

Honorary members of 1900-1904

**1900 Francis C Burnand, The Marquis of Dufferin & Ava,
Rudyard Kipling, Sir Arthur Conan Doyle**

Another 1900 nominee, who presumably did not reply to accept, was the Duke of Argyll.

1901 John Tenniel, 7th Earl of Hopetoun

1902 Lord Milner

1904 Andrew Carnegie

1900 Francis C Burnand (1813-1865)

Francis Cowley Burnand, later knighted in 1902, had, by 1900, been contributing to 'Punch' magazine for 45 years. He edited the magazine from 1880 to 1906. Burnand was also a prolific dramatist, writing nearly 200 comedies and burlesques. In 1866, he wrote the comic opera 'Cox and Box', collaborating with Arthur Sullivan. Our minutes mention his book "The Real Adventures of Robinson Crusoe", published in 1893 [Burnand's annotated facsimile copy of Defoe's 1719 original was being offered for sale in 2010].

His book 'Quite at Home' (1890) describes his stay at the home of a Mr Allison (of 'Dumdoddie'), somewhere from which he can (just) see Ben Lomond 50 miles away, what he calls Burrns's Monument, 'about 10 to 15 miles away', Arran, and 'Castles in Ayr'. He attended, and described with much fun, an unveiling ceremony - this would be the August 1879 unveiling, amid huge crowds, of the Burns statue in the Monument in Kay Park, Kilmarnock, by the MP Colonel Charles Alexander of Ballochmyle. His account is typical of his writing, his "good-tempered chaff", and often far-fetched puns. This non-Burns excerpt is typical of his style:

Summary of Journey (which is the only thing Summery about it just now) - "Stands Scotland where it did?" Yes, certainly. Take the Midland Train from St Pancras at 10.30 am and you'll find it, without a change."

First Morning. Lovely. Bracing air. View of islands, mountains, rivers, and Ben Somebody - not Disraeli - in the distance. The 'Ben' something we're looking at in the distance is a Big Ben with a vengeance. . . .

[after a wonderful description of the breakfast possibilities, they walk out:] Have another look at Ben Lomond, or, as he keeps himself at a distance, and I am a stranger, it would be more respectful of me to speak of him as Benjamin Lomond. . . Talk to a Scotch farmer over the hedge. It is one thing to talk to a Scotch farmer over a hedge, and quite another for a Scotch farmer to talk to me. I can't understand a word of what he says to me, except when he says "What for no?" which seems to conclude his argument, whatever it may be, to which I reply politely, by saying, "Yes, quite so," and then I wish him good morning. . . .

[after an extensive lunch, he experiences lawn tennis:] My first uncertainty is whether I shall hit over the net or not. Surprise the first: It is over the net. I feel I have done my duty, and finished for the day. This excitement is not shared by partner, or the

opposition firm. Surprise the second: Return of the ball. I hit it wildly. Surprise the third: I have hit it.

[Slightly later, after his partner has done most if not all of the work, the ball comes his way again:] Surprise again: Hit it and up it goes over a tree - miles away, apparently - perhaps to Benjamin Lomond.

[After the tennis:] My partner observes, "We have lost the game. More than that, we have lost the set." Last surprise: The set! We've played a set! Don't like to ask "How many go to a set?" I light a cigar, and join the gallery on the lawn.

Of Arran he writes: "We look at the Isle of Arran when it is visible, and we look for it when it is invisible". Constantly having Ben Lomond pointed out by those he meets, he manages to get revenge - "Next morning I take the initiative - I point out Ben Lomond and Burns' Monument to my host."

Letter of acceptance, written from Whitefriars, London, E.C., on Feb. 1. 1900

Dear Sir,

Pray thank the Committee & Members of the Irvine Burns Club for the honour they have done me.

I hope that good fortune will bring me to Irvine in the summer time when [I hope] to make personally the acquaintance of my fellow-members honorary & dis-honorary - no that doesn't sound well - honorary and honourable that's better - & to see the works - the good works - you mention as in the Club's possession.

