

THE  
**GORDON TARTAN**  
 JANUARY 2003  
 NEWSLETTER FOR THE  
 HOUSE OF GORDON, MID-ATLANTIC REGION



G. E. Vandenberg, Convener

**Clansman's Eadge**

From a crest cornet bucks head, proper with ten pointed gold antlers, encircled in a silver strap and buckle

**Mottoes**

Bydand (Abiding)  
 Animo non asturia (By courage not craft)

**Ancient Arms**

Azure, 3 boars' heads couped Or, armed Proper langued Gules (3 gold boar's heads facing right on a field of deep blue)

**WAR CRY:** A Gordon! A Gordon

**Tartans:** Modern, Modern Dress, Ancient, Ancient Dress, Old Ancient, Red Gordon, Huntly, Weathered and muted of all of the previous.

# The Cock o' the North

## *Where does it come from?*

Cock O' the North is essentially a mixture of a fine Speyside Single Malt Whisky and the fruit of the blaeberry, with a special ingredient added which is known only to The Marquis of Huntly and his son, The Earl of Aboyne.

In 1823, the 5th Duke of Gordon, knowing very well that his tenants in Strathavon and Glenlivet could not be prevented from distilling whisky, persuaded the government that it was better to legalize the activity and collect the taxes. It was he who sponsored an Act of Parliament that legalized the distilling of whisky in the Highlands of Scotland.

As soon as the Act was passed, the Duke encouraged one of his tenants, George Smith, to take advantage of the new law to produce whisky legally. George Smith started the first licensed distillery in Glenlivet in 1824. In 1858, the Duke provided George Smith with the land on which the present day Glenlivet distillery is sited.

The Gordon Estates also included land at Glentromie on the upper reaches of the River Spey. It is here that the Speyside Distillery, one of the few remaining independent, family run Scotch whisky distilleries, produces the single malt whisky which is used in Cock o' the North.

The blaeberry (Gaelic name: Fraochan - that which grows among the heather) is to be found throughout the Highlands of Scotland and is a popular fruit with many uses. Historically, many Highlanders, including the Gordons, have used blaeberry jelly to mix with whisky to create a 'house brew' in the same way as cooks concoct special recipes.

As well as its delicate flavor, Blaeberry has a number of beneficial healing properties. The blaeberry in Cock o' the North is extracted from the

fruit itself. The 'Black Bottle' is the traditional fortified wine bottle often re-used by thrifty Highlanders for their own homemade whisky drinks.

*Most regrettably this fine medicinal brew is still not yet available in the US.*

## *The Other Cock o' the North*

Not only is Cock O' the North a fine liqueur, but also one of the titles of the Chief of the Gordons.

In the mid 1500's, the chief of the Gordons was one of the most powerful men in all of Scotland. During the Queen-Dowager's 1556 progress of the northern part of Scotland, she and a large retinue were hosted by the Earl of Huntly at Strathbogie (Huntly Castle) for an extended period of time. In her concern that this was putting a significant inconvenience and monetary drain on the Gordon she proposed to leave. Lord Gordon assured her that it was not a burden and showed her his stores of food which contained an impressive amount and variety of food, especially fresh game. Lord D'Oisel, a Frenchman in the Queen's retinue, asked where all of the food came from and was advised by the Earl that it came from the vast lands of his holdings. He explained that he had relays of hunters and fowlers dispersed in the mountains, woods, and remote places of his domains, who daily sent their catch to the castle. The Frenchman remarked to the Queen that such a man should not be tolerated in so small and poor a country as Scotland and that she should clip the wings of this "Cock of the North" before he became too arrogant and powerful. From that time forward the Chief of the Gordons has been known as the Cock of the North.

