

# Dickie Hepburn's Martin Bagpipes

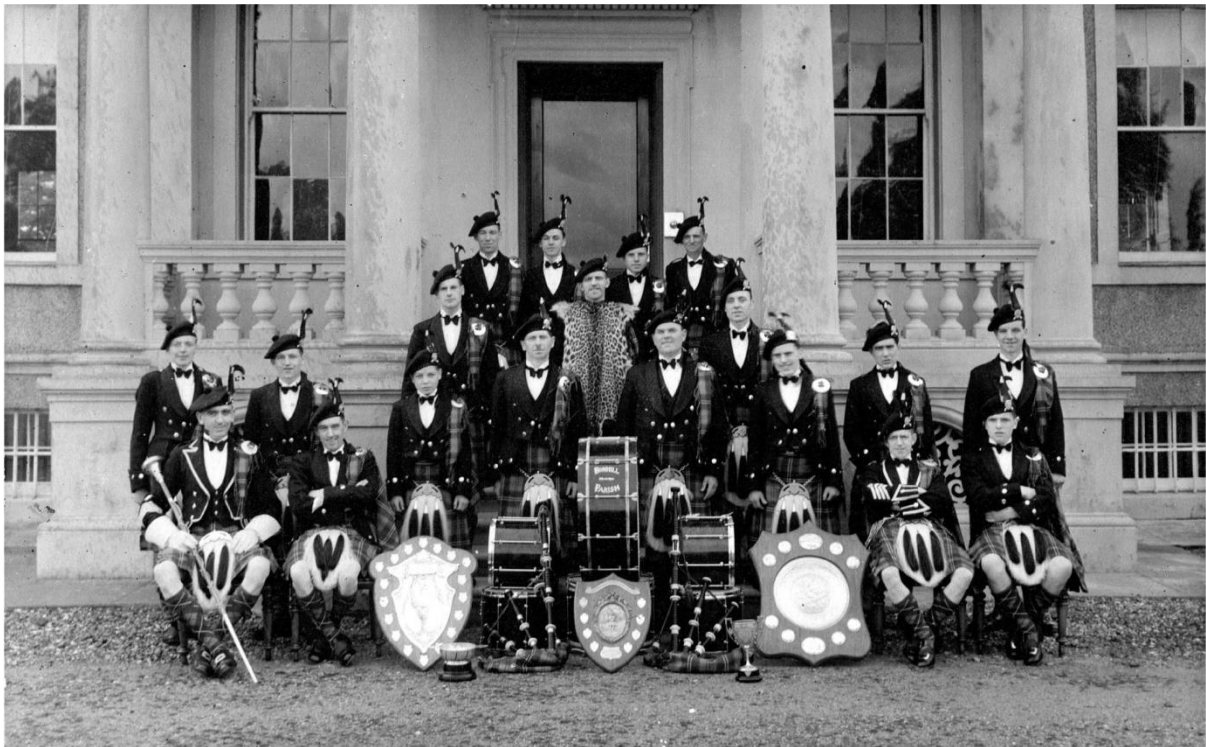
Richard Hamilton Stewart Hepburn was originally taught by his uncle and later referred to John MacColl who was teaching in Glasgow at the time.

In 1930 at the age of 21, 'Dickie' started the Bonhill Parish Pipe Band where he became Pipe Major. They entered their first competition in 1932 at Alloa where they won Grade 2.

In 1937 Dickie entered the solo competitions at the Argyllshire Gathering, Oban and won the Strathspeys and Reels in his first attempt. He was to become a regular feature in local solo competition.

Dickie joined the Army in 1940 serving with the 5<sup>th</sup> Battalion Cameron Highlanders, completing 7 years service.

After the war Dickie returned as Pipe Major of the Bonhill Parish Pipe Band and they gained second place in grade 1 at the World Championships in 1947 and won the Edinburgh Open Championships in 1948.



*Bonhill Parish Pipe Band, P/M Richard Hepburn, second from right in front row.*

Dickie immigrated to Australia in 1949, and eventually took over the role as Pipe Major with the Blue Lake Highland Pipe Band and tutored the Blue Lake Ladies Pipe Band. He took both bands from Grade 3 to Grade 1. The Blue Lake Ladies won the Australian Grade 2 Championships in 1962.

In 1966 Dickie moved to Adelaide and eventually took over the John McDouall Stuart Memorial Pipe Band. They had won grade 3 at the Australian Championships in 1966 and Grade 2 in 1968 under Dickie's tutorage. He then took over the role as Pipe Major from Bobbie Horne.

In solo piping Dickie won the Australian Championships three times and was awarded a set of half silver mounted pipes, made by James Martin of New South Wales. He was also the first winner of the R U Brown Piobaireachd Society Gold Medal in 1973.



*“Dickie” Hepburn with the first R U Brown Gold Medal in 1973.*



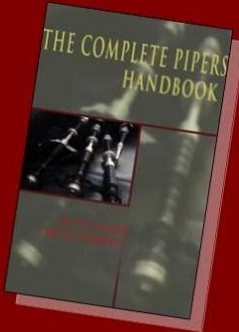
These Martin Bagpipes, made in New South Wales, Australia, were won by Dickie Hepburn in the 1968 Australian Championships. They are currently played by Karen Toohey of Adelaide who was a student of Dickies in the early 1970s.



James Martin was apprenticed to James Robertson, Edinburgh and was eventually the workshop foreman at Robertson's. He immigrated to Australia in the 1950s, bringing his tools and making what was a Robertson bagpipe. He ceased trading in the 1980s.

There are more details of significant and historic bagpipes as well as information on maintenance, refinement and instrument set up to be found in "The Complete Pipers Handbook", which funds the freely available School of Piping website and is available here:

<http://www.schoolofpiping.com/handbook.html>



**The Complete Pipers Handbook**

Is a must for every serious piper. Never before has a more comprehensive guide been published. Maintenance, set up, refinement, tuning, setting up bands, performance psychology and much more!

Available from: [www.schoolofpiping.com](http://www.schoolofpiping.com) selected stockists.