I remain sincerely

F C Burnand

Notes:

F C Burnand's large handwriting style matches the flourish of his wit, and his thoughts seem to have outpaced his words as he sped to the top of the second page.

1900 Marquis of Dufferin and Ava (1826-1902)

Frederick Hamilton-Temple-Blackwood, KP, GCB, GCSI, GCMG, GCIE, PC, was one of the most successful diplomats of his time. Following an initial successful posting to Syria from 1860, a spell in the UK Government, serving as third Governor-General of Canada where he and Lady Dufferin were very popular, in 1872-78, the pinnacle of his career was serving as Viceroy of India from 1884. He was careless of money, but charming in the high society of three continents.

His father's family, the Blackwoods, Ulster-Scots, entered the peerage of Ireland in 1800 as Baron Dufferin. Lord Dufferin added the name Hamilton by royal licence in 1862 and the name Temple in 1872. In 1888, he was further ennobled as Marquis/Marquess of Dufferin & Ava, in the County of Down and the Province of Burma, and Earl of Ava, in the Province of Burma. During his time as Viceroy of India, he had, in 1886, annexed Upper Burma.

His fourth son, the third Marquis of Dufferin and Ava (1878-1930), attended the Irvine Burns Club centenary celebration in 1926, replying to the Toast to the Guests.

His time as Viceroy of India featured in the Rudyard Kipling poem 'One Viceroy Resigns', which was written from Dufferin's point of view, giving advice to his successor, Lord Lansdowne. His wife Lady Dufferin, Vicereine of India, accompanied her husband on his travels in India and made her own name as a pioneer in the medical training of women in India. Her extensive travel writings and photographs, in addition to her medical work, challenge some traditional assumptions about the role of women in colonial life.

Letter of acceptance, written from Clondeboy, Co. Down, on January 31, 1900

Sir,

I hasten to acknowledge the receipt of your kind communication of the 27th of January, and I can assure you that I feel greatly honoured by the members of the Irvine Burns Club having elected me an Honorary Member. I am sure there is no one amongst them who can be a warmer admirer of Burns than myself, and the Club is indeed to be congratulated on possessing such priceless treasures as the manuscripts of the poet which you commemorate.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your obedient Servant
Dufferin and Ava

Notes:

The letter, on his crested notepaper, is hand-written.

Today's Clondeboy Golf Club has two courses, named Dufferin and Ava!

1900 Rudyard Kipling (1865-1936)

Kipling had published "The Jungle Book" in 1894 and "The Second Jungle Book" in 1895. By 1900, aged 34, he had travelled the world and was a famous and popular author. His "Just So Stories" appeared later, in 1902. He was later haunted by the loss of his only son John, killed in action in 1915 at the Battle of Loos; the tragedy shook Kipling's belief in the British military elite.

Keenly aware of trends in politics, when the Nazis usurped the Indian swastika, a good luck symbol, which was printed on the covers of many of his older editions, he ordered it should no longer adorn his books - in 1935 he spoke ("An undefended Island") warning of the danger posed by Nazi Germany.

Born in Bombay, sent to England when five for his education, returning to India at sixteen, he had travelled extensively in the USA, Canada, and South Africa by the time he married in London in 1891. They settled in Vermont, moved to Devon in 1896, and to Rottingdean in 1897. From 1898 to 1908 they travelled to South Africa for a winter holiday each year, always staying in a house on the estate of Cecil Rhodes at Groote Schuur. The invitation from Irvine therefore arrived too late for Kipling to reply himself, and no later letter is known.

Letter of acceptance, from his secretary at The Elms, Rottingdean, nr. Brighton, on Feb. 6: 00,
to J A S Dickie, Esq., Hon. Secy.

Dear Sir,

Mr Rudyard Kipling, as you perhaps know, had sailed for S. Africa before your letter came, announcing that the Irvine Burns Club had elected him as an Hon. Member, but I shall let him know the contents of your letter by next mail.

I am Sir

Faithfully yours

S. Anderson

Secy

1900 Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (1859-1930)

Arthur Ignatius Conan Doyle, the creator of Sherlock Holmes, was born in Edinburgh (at 11 Picardy Place) and studied medicine at the University of Edinburgh. "A Study in Scarlet", his first significant work, appeared in 1886. He was knighted in 1902, possibly in recognition of his pamphlet justifying the UK's role in the Boer War.

