

Broomhall Manor Residence of the Earl of Elgin



~~show what happens when religious fanaticism grips a people.~~

The second impression I was left with was the disastrous impact that land and death taxes in the Union Kingdom has had on the nobility. Such taxes, passed by radical left wing socialist governments have slowly stripped away the ancestral estates, manor houses, castles, and palaces from their historic owners and turned them into museums. It is one of the saddest and most pathetic developments I have ever seen. In this emerging "brave new world" of socialist Scotland, mobs of tourist now elbow their way through magnificent historic residences where once the great families of Scotland lived and made history. What the tour guides, and the government, however, don't realize and understand is that it was the families who lived in such buildings that gave them life and meaning and vibrancy. As museums they are nothing more than cold hollow shells of antiquity, curiosities of a nation's past and sad symbols of the stark antiseptic displays of a dead past maintained by the socialist society of modern Europe.

In contrast one example of the living historic sites of Scotland is the great manor house of Broomhall, seat of the Earls of Elgin and Kincardine and home to the 14th Earl, Lord and Lady Elgin, head of the Scottish Bruce Clan. The post-Congress tour group was extended an invitation to visit and tour this grand country manor house which, while a private residence is opened to groups on special arrangements. Here we have a living breathing slice of Scottish and English history not some cold sterile museum. As one enters through the colonnaded portico one becomes immediately aware that this house is being lived in. It has an informality and personal touch that charms anyone who walks through its hall. Yet the rooms are filled with the treasures of Scotland's and England's past. As Lord Elgin took the group into each room he pointed out the various family mementos, gifts, works of arts, and spoils of war accumulated over hundreds of year by various members of his family. He related amusing personal stories of life at the Royal Court or associated with the history of various members of this family including his own life at the manor. From a magnificent bronze crane captured at the Chinese Imperial Palace during the Boxer Rebel-

lion to the several small Elgin Marbles hanging over the massive fireplace in the sitting room, British history came alive for everyone there not because of the artifacts but because of the association of this living breathing representative of a great noble house with all of the artifacts. The tragedy of Broomhall and other estates and manors like this is that Lord and Lady Elgin are faced with the same financial pressures exerted by Socialist governments, excessive inheritance taxes and death duties. Noble families hoping to keep their estates and manors in the family becomes a continuing struggle. 🌹



Lord and Lady Elgin
