016) for services to medical research

Ronnie PROCTOR MBE – (2018) Provost of Angus, for services to the Black Watch, the community and Scotland

Alexander Cameron SIM – (2019) posthumous for the introduction of sport to Japan

Frederick STEWART – (2019) for services to Heritage, History Japan and Scotland

Marc THOMSON MBE QCB (Provost Sergeant Major Royal Military Police) – (2019) on promotion for military services to the nation and charity

Dr Kiyohiko TOYAMA (Japan) – (2018) for services to relations between Japan and Scotland

Robert WATT – (2019) Retired Chief Herald of Canada for services to heraldry

Professor Thomas WEBER – (2019) for services to education, history, literature and international affairs

Graham WOOD – (2017) for services to Scotland and to hospitality and tourism

Sir Ian WOOD – (2014) for services to Scotland

Dr Professor Ikuo YAMAMOTO (Japan) – (2018) who was made a GlobalScot by the Scottish government, for services to robotics and education

SHOGUN OSS 将軍

Charlie ABEL KHT – (2018) for services to karate, martial discipline and the Order of the Scottish Samurai

Willie ACHILLES (Germany) – (2019) for services to karate and martial discipline

Dr Tanita Louise ADDARIO – (2021) on promotion for services to Aberdeen and the community

Andrew ANDERSON KHT – (2018) on promotion for services to the community and the Order of the Scottish Samurai having been a member since 2014

Naoki AMADA (Japan) – (2018) for services to medical research, Japan and Scotland

Scott BAXTER – (2018) for services to the third sector, the community and Scotland

William BERRY MBE – (2015) a previous winner of the Samurai Award, promoted to Shogun for services to judo

Hayley BLOODWORTH – (2018) for services to karate, martial discipline and the Order of the Scottish Samurai

Terry BOYLE – (2018) on promotion for services to refereeing and development of Japanese martial arts having been a member since 2017

Alex BRADSHAW - (2020) for services to Kagoshima

Brady BRIM-DeFOREST KHT – (2021) for services to Scotland and Scottish history

Dr Fiona-Jane BROWN (2020) for services to history and culture.

Alex BRUCE – (2017) for services to the relationship between Scotland and Japan

Matt BURNEY CMG – (2018) Director Japan, British Council

David (Jock) CALDER – (2016) for services to karate and martial discipline

Sir Billy CONNOLLY – (2013) for services to Scotland

John COX – (2014) for services to the community

Fred DALGARNO – (2014) as former Dean of Guild, for service to the community

Christopher DAVIDSON – (2018) for services to karate, martial discipline and the Order of the Scottish Samurai

Stuart DEVINE – (2017) for services to Scotland and to the community

Margaret DONALD – (2019) for services to charity and the community

Mervyn DONALD – (2019) for services to the community as Deacon Convener of the Seven Incorporated Trades of Aberdeen

Dr Robert EDE – (2019) for services to medical profession and armed forces veterans

Hector EMSLIE – (2018) for services to tourism, Aberdeen and Scotland

Dr Margaret FARQUHAR CBE – (2018) former Lord Provost of the City of Aberdeen, for services to Aberdeen and the community

Kevin GREIG - (2020) for services to the heraldic arts and culture.

Liam HACKETT – (2020) for services to the community.

Sylvia HALKERSTON (2020) for services to young people and the community.

Robert HARPER – (2017) for services to the arts and Scotland

Duncan HARLEY – (2019) for services to journalism and local history

Lori HENDERSON MBE – (2018) for services to Britain and Japan

Ian HEPBURN – (2020) for services to Scotland and Japan

Professor Steven HEYS – (2018) for services to medical research

Jacqueline HIGGINSON – (2020) for services to the Order of the Scottish Samurai and Scottish Heraldry

Becca HOBART – (2016) for services to traditional dance, national and international

Kozo HOSHINO (Japan) – (2019) for services to the Victor Murphy Trust

Suzie HUGGINS – (2018) for services to Scotland and Japan

Rumiko ISHIGAMI (Japan) – (2016) for services to Scotland and Japan

Alex JOHNSTONE – (2016) on promotion for services to the community having been a member since 2014

Hatsumi KATAOKA (Japan) – (2019) for services to a Japanese martial art, Discipline and World Refereeing