# Outlawing Scottish Culture?

## THE ACT

That from and after the First Day of August 1747, no man or boy within that part of Great Britain called Scotland, other than such as shall be employed as Officers and Soldiers of His Majesty's Forces, shall on any pretext whatsoever, wear or put on the clothes, commonly called Highland clothes (that is to say) the Plaid, Philabeg, or little kilt, Trowes, Shoulder-Belts, or any part whatever of what peculiarly belongs to the Highland Garb; and that no tartan or party-coloured plaid or stuff shall be used for Great coats or upper coats, and if any such person shall presume after the first said day of August, to wear or put on the aforesaid garments or any part of them, every person so offending... shall be liable to be transported to any of His Majesty's plantations beyond the seas, there to remain for the space of seven years. (Which usually meant death).

## THE REPEAL

The Act of Abolition was repealed by the Government obtaining the King's assertion on 1st July 1782. In the North there was great rejoicing. A proclamation was issued in Gaelic and English which announced as follows:

Listen Men. This is bringing before all the Sons of the Gael, the King and Parliament of Britain have forever abolished the act against the Highland Dress; which came down to the Clans from the beginning of the world to the year 1746. This must bring great joy to every Highland Heart. You are no longer bound down to the unmanly dress of the Lowlander. This is declaring to every Man, young and old, simple and gentle, that they may after this put on and wear the Tuis, the Little Kilt, the Coat, and the Striped Hose, as also the Belted Plaid, without fear of the Law of the Realm or the spite of the enemies.

## Now lets get that Scotsman in the Right Skirt!

What is the correct yardage for a Great Kilt, 12 yards, 9 yards, 6 yards, 4 yards. Which is correct?

Like bread and the local baker, almost no one in medieval and renaissance times had the finances to own their own loom. So, in order to have any cloth made, people would have to come up with their own fiber, in this case wool, and then take it to the local weaver to be woven. The weaver would then turn it into cloth on his loom.

Wool looms of the time made cloth anywhere between 27 and 30 inches wide--we call this single width today--and it would usually come off the loom about 9 ells (or 9 yards) long and sometimes as much as 12 ells long.

A man who was going to use this cloth for a kilt would take the full length of cloth, but he would need it to be much wider than single width. In fact he would need it to be double width. So he would take his 9-yards of cloth, cut it in half to have two pieces, both single width, but half the length they started with (started with 28" by 9 yards; now have 28" by 4.5 yards and 28" by 4.5 yards). Then he would take the two pieces and stitch them together to form one piece of cloth, half as long as he

started but now about twice as wide (started with 28" by 9 yards; now has 56" by 4.5 yards).

So, it is correct to say that a Great Kilt is made from 9 yards or 12 yards of material. But, that is SINGLE WIDTH fabric. Modern fabrics are almost always DOUBLE WIDTH! This means you need HALF as much. Please don't go out and buy 9 yards of cloth (unless you are a REALLY big guy!). If you do this you may not even be able to stand up--not to mention the COST involved in buying this much fabric!

There is also an added misconception that a Great Kilt has to be 60" wide or it is not "authentic". Remember, weavers made cloth anywhere from 27 to 30 inches, and 30 inch wide cloth was often the exception and not the rule. This means that, after putting two halves together, you would have LESS than 60" of cloth. And, you must not forget the seam allowance. To have a strong seam to join the two sides you would need at least 1/2" from each side, subtracting at least 1 full inch from the total width. This means that it would be entirely possible to have a kilt that is only 53" wide (27" plus 27" minus 1" for a seam).

## 7-FOOT LADDIES FROM HELL

During the World Wars, the Germans gave pipers the dubious title of "The Laddies from Hell." They contended that a kilted squad of puffing 7-foot high males getting noise out of a thing that looked like an upturned three legged deer would be sufficient to intimidate any enemy into surrender!

Virginia is the home to many fine pipe bands. Although they are not 7 foot tall, one such band of distinction, at least to the Gordons, is the Kilmarnock Pipe Band. This fine band has chosen to honor the Gordon Highlanders and the clan by making the regimental Gordon their official tartan.

