

# THE PIPE BOWL: SIGN OF THE SAGE

by GREGOR MURRAY

"A Pipe! It is a great soother, a pleasant comforter. Blue devils fly before its honest breath. It ripens the brain, it opens the heart; and the man who smokes thinks like a sage and acts like a Samaritan." Thus quoth a good fellow of earlier days, and who, if he wasn't a tobaccoist's agent, must be suspected of having filled his pipe with a more potent herb than that in common and legal use hereabouts. (Everybody to his own den!) However, if the above words were written truly and in good faith by a sober man, then, surely, closer scrutiny of this oft-maligned and rather little known smoking device is the duty of every thinking man aspiring to the enjoyment of the good life. It is hard to imagine any other single process which simultaneously cheers, endears, pacifies, exercises and otherwise enlightens the human soul. Let us look briefly, then, at the attributes of this potentially endowed process of mental edification.

Basic to the whole procedure, of course, is the tobacco, a much renowned weed, some investigation of which reveals some interesting facts which are not all encouraging to the habitual smoker. The tobacco plant (*nicotiana tabacum*) is a member of a plant family which numbers in its ranks such delights as petunias, deadly nightshade, green peppers, and Irish potatoes (who could ask for anything more?). Native to America (but it was invented by the Russians), its now grown everywhere from Ubangi to Yokahama, giving folks all over the right to be cancerous. Further, though not all of the plant can be used to produce tobacco for smoking (or chewing, or snuffing), what's left over is put to good use making insecticides. It appears that canteen pipe puffers have been unkindly labelled 'fumigators' with more accuracy than was realized. Moreover, we can no longer accuse Daddy's food of killing the flies.

Tobacco, for the uninitiated, isn't all the same. Strength, aroma and burning qualities vary greatly with the species, mainly due to growing conditions, and the achievement of the desired final product may involve the incorporation of twenty different grades in a single pipe-full. Licorice and sugar flavouring are also employed on occasion, though this is a practice frowned upon by



—Photo by Bissett

connoisseurs, while some sports have even been known to spray their tobacco with rum, perhaps hoping to successfully combine two vices in one.

The pipe itself has advanced a long way since the days when primitive man drew smoke from a small

whole dug in the very soil. Having run through a great gamut of shapes and sizes, through many different societies in many different parts of the world, the porcelain and clay pipes finally held popularity, and still hold popularity, most universally. Of these the famous "meerscham" is the best known, meerscham being a soft silicone mineral of ideal pipe-making qualities.

Today, however, and for two centuries past, the connoisseur's pipe has invariably been the Briar. Briar, contrary to common opinion, is not wood from the thorn-infested hedge briar with which we are all acquainted. Rather, it is the wood of the enlarged roots of the heath tree, a rather unassuming plant native to the northern shores of the Mediterranean and notably Sicily, where its rather unusual usefulness (It's not worth a dam for anything else) was first discovered. The briar pipe, "manufactured with great skill and loving care by the finest craftsmen" supposedly has all the attributes of 'smokability' to the nth degree, and is guaranteed to be a source of continuing delight to all pipe-smoking "afficionados" who are blessed with the ownership of one.

Turning to the actual smoking process, those who have misled themselves into believing that smoking and caring for a fine pipe is anything but the highest of art forms have been sadly misled, indeed. An investigation of any authority will soon convince the disbeliever that the rewards offered must really equal those declared in our opening quotation if pipe-smoking is to merit all the bother that the experts feel necessary. Breaking in, maintenance, tobacco care, and dozens of other little problems might well have the novice believing that pipe smoking was a full time job.

When, however, all the hurdles have at last been crossed, and one can justifiably feel that he is a pipe man (*tout accompli*), then one is indeed possessed of a magnificent social weapon, a weapon which should go far in enabling the devotee to attain his desired place in society. One need only look at the types usually associated with pipes to see that this is (for better or for worse) true. The tweedy types, the Hairy Ones (those that spend all their shekles on tobacco and consequently can't afford razor blades), expatriate Englishmen (who wish they were home to do their bit for the smog problem), and classical sports-car men are surely all in a class that stands away from, or is stood away from, the baser levels of society. There they can sit, on their own personally-provided clouds, and never give a thought to what is base



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# Fur and Feathers

Even the most casual observe of the Dalhousie campus will note a large eagle with outspread wings perched on top of the Arts and Administration Building. How did this eagle come to assume such a paramount position above our campus?

Quite frankly, no one is completely certain. However, the university seal, imbedded in the main hall floor of the Arts Building, is an adaptation and a simplification of family arms of the Ramsays, Earls of Dalhousie. and, as such, prominently displays an eagle on the central shield. The unicorn crest, the coronet, and the motto, *ora et labora*, of the university seal have been taken from the Ramsay's, and the eagle appears in the first quarter of the Ramsay arms. The supporters of the university arms are two griffins, whereas a griffin to the left and a greyhound to the right fulfill this function in the Ramsay arms.

