



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 buildin 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 wildfloors, 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 yin o the ingangs.



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



In his final presentation Enric Miralles laid out each buildin on a table – tellin the story o whit each yin wid dae as part 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.

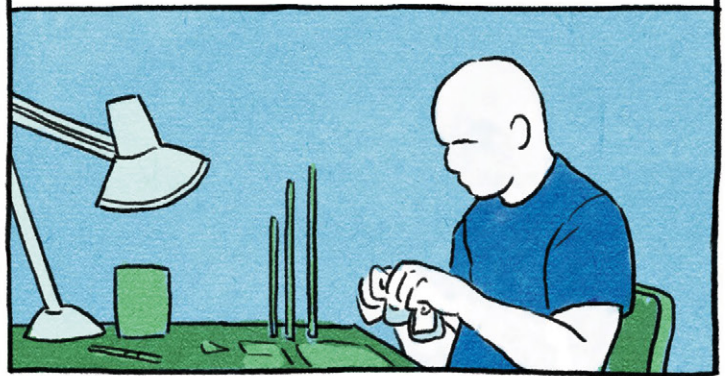


And sae it wis.

The late 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 future First Minister Donald Dewar, haudit a competition fur sillersmiths tae design the new Mace.



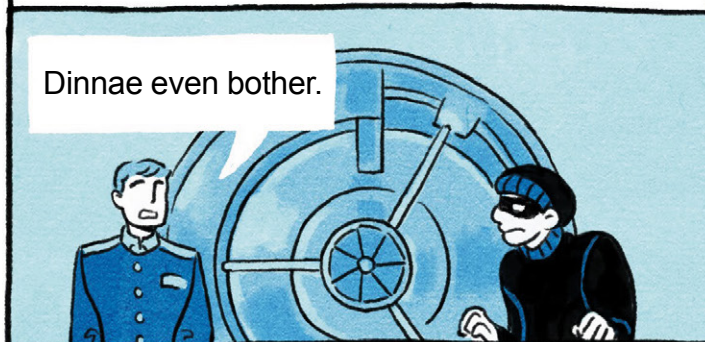
Michael Lloyd fae Castle Douglas in Dumfries and Gallowa wis the winnin design, a 'Spiritual Wand'. It includit an embeddit gowden ring, which Michael craftit fae gowd fund in Scots rivers. It symbolised a waddin o the Pairlament, its fowk and the laund.



The community gaihert fur tae celebrate the fact the Mace had been makkit in their hame 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 openin ceremony.



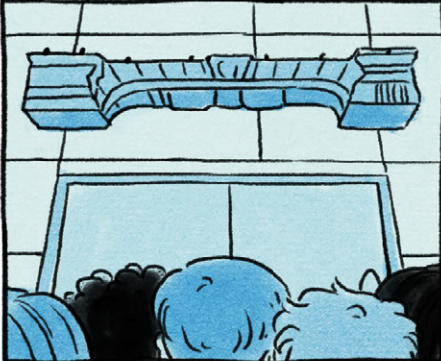
The Mace wis presentit by the late Queen durin the official openin ceremony on 1 July 1999 and it has been yaised in ivery sittin o Pairlament since then.



The Mace maun sit outside its case in the chaumer when chaumer business is takkin place. The Mace is yokit tae the lid, which can birl around, sae it can be moved inside or ootside the box wioot bein haundelt.



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



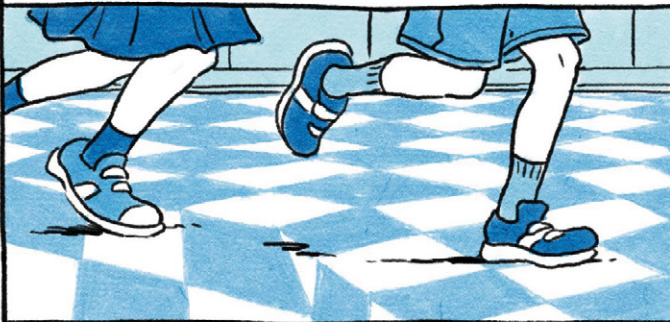
Naebodie kent whaur it wis fur a lang time, but it turnt oot tae hae been in the gairdens o Arniston Hoose and wis giftit back tae Pairlament. It connects the auld Pairlament and the new.



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



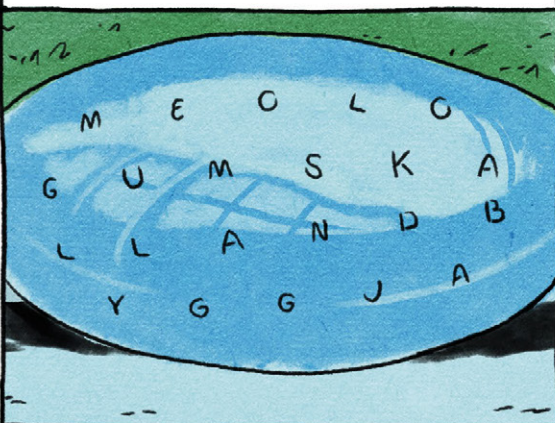
The black and white lobby echoes the corridor in the Pairlament's temporary hame in the General Assembly Haw fae 1999 tae 2004. MSPs often gied interviews there. The idea wis tae recreate thon tradition in the new Pairlament, but in fact awbodie ayewis films at the bottom o the stairs instead.



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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