

# SCOTTISH TARTANS SOCIETY

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SUBJECT:

MACINNES

REPORT:

- 1) RED GREEN BLUE BLACK AZURE BLACK GREEN BLACK GREEN BLACK GREEN BLACK  
4 12 24 6 6 6 32 4 4 4 4 24  
YELLOW  
4
- 2) AZURE BLACK RED BLACK RED BLACK RED YELLOW RED BLUE RED BLACK GREEN BLACK  
14 48 8 8 8 8 48 8 12 24 12 8 40 8  
RED WHITE  
12 8
- 3) AZURE BLACK RED BLACK RED BLACK RED YELLOW BLUE RED BLACK GREEN BLACK RED  
6 24 4 4 4 4 20 4 8 4 4 16 4 6  
WHITE  
4
- 4) AZURE RED BLACK GREEN BLACK RED WHITE RED BLACK GREEN BLACK RED AZURE RED  
3 1 ½ 4 ½ 1 1 1 ½ 4 ½ 1½ 3 1½  
YELLOW RED BLACK RED BLACK RED GREEN BLACK  
1 8 ½ 1½ ½ 1 6 ½

Over the past century several patterns have appeared (of which the above are the most common) bearing variously the name Innes and MacInnes. Although the two names are not generally connected the similarity has led to the use of the tartans by both clans at varying times. There are basically two separate tartans, a reddish one as shown by counts 2-4 and a green sett shown by No 1. The late Lord Lyon, Sir Thomas Innes of Learney, strongly denied any connection whatsoever between these two clans or their tartans, saying:- "the red sett belonged to the Inneses of the North, while the green sett belonged to the MacInneses of the west. This is today how these setts are known, the green being the MacInnes tartan and the red sett being the Innes tartan. In collection over the past century or so one will often find these tartans together and listed as 'Innes/MacInnes Dress Hunting'".

The green (sometimes hunting) MacInnes tartan was apparently designed in 1908, by James MacInnes of Onich. Comparison between this and the red Innes tartan, shows quite clearly that the latter has been used as a base for the green MacInnes, in which the red ground was replaced by green and the green bars became here blue. There are also other variations in the arrangement and colours of the overstripes.

Subject:

MACINNES

Count No 2 shows the commonly seen Innes tartan, previously also known as Dress MacInnes. This sett appeared in Thomas Smibert's 'The Clans of the Highlands of Scotland' 1850, as Inness of Moray and for this reason Innes of Learney appears to have made his pronouncement. However, W & A K Johnston in their 'The Tartans of the Clans and Septs of Scotland' 1906, 2 Vol, show both the red and green (labelled Hunting) under the name MacInnes. Innes of Learney says "the true Clan Aoughais (MacInnes) tartan, is that given in MacIntyre North's "Book of the Club of the True Highlanders", as taken from Logan's (James Logan. The Scottish Gael 1831) original list which is green and red predominant". One must assume that he is referring here to the red (now Innes) sett, and apparently contradicting his statement concerning the disposition of these two tartans.

The late James Cant, a collector of materials tartan, has, in his records, a count (No 3) which is clearly supposed to be the red Innes sett (No 2), but which is in error by virtue of having missed out a red stripe situated between the yellow and blue bars. As there appears to be no other authority for this version, it must be considered simply an error and not a separate tartan.

Count No 4 from a newspaper article in the Weekly Scotsman c.1930 in which the late John MacGregor Hastie writing about the Innes and MacInnes quotes Lyon (Innes) as saying that this is the count from M'Intyre North's Book. The count, as with others from Logan is in a scale of 1/4 inches. What is interesting, is that Logan does not include a sett for either Innes or MacInnes, in his 1831 edition. Innes goes on to say of this sett that he fancies that it should be completed thus, as it is not squares in this form:-

RED YELLOW RED BLACK RED BLACK RED GREEN BLACK  
 1 1/4 1 8 1/4 1 1/4 1 6 %

Quite clearly, this is an error, for the red Innes, starts on the blue (not azure) stripe, (the former of which is not a correct pivot), and finishes too early on the azure pivot. North gives this as black on a green ground, as opposed to azure on a black ground, shown by count No 2. Innes is correct in saying the count is not square, but does not see the error of the colour changes and so extends the count incorrectly, while maintaining the principle error. Unfortunately, the writer does not have access to Logan's scales (or even know if they still exist) against which this setting may be compared. Considering a number of other errors that occur in MacIntyre North's edition, it is probable that the mistake lies with his rendering of the Logan count.

Although it is stated by Lyon and others, that the Inneses and MacInneses have no connection, there must in certain cases, be instances of former MacInneses having dropped their pre-fix 'mac' and who have now simply become Inneses. Also it is logical, as mentioned by MacGregor Hastie, that given the Gaelic patronymic system, the 'sons of Innes' would have been known as MacInnes. Therefore despite Lyon's statement, there must have been MacInneses in the Moray (Clan Innes) area, who were distinct from the MacInnes clan of the West coast.