Paul Guan Beng KEE (Sweden) – (2016) for services to karate

Carole KELMAN – (2018) on promotion for services to karate and martial discipline having been made a Legendary Samurai in 2014

Michael KENNEDY – (2016) for services to the community

Ian KIRK – (2015) for services to karate and martial discipline

Hajime KITAOKA (Japan) – (2015) on promotion having been awarded the Legendary Samurai Award in 2014 for services to Scotland and Japan

Mark McCUE KCHT – (2018) for services to charity

Gordon McINTOSH – (2014) for services to Scotland and Japan

Dr Tom McKEAN – (2018) for services to the arts, culture, Scotland and Japan

Morven MACKENZIE – (2020) on promotion for services to community and charity

John Charles Alexander MICHIE (2020) for services to the community, charity and tourism.

Tibor MICAS (Slovakia) – (2020) for services to martial arts

Yvonne MORTON DHT – (2016) for services to charity and the community

Andrew MURDOCH – (2016) for services to the community and karate

John MULLIN (USA) – (2018) for services to a martial art worldwide

Saitoh NAOKI (Japan) – (2019) for services to Culture and Film Making

Paul O'CONNOR MBE – (2018) for services to the community and Scotland

Don OWENS (Canada) – (2018) for services to a martial art worldwide

Lorna RAMSAY (2020) for services to culture and charity.

Alistair ROBERTSON – (2018) for services to sport and to Aberdeen

Simon ROBERTSON – (2017) for services to Scotland and Japan, and also for courage and strength

Dr Trevor RUNCIE – (2016) on promotion as Aberdeen representative on the Council of the Japan Society of Scotland, for development of business, academic and cultural connections between Scotland and Japan

Alexander Elliot Anderson SALMOND – (2014) for services to Scotland

Takeshi SASAKI – (2021) for services to Japan and Scotland.

Takeshi SHIGYO – (2020) for services to International affairs Nagasaki City Council.

Dr Margaret SMITH – (2018) former Lord Provost of the City of Aberdeen on promotion for services to Aberdeen and the community. Dr Smith was admitted in the order in 2003

Tyrone SMITH – (2018) on promotion for services to broadcasting having been a Legendary Samurai since 2006

Professor Alan SPENCE ORS – (2018) for services to arts and education

Juraj STAFFA (Slovakia) – (2016) for services to martial arts

Rita STEPHEN (2020) for services to Scotland and Japan.

Jennifer STEWART (2020) for services to Scottish heritage and culture.

David Anderson SUTTIE (2020) for services to charity and sports development.

Dr Darren SWANSON – (2019) for services to Historical Literature (Australia)

Dr Tom TAIT KHT – (2018) for services to people with learning difficulties

Masataka TARAHARA (Japan) – (2012) for services to the martial arts in Scotland

Ian TAYLOR – (2016) for services to charity and the community

Linda THOMSON DHT, DSPP – (2018) for exceptional services to the community and charity work

Philip TIBBETTS – (2020) for services to heraldry

Dr Irene WATT – (2018) on promotion for services to the arts and friendship between Scotland and Japan. Dr Watt was admitted as a Legendary Samurai in 2017

Sean Michael WILSON – (2020) for services to Literature Scotland and Japan

Etsuko YAMAZAKI (Japan) – (2018) for services to Japanese martial arts, Japan and Scotland

Urs Matthias ZACHMANN (Germany) – (2017) for services to the intellectual and cultural history of modern Japan within the context of East Asian international relations, as well as law and legal history in East Asia

LEGENDARY SAMURAI OSS 伝説の侍

Michael BISSETT – (2017) for services to karate and martial discipline

Robert BOYD – (2018) for Services to martial arts

Jessica BROWN – (2019) for services to the Japanese Consulate

Zibby BROWN – (2019) Albyn School, Aberdeen for services to children's well-being

Lisa CALDER – (2008) for services to karate and martial discipline

John CORRALL – (2017) for services to the community

Jarlath CUNNINGHAM (Ireland) – (2019) Services to Martial Arts in Ireland

Andrew DOUGLAS – (2016) for services to historical research and the literary arts

Charles EDMOND – (2016) as former honorary secretary of the Japan Society of Scotland, for services to Scottish-Japanese relations

