

Steven J.H. van Hengel,  
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SCOTLAND

1st August, 1982

Dear Mr van Hengel,

Thank you for your letter of the 25th July. I have checked the sources for my information about the Senzie Fair in the Hay Fleming Library [above the Public Library in St. Andrews] and have also discussed the matter in considerable detail with Jurek Putter, who kindly furnished me with much additional information.

1. 'According to Martine, at the Senzie Fair, held within the Priory in the month of April, and which lasted for fifteen days, the harbour was filled with 200 or 300 vessels from Flanders, Holland, France and other parts of the commercial world. In the twelfth century, the Merchants were chiefly foreigners, and were renowned for their opulence; and proof of their rank and importance, two centuries afterwards, Mr Lyon adduces a safe-conduct into England, granted by Edward III to four merchants in St. Andrews, in 1362, in which it is stated that each had four equestrian attendants'.

George Martine of  
Clermont, 'Reliquiae'.  
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Rev. Charles Roger, History of St. Andrews (p.69)  
A & C Black, Edinburgh. 1849.

2. The Senzie Fair dates back to about 1300-1350 and reached its peak in terms of a trade fair about 1451 [J.P.] The last fair was held in 1581 [James Wilkie, Bygone Fife. Blackwood, 1931]
3. Since St. Andrews was not a Royal Burgh, but a Bishop's Burgh, no Customs or Excise records were made, but it is probable that the fair was chiefly concerned with the import of manufactured goods by the Hanseatic merchants, and would have included: Cloth, lamps, window frames, clothes, wines, weapons, clocks, agricultural machinery, jewelry etc.
4. The Senzie Fair was closely linked to the Lammas Fair, and both were held under the aegis of the Church, within the Priory grounds, though NOT in the cloisters as has been erroneously suggested. However on the west side of the cloister, the Subprior's dwelling, known as the Senzie House, was situated, which housed the large Senzie Chamber and the fair may have taken its name from its proximity to this building. J. Putter wonders if the word Senzie has given us 'Assizes' (?). The Senzie House survived beyond 1745, and at one stage the Library of St. Leonard's College was housed in it.
5. Sources listing the names of merchants who settled in St. Andrews or who had dwellings in St. Andrews: The Kirk Session Registers/ Legal documents referring to last wills of ship owners and contracts of partnership - See the Scottish National Library. For papers connected with the administration of the Priory, see the Scottish Archive in the Vatican [also, The History of St. Andrews Cathedral, by the late Monsignor David MacRoberts] For Merchant Papers, see the collections in Holland concerned with the Scots Staples at the Dutch Maritime coastal ports. Dr. E.V.K. Brill [Middleshead Road, St. Andrews], has written several articles on the academic aspects of the medieval maritime trade between Scotland/the Shetlands and the Continent of Europe.

[Sources contd.]

A useful source of local information linking the names of merchants and captains with a base in St. Andrews might be The St. Andrews Cathedral Museum Records, by Dr. Hay Fleming. Oliver/Boyd, 1931. This volume includes a very detailed survey of the gravestones within the cathedral boundary.

In answer to your query regarding the matrons who tended the 'wounded at the goff', Jurek Putter tells me that the reference is to be found in the St Andrews Kirk Session Registers, which span the period approx. 1538-1650.

I hope that the foregoing details are of assistance to you, although I imagine that much of it will be familiar to you. I look forward to meeting you, when you are next in St. Andrews.

Yours sincerely,

Nick Halpin

Nick Halpin

25th July 1982

30, Saxenrodeweg  
2116 VA Bentveld  
Holland

Mr. Nick Halpin  
7, South Street  
St. Andrews, Fife

Dear Mr. Halpin,

Senzie Fair

When on a rather hurried visit to St. Andrews last week the Burgh Office was kind enough to get me in touch with Mr. Gordon Christie of the Saint Andrew Society of St. Andrews who again provided me with your name and address as being the expert in the field where I sought information. I have been engaged for quite a number of years in investigating the contacts between Scotland and Holland in the Middle Ages and later and in this respect I was most interested in the note on the Senzie Fair incorporated in the Diagram of the History of St. Andrews which I found in my room in Waldon House. The contacts between your country and Holland were many and frequent in the Middle Ages and this is another one of which I did not know before.

I would therefore be very grateful for an answer to the questions which I have set out on the enclosed schedule and I hope I am not putting you to too much trouble.

While writing to you I suddenly remember that some years ago Mr. Yurek Putter told me that there is evidence in St. Andrews somewhere in the 1500's of 5 Scottish Merks a year being paid by the Burgh to two matrons to 'tend to the wounded at the goff'. Would you know where this reference is and when exactly these entries were made.