Conan Doyle bought land in Hindhead, the address on the letter, after discovering that his wife Louisa had tuberculosis and was likely to live for only a few months more. He hoped that the fresh Surrey air would stimulate a recovery (one of his friends claimed that the Hindhead air had cured him of tuberculosis) and, in conjunction with the architect Joseph Henry Bell, he designed a family home with huge windows to let in maximum sunlight. His hopes were at least partly realised, as Louisa survived for another nine years, till 1906 (aged 49). Conan Doyle is believed to have written 'The Hound of the Baskervilles' at this address, in 1901/02. He regularly rose at 6 am, wrote till lunchtime, then asked his family for criticism. Afterwards Conan Doyle re-married and moved away. Later, in 1935, Undershaw became a hotel and a magnet to fans of his writing. In 2004, it was bought by a developer, and its condition has deteriorated. The Undershaw Preservation Trust campaigns to see the house preserved as a single building rather than see it split into several private homes. Conan Doyle played host here to prominent guests such as J M Barrie and Bram Stoker.

The online Arthur Conan Doyle Encyclopedia is collecting all the author's letters and much else, and Irvine Burns Club has contributed a scan of his acceptance letter.

Letter of acceptance, from Undershaw, Hindhead, Haslemere, Surrey, on Feb. 3. 1900

Dear Sir,

I have the greatest pleasure in acknowledging & accepting the honour done me by the Irvine Burns Club of which I shall be proud to call myself Honorary Member.

Pray convey my thanks to the members

& believe me

yours faithfully

A. Conan Doyle

Notes: His headed writing paper includes, as often in those days, the address for telegrams, in his case Grayshott. An email address would be today's equivalent.

1901 John Tenniel (1820-1914)

This British illustrator, graphic humourist and political cartoonist, was the chief cartoon artist for 'Punch' magazine, the staff of which he joined in 1850, selected on the strength of his recent illustrations to Aesop's Fables. Aged twenty, one eye was damaged in a fencing bout, and he gradually lost his sight in that eye.

Over the years, he executed 2,165 separate cartoons for 'Punch'. However, much of his fame came from his work as the illustrator of 'Alice', for which two books, published in 1865 and 1871, he provided 92 drawings. The first print run was shelved because Tenniel objected to the print quality, so was later sold in America, and the first British edition was dated 1866. Tenniel did virtually no such literary illustrations afterwards.

The year 1901 was the year of his retirement from 'Punch', at a farewell banquet in Jan. 1901 presided over by A J Balfour (an Honorary Member of 1890), then Leader of the House of Commons. The approach from Irvine may have resulted from this, or from his popularity expressed in public exhibitions of his work in 1895 and 1900.

Letter of acceptance, written from 10 Portsdown Road, Maida Hill, W., on Nov. 3. 1901

Gentlemen

I am indeed proud in accepting the "Honorary Membership" of the Club, so kindly conferred on me, and with the best of thanks, and the fullest appreciation of the courteous and – I fear – all too flattering terms in which the announcement has been made known to me. I have the honour to be, gentlemen,

Very faithfully yours
John Tenniel

1901 The 7th Earl of Hopetoun (1860-1908)

Born at South Queensferry, and educated at Eton and Sandhurst, the 7th Earl (he succeeded to that title in 1873, aged 13 initially devoted his attentions to managing the more than seventeen thousand hectares of family estate located around the Firth of Forth. In 1889 he served as Lord High Commissioner to the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

After serving as Governor of Victoria from 1889 to 1895, he served as the first Governor-General of Australia 1901-1903, being the youngest person to have held that office.

He was appointed Marquess of Linlithgow in 1902. His later career included Secretary for Scotland in 1905 under Prime Minister Arthur Balfour, but poor health led to his early death in 1908.

