

The most lasting memory of Calum as a man, however, remains the warmth, humanity and sense of fun which came over in his conversation.

[Hamish Henderson's memoir of Maclean, 1985]



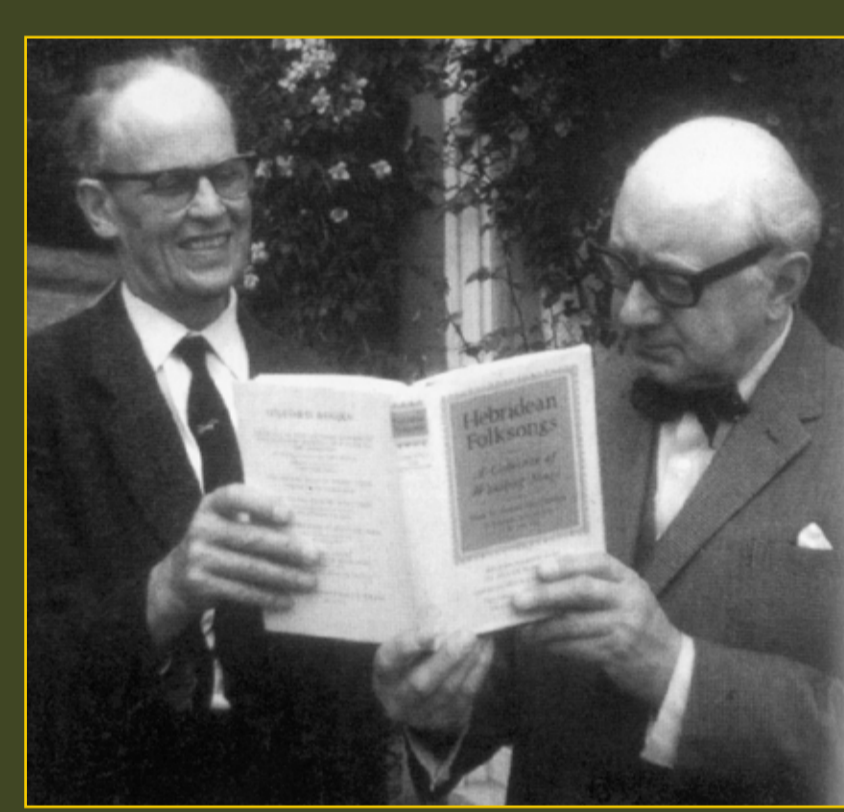
Calum Maclean's headstone, Hallan Cemetery, South Uist.

• Courtesy of the Maclean family.

MACLEAN'S LEGACY

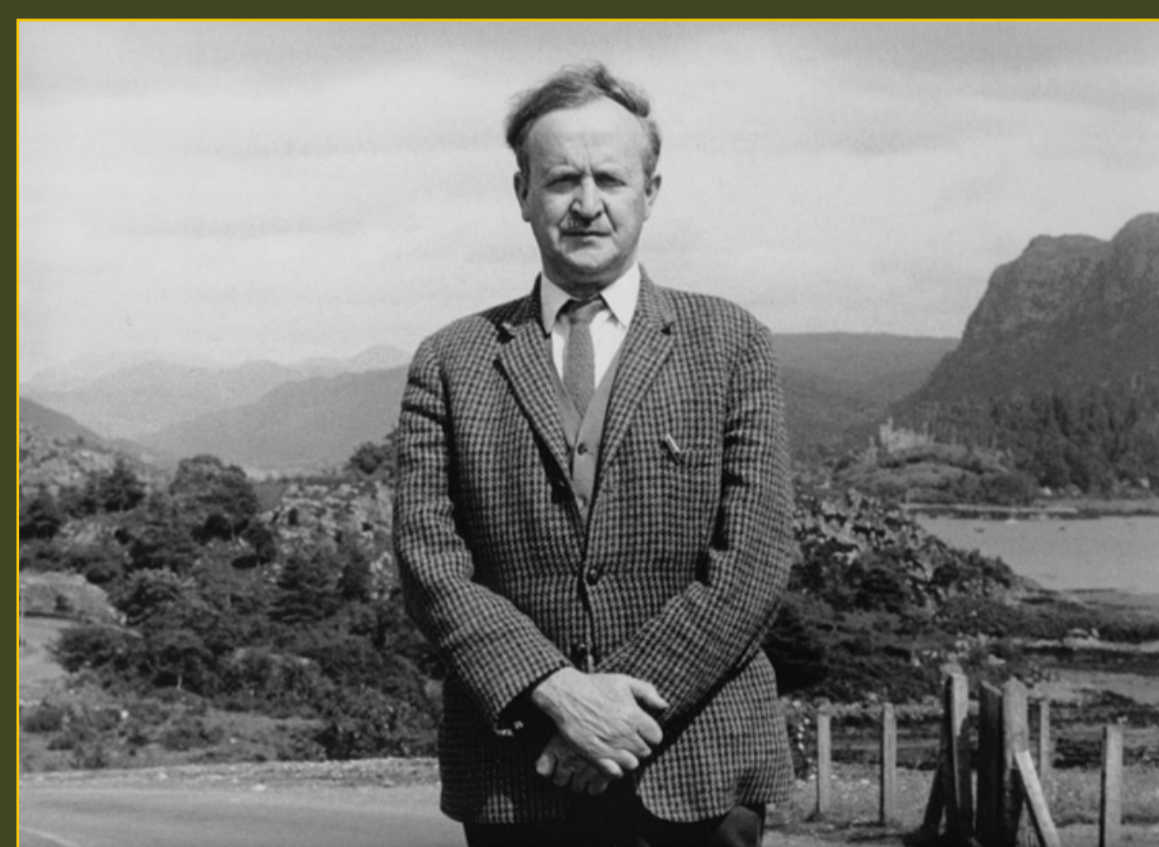
Even with the onset of cancer that was to eventually end his life, Maclean continued to work and remain cheerful under extremely adverse circumstances reflecting a strength of character that belied his small stature.