In a simple but heartfelt presentation at the Williamsburg Scottish Festival this past year, the Chief extended to this dedicated band the right of membership in the House of Gordon. If you are at one of the events they are performing at, stop by and give them a listen. They are an interesting group of folks and their music isn't bad either.

### Gordon stuff

On the single page insert/order form, you will see that we have a company that is willing to make clan related items for us on an individual or small run basis. I like the idea of not having to order large volumes of items. My thanks to Jim (from Waynesboro) for his efforts. If anyone has a similar contact for other items please see what sort of deal we can work out.

### Membership Director Steps Down

Three years ago Dr. Jim Gordon had to step down as the Virginia convener due to family problems. He did volunteer to stay on as membership director for these past three years. Regrettably, he has now requested that he be released from this function as well.

For the time being, all membership questions and correspondence should be directed to the convener.

We have received notice that Dr. Jim's grandson has passed away. We ask that you keep him and his family in your prayers.

Yet I am here a chosen sample,  
To show Thy grace is great and ample:  
I'm here a pillar o' Thy temple,  
Strong as a rock,  
A guide, a buckler, and example,  
To a' Thy flock!

Robert Burns

Last issue I gave you a song  
and dance, now for a bit of  
**Food for the body and soul.**

*Lay of the Last Minstrel. Canto vi. Stanza 1*  
Sir Walter Scott

Breathes there the man with soul so dead  
Who never to himself hath said,  
This is my own, my native land!  
Whose heart hath ne'er within him burn'd  
As home his footsteps he hath turn'd  
From wandering on a foreign strand?  
If such there breathe, go, mark him well!  
For him no minstrel raptures swell;  
High though his titles, proud his name,  
Boundless his wealth as wish can claim,  
Despite those titles, power, and pelf,  
The wretch, concentr'd all in self,  
Living, shall forfeit fair renown,  
And, doubly dying, shall go down  
To the vile dust from whence he sprung,  
Unwept, unhonour'd, and unsung.

### Hare In Ale With Saffron

1 large hare                          1/2 tsp. Saffron  
1 lb. onions, finely chopped    4 c. real ale  
1 c. fresh breadcrumbs  
salt and freshly ground pepper  
a little dripping, or oil and butter

.Lightly brown hare pieces in a little dripping, or oil and butter, in a deep casserole.

2. Cover with real ale, add onion, bring to boil on stovetop.

3. Put the casserole in oven, cook at 425°F (220°C) for about 3 hours.

4. Remove from oven, stir in breadcrumbs and saffron.

5. Check seasonings.

6. Cook in oven until hare is tender and serve with cooking liquid.

Serves 5 - 6.

## Apple Flapjacks

3/4 cup flour	2 teaspoons sugar
1 teaspoon baking powder	1/8 teaspoon cinnamon
1 cup milk	1 egg
2 teaspoons butter, melted	1 apple, grated

Sift together dry ingredients. Stir in milk, egg, and butter; mix until well combined. Stir in apple.  
Drop by tablespoons onto hot, well-greased griddle.  
Cook until browned on both sides

## 2003 Events

The events below are the proposed sites for a House of Gordon tent or attendance. More information on the events and direct links to their different web sites can be obtained at the MacLachlans web site:

<http://www.maclachlans.org/games.html>

(Note: The date for Wheeling is a week earlier than previously noted.)

Date	Name	State
1-2 Mar	Wheeling Celtic Celebration	WV
5-12 Apr	National Tartan Day Celebration	DC
12-Apr	Chesterfield Celtic Heritage Festival	VA
26-Apr	Southern Maryland	MD
2-4 May	WV Scottish Festival	WV
10-May	Frederick	MD
6-18 May	Hanover Celtic	VA
17-May	Colonial (Fair Hill)	MD
5/29-6/1	Glasgow Highland Games (Gordons are Honored Clan)	KY
07-Jun	Garrett County (McHenry)	MD
14-15 Jun	Potomac	VA
15-Jun	Steppingstone	MD
28-29 Jun	Penn Renaissance Faire	PA
10-13 Jul	Grandfather Mtn.	NC
25-27 Jul	Virginia Scottish Games	VA
15-17 Aug	Beckley	WV
5-6 Sep	Ligonier	PA
20-21 Sep	MD Renaissance Fair	MD
27 Sep	Williamsburg	VA
27 Sep	Alexandria Fair	VA
4-5 Oct	Chesapeake Celtic Fair (the Del event at Snow Hill)	MD
11-Oct	Anne Arundel	MD
17-Oct	Kilmarnock	VA
25-26 Oct	Richmond	VA
06-Dec	Alexandria Scottish Walk	VA

