



# Rum

National Nature Reserve



Royal  
Commission on the  
Ancient and  
Historical  
Monuments of  
Scotland



## *'Kinloch Castle'*







► Cloisonné vase

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A FRESH START





▲ Askival, Hallival, Trollaval and other peaks - the eroded remains of Rum's great volcano - were landmarks for Norse sailors who gave them names.

# Rum, The Remarkable Island

A UNIQUE DIVERSITY

As you sail towards Rum, you see the island's origins in its profile. The ancient sandstone plateau to the north began life near the equator, while the majestic Cuillin peaks in the south are the shattered remnants of a great volcano, weathered by time and changing climates. Glaciers carved out the broad glens where rivers still flow.

The end of the Ice Ages allowed plants to colonise, followed by woodland comprising birch, willow and hazel. When the first people arrived almost 9000 years ago (one of the earliest recorded settlements in Scotland), the island held large areas of woodland.

The Stone Age settlers lived on Rum for only part of the year but, by about 5000 years ago, early farmers had begun to clear the trees and work the land. They supplemented their crops and livestock by killing sea birds, seals and deer and gathering shellfish.

Christian hermits lived on the island in the 7th and 8th centuries, leaving carved crosses that survive today. And then, along with the other Hebridean islands, Rum fell first under the dominion of the Norse and later, in the Middle Ages, the Lords of the Isles. The people lived in the isolated pockets of fertile land that lie at the mouths of the major glens.

The crofting and fishing community grew to around 400 souls until the Clearances in the 1820s brought evictions, sheep and misery. In 1845, the Marquess of Salisbury bought Rum as a sporting estate. Forty years later, the Bullough family created an outpost of late Victorian England here in the Small Isles.



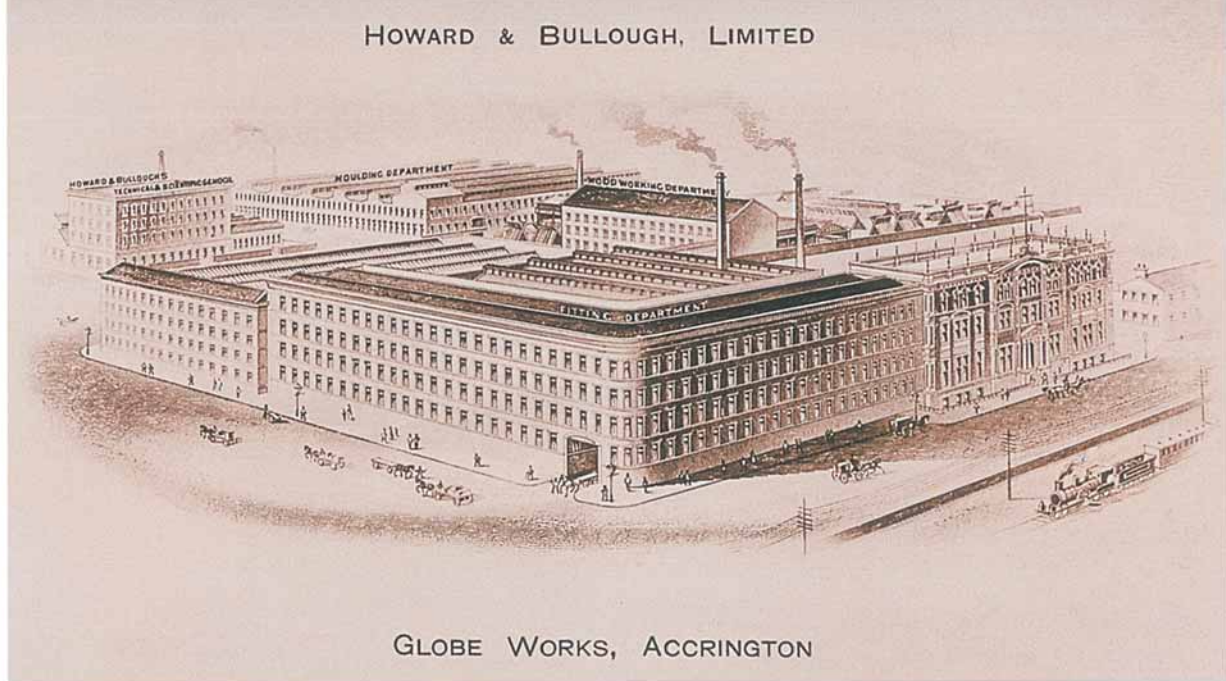
◀ Deer were once indigenous on Rum. They were hunted to extinction and then reintroduced by Lord Salisbury.



◀ You can still see where islanders practised runrig ('lazybed') cultivation at Harris.



▲ Blackhouses like this one, just south of Kinloch, were occupied on Rum until the early 1920s.



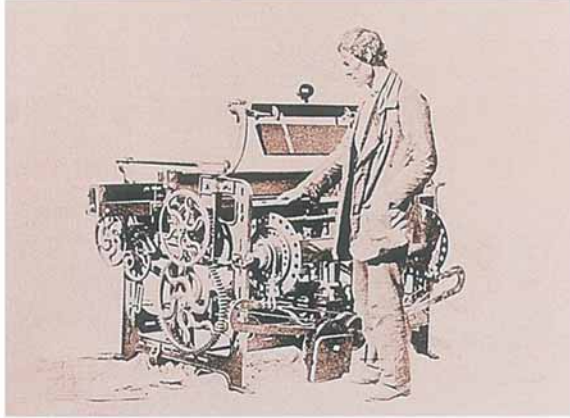
GLOBE WORKS, ACCRINGTON

▲ Howard & Bullough's 'Globe Works' prospered throughout Queen Victoria's reign.

