



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Oor Wirds Pairlament Tales

by Glencoats Primary School and Magic Torch Comics

The Scots Pairlament is mair than jist a place.
It is a buidlin fou o stories.



It wis designed by Enric Miralles,
whae had an interestin idea about
hoo the biggin should be designed.



It should sit in the laund,
wi tons o green space
around it.

The Pairlament sits in the laund
acause it belongs tae the Scots
Laund. We dinnae want tae forget
that the Scots Pairlament will be
in Embra, but it will belong tae
Scotland, tae the Scots Laund.

The Pairlament should be able tae
reflect the laund that it represents.



Enric Miralles liked the idea o plantin Scots wildflowers, trees and shrubs. He wantit tae yaise the wild gresses and trees awready fund in the area as weel as ither trees fae across Scotland.



Rowan trees, lang seen as a symbol o guid luck and as haudin 'witches' awa, hae been plantit around the Pairlament. Yin tree, aw on its ain, has been plantit close tae the public ingang.



Though awbodie is walcome tae visit, ye ken. Witches anaw!



In his final presentation Enric Miralles laid oot each buildin on a table – tellin the story o whit each yin wid dae as pairt o the new Pairlament.



At the end, he pit his brainches on the table and explained hoo the laundscape wid connect aw the buildin.



There's yer Pairlament.



And sae it wis.

The Queen agreed tae present the Scots Pairlament wi a Mace fur tae commemorate the openin o the Scots Pairlament in 1999.



A panel o important fowk, includin the future First Minister Donald Dewar, haudit a competition fur sillersmiths tae design the new Mace.



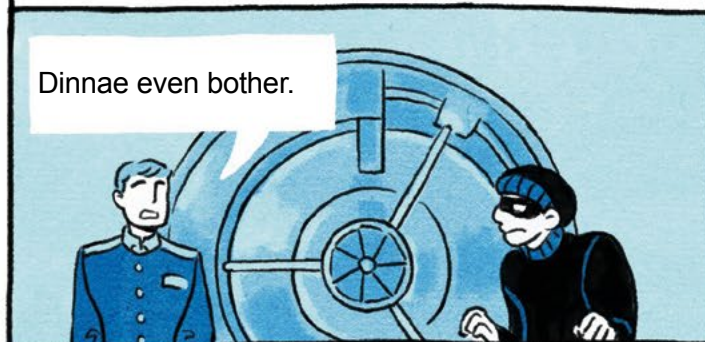
Michael Lloyd fae Castle Douglas in Dumfries and Gallowa wis the winnin design, a 'Spiritual Wand'. It includit an embeddit gowden ring, which Michael craftit fae gowd fund in Scots rivers. It symbolised a waddin o the Pairlament, its fowk and the laund.



The community gairthert fur tae celebrate the fact the Mace had been makkit in their toon. A piper mairchit in front o the Mace as it wis cairried oot on the stert o its journey tae Embra.



Fur safe keepin, afore it wis unveilt, the Mace wis kept unner lock and key in the main vault in the Bank o Scotland on the Moond, until the mornin o the openin ceremony.



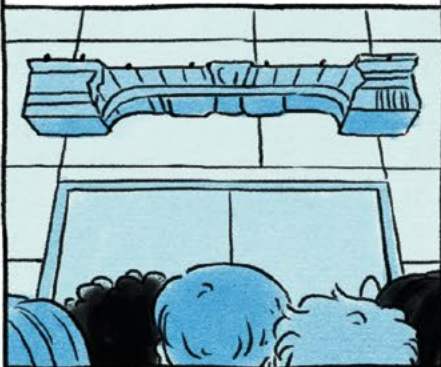
The Mace wis presentit by HM Queen durin the official openin ceremony on 1 July 1999 and it has been yaised fur ivery sittin o Pairlament since then.



The Mace maun sit outside its case in the chaumer whan chaumer business is takkin place. The case is built fur it tae roll oot.



There are monie mair stories tae be fund in and around the biggin itsel... Like the Arniston Stane, which wis a pairt o the auld Scots Pairlament and noo sits aboon the door tae the Debatin Chaumer.



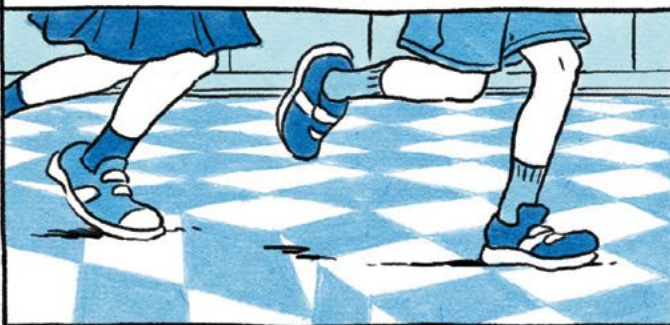
Naebodie kent whaur it wis fur a lang time, but it turnt oot tae hae been in the gairdens o Arniston Hoose and wis giftit back tae Pairlament. It connects the auld Pairlament and the new.



Or there's the twenty pence piece, which is cooried awa in the ceilin, pit there by yin o the builders...



This kenspeckle black and white corridor echoes the corridor in the General Assembly Haw. MSPs often gied interviews there. The idea wis tae recreate thon tradition in the new Pairlament, but in fact awbodie ayewis films at the bottom o the stairs instead.



Or there's Sigurður Guðmundsson's Pink Footit Snaw Goose Egg sculpture, symbolisin the connection o the Scots and Icelandic Pairlaments. The pink footit snaw goose bides in Scotland in the winter and in Iceland in the summer.



And cairvit intae the egg is a phrase fae the Icelandic sagas, "Með lögum skal land byggja".



"Wi laws shall the laund be biggit"

Sae, be shair tae tak a closer deek and lug-in as ye explore the Pairlament.



It's sae muckle mair than jist a buildin...



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