

## INTRODUCTION

# HOUSTON TRADITIONAL KILTMAKERS EST 1909

Dear Sir or Madam

We thank you for showing interest in our products.

Houston Kiltmakers is a fourth generation family run business with over 100 years experience as gentlemen outfitters, highlandwear & tartan specialists. We are the only kilt shop in the world where you can see **every** tartan, having the capability of producing any tartan to buy. Using only the best materials, every kilt is hand made in Scotland and tailored specifically for you by craftsmen and women ensuring it lasts a lifetime. Our emphasis is on individuality of service, (with first class personal service guaranteed,) whether in person or by our mail order service. We offer the best highlandwear money can buy. So whether you wish to purchase a complete highland outfit or just start with a kilt and build your outfit up gradually, Houstons have a choice to suit all budgets and tastes. **You only buy a kilt once in a lifetime, it's worth getting it from a reputable kilt outfitter, with all the professional service you require, even aftercare back-up if you need it.**

We have 5 hours of video clips (in small 2-3 minute sections) explaining everything you need to know about buying your kilt. The video clips show some of our most popular styles and colours of jacket, from full formal wear through to more casual wear. Featuring exclusive tartans, tartans anyone can wear, how to measure and how to wear your kilt and everything you need to know on buying or hiring your kilt outfit. **Customers find it very beneficial and it comes highly recommended.** The videos can be easily downloaded from the front page of our web site. Houston's even do a **TAX FREE** Mail Order service world wide, for customers outwith the European Union. The *small grey prices at the right hand side of the big bold price are Tax Free.* We have enclosed a few tartan samples in different weights and any tartan samples, even in your own tartan, can be posted free of charge.

You can see our full range of highlandwear, see all tartans and view our video on the internet at [www.kiltmakers.com](http://www.kiltmakers.com)

You will find tartan data banks, clan histories, clan crests and clan septs, see real tartans, hear your name spoken in Gaelic and even see our video on line with a secure server for ordering! Everything you need to know on buying a kilt or full highlandwear outfit can be found at this site. For fast access to our web site you are looking for tartans go to fast find button [www.kiltmaker.com/tartans](http://www.kiltmaker.com/tartans) where you will see every tartan. Or if you are looking for a name or sept, if it has a tartan for fast access to our web site go to [www.kiltmakers.com/septs](http://www.kiltmakers.com/septs).

For personal shoppers or mail order customers (UK and Ireland only). We can offer a **FREE** quality dress shirt with tie (value £60) on any full kilt pack sale over £800 for cash, Switch Card or Direct Debit Card sales.

Hopefully this brochure will assist you in your selection of highlandwear, providing some educational assistance to you. It is encouraging to see the significant increase in the popularity of highland dress. This has allowed us to carry an even larger range of traditional tartans, tweeds and highland dress accessories for you to choose from. Our huge range of highlandwear and accessories are probably the biggest in the UK or even the world.



*Lochaber no more by J.B. MacDonald, Permission by Macmanus Museum, Dundee.*

Tartan is unique to Scotland. As part of its national dress it has developed from the roughly woven plaid, coloured from local pigment dyes, in which early Highlanders wrapped themselves for battle to some of the highest quality and intricate designs that can be bought today. Many of the traditions now associated with the kilt can be traced back to the formation of Highland Regiments, yet for nearly 30 years after the battle of Culloden and the ending of the Jacobite uprising of 1745, the wearing of tartan and playing the pipes was forbidden by the British Government. Any Scotsman who dared to wear the kilt was imprisoned or even deported to far away lands.

Highland wear was returned to fashion by King George IV when he visited Scotland. He adopted the wearing of tartan and this Royal patronage rekindled the life of tartan and Highland wear throughout the world.

Each clan or family name has its own tartan and clan crest and every tartan has variations of ancient, hunting, modern, dress and withered colourings. In the past official clan tartans were governed by the clan chief with final approval being made in the Court of the Lord Lyon of Arms which governed Scottish heraldry.

*Front Cover: Midnight Bute*



*H L MacDonald, The Old Shop, 1925*

## FULL OF PRIDE

We are proud to present this brochure which illustrates, Highland dress at its best. We hope that the contents will inspire and guide you in your choice.

We offer expert advice on all aspects of highland dress to customers visiting our shop in Paisley or those using mail order or our web site.

Your kilt will be an enduring statement of quality and personal style to be worn with pride.

I look forward to meeting you, don't hesitate to call us if you have any queries.

A h-uile beannachd  
All the best

*K.W. MacDonald*  
Kenneth William  
MacDonald  
Tartan Designer  
& Past Governor of



SCOTTISH TARTANS  
AUTHORITY

