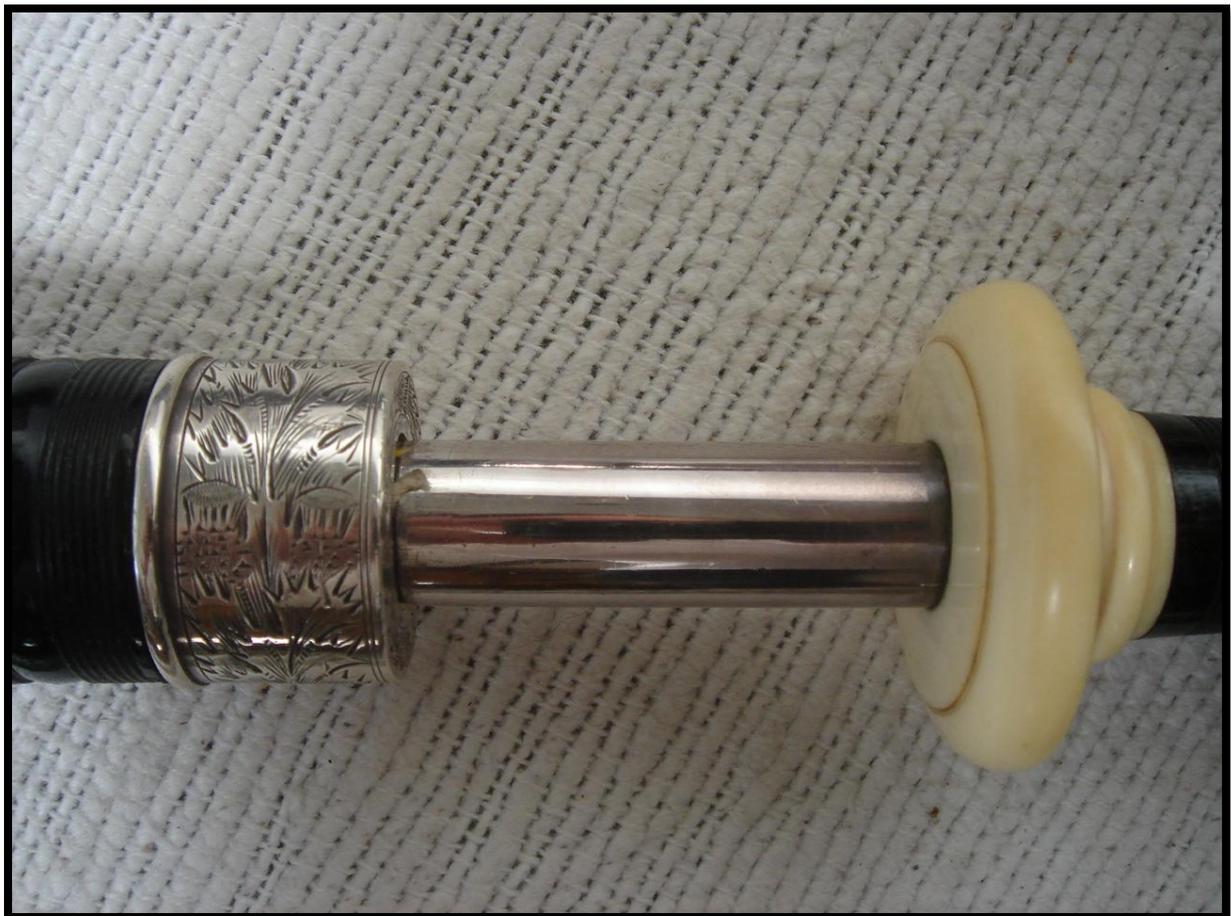


Pre-1920 Hendersons

When, as a very young piper I started to compete in solo competitions, it was obvious that learning in a band situation, no matter how good, was never going to be sufficient. When trying to locate a quality tutor, I was introduced to Iain MacPhedran. Iain was a player with an impressive pedigree and introduced me to some of the *big* March, Strathspey and Reels. This was probably a significant turning point for me as a piper.

Iain plays his grandfathers bagpipe, a set of pre-1920 Hendersons and when I contacted him recently he was only too happy to let me photograph his instrument.

Iain's great-grandfather was Duncan MacPhedran, a piper of considerable calibre. Iain's grandfather John (also a noted piper and Pipe Major) purchased the German silver and ivory mounted Henderson Bagpipe from Dr Charles Bannatyne, a well known and controversial Piobaireachd authority. Iain guesses that this was sometime around 1920. The instrument has plain slides and a thistle pattern engraved on the ferrules and ringcaps. It is certainly a very attractive instrument.





Iain's father, Duncan was Pipe Major of the Craigneuk Parish Church Pipe Band and immigrated to Australia to take on the role as Pipe Sergeant with the Castlemaine Pipe Band in 1952. He originally played an ivory mounted set of Lawries now played by Iain's son Craig whom I had the pleasure of teaching for a short period. Eventually the Hendersons were passed to Duncan and later to Iain.



Duncan went on to play with the Portland Pipe Band and passed away in 1976. He was a well respected judge and was Vice Principal of Piping in Victoria for some years. Duncan had lessons from Archie MacPhedran, manager of P. Henderson Ltd Bagpipe Makers, who had been a long term pupil of John MacDougall-Gillies.



Duncan MacPhedran

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 selected stockists.