# Industrial Success and Social Ambition

## THE BULLOUGH DYNASTY

The new machinery that transformed the Lancashire textile industry left an indelible mark on Rum. The story began with a shy young handloom weaver at a time when steam-powered machinery was replacing workers.



▲ The founder of the family's fortunes, James Bullough (c1800-1868).



▲ John Bullough (1838-91) brought his own astute sense of business to Howard & Bullough.

James Bullough, born near Bolton around 1800, started work at the age of seven. He saw the positive benefits of power looms and took to inventing improvements. His first "ingenious contrivance"<sup>1</sup>, using a lock of his sister's hair, warned when the weft was broken.

By the age of 40, he and his partner had revolutionised the weaving industry with new devices. Bullough became a mill owner and then, in 1856, joined John Howard at the Globe Works in Accrington. Howard and Bullough concentrated on making looms, and further inventions trebled the output of each machine - despite resistance from textile workers.

## THE SECOND GENERATION

James's youngest son, John, inherited his father's flair for invention and became the firm's senior partner. With his good education and increasing social standing, he was an expansive businessman with a keen eye for opportunities. The company turned from weaving to spinning and expanded rapidly after it purchased the patent of a revolutionary new spindle.

Millions of these *Rabbeth* ring spindles were manufactured and, by the 1880s, the company workforce had grown to 2000. The Bullough family became extremely wealthy and owned a mansion in Oswaldtwistle. John Bullough supported many good causes in Lancashire and, as a great admirer of Lord Salisbury, gave generously to the Accrington Conservative Club.

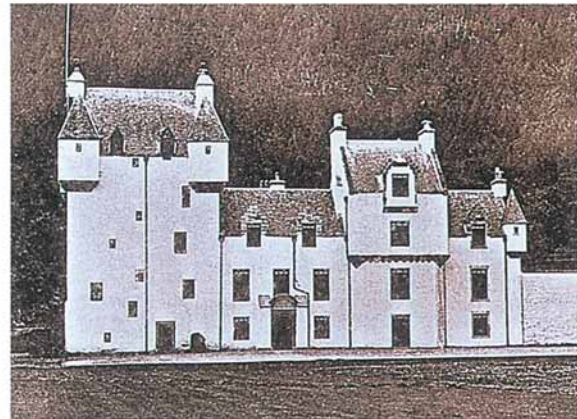
John's first marriage ended in divorce and he married again when his son George was 14 and daughter Bertha was 11. His second wife, Alexandria Mackenzie, was the daughter of a Stornoway banker. They had two children, Ian and Gladys.

Just before marrying Alexandria, John Bullough bought the castle and sporting estate of Meggernie in Perthshire. This private wilderness, as *The Times* called it, was a symbol of his new-found status. But it was not enough for the ebullient Bullough. He wanted a totally secluded holiday home and Rum, which he had previously rented for several years, provided the perfect answer.

His love of this "island paradise"<sup>1</sup> was not matched by his affection for the islanders. He retained only three of the families on Rum and brought in new staff. To house them, he built four shepherds' cottages.

John Bullough was content to maintain the original house at Kinloch for himself (the remains lie behind the present post office). But he built two comfortable shooting lodges to house his guests and bought the *Mystery*, a sailing yacht, to bring them to the island.

He used stags from English deer parks to continue improving the deer stock and created a plantation of 80,000 trees around Loch Scresort. But he saw little of his work, for he died from the effects of a London smog in 1891, aged 53. The eldest son George - then just 21 - fell heir to Rum, while his half brother Ian inherited Meggernie.



▲ Meggernie Castle in Glen Lyon, Perthshire



## NO HALF MEASURES

George Bullough, a handsome Harrow-educated cavalry officer, was groomed for the upper echelons of society. He lived and spent enthusiastically, but also occupied his time learning the family business at the Globe Works, which became a public company with a United States subsidiary.

Far away from the source of his wealth, George spent much of it on Rum. His first act was to build a vaulted and tiled mausoleum for his father's remains. Stung by criticism that the floral ceramics reminded visitors of a public lavatory, he built another and this Doric temple still stands four-square to the westerly winds at Harris Bay. The offending original was dynamited, leaving only traces of its monogrammed tiles.

"Sir George had the rather austere air which he thought appropriate to the Highland laird, a role — he tried hard to play to the full." *Archie Cameron*

George's second call upon his fortune was buying a fine 221 feet long (over 67 metres) Clyde-built steam-yacht, which he renamed the *Rhouma*.



▲ George Bullough (1870-1939) constructed two mausoleums at Harris as a tribute to his father. Only a few decorated tiles survive from the first one.



▲ The prodigal son - George Bullough (1870-1939)



▲ The architects created a square tower above the east-facing entrance, adding the curious off-set round turret.