Letter of acceptance, written from his office as Commonwealth of Australia, Governor-General, Melbourne, on 4th December 1901 addressed to James Dickie, Esq., Hon. Secretary

My dear Sir,

I beg you will convey to the members of the Irvine Burns Club my high sense of the honour which they have conferred upon me in unanimously electing me as one of their

Honorary Members. I need hardly assure you that I accept the compliment paid towards me with the utmost pleasure and satisfaction.

Yours very faithfully,
Hopetoun

Notes:

The letter is, with the exception of the signature, typed.

1902 Lord Alfred Milner (1854-1925)

A British statesman and colonial administrator who played an influential leadership role in the formulation of foreign and domestic policy between the mid-1890s and early 1920s, Lord Milner was also the key British Empire figure in the events leading up to and following the Anglo-Boer War of 1899–1902. He became Baron Milner in 1901. Plunging into the herculean task of remodelling the administration, in the negotiations for peace he was associated with Lord Kitchener, and the terms of surrender, signed in Pretoria on 31 May 1902, were drafted by him.

From 1897, he was High Commissioner for Southern Africa and Governor of Cape Colony. After the Boer War, he became the first Governor of the Transvaal and Orange River Colony and continued as High Commissioner. In July 1902, in recognition of his services he was made Viscount Milner, of Saint James's in the County of London and of Cape Town in the Cape Colony. The invitation from Irvine would have been made before his Viscountcy, and his acceptance written after it.

Letter of acceptance, written from the High Commissioner's Office, Johannesburg, on 20 November, 1902, addressed to Jas. Dickie, Esq., Honorary Secretary

Dear Sir

His Excellency is much gratified at the honour accorded to him conveyed in your letter of the 18th October which informed him that the Irvine Burns Club have elected him as an honorary member.

He very much appreciates the compliment paid to him

Yours faithfully

<signature unclear>

Private Secretary

<counter-signed> Milner

Notes:

The letter is, with the exception of the signatures, typed.

The paper is embossed with a crest.

1904 Andrew Carnegie (1835-1919)

Born in Dunfermline, the Carnegie family emigrated to the States in 1848, when Andrew was twelve. He made his fortune there in steel. In the late 1880s, Carnegie Steel was the largest manufacturer of pig iron, steel rails, and coke in the world, with a capacity to produce approximately 2,000 tons of pig metal per day. In 1901, when aged 66, he sold his business to the United States Steel Corporation.

Carnegie foresaw globalisation long before anyone had thought of giving it a name - he saw connections across business, industry and innovation. He also predicted that the world would increasingly adopt the English language as standard.

Carnegie's early philanthropy included swimming baths (1879) and a free library (1880) for his home town of Dunfermline. In 1886, he published "Triumphant Democracy" in support of the American republican system of government. In 1889, he published an article titled "Wealth" in which he argued that the life of a wealthy industrialist should comprise two parts. The first part was the gathering and the accumulation of wealth. The second part was for the subsequent distribution of this wealth to benevolent causes. The philanthropy was key to making the life worthwhile. However, he died a disappointed man, having failed to achieve the greatest vision of his later life - preventing war. In 1914 he had formed the Carnegie Council for Ethics in International Affairs to drive forward a peaceful settlement as a matter of urgency, but his hopes were crushed with the outbreak of war.

Carnegie funded some 3,000 libraries and many university projects, including, in 1899, making a donation to help set up the University of Birmingham in the UK. In 1901, he gave \$10 million to establish the Carnegie Trust for the Universities of Scotland. This, and his sharing of time between homes in New York and in Scotland at Skibo Castle, will probably be the prompts for the approach from Irvine Burns Club.

Letter of acceptance, written on his behalf from Skibo Castle, Dornoch, Sutherland, on May 24th, 1904, addressed to J. H. Dickie, Esq., Hon. Secy

Dear Sir,

Mr Carnegie tenders his thanks for your letter of 22nd March just received and greatly appreciates the valued compliment of the Irvine Burns Club in electing him an Honorary Member.

Respectfully yours,
<signature unclear>
P. Secretary.

Notes:

The letter is, with the exception of the private secretary's signature, typed.

Skibo Castle was bought in 1898 for £85,000 by Carnegie, who spent a further £2 million on improvements. It stayed in the Carnegie family until 1982.