

Roderick Cannon's  
*A Bibliography of Bagpipe Music*

John Donald Publishers Ltd  
Edinburgh 1980

An update by Geoff Hore  
2008

The writing in **black font** is from *A Bibliography of Bagpipe Music*. The update comments are in **blue font**.

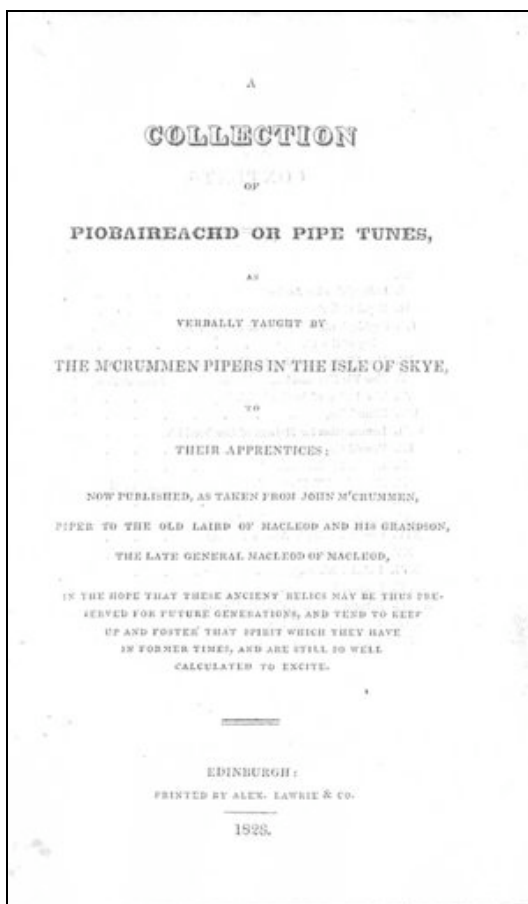
If anyone has any information that can assist in adding to this update please contact the writer at [geoff.hore@xtra.co.nz](mailto:geoff.hore@xtra.co.nz).

---

**305 A Collection of Piobaireachd or Pipe Tunes** by Niel MacLeod.

Cannon located an incomplete version of edition 1 but recently a scanned version has been posted on the website [www.cl.cam.ac.uk](http://www.cl.cam.ac.uk). It is not known where the original book was acquired.

1 1828



p [i], title; p [ii], contents; p [iii], dedication; pp [1], 2-42, tunes I-XX, in canntaireachd.

National Library of Scotland, Edinburgh \*

Covers missing. 8.3 x 5.4". The dedication page is signed 'Capt. A. M. Chisholm Strathglass'.

[www.cl.cam.ac.uk](http://www.cl.cam.ac.uk)

Scanned image.

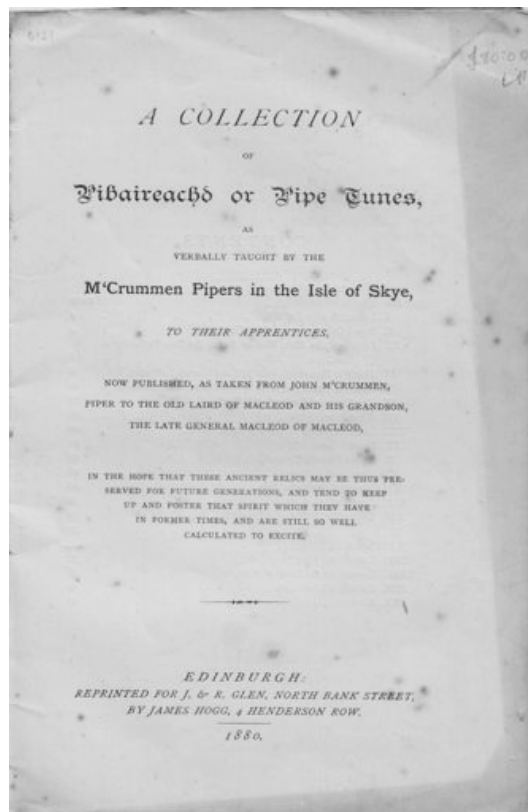
The image of the title-page is from the website [www.cl.cam.ac.uk](http://www.cl.cam.ac.uk).

There has been some dispute as to the extent of Gesto's piping knowledge: 'It is usually stated that he was not a piper although [he was] regarded as an authority on pipe music and knew all the piobaireachds current in Skye, with their history, and the names of their composers. On the other hand, it is said that he was a good performer and taught several young men to play, but that while with his regiment (42nd) in the Egyptian Campaign of 1801, he contracted an affection of the throat and lungs which prevented him from playing ever after.' (*Piping Times*, June 1973). See also a letter by A. MacGregor, quoted in F. C. Collinson, *Traditional and National Music of Scotland*, 1966, p 193. Another note, by J. E. Scott, is in the *Piping Times*, March 1964.

Captain MacLeod also compiled in manuscript a set of brief notes on the titles and origins of the tunes. To judge from quotations, various different versions of the MS seem to have existed. Thus, (1) Sir John Dalrymple, in *Musical Memoirs of Scotland* (Edinburgh, 1849, p 11) writes, 'the author of this work furnished me with some notes and observations in manuscript on the pieces' and he quotes one of these in regard to Tune XVI, 'Isabel Nich Kay'. (2) J. F. Campbell, in his pamphlet 'Canntaireachd: Articulate Music' (Glasgow, A. Sinclair, 1880), mentions that the copy of the book which he used had a manuscript note on tune XX, 'Kilchrist', which he quotes. This particular copy was the property of Sir Robert Dalrymple, who had inherited it, and was perhaps the same one used by Sir John. (3) A manuscript with notes on all the tunes was discovered at Skeabost House, Skye, in 1883, and printed in the *Celtic Magazine* for that year; it was reprinted again in the *Piping Times*, January 1970. (4) The Piobaireachd Society reported in 1930 that 'there is extant a manuscript by the author of the Gesto canntaireachd entitled "Remarks by Captain MacLeod as far as he has been informed by the late John MacCrimmen, Piper Dunvegan, Isle of Skye"' and they quote the remark on tune XVII, 'Lament for King James . . . ' (Piob. Soc., Vol 3, p 79). Elsewhere they also quote the remarks on tunes VI (P.S. 6 190), XVI (P.S. 6 182), and III (P.S. 10 304). In the last-named, the title of the MS is given again, with slight differences. Wherever the comparison is possible, the notes as quoted in these different sources agree in substance but differ slightly in wording or spelling.

2

1880



p [i], title; p [ii], index; p [iii], dedication; p [iv] blank; pp [1], 2-43, tunes I-XX, in canntaireachd.

National Library of Scotland, Edinburgh \*

8.1 x 5.0". Boards, leather. 8.1 x 5.0". Evidently cropped during rebinding.

Library of Congress, Washington DC \*

Paper covers. 8.3 x 5.0".

University Library, Aberdeen.

(indexed 'MacCrimmon, (J.), pipe tunes');

City Library, Dundee.

British Library, London

[The Author's Collection.](#)

Paper covers

*Dedication:*

Very respectfully dedicated / to / the Highland Society of London, / by their grateful and obedient servant, / Niel MacLeod, Gesto, / Captain H. P. Independents, / member of the Highland Society of Scotland.

The title on the front cover is the same as on the title-page. The dedication is the same as that of I, but it has been reset and the spelling adjusted.

Unicorn Limited Inc in USA offers a reproduction of the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition on CD. See [www.scotpress.com](http://www.scotpress.com).

Rev 00. (6 September 2008)

Rev 01 (14 November 2011)

Adds scanned image of the title-page of edition 1.