Today, the eagle, which is the focal point of the university seal, may be found on the university stationery and Christmas cards, on blazers, rests, executed in mosaic in the main hall of the Sir James Dunn Science Building, and, of course, arched in full glory on the uppermost pinnacle of the Studley dome.

## Maritime Economy—

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so continue to raise the average level of incomes of those who remain as well as of those who move to other occupations, in this region or elsewhere, where they are more productive. While it is likely that there will continue to be substantial outward movements of population from this region as long as there are superior employment opportunities elsewhere, the population of the Atlantic Provinces will probably continue to increase, although of course at a slower rate than its natural rate of increase. Additional employment opportunities will therefore have to be created in this region.

As improvements are gradually made in the primary industries, increased incomes of those in the primary and primary processing industries will widen the base for the rest of the regional economy, so that a part of the population that moves out of the primary industries (including coal mining) will find employment in secondary manufacturing based upon the re-

main. Probably, the reputed mightiness of the eagle, its artistic possibilities, and the desire of building designers to finish their work with a flourish have contributed to the present status held by the eagle on the Dalhousie campus.

However, besides the eagle, the griffins, and the unicorn crest, our university menagerie includes a tiger. The tiger, conveniently black and gold in colour, is the mascot of our football team (although he also lends support to the hockey team). The untimely demise of our former mascot last year prompted the engineers to construct a fibre-glass feline, Tigger, who currently holds this office. Tigger, a victim of tiger-nappers last spring, is purported to be the most widely travelled tiger this side of the Granby Zoo.

The use of the tiger symbol has grown rapidly in recent years. Besides posing with open jaws on the backs of many black-and-gold jackets, a particularly healthy specimen of this animal may be seen gazing from the cover of the 1960 Initiated Booklet.

From the above, one may draw a fairly safe conclusion: the eagle tends to be an academic symbol for Dalhousie while the tiger tends to be a sporting one.

regional market, (and in some cases upon national and foreign markets), in distributing the larger volume of primary products, in retailing, in construction, and in the other service industries. While the region is not very attractive to large scale secondary manufacturing industries because of its distance from large markets, it may be economical to subsidize some new secondary industries, for which conditions are not too unfavorable in order to attract them to this region, if the alternative is chronic employment and underemployment of a substantial part of the labour force that remains here. Any extensive development of secondary industry will, however, have to take place initially in a few metropolitan centres, both because of the interdependent nature of such industries and because of the advantage to them of being located in sizeable marketing areas. There will therefore have to be considerable population movements within the region, although such movements may be much easier for the people concerned than movements to more distant parts of the country.

All of this amounts to saying that considerable economic adjustment is necessary if we are to improve the regional economy. This adjustment can be facilitated and accelerated by improvements in both general and vocational education. Such education would not only improve the quality of this region's most valuable and versatile resource—its people; it would also have two other desirable effects: it would make our people more aware of economic opportunities elsewhere in the region and outside of it, where they would be more productive, and, perhaps even more important, it would make them more aware of economic opportunities elsewhere in the region and outside of it, where they would be more productive, and, perhaps even more important, it would make them more aware of opportunities to use the region's natural resources and capital to better advantage.

A hopeful sign is that the recent resurgence of optimism about the economic future of the Atlantic Provinces is being accompanied, in some quarters at least, by a realistic appraisal of the region's economic potential. The Atlantic Provinces Economic Council has done much to encourage this constructive approach. Improvements in this region's economy will not likely come easily or quickly; but the important thing is that there are good opportunities for improvement. The overcoming of the difficulties in the way of improvement is a challenge that faces our people generally, and especially our policy makers here and in Ottawa.

## Quote of The Week

A tribute to justice and legal ethics was paid by Dalhousie's Chairman of the Board of Governors early this September at a meeting of the Canadian Bar Association. Among other practical suggestions, Mr. Donald McInnes as Vice-President of the Bar counselled younger members in the proper handling of a witness. Said Mr. McInnes:

"Never put on the stand, in your direct case, a witness whom you have not previously consulted. Unless you are sure what your witness will say, it is better not to call him at all. Too often you do not anticipate the nature of the evidence which might be given."

in mankind. And so what if they drive off all their weak-nostrilled friends? What man could ask more than "a good pipe and a quiet place".

And when fraternization with lesser creatures becomes unavoidable the pipe offers advantages never equalled by the cigarette or cigar. A baleful glare from a watery eye, directed at an obstreperous conversational opponent through a cloud of pungent fumes issuing from a tightly clenched pipe is enough to cow the most hardy, and increases the chance of you making your point tremendously.

Therefore, one and all, if you think yourself strong of heart and strong of lung, the pipe merits your consideration. Bring your life to a new and higher plane, discover joys the rapture of which only equals the difficulty of their attainment, and put yourself apart from society (with any luck out of it all together) in a way that will rank you with men of consequence and distinction.