## An excerpt from "The Cocks Crow"

The Gordon's California Newsletter

Written by John Lowrie, California convener

Over the years, Williamsburg has become a favorite destination for Nellie and me and to be here with this gaggle of Gordons—including National Convener **Lucretia Gordon**, **Jerry Vandenberg** of Virginia, **Earl "Flash" Gordon** of South Carolina, **Beverly Jo Griffith**, the new Convener of North Carolina, **Roger Mills** of Illinois, **Jim & Sandy Ledy** all the way from Arizona and, last but not least, our **Chief, Lord Huntly, the Marquis of Huntly** was truly an auspicious occasion! Your Convener was honored to carry the Marquis's standard in the Grand March. He is so pleased and a little amazed at the dedication to the Clan he has found here so far from Scotland. He is aware of *your* record as a Clan Society in the Southwest and is eager to make a trip West at the very first opportunity.

The Chief spoke his heart both on the field and the Gordon dinner Saturday evening about the difficulties devolution would bring—and *has brought* to our beloved Scotland already. Of how the old ways of Scottish tradition are being tossed out by the modern government in Westminster and how the new Scottish parliament is merely following suit. To them, there is no more Clan representation in their ranks—no voice for the Gordons, the Grants or even the MacDonalds, merely the representative from Aboyne or Elgin or Perth. Will the old ways survive? Some will. Scotland, itself, has survived this long by change and adaptation. Not by compromise. As we told Granville, we love Scotland's history and tradition and stand beside those who fight to maintain the auld ways.

*Note: While John did carry the Marquis's standard in the Grand March opening ceremony, the honor of doing so for the Parade of Tartans and closing ceremony went to my son Dustin, representing the Virginia/Mid-Atlantic House.*

When I asked John if I could use his material he agreed and thought I might wish to add that:

You could tell that Granville was a little bitter at the system, mainly for putting him out of the House of Lords and denying his son, Alistair, the opportunity to inherit that seat.

## Why don't our kilts match?

I am often asked why kilts that are supposed to be the same look different. The most common answer is that, as with any material, the color varies with different dye lots of the threads. This causes some of the color differences. Another problem is that not all weavers are using the same thread count or color pallet. This will give us variances in not just the color but also the size of the sett (pattern) in the final look. If you are trying to match an existing item it is best to order a swatch of material from supplier and compare with what you have. If it doesn't match, consider a different weaver.

### Warning

Sometimes my humor gets away from me. See>>>

## Financial Statement

It was requested that I put out some kind of financial statement to let the members know where we stand financially. Below is a rough statement. If you read the report literally we are in the red. While actual (or estimated actual) costs are reported what was actually charged is less due basically to Dr. Jim or myself covering the cost. On the IRS tax report, I will be showing that the difference was covered by donations because in fact that is what happened.

Income		
dues	82 members	\$2,050
sales	cookbook	\$500
	novelties	\$200
No information from Jim clan items		
On new items sales		?
Rogues & Wenches		\$225
Trading performance for tent site fee		
Donation for an award		\$35
Total		\$3010

Costs		
Dues to National		\$1,230
Site fees		\$1,060
Newsletter	printing (est.)	\$150
fall 2003 newsletter	printing	\$25
Membership letters	Printing (est.)	\$30
postage	min	\$222
printing cookbook		\$260
Material for novelties		\$75
Trophy at Richmond		\$35
Total		\$3087

## Why do the fronts look the same but not the back?

What is the difference between the modern and military or regimental kilts?

