The Manuscript of Donald MacDonald Junior.

We know little about the original writer of this manuscript except that he was a son, possibly the youngest son, of Donald MacDonald the famous pipe maker. The manuscript was borrowed and copied in or about 1914, then returned to its owner, but has not been traced since.

It is stated that the MS was inscribed "Donald M^{c} Donald Piper 72nd Regiment of Highlanders March 16th 1826". Donald junior had won prizes for piobaireachd playing at the annual competitions in Edinburgh, the 5th prize in 1821, 4th in 1823, 3rd in 1824, 2nd in 1826. He never won the 1st prize and at present we do not know if he ever had the opportunity to compete for it.

He was presumably taught primarily by his father, as is suggested by his music notation and settings of tunes.

The extant copies of the tunes are not in a single volume but are separated and distributed through the relevant folders of the Kilberry papers, which are now in the National Library of Scotland as MSS 22098-22117. The present facsimiles are taken from photocopies, by courtesy of the National Library.

It has obviously not been possible to check the copies against the originals but they give every sign of having been made with great care. Each tune has a page reference such as F.1, L.1. evidently meaning 'folio 1, line 1'. From the line (i.e. stave) numbers it is possible to tell that the original manuscript had six staves to the page. Normally 'folio' instead of 'page' would mean that the music writing was only one side of each leaf. From the continuity of these numbers it is possible to tell that the copy is complete, and the manuscript was probably complete also. It is thought that all the writing was by the same man, except for the last tune, starting on F.63, which was written in pencil and dated 2 December 1850.

In the main body of the MS the symbol of a double slant line means 'repeat the previous phrase' not to be confused with a double bar line which is written vertically in the usual way. See for example the tune 'Sutherland's Gathering' on F.28.

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