Ian and Fiona ELLIS – (1999) for joint services to karate and martial discipline

Alf Ronny FAGERLAND (Norway) – (2016) for services to karate and martial discipline

Callum FARQUHAR – (2016) for services to the Japan Society of Scotland and dedication to Scouting, and promoting strong cultural relations between Scouts in Scotland and Japan

Mitsunobu FUKUMORI (Japan) – (2018) for services to Japan and Scotland

Ian GARDNER – (2019) for services to the Japanese Consulate

Frank GILFEATHER – (2015) for services to karate and minority sports

Beverley GRAHAM DCHT – (2016) for services to the Office of the Lord Provost of Aberdeen, and to Scotland and Japan

Vivienne GRANT – (2015) for services to karate and martial discipline

Rona GRIMMER – (2016) for services to the police and development of family liaison services (post-trauma)

Kurumi HIROOKA (Japan) – (2019) for services to Japanese and Scottish culture

Yusaku HONDA (Japan) – (2018) for services to Japan and Scotland

Len IRONSIDE CBE – (1998) for services to wrestling

Patrick JAMIESON – (2018) for services to martial arts

Sally JOHNSON – (2018) for services to education and the community

Ben JONES – (2021) for services to Scotland and Japan

Nissara KIRK – (2017) for services to karate and martial discipline

Dr Clive LAYTON – (2008) arguably as “one of the greatest martial arts authors”, for services to karate and martial discipline

Toni La PIETRA (Germany) – (2017) for services to Germany, Scotland, Japan and the martial arts

Nicolas LE BIGRE – (2019) for services to Japan and Scotland

John MACKAY – (2019) for services to Scottish culture

Gordon McCATHIE – (2018) for services to Japanese martial arts

Angela McINTYRE – (2016) for services to karate and martial discipline

Duncan McPHERSON – (2018) for services to Japanese martial arts

Norman McPHERSON KHT – (2018) for services to medical charities

Mary McPHERSON DHT – (2018) for services to medical charities

Janet McROBERTS – (2018) for services to education

Lee McRONALD – (2018) for services to Japan, Scotland and Visit Scotland

Anthony MAXWELL – (2018) for services to Scottish heraldry

Peter MITCHELL – (2019) for services to Journalism and After Dinner Speaking

Ikumi MORIZONO (Japan) – (2018) for services to Japan and Scotland

Mihoko NAJIMA (Japan) – (2018) for services to Japan and Scotland

Haruka OKUNO (Japan) – (2019) for services to Japan and Scotland

Hirofumi OZONO (Japan) – (2018) for services to Japan and Scotland

John REYNOLDS – (2000) former Lord Provost of the City of Aberdeen, for services to the community

James ROGERSON – (2001) for services to karate

Sandra ROGERSON – (2001) for services to karate

Dr Olga RUNCIE – (2018) for services to medical and psychological sciences

Keiko SAKUMA (Japan) – (2019) for services to Japanese and Scottish culture

Garry STEVENS – (2018) for services to Scotland, Aberdeen and the community

Joanna STUART – (2019) for services to the Japanese Consulate

Kaho TANAKA (Japan) – (2019) services to Japanese and Scottish music and culture

Claire THOMSON – (2019) for services to the beauty industry

Ross THOMSON MP – (2016) for services to the community

Sarah WEBB – (2018) for services to education, Scotland and Japan

SAMURAI OSS

John McINNES (3rd Dan) – (2016) for services to karate and martial discipline

Jade McWILLIAM (1st Dan) – (2016) for courage, and services to martial discipline

Emma STUART – (2018) for services to a Japanese martial art

CADET SAMURAI

Hon Benedict BRUCE – (2018) for services to a martial art worldwide

Gregor MacLEOD – (2018) for services to a martial art worldwide

Ben PORTER – (2018) for services to a martial art worldwide

Sophie JOHNSTON – (2018) for services to a martial art worldwide

SAMURAI AWARD for EXCELLENCE

The Samurai Award for Excellence is presented to any organisation, society, school etc for distinction in a particular field of operation or business.