The answer to both of these questions is the same. Most kilts are made so that the sett (the repeating pattern) of the tartan is reproduced in the pleats. This is called "pleating to the sett". The military or regimental (a UK term) style kilt is "pleated to the stripe" so that a narrow bright stripe appears in each pleat. In the case of the Gordon, the back looks like a series of gold stripes. (Note: they are gold stripes not yellow because no Gordon would have a yellow strip up his back.)

Because Dr Jim did not charge the House the full costs for printing and mailing of the newsletters, membership cards and letters, I cannot give you these actual total costs. I have done estimates on some items based on what those items would cost me using local services. The major difference in the cost on items such as the newsletter (under Dr. Jim vs. myself) is that I have a donation of the use of a copier. I provide the paper and a minimal donation toward copier costs and do the coping, folding and addressing work myself. This eliminates the labor costs of having someone else do the work.

As the clan items sales are a new item, Jim (from Waynesboro) is still just getting started and recouping his costs. I will include his costs and income in next year's accounting. At this point I know that he has laid out at least \$175 on start up costs.

There are other costs that are not reflected such as food and drinks for the tent. On the average I personally have spent \$25 per event. For Williamsburg and Richmond I spent over \$100 for each event. This amount does not count what other members have also donated in the way of food and drink. For those of you who missed these two events I will say you missed a really good spread.

Also as has previously been reported we have had to replace a few items that either walked off or were damaged due to weather. I have covered these costs, as I feel responsible for them. I am going to try a couple of changes to see if I can prevent further loss due to weather.

# Conveners Comments

One nice thing about doing the newsletter myself is that I can start an article and leave it, go do something else and come back with a fresh outlook. That is what has happened with this column. It started out very negative and that's not what I wanted.

At the time I started this column I was feeling really down about some of negative feedback I had been getting. But then after setting the column aside for a couple of weeks I thought back over the same events that prompted some of the negative stuff and realized that at the same time I was getting the negative, I was also getting a lot positive support. These positive people were some of our more low-key members. Those are the members who come out and are the quiet ones but are the real strength to any organization. You ask them to do something and they will do their best to do it and then ask how they could have done it better.

This type of support was typified by a phone call I received from one of our Maryland members. He said that he had read the last newsletter and wanted to let me know that he thought it was even better than the one we sent him before we were officially included Maryland in the Region. He said that he really appreciated how I had made the effort to include him into the Region's activities and especially for inviting him to Williamsburg. He was impressed by the Chief and wanted to know how he could make sure that he would stay a part of the larger group. (Not only that, he gave me a good suggestion on how to fix one of the problems I have been having with large tent banner.)

To you Claude, a special thanks, your call couldn't have come at a better time for me.

But just as importantly, I wish to send my heart felt thanks to all of those of you who were and are here supporting the House and me, by just being the people you are. Thank you all.

As I mentioned last newsletter, I would like to try some new things this year. Several ideas have been kicked around but I especially like the idea of having more people involved in the operation of the tent, especially the social side. I again ask that folks consider offering to host an event. Elsewhere in the newsletter is a list of the dates and locations of the different sites for the coming year.

Another suggestion I like is to have a gathering of

the Gordons that was not related to any specific official game, fair, or festival. Some ideas that have been kicked around are a potluck picnic, an outing at a small theme or water park, or a cookout campout. If you have another idea or would like to try to put together a "Gordon Gathering", please contact me.

With the expansion into a Region, which now covers a fairly large geographical area, and the loss of two previous directors, I am looking for some folks, especially from the new and northern parts of the Region, to act as members of an advisory board or board of directors. Your duties would include figuring out what your duties include. I envision an advisory board with some duties and responsibilities delegated to each member. Some of the potential areas could be as the newsletter editor or researcher/reporter, new member recruitment, merchandizing, historian, recorder, photographer, secretary, tent host coordinator. I can find a position for anyone who wants one. Anyone wishing to volunteer please contact me.