# A Victorian Extravagance

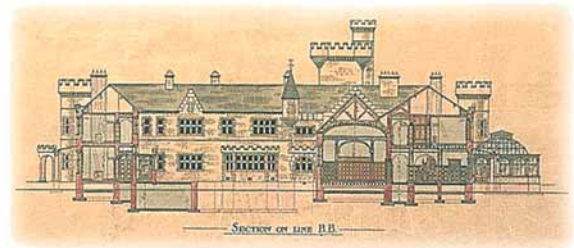
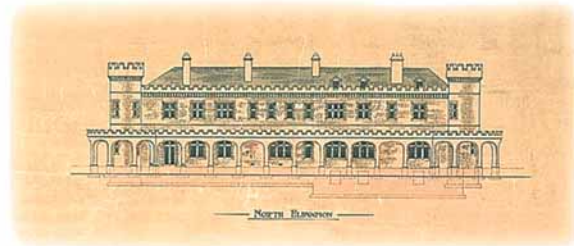
## BUILDING THE CASTLE

George Bullough wanted a summer palace on Rum, something much better than the homely Kinloch House, built by Dr Lachlan Maclean when he rented the island. Kinloch Castle, which George commissioned, was fit for a laird who was soon to be knighted. The Castle has been described as “bizarre, battlemented and pseudo-baronial”<sup>2</sup>. It is also uninhibited, unashamed and unique and survives largely intact.

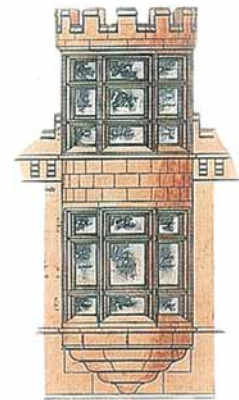
The Castle was built at Kinloch because Loch Scresort offered safe anchorage, although Bullough would have preferred the drier, more fertile Harris. He appointed Leeming and Leeming as architects, a somewhat odd choice. Originally from Halifax, the firm had established themselves in London as a prosperous traditional architectural practice specialising in commercial properties. They undertook very little domestic work and were certainly not country house experts.

Leeming and Leeming designed a four-square, turreted mansion on two floors. Even the arcaded and glass-roofed veranda was topped with crenellations providing an attractive covered area for the ladies to walk round in inclement weather. A conservatory, which no longer exists, was added to the south side and reached from the Empire Room. This provided another diversion, along with the squash court, on the all too frequent bad weather days.

No expense was spared. Estate workers watched open-mouthed as puffer after puffer brought load after load of red Annan<sup>3</sup> (Dumfriesshire) sandstone for the Castle and 250,000 tons of Ayrshire soil for the gardens. They would help unload it into carts for the builders, who came from Eigg and Lancashire.



▲ Original drawings for the Castle by Leeming and Leeming. Note the conservatory on the south end.



▲ Detail of oriel window

It took 300 men nearly three years to construct Bullough's rose-pink dream. An additional shilling a week saw them clothed in the Bullough tweed kilts. Smokers were then paid an extra tuppence a day to keep away the formidable Rum midges!

Masons, carpenters, slaters, glaziers, plumbers and tilers worked incessantly. Inside the Castle, the very best of carpenters, joiners and wood-turners worked long hours to create the "elaborate carved woodwork of all the panelling, staircases, balustrades, galleries, bookshelves, furniture and flooring"<sup>1</sup>. Everything was made on site to exacting standards and at a cost of £250,000 - £15m in today's terms.

"From the moment you open the door, the interior of Kinloch Castle shrieks the splendour of a bygone age." *Lucinda Lambton*

Outside, Bullough looked to create something of a botanic garden. The imported soil was spread over the marshy site, providing greater depth for the extensive lawns and formal gardens. They were planted with a great variety of mainly exotic plants. A bowling green and nine-hole golf course were laid out together with paths, avenues and roads. A

Japanese-style garden, complete with the essential bridge, was created, along with a more formal garden on the site of the old house.

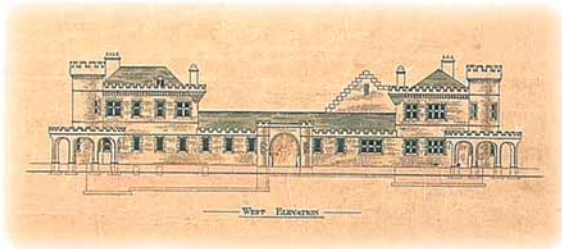
A great walled garden was constructed behind the Castle. Hot-houses were built on the south-facing wall for growing grapes, peaches, nectarines and figs. Palm houses were the home of humming birds, turtles and - for a time - small alligators. The alligators escaped and were shot because 'they might be interfering with the comfort of the guests'.

George Bullough, son and grandson of inventors, wanted every new device in his mansion. A turbine generated electricity, the house was centrally heated and it was the first private residence in Scotland to have an internal telephone system. The innovative plumbing in the bathrooms was 'state-of-the-art' for its day.

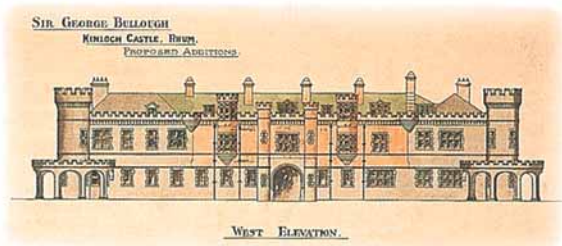
During the Boer War, George Bullough allowed the *Rhouma* to be used as a hospital ship. In 1900, the wounded servicemen it brought back to convalesce on Rum were the first occupants of his newly-completed Castle. A year later, its proud owner was knighted for 'patriotic devotion'.



▲ Before the 1914-18 War, 12 gardeners looked after the Castle's gardens, palm-houses and hothouses. Castle/estate staff and their families numbered more than 100 in all.