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL (2016)

ALBYN SCHOOL ABERDEEN (2014)

BROOMHALL HOUSE, Charlestown, Dunfermline (2015)

CHESTER HOTEL, Aberdeen (2019)

JAPAN SOCIETY OF SCOTLAND (2021)

NATIONAL KARATE FEDERATION (2012)

MARCLIFFE HOTEL, ABERDEEN (2017)

MARYCULTER HOUSE HOTEL (2018)

ROBERT GORDON'S COLLEGE, ABERDEEN (2018)

OSS BUDO HALL OF FAME

Budo is a Japanese term meaning "martial way" referring to any martial discipline where the ultimate aim is spiritual, ethical and/or moral self-improvement. The characters "**bu**" and "**do**" in "**budo**" are rich in meaning.

Bu is a Japanese word meaning "military" or "related to the military" while **Do** is the way to suppress violence and return to the way of the universe.

OSS Dan Grades for Budo are awarded to people who demonstrate their understanding of martial discipline through dedicated training and understanding of the martial arts ('Budo'), or in demonstrating a similar purity, perseverance and life skill in everyday life. (H = Honorary Recognition)

Recipients with year of award:

OSS Dan Ambassadors

5th Dan – Charles, **Lord BRUCE** (H) (Scotland)
5th Dan – Mike **DREELAN**, (H) (Ireland)
5th Dan – Tommy **DREELAN**, (H) (Ireland)
5th Dan – Daisuke **MATSUNAGA** (H) (Japan)
5th Dan – Dr Joseph **MORROW** (H) (Scotland)
5th Dan – Compton **ROSS** (H) (Scotland)
5th Dan – Sir Iain **TORRANCE** (H) (Scotland)
5th Dan – Sir Ian **WOOD** (H) (Scotland)

Aikido

8th Dan – Prof. Will **REED** (Japan)

Iaido

7th Dan – Takeda **HOGYOKU** (Japan)

3rd Dan – Robert **BOYD** (Scotland)

Judo

10th Dan – George **KERR** (Scotland)

7th Dan – Bill **BERRY** (Scotland)

4th Dan – Gordon **McCATHIE** (Scotland)

Karate Do

- 9th Dan – George **CARRUTHERS** (Scotland)
9th Dan – Charles **GIDLEY** (England)
9th Dan – John **MULLAN** (USA)
9th Dan – Don **OWENS** (Canada)
9th Dan – Ronnie **WATT** (Scotland)
- 8th Dan – Willfried **ACHILLES** (Germany)
8th Dan – Christopher **BRUCE** (Scotland)
8th Dan – Alain **VERBEEK** (France)
8th Dan – Fritz **WENDLAND** (Germany)
- 7th Dan – Terry **BOYLE** (Northern Ireland)
7th Dan – Alf Ronny **FAGERLAND** (Norway)
7th Dan – Takashi **KATADA** (Japan)
7th Dan – Paul **KEE** (Sweden)
- 6th Dan – Mike **BISSETT** (Scotland)
6th Dan – Jock **CALDER** (Scotland)
6th Dan – Jarlath **CUNNINGHAM** (Ireland)
6th Dan – Reeve **WATT** (Scotland)
- 5th Dan – Charlie **ABEL** (Scotland)
5th Dan – Grant **CONROY** (Scotland)
5th Dan – John **COX** (Scotland)
5th Dan – Chris **DAVIDSON** (Scotland)
5th Dan – Iain **DOW** (Scotland)
5th Dan – Ian **ELLIS** (Australia)
5th Dan – Fiona **ELLIS** (Australia)
5th Dan – Hatsumi **KATAOKA** (Japan)
5th Dan – Carole **KELMAN** (Scotland)
5th Dan – Ian **KELMAN** (Scotland)
5th Dan – Ian **KIRK** (Scotland)
5th Dan – Toni **La PIETRA** (Italy)
5th Dan – Len **OWENS** (Canada)
5th Dan – Fumi **SHIKI** (Japan)
5th Dan – Juraj **STAFFA** (H) (Slovakia)
5th Dan – Noriyasu **TAKAHIRA** (Japan)
5th Dan – Roxanne **WATT** (Scotland)
- 4th Dan – Dick **ATHAWES** (Scotland)
4th Dan – Hayley **BLOODWORTH** (Scotland)
4th Dan – Chloe **CALDER** (Scotland)
4th Dan – Nissara **KIRK** (Scotland)
4th Dan – Helen **ROULSON** (Scotland)
4th Dan – Emma **STUART** (Scotland)
4th Dan – John **WILLIS** (Scotland)