I also would like some input on the idea of taking the annual membership meeting out of the Richmond Games weekend and making it into an event in and of itself. Perhaps in July.

While last year had many good points that we can be proud of, as I mentioned, for me it ended on a bit of a sour and sad note. I won't go into the sour but will mention the sad.

We have had two of our directors step down; Nancy Atkins, our newsletter editor and Dr. Jim Gordon, membership director. I also regret to announce that just after the last newsletter went out, I was told that Dr. Jim's grandson, who had been fighting cancer for a number of years, passed away.

I want to end on a positive note so I leave you with this from Robert Louis Stevenson (1896)

"For that is the mark of the Scot of all classes: that he stands in an attitude towards the past unthinkable to Englishmen, and remembers and cherishes the memory of his forbears, good or bad: and there burns alive in him a sense of identity with the dead even to the twentieth generation."

*Jerry Vandenberg*  
Convenor



Clan Crest

# House of Gordon

## Virginia Division



Virtual Gordon

### **Farewell to Mid-Atlantic Region**

### **Farewell to the Rogues & Wenchies**

### **Farewell to the Convener**

In the convener's comments I had said it was nice to do the newsletter myself as I could go back and edit what I wrote when situations changed. Unfortunately once it's printed the only way to make a major change is to reprint it or add an insert.

I had completed the newsletter, printed it and had it ready to go, except for the Gordon sales items insert, back before Christmas. I then found out that members who did not agree with what I was doing had decided to start an effort to have me resign. I came under attack for my goals and practices, for the association of the Rogues & Wenchies with the House, and even had my right to call myself a Gordon questioned, first by one of my board members and then by Vern Laurie, the man who calls himself the convener for Maryland. Rather than drag out a fight and possibly do harm to the House of Gordon, I took the situation to Lucretia Gordon, the National Convener. She said that she had heard some of the complaints and had hoped that the Board could resolve the situation. It was her decision to ask for me to basically dissolve the House of Gordon, Mid-Atlantic Region and to submit my resignation as convener even of Virginia.

Therefore it is with a sad heart that I notify you that I have decided not to fight her request and to step aside as convener. I will maintain my membership and am wondering who, if anyone, will step up to take the job and if they can do it without stepping on anyone's toes.

With my resignation, and no one to fight for it, the concept of a Mid-Atlantic Region dies also. Because Vern Laurie, despite not having done any games or anything else for the Maryland members in a number of years, insists that anyone from Maryland belongs to and should pay their dues to him, the Virginia House must bid farewell to those of you who are from other states. For the members who have renewed already, I am returning that portion of your dues to National for redistribution. For everyone else, if you wish to renew your membership in of the House of Gordon you should send your dues to the National Convener at:

House of Gordon  
507 E. 10th Ave  
Johnson City, TN 37601

Also with my departure so departs the Rogues & Wenchies. The R&W will be meeting soon to decide our own future, whether to offer our swords to another clan or society or to do the reenactors bit.

As I have recently been approached by two other groups to take on some of their activities, you will probably still see me around a number of events. I'll pop in different events and have a chat.

If I don't see you before I hope to see you at either the US general meeting at Grandfather Mtn. or at the Virginia annual meeting in Richmond. Both are your avenues to express concerns by the way, and should be used as such.

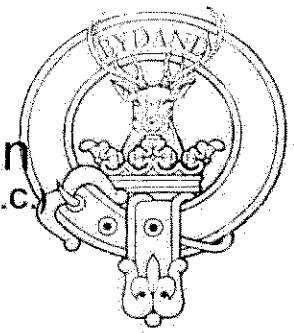
As the one and only ever convener for the Mid-Atlantic Region of the House of Gordon, we are respectfully yours, no more.

Jerry Vandenberg



**IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN  
MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL  
House of Gordon, Mid-Atlantic Region**

(Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, West Virginia and Washington, D.C.)



