

CLAN MATHESON SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER No. 23

July, 1973.

The Committee wish to thank all those members who have written since the last Newsletter and for their comments and helpful suggestions.

They would especially like to thank Mrs. Margaret E. S. Matheson of Edinburgh; Mrs. Kathleen A. Urquhart of Bonar Bridge; the Rev. R. S. Matheson of Glenrothes; Mrs. Elizabeth Cox of Kitchener, Ontario; Mrs. Lorna Rodgers of Otago, New Zealand; and Mr. Colin Matheson of Marfleet, Hull. They wish that they could mention everybody by name.

The general feeling seems to be that as a Scottish Clan we ought to be based in Scotland but the Society was started in London and it is important that all the officers should live within easy travelling distance of each other for the purpose of Committee meetings, etc. Committee members living outside the Home Counties seem rarely able to attend. We have also to cater for Mathesons overseas and London is the capital city. As reported in Newsletter 22, we did try to start a branch in Edinburgh but it did not seem to get going, but if a branch could be started in Inverness (say) or Kyle of Lochalsh, the Committee would give all possible support.

Volunteers to act as co-ordinating and reporting members in the U.S.A., Australia, New Zealand and elsewhere overseas, like Isobel Dougherty in Canada, would also be very welcome.

One member complained that we did not do very much by way of introducing Mathesons to each other but the only way in which this can be done is by publishing a Directory of Members. A Directory has been published on at least two occasions and a third is now in course of preparation for distribution to all members free of charge. It is, of course, very important that the Membership Secretary should be made aware of all changes of address or other particulars and a system to ensure exchange of information of this nature between the Membership Secretary, Secretary and Treasurer has been set up. All changes notified will be reported in the following Newsletter so that members can keep their own copies of the Directory up to date pending the publication of new editions.

There are a number of principal families or branches of the Clan from which most of us are descended. If members who know from which branch they are descended will let the Membership Secretary know, this will be shown beside the member's name in the next issue of the Directory.

It is realised, however, that we must "ring the changes" on the venue of future Annual Dinners and Annual General Meetings. It has been suggested that the National Trust for Scotland might allow us to use Balmacara House one year. A problem, too, is that travel to Kyle of Lochalsh is expensive and takes quite a long time. The alternatives seem to be to hold the Annual Meeting at different places in different years or at somewhere more central such as Perth. Would as many members as possible please let us have their views? The idea would be to devote a complete day to the Gathering so that those who did not wish to stay the night would leave early enough to get back home on the same day.

It is too late to change this year and the Annual Dinner and Meeting will again be held in London on Saturday, 27th October (6.30 for 7.00 p.m.), at the Quality Inn opposite Victoria Station. It is hoped that as many possible will attend and guests are very welcome. It is important of course that the Secretary should be notified at least a day or two in advance so that the Restaurant can make the necessary arrangements. The earlier the better, because if the attendance is good we might need a larger room. The price is very reasonable and payment should be made to the Secretary during the meeting.

Annual Subscriptions

Members are reminded that subscriptions (still 50p) became due of 1st July and should be sent to the Honorary Treasurer, please. It is very helpful if they can be sent without personal reminder.

Membership Changes

The Committee wish to welcome the following new member: Mr. W. H. Matheson, Labbaye, Rue des Capucins, Meudon, France.

Conclusion

This is a short Newsletter, but we hope to do better next time, especially if members will send us material. The Secretary and Membership Secretary will both be in Scotland in August and hope to meet other Mathesons.

We would, however, particularly like to draw the attention of members to an excellent article on Clan Matheson which appeared in the February issue of "Scotland's Magazine". This was well illustrated and full of information about the Clan. Those wishing to have copies should write to the Editor, Scotland's Magazine, 114-116 George Street, Edinburgh, EH2 4LX. The price is only 21½p (including postage). Alternatively, copies could be obtained through your usual Newsagent. The Convener has written to the Editor with information about the Society.