3rd Dan – Pam **ADAM** (Scotland)
3rd Dan – Peter **ADAM** (Scotland)
3rd Dan – Benedict **BRUCE** (Scotland)
3rd Dan – Peter **CARRY** (Scotland)
3rd Dan – Connor **DAVIDSON** (Scotland)
3rd Dan – Lisa **DOUGLAS** (Scotland)
3rd Dan – Jim **MILLAR** (Scotland)
3rd Dan – Chris **MORRICE** (Scotland)
3rd Dan – Craig **RUSSELL** (Scotland)
3rd Dan – Daniel **SMITH** (Scotland)
3rd Dan – Edmund **STEVENS** (Scotland)
3rd Dan – Scott **SUTHERLAND** (Scotland)
3rd Dan – Albert **THOMSON** (Scotland)
3rd Dan – Curtis **THORNTON** (Scotland)
3rd Dan – Charlotte **WALKER** (Scotland)

2nd Dan – Charlotte **ADAM** Karate Do. Cadet (Scotland)
2nd Dan – Jacob **ADAM** Karate Do. Cadet (Scotland)
2nd Dan – Matthew **CRABB** (Scotland)
2nd Dan – Nicol **HOBART** (Scotland)
2nd Dan – Dawn **OWENS** (Canada)
2nd Dan – Trevor **RUNCIE** (Scotland)
2nd Dan – Peter **STUART** (Scotland)

1st Dan – James **BINGHAM** - Shodan Karate Do (H) (Scotland)
1st Dan – Gordon **MacINTOSH** - Shodan Karate Do (H) (Scotland)
1st Dan – Olga **RUNCIE** - Shodan Karate Do (H) (Scotland)
1st Dan – Tyrone **SMITH** - Shodan Karate Do (H) (Scotland)
1st Dan – Colin **TAYLOR** - Shodan Karate Do (H) (Scotland)
1st Dan – Marc **THOMSON** - Shodan Karate Do (H) (Scotland)

Kendo

7th Dan – Kazuo **YAMAZAKI** (Japan)
5th Dan – Etsuko **YAMAZAKI** (Japan)

HATAMOTO

The Hatamoto award is presented to those providing administrative services to the Order of the Scottish Samurai.

Recipients with year of award:

Charlie ABEL (2017)

Peter ADAM (2018)

Hayley BLOODWORTH (2017)

Chloe CALDER (2017)

David CALDER (2017)

Gordon CASELY (2018)

Grant CONROY (2018)

Christopher DAVIDSON (2017)

Mike DREELAN (2018)

Tommy DREELAN (2018)

David GALLOWAY (2019)

Beverley GRAHAM (2018)

Becca HOBART (2018)

Carole KELMAN (2017)

Ian KELMAN (2018)

Nissara KIRK (2018)

Anthony MAXWELL – (2020)

Yvonne MORTON (2018)

Dr Trevor RUNCIE (2018)

Bill SMITH (2017)

Gavin STARK (2017)

Frederick STEWART (2020)

Albert THOMSON (2017)

Linda THOMSON (2018)

Reeve WATT (2017)

Roxanne WATT (2017)

Gail WATT (2018)

John WILLIS (2017)

Kazuo YAMAZAKI (Japan) (2018)

Supporting the Scottish Samurai Awards

Confraternity of the Knights of The Most Holy Trinity



Founded in 1992 under the patronage of the Holy Orthodox Church, the Confraternity is represented in Italy and 14 other countries worldwide. Particularly strong in Scotland, brothers and sisters of the Confraternity are referred to as knights and dames, part of an ancient Christian tradition with a very modern purpose.

While not an order of chivalry *per se*, the Confraternity is chivalric in nature. Our aims are charitable, through formal and informal occasions with speakers or entertainment.

If you are interested in learning more about the work of the Confraternity or wish to join, please contact the Grand Prior of Scotland - albertthomson@btinternet.com

<http://www.priorykmht.org/>.

Order of the Scottish Samurai

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