◀ The top drawing shows the original west elevation. Below is the 1906 drawing, showing the second floor that was subsequently added.



▲ Built in Glasgow as the *Maria*, Sir George Bullough's *Rhouma* had space aboard for a 12-piece orchestra. This painting hangs in the Dining Room.



▲ A party of guests on the main steps of Kinloch Castle ready for a day's stag hunting.

# Purposeful Idleness and Tireless Purpose

LIFE IN AND AROUND THE CASTLE

As James Bullough achieved industrial success, so George Bullough won social acceptance. The London home, the estates in Scotland and the steam yacht were trappings of the 'nouveau riche'. Sir George married a society beauty, Monique Lilly de la Pasture, in 1903 and they had one child, Hermione.



▲ Hugh Goldwin Rivière painted Lady Monica and Sir George at the time of their 40th birthdays. Both paintings hang in the Galleried Hall.

Lady Monica's family had fled France after the Revolution. For some years she was married to one of the Charrington brewing family but she left him in the 1890s. She was reputedly the lover of many rich and famous men before Sir George was cited in her divorce proceedings.

#### BELGRAVIA IN THE HEBRIDES

The Bulloughs brought a slice of Belgravia to Rum. Lady Monica added a softer elegance to Kinloch Castle, which had been built as an overtly male preserve. She added more guest bedrooms to accommodate the many friends invited for the season. Every autumn, the Castle reverberated to tales of 'ones that got away' by fleet of foot, wing or fin, of happenings among London society, of horseracing successes, of travels abroad.

It was a time to live and a time to remember, for this idyll on Rum was to be short-lived.

## A - FEVER WITH ACTIVITY<sup>1</sup>

For the Bulloughs' staff, the arrival of the family each season brought many months of toil to a climax. While the estate staff repaired roads, broke in ponies, carted boats to fishing lochs and ensured the gardens were manicured to perfection, the Castle staff were scurrying around, attending to myriad tasks.

Rooms and linen were aired, beds were made, crockery was washed, silver was polished, surfaces were dusted and floors were swept. "As palms, plants and flowers were brought in from the hot-houses to decorate the Castle"<sup>1</sup>, more cleaning and tidying was needed. In the kitchens, where unpredictable French chefs usually held sway, delicacies would be prepared for the arriving family and guests.

Politicians, businessmen, Gaiety girls and other theatrical stars were among those who came during the season. Chauffeur-driven Albion cars met guests at the pier. Those who came by ferry would step into a horse-drawn carriage near the shore, when the tide allowed. Otherwise, ladies were carried by estate workers to a dry - or nearly dry - landing.

The Castle provided every luxury for a relatively small number of guests. This explains why the Ballroom, for instance, is so small in scale - only the house party guests would have participated. Certainly, none of the locals would have been invited, and Rum wasn't the place for a casual visit.

"The Castle and its occupants were to us the centre of the universe," wrote Archie Cameron. He described Lady Monica as a "Queen Bee, with the attendants humming and buzzing about, serving Her Majesty"<sup>4</sup>.



◀ 'Taking the air'  
- guests on the  
Castle steps.



## TWO WORLDS

A hundred years ago, if you were a roadman or shepherd, the gillie's wife or a farmhand's child, you would seldom meet the gentry. Even Castle servants were "beings from another world"<sup>4</sup>. If you were a child and not at school, you were expected to keep out of sight of Sir George and his family.

Labour was manual, from repairing roads to milking cattle. Men worked in all weathers and women spent their waking hours cooking, washing, knitting and tending poultry. Most workers' wages were less than £1 a week and they could wait two or three weeks for supplies to come by steamer if the weather was bad.

Sea fish were for the taking, however, and formed an important part of your diet. Gulls' eggs were a welcome but brief alternative. Some mutton was provided by the estate and poaching was a satisfying but forbidden perk.

When it came to stalking or giving piggy-backs to guests arriving by boat, you would of course meet the Bulloughs. Lady Monica was "very friendly and gracious and would stop and have a short chat"<sup>4</sup>. Poor shots on the moors were less sociable with the gamekeeper when they missed their targets.



▲ Duncan McNaughton (head stalker) and Jimmy McAskill, in autumn 1901, beside a pony carrying a stag.



▲ Screened by mature woodland, the Castle lay at a discreet distance from the farm buildings and staff houses in Kinloch.



▲ First impressions - the Hall provides a memorable welcome to the Castle.

# A Delight Round Every Corner

## A TOUR OF THE CASTLE

A tour of Kinloch Castle excites the imagination. You can almost hear laughter from the Dining Room where the Bulloughs are entertaining lavishly. You can almost catch the last strains of music from the Ballroom where a strathspey is ending. You can almost discern giggles from the bathroom where a guest is experimenting with the plumbing.

Set your imagination in train as you enter the Hall.



▲ Japanese  
bronze  
eagle head

## THE GALLERIED HALL

It's easy to believe that the Bulloughs have just left. The feeling of lived-in "opulence and extravagance"<sup>1</sup> is everywhere. The portraits of Lady Monica and Sir George gaze down proudly on the concert grand piano, made by Steinway in 1900.

Three massive, mullioned, bay windows throw light on Indian brass-topped tables and tables from Cairo, Japanese lacquer cabinets, brocaded and tasselled sofas, triangular bobbin-turned chairs and a careful clutter of books and ornaments. The curtains are plush, with gold-braid frogging. The soft furnishings were ordered from James Shoolbred & Co. of London, one of the most fashionable firms of interior decorators who later became part of Harrods.