To the immense regret of all those who knew him, Maclean died on 17 August 1960, in the Sacred Heart Hospital in Daliburgh, on his adopted South Uist.



Portrait of John Lorne Campbell (L) and Francis Collinson (R), 1980s.

• Courtesy of Canna House Archive, National Trust of Scotland.



Portrait of Sorley MacLean by Gordon Wright, Plockton, 1970.

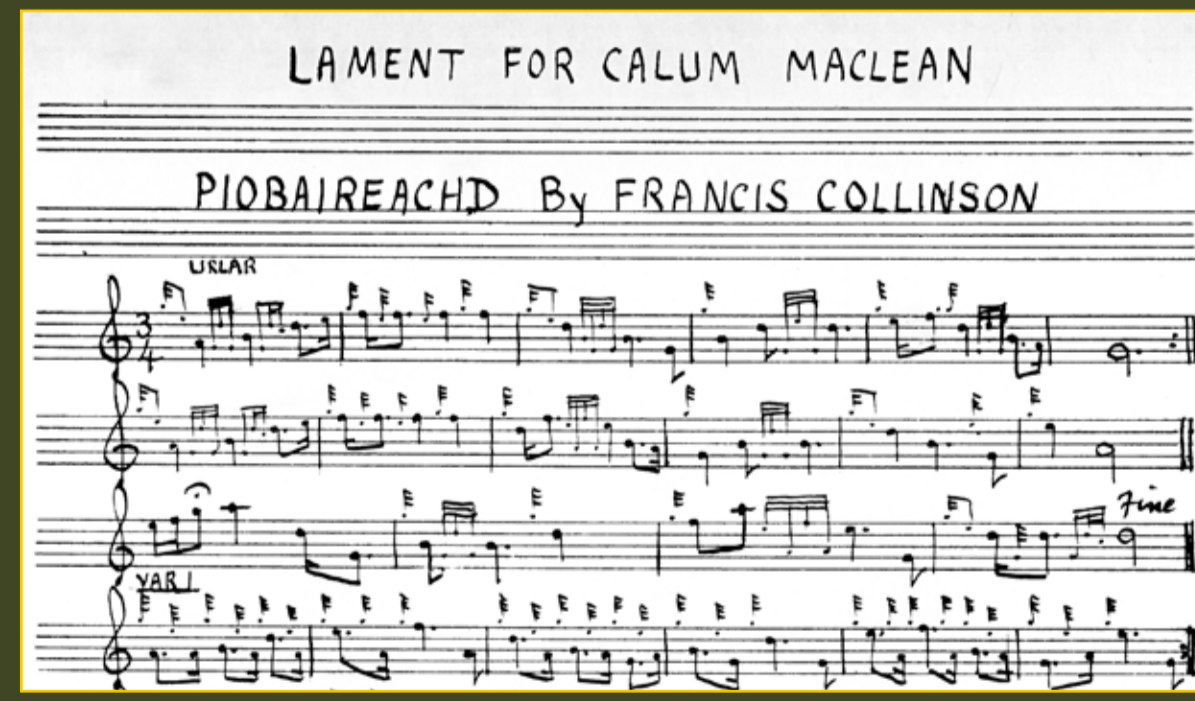
• Courtesy of Gordon Wright.

Through the advocacy of John Lorne Campbell, Maclean was to have received, on 19 September, from St Francis Xavier University, Nova Scotia, the degree of LL.D., *honoris causa*, in recognition of his work for the preservation of Gaelic oral tradition. It was a fitting honour for a scholar – the one word that he pleaded to his colleagues and friends not to

have marked on his gravestone but where “Celtic Scholar and Folklorist” appears – who had spent so many long hours collecting in the field.

Dr Alasdair Maclean wrote to John Lorne Campbell telling him of the sad yet not unexpected passing of his brother:

“We feel that although his end was untimely he was nonetheless able to achieve a great deal and that the memories he left with so many people are a wonderful memorial.”



Lament for Calum Maclean by Francis Collinson, c. 1960.

• Courtesy of the National Library of Scotland.

His passing robbed the Gaelic world of not only a fine scholar but also a talented and much-loved individual. In addition to Francis Collinson's pibroch, Sorley MacLean composed but one of the moving elegies for his younger brother typifying for many the great loss felt at his premature death and which was considered by Hugh MacDiarmid to be “one of the noblest elegies I have ever been privileged to read.”