**2003 Dues Notice**

Do to the ever-rising costs of printing and mailing, we may have to start dropping those members who have not renewed recently from all but special mailings.

Don't be one of those who falls by the wayside. We would miss seeing you and with some of the special events we are trying to get going, you might miss out on something important.

One member's dues covers the cost of printing and mailing 15 newsletters.  
It takes three members to cover the site fee of most of the small event  
It takes 32 members to cover the site fee at the Richmond Games.

**EVERY MEMBER IS IMPORTANT AND PLAYS AN INTEGRAL PART IN THE WHOLE.**

Renew now and help keep the House of Gordon strong, vitalized and growing.

Remit to: **House of Gordon**  
**13339 Feldman Place**  
**Herndon, VA 20170-4312**

<b>Dues break down</b>	
House of Gordon, Scotland	\$ 8.00
House of Gordon, USA	\$ 7.00
House of Gordon Mid-Atlantic	\$10.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$25.00</b>

**Detach and return the lower portion.  
Remember to let us know if you are moving.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

**Is there any aspect about the House of Gordon you would like to know more about?  
Do you have any suggestions for improving the newsletter, the tent  
presentation/display or any other comments?**

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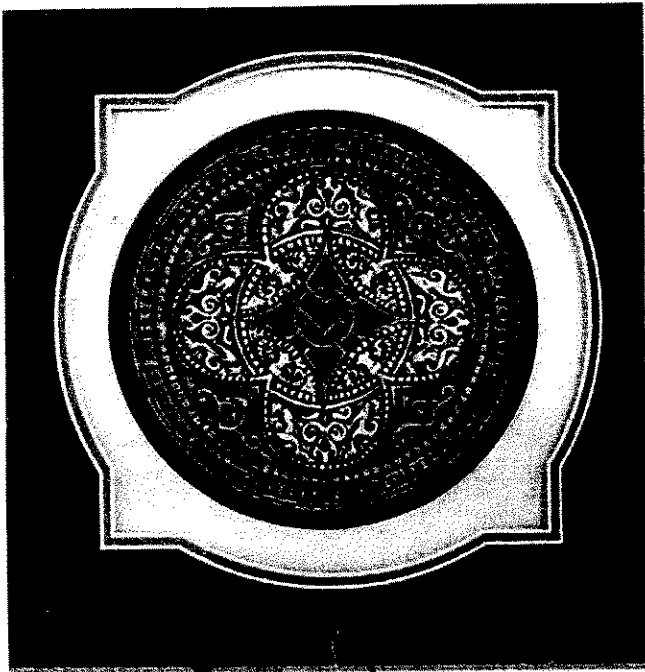
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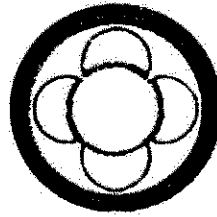
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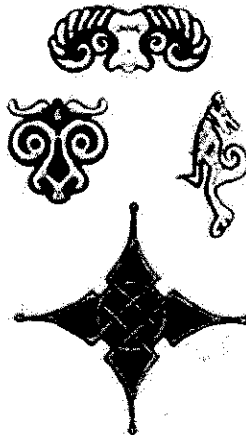
# The Celtic Ring of Prosperity



AN ORIGINAL CAST PAPER DESIGN  
BY KEVIN DYER  
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The outside rings represent the larger community; interlocking rings signify that only through the cooperation of the community can true prosperity arise. All fates are linked and one cannot truly benefit at the communities loss.



The ram, bull and dog represent the manifestations of wealth. While bestowed on us by nature it is our labor and guardianship that create our prosperity.

The star Knot in the center represents the prosperity of the spirit that is necessary for true prosperity and the manifestations of that spirit emanating into the community.



This represents homage to the winds of fate, luck, and providence that are part and parcel of every endeavor. May luck be with you.

House of Gordon  
Mid-Atlantic Region  
13339 Feldman Place  
Herndon, VA 20170-4312