On either side of one archway stand Japanese incense burners, 2.5m tall and crowned by an eagle fighting a dragon. A tongue of flame from a dragon base supports each bronze vase with its griffin handles.

Sir George also acquired the huge bronze of a Japanese monkey-eating eagle on a tree stump. An even more valuable possession is an ivory carving of an eagle, with a wingspan of about a metre, that is now in the National Museum of Scotland.



▲ The bays and recesses in the Hall allowed a degree of conversational intimacy despite the size and height of the room.



▲ In 1906, Sir George paid £2000 (about £120,000 in today's terms) for the Orchestrion, which had to be adapted to fit the recess it occupies.

## THE ORCHESTRION

What the pianola did for parties in a front parlour, the Orchestrion achieved 'with knobs on' for gatherings in the Hall. Electrically driven, it uses large rolls of perforated card and paper-thin brass to simulate a 40-piece orchestra. The controlling belts and pulleys play a noisy overture before every melody.

The amazing array of pipes and percussion devices cheerfully belt out military marches, polkas, operatic excerpts and Edwardian popular songs. When they render *Lohengrin* or a selection from *Faust*, you can imagine musicians playing just out of sight. *The Honeysuckle and the Bee* or *Ma Blushin' Rosie* fill the entire Castle.

The incredible mechanical orchestra sits under the main staircase. It is one of only three of this model, manufactured in Germany by Imhof & Mukle, and may have been ordered for Balmoral Castle by Queen Victoria who died before it could be installed.

## LADY MONICA'S DRAWING ROOM

One of Lady Monica's first acts as 'châtelaine'<sup>1</sup> of Kinloch Castle was to appropriate and redecorate the sunny Drawing Room for herself and her friends. An archway with classical pilasters enlarged the salon to take in the adjoining room.

The fireplaces are Edwardian interpretations of Adam designs. The glazed chintz loose covers with their trellis design, the white-and-gilt inlaid tables and the hand-embroidered silk wall-hangings all add to the sunny femininity of the room. The final touch is a one-handed clock!



▲ The elegant large Drawing Room was created by Lady Monica as her private domain.

## EMPIRE ROOM

Lady Monica claimed descent from one of Napoleon's sisters and used this tenuous link in naming the Empire Room. A portrait of the Emperor hangs on one wall. An engraving depicts Napoleon explaining his coronation plans to Pope Pius VII.

This was originally used as Lady Monica's boudoir and she decorated her private retreat in red, white and gold. The

opulent collection of furniture was decorated, like the walls, with Napoleonic gold wreaths. Her neo-classical embroidered draught-screen and the silk lampshades all remain in excellent condition. (They say that the island's electricity was so weak the bulbs couldn't singe the shades!)



▲ The gold 'wreaths' on the wallpaper add to the classical revivalism of the furnishings in the Empire Room.

## BALLROOM

The musicians from the *Rhouma* have abandoned the Ballroom gallery, leaving their instruments in a corner. The dancers have deserted the sprung floor where they circled and swirled under a “galaxy of twinkling lights”<sup>1</sup>. The butler has closed the hatch where he served drinks from his pantry.

But the silk wall hangings and the crystal chandelier remain. So too do the deep-buttoned sofas, protected by chintz covers, their silk damask upholstery still brilliant gold. The high windows continue to prevent anyone in the courtyard gazing on the scene. It is the most private of the public rooms and many gentle exchanges most surely took place there.



▲ The vaulted ceiling of the Ballroom extended into the upper floor of the Castle. (The sofa covers have been removed to show the brilliant silk of the furnishings.)

## THE LIBRARY

If you were a Castle guest, you could 'escape' to the Library to check a point of debate or enjoy respite from the social round. Sir George first used this room as his office and it houses such useful volumes as a set of *Bailey's Magazine*, which sporting gentlemen collected. You can admire the shoes on display from his Grand National winner, *Ballymacad*.

The 2000 books reflect the Bulloughs' life and times. There are novels, histories of Guards' regiments, guides to court etiquette and to the French nobility (probably added by Lady Monica). An 1888 set of encyclopaedias shares the shelves with the *Racing Calendar* and some gentle Victorian pornography.

Twenty leather-bound albums, each embossed in gold with the country visited, illustrate the family's travels. Luxurious voyages took them to the Far East, Australasia, South Africa and the United States. They visited Honolulu, New Caledonia and Salt Lake City. However, many of the largely-undated photographs were commercial prints, available to most tourists.



▲ Some of the more exotic photographs purchased by the Bulloughs on their foreign trips depict beheadings and crucifixions in local trouble spots!



► Japanese imari vase





▲ Aerial view of the Castle, Kinloch village and the south side of Loch Sresort.

## THE ISLAND MAP

Note the evidence of Sir George's fishing exploits on the walls and take time to pore over the model of Rum near the Library. This relief map shows the two distinct parts of the island. The northern plateau of red sandstone drifted from near the equator as the continental plates moved, to join rock that is at least three billion years old.

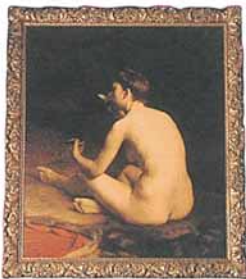
Sixty million years ago, a violent volcano tore Rum apart. The range of Cuillin peaks are all that remain of the molten 'magma' that spewed from the earth's core and cooled in layers. Weather and water eroded the rock before Ice Age glaciers scooped out the glens.

