

If, on the other hand, Scott was elaborating upon an oral tale corresponding to content to this Danish one, it is easy to see why he should give it a more complex and 'literary' frame, and relate it to historical persons. And of course we have Scott's own comment in 1832 to suggest that this was precisely what he had done.

Dr Alan Bruford kindly drew my attention (pers. com. Oct. 1994) to a group of Scottish tales published in *Tocher* 25:30–32 and 33:188–195, and in *Scottish Studies* 7:106–114 and 16:1–2. In these, someone goes to Hell in order to get back a contract for his soul which he had pledged to the Devil; on his return, he brings news that a place in Hell is waiting for a wizard (priest, robber) who had told him how to get there, thus bringing that person to repentance. Dr Bruford suggested that the rent-receipt story could have originated, probably in Scotland, as a Protestant parody of this older Catholic *exemplum* known from Scandinavian, Celtic and Slavonic countries.

So, although the finding of a single foreign analogue may not constitute proof that what we may perhaps term 'The Receipt from Hell' is an International Migratory Legend, I believe that it points strongly in that direction. Perhaps one day further analogues will be found to clinch the matter.

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The Regimental Wearing of the Highland Dress, 1798

Lord Elgin kindly sent me in April 1991 a copy of the text of a letter dated 26th December 1798, of much interest regarding the attitudes of soldiers to the wearing of Highland dress. It is reproduced here, with Lord Elgin's permission. Clearly, after wearing the dress for three years, the men had become much attached to it, though this feeling does not appear to have been shared by some of the officers.

In a letter of 11 March 1998, Lord Elgin related that the Elgin Fencible Highlanders marched from Perth to Liverpool. They were about 500 to 600 strong leaving Scotland, but over 200 were added from the jail at Carlisle on the way. They sailed from Liverpool to Dublin and marched to Mallow where they remained. Local supporters presented the Regiment with Colours, which are still at Broomhall.

By attrition, the Regiment more or less petered out. Some officers and men enlisted in the Regular Forces, and others on compassionate grounds returned to Scotland.

The cost of outfitting the Regiment was finally repaid to Cox & Kay's, Bankers, in 1840. Lord Elgin had made over his entitlement to half pay as a General to the Bank for over 35 years.

The Regiment disbanded at Falkirk and the stand of arms was handed in. Only the Colours and the written records returned to Broomhall.

Dr Diana Henderson (pers. comm. 2 Aug. 1993) has provided some further background detail. Lord Elgin's regiment was one of 36 fencible regiments raised in Scotland between 1793 and 1802. His was raised in 1794 and reduced in 1802.

Stewart of Garth stated in 1822 that 'Lord Elgin's regiment ... had about three hundred highlanders wearing a part of the highland garb, the bonnet and truis (sic)' (Stewart 1822, II 439).

Also existing around this time were the Elginshire Volunteers, comprising some 80 men around 1802-3. The regiment was referred to, in addition, as the Earl of Elgin's Fencibles. It appears, incidentally, that this is the Lord Elgin of the Elgin Marbles.

The text is as follows:

Mallow

26 December 1798

My Lord

We the Highlanders of your Lordships Regt having still a high regard for the Highland dress and Being about a month ago oblidge to Bind ourselves up in Pantelooous tho we had your Lordships word of honour that we would never need to wear any other dress But our own ancient Highland dress A dress that our ancestors has fought many a Bloody Battle in. But our Reason for applying to your Lordship at this time is that we are afraid when your Countries Service calls your Lordship to a foreign Country and our dress once taken from us we fear that we will not recover it any more in your Lordships Regt. Bgde Major Hay who is a very good officer but Cannot wear the dress himself and it seems to us that he is determined that we will not wear it no more than himself and his Reason is always Preaching up the doctrine of the good of the mens health But what the meaning of this doctrine is we Cannot Concieve for we assure your Lordship that your Lordship Regt is as healthy as any in his Majesties Service and it seems very remarkable to us after wearing the dress for three years and all the men accustomed to it Thus abruptly to take it from us Even at a time when there was not a dissenting voice amongst

your Lordships Soldiers — and we having Enlisted in your Lordships Regt and Promised to wear it We think it hard thus to be deprived of it for no other reason But because some of your Lordships officers Does not Choose to wear it — But we Still hope Before your lordship leave Britain that you will grant us the favour of appearing once more in our Highland garb and under that Conspicuous name of Elgin Highlanders were it anything dishonourable to your Lordship or detrimental to his majesties Services we assure your Lordship we would have neither art nor Part in it and we Beg your Lordship to grant us this favour and we assure your Lordship wherever the Service of our Country calls us we will Endeavour to merit that name that is in your Lordships Power to Bestow upon us we mean the name of Elgin Highlanders. We cannot pass over without Congratulating your Lordship upon the trust reposed in you By your King and Country We humbly Beg your Lordships Pardon But we trust you will forgive us for making this Bold and that your Lordship may live long a leading member of the head of the affairs of the nation is the humble Prayer of the Soldiers of Elgin 1st Regt in Expectations that they will Soon Be E. Highlanders again.

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