To the west, you can see the sweep of Harris Bay where the island's main crofting community planted and harvested their runrig fields. Only ruins - as well as the Bullough Mausoleum and one of their shooting lodges - stand there today. To the north is Kilmory where the laundry for Kinloch Castle was built - a seven mile journey over the hills!

## UPPER CORRIDOR

The Castle was built before Sir George married and he chose to locate the principal bedroom suite over the Dining Room. This meant he had his own staircase and retained direct access to the servants' quarters. The upper corridor therefore functioned originally as the guest room corridor.

The arrival of Lady Monica changed all this. She commandeered the two guest room suites on the sunny corner of the house over her Drawing Room. She also converted a dressing room into a bathroom, creating the only en-suite accommodation in the Castle. (These rooms now contain furniture from Sir George's suite, as he actually remained over the Dining Room.) The loss of the guest rooms to Lady Monica prompted the addition of a new series of rooms to the west.



▲ 'Nude on a skin rug' by R Galliac



▲ View along the first floor corridor from Lady Monica's bedroom.



◀ Tondo showing Cupid firing an arrow.

## OAK BEDROOMS

These rooms formed part of the extension built on to the Castle in 1911 to accommodate additional guests and staff. Each of the three bedrooms features an Elizabethan/Jacobean style four poster bed incorporating carved oak panels.



▲ The oak bedrooms form part of the Castle's west wing.

## SIR GEORGE'S BEDROOM

What was once Lady Monica's dressing room now contains furnishings moved from Sir George's former apartments. The attractive inlaid mahogany of the sturdy bed is matched in the high crown whose drapes and tassels are now frayed and fragile.

Sir George would have adjusted his bow tie in the mirror over the fireplace and checked his appearance in the swivelling oval dressing-mirror. The pictures of Harrow would have helped him muse on his schooldays and he might have written to an old schoolfriend on the little Japanese writing desk.



▲ Sir George's riding boots, with his name engraved on their trees, stand ready for wear - no doubt after he had checked his weight!

## LADY MONICA'S BEDROOM

Lady Monica might not recognise this room, which sits under one of the turrets. Dampness caused great damage during the years the Castle was empty and the original plaster mouldings and cornices were not replicated during repairs. It is a salutary reminder of the brief heyday of the Bullough retreat and how it needs constant - and costly - maintenance to remain a home.

Redecorated in the gaudy colours of Edwardian times, this is still the 'best bedroom' with its four-poster double bed. Doors lead to Sir George's Bedroom and to the bathroom; family photos and framed prints adorn the walls. Take time, as Lady Monica did, to savour the 'classic' view over Loch Scresort.



▲ Lady Monica's is the only Castle bedroom with a bathroom en suite.

## VICTORIAN BATHROOMS

The poet John Betjeman said that "... Kinloch Castle remains, an undisturbed example of pre-1914 opulence." Nothing could be more opulent than the bath-cum-shower cabinets. These "upright jacuzzis"<sup>1</sup> boasted seven functions controlled by two taps and four dials. They plumbed the heights of sophistication and tested artisan ingenuity to the limit!

You can see one of the baths, fitted with a hooded walnut cabinet. What you can't see is the plethora of piping which supplies hot and cold water under great pressure. You can choose a *shower* (the only 'normal' function), a *douche* (which floods water down from above), a *wave* (which shoots out water at face level) or a *spray* (which produces needles of water round the sides).

If you're not content with these, then consider the *plunge* (where water streams in at knee level), the *sitz* (a bottom-up shower) or the *jet* (which is a powerful fountain emerging from the waste outlet). This equipment, like all the sanitary ware, came from the renowned firm of Shanks of Barrhead. Presumably they provided copious instructions!



◀ Lady Monica's bathroom



▶ Detail of a Castle wash-hand basin



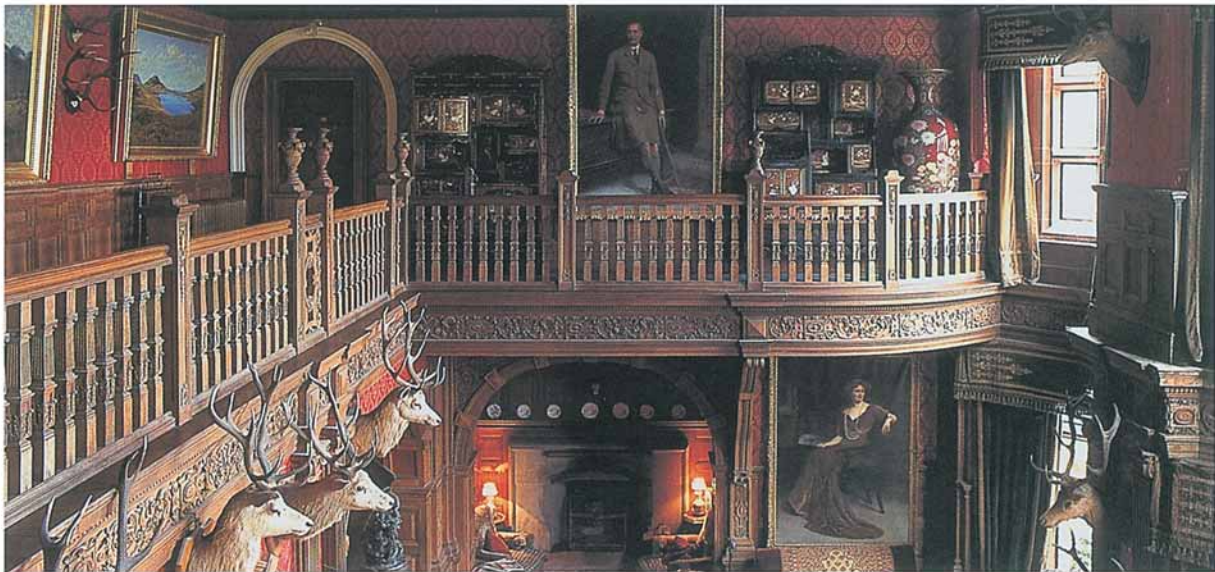
## THE GALLERY OF THE HALL

Sir George keeps a watchful eye on the balustraded Gallery that leads to the Jacobean-style staircase. His portrait was painted in 1910 for his 40th birthday by Hugh Rivière, an established artist who had exhibited at the Royal Academy.

Rather than employ a photographer to record the island, Sir George commissioned the artist Byron Cooper to produce a series of Rum landscape paintings. Some of these are hung around the Gallery, while others can be found in the Dining Room.

At either end of the Gallery are large cloisonné vases. The Emperor of Japan presented the pair to Sir George for his services during the Russo-Japanese war.

You can look down from the Gallery on the Hall and think how it looked when full of house-guests in fine attire exchanging tales of derring-do or just gossip. Nothing has gone except the people.



▲ Finely carved oak balustrading and frieze skirt the Gallery.



▲ The Eureka table, with its 'extra low fast cushion', was supplied by Burroughs & Watts of Soho in London.

## SMOKING AND BILLIARD ROOMS

Kinloch Castle was built for Sir George's pleasure and nowhere more so than the panelled splendour of the Smoking and Billiard Rooms. You can picture the men in evening dress, lounging in the leather armchairs with a glass of brandy or sitting on the dais watching the play.

Like much of the Castle, these rooms were fitted with double glazing - you can see the Z-frames that open the panes in parallel. Vents behind the panelling parapet extracted cigar and cigarette smoke, while fresh air was pumped in through a grill on the floor below the table. The great lamps suspended above the green baize are still lit by electricity supplied by the island's turbine.



◀ 19th century clockface with moonphase dial in the Hall.



## DINING ROOM

Portraits of John Bullough and his son George, aged 16, survey the Dining Room, empty of guests but full of memories. The meals of salmon, trout, venison, blackcock, grouse, beef and lamb all came from the island.

The walls are panelled in polished mahogany with a strong lozenge pattern and carved cornice. The 17th century tapestries that once hung on the walls are now cared for by the National Museums of Scotland.

The dining chairs, modelled on Chippendale designs, came from the *Rhouma*. Their seats swivel and they could be bolted to the floor. The original dining chairs line the walls of the Billiard Room: very little that arrived on the island ever left! On the table, the lead-crystal candelabra boast “elegant bell-shaped smoke-shades on press-moulded bases to imitate cut-glass”<sup>1</sup>. The electric room lights are shaped like “Japanese incense burners flanked by dragons”<sup>1</sup>.



▲ A portrait of John Bullough dominates the Dining Room. The chairs were designed originally for the staterooms on the *Rhouma*.



▲ The Bullough mausoleum at Harris

# Fading of a Dream

THE END OF AN ERA

The flowering of Edwardian frivolity ended abruptly with the war in 1914. Sir George Bullough was appointed to a military post and two years later was created a baronet for 'services to the nation'. Rum's able-bodied staff were sent to the trenches; only two returned to the island. The *Rhouma II* (purchased in 1911) became a minesweeper and Kinloch Castle was closed up.

Peacetime brought the Bulloughs back to their beloved Castle, but less and less frequently. The sparkle of high society seldom lit up the Hall and the pervasive effects of neglect began to show. The humming birds died when the heating failed. As the staff dwindled, the gardens became rank, the conservatory and the glasshouses collapsed and the fountain ran dry.

George Bullough died on a golfing holiday in France in 1939, leaving his estate in trust. The island was let as a sheep walk during World War II and, until 1954, Lady Monica made occasional visits when there were shooting parties. On her last visit, aged 85, she drove an old Austin over the hill to Harris.

“In time to come the Castle will be a place of pilgrimage for all those who want to see how people lived in good  
—King Edward’s days.” *Sir John Betjeman*

In 1957, the Bullough Trustees sold Rum to the Nature Conservancy for £23,000. Only the mausoleum remained in family ownership and it was there, in 1967, that Lady Monica was interred alongside her husband and father-in-law.

The Bullough's daughter, Hermione, married the Earl of Durham (as his second wife) and died in 1992. His granddaughter, Lucinda Lambton, is a television presenter, writer and keen advocate of Kinloch Castle's continued conservation.

Howard & Bullough Ltd prospered until after World War II. The company's name disappeared in a merger and by 1982 the enterprise was in receivership. A business centre now occupies part of the massive Globe Works site in Accrington.



▲ Although described as a sickly child, Hermione lived until the age of 86. Born in 1906, she became the Countess of Durham in 1931.



▲ "It is rare for such a detailed picture of day to day life to survive almost untouched in a house which was only used for a few months each year."

*National Museums of Scotland*

# A National Treasure

## A FRESH START

So what of 'Nature's Island'<sup>1</sup> today? Well, SNH's vision for Rum is, in one sense, simple. It is to improve the biological diversity of this premier National Nature Reserve so that it contains the whole range of habitats and species that would naturally occur on a Hebridean island. For example, much has been done to re-create the native woodlands and more is planned. Other habitats are being restored through careful management with grazing animals, and research continues into the island's distinctive wildlife and landscapes. All of these aspects provide the basis for Rum's role as a site for environmental demonstration and education.



▲ Visitors from all over the world come to Rum and many enjoy a tour of the Castle.



▲ The woodlands established around the reserve demonstrate what can be achieved in restoring island habitats.

The diversity that is sought includes the human aspect, for Rum is no longer the ‘Forbidden Isle’<sup>1</sup>. Visitors are made welcome with a wide range of facilities available for outdoor and indoor enjoyment. One of these is, of course, Kinloch Castle, which is an outstanding monument to Edwardian craftsmanship and personal ambition. SNH is pledged to care for the Castle and to preserve it as a unique part of Rum’s diverse heritage.

“It is, quite simply, an astonishing experience to see  
—round this house.” *Historic Scotland*

The public’s concern for this national treasure led to the formation of the *Kinloch Castle Friends Association*<sup>5</sup> in 1996. The Association has some 100 members, who regularly visit the Castle to undertake projects agreed with SNH, such as renovating the riverside walkway and cataloguing the Castle Library books. SNH is now looking to build on the public’s interest and find a way forward that will allow for the eventual restoration of George Bullough’s great endeavour.

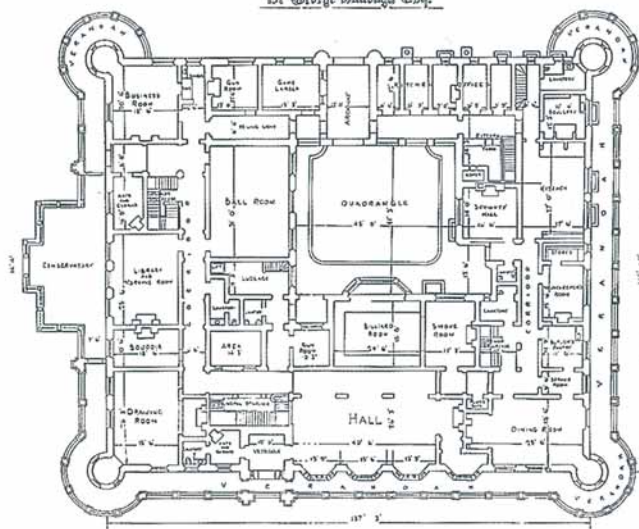
## FOOTNOTES

- 1 From *Rum: Nature's Island*  
by Magnus Magnusson, Luath Press 1998
- 2 From *A Mosaic of Islands* by Kenneth Williamson  
and J Morton Boyd, Oliver & Boyd 1963
- 3 References in other publications to the stone having  
come from Arran appear to be a long-standing misprint.  
Simon Green, of the Threatened Buildings Survey (RCAHMS),  
contends that none of the quarries on Arran were big  
enough to supply the stone. Moreover, the Dukes of  
Hamilton kept Arran as their own private domain during  
the 19th century and it is therefore unlikely that they would  
have allowed the quarrying of large amounts of stone.
- 4 From *Bare Feet and Tackety Boots* by Archie  
Cameron, Luath Press 1988
- 5 For further information about the *Kinloch Castle  
Friends Association* please contact the Secretary,  
George Randall, Keeper's Cottage,  
Dentdale, Sedbergh, Cumbria LA10 5RN.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

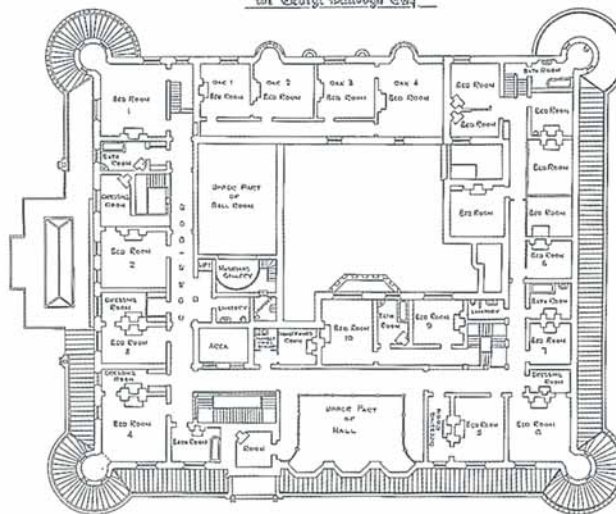
We are grateful to - Magnus Magnusson and  
Luath Press Ltd for permission to draw on  
and quote from *Rum: Nature's Island*; and  
Luath Press Ltd for permission to quote from  
*Bare Feet and Tackety Boots* by Archie Cameron.

Residence Isle of Rum. N.B.  
for George Ballough Esq.



— GROUND FLOOR PLAN —

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— FIRST FLOOR PLAN —

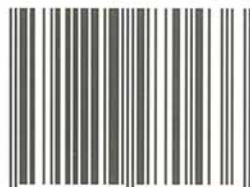


**SCOTTISH  
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HERITAGE**



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SNH is a government agency that works to conserve and enhance Scotland's rich inheritance of wildlife, habitats and landscapes. It aims to help people enjoy the natural heritage responsibly, understand it more fully and use it wisely so that it can be sustained for future generations.

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