Thanking you in advance for such assistance as you may be able to give me (needless to say I will be happy to reciprocate if I can). If reproduction of documents involves cost please let me know about it and I shall send you a cheque for reimbursement.

Looking forward to your news and with kind regards I am



Steven J.H. van Hengel



Senzie Fair in April at St. Andrews, Fife

On which day was the fair held?

From which year to which year was the fair held?

What products were sold at the fair?

Are there any data on the home ports, the masters etc.  
of the ships from Holland, Flanders and France  
which attended the fair?

What records are there in respect of the foregoing  
4 points?

Where are these records?

Could photostats of the earliest records be obtained?



# THE HISTORY OF ST. ANDREWS

\* Student Counselor  
College Street  
home: 7, South Street

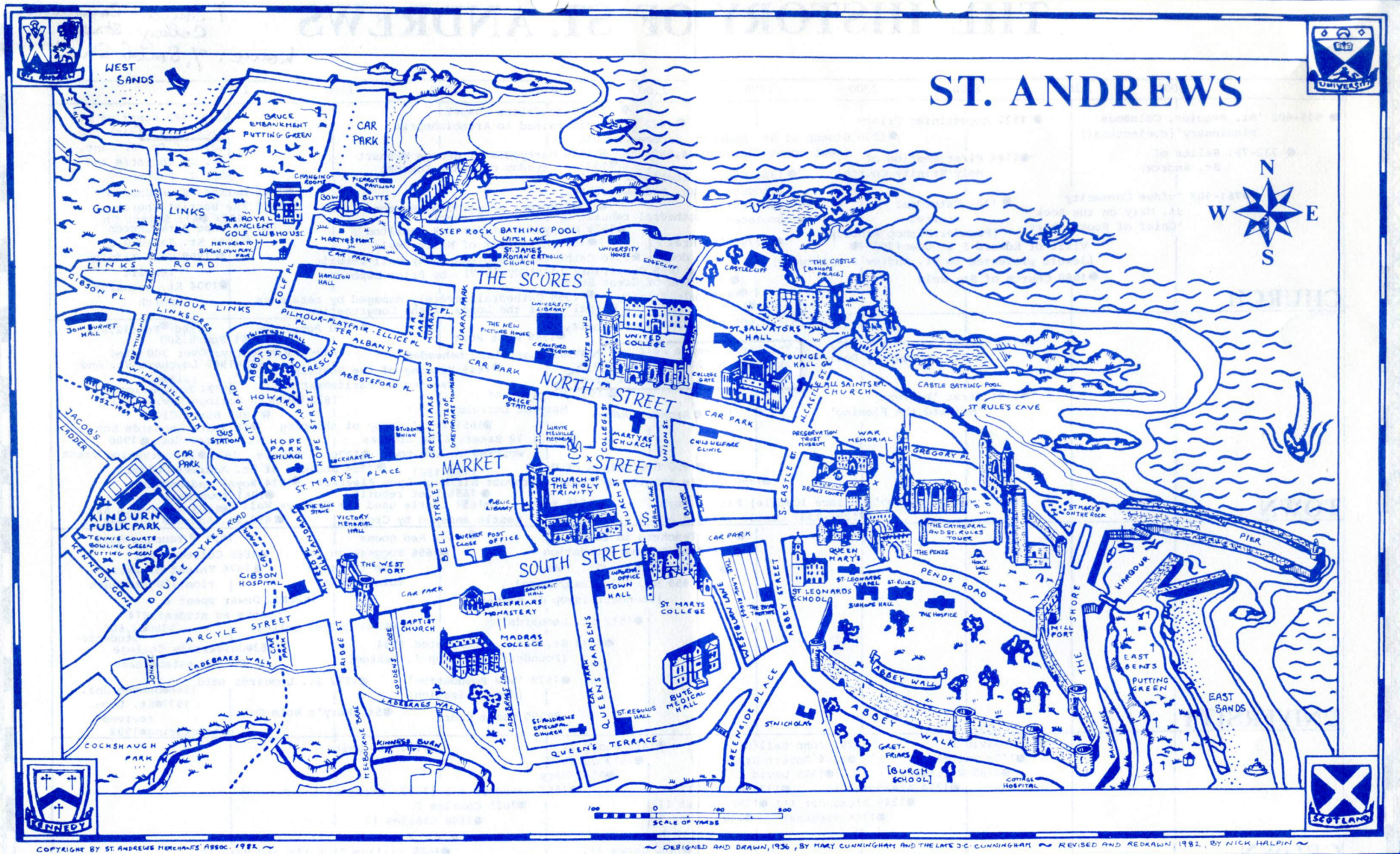
	1000	1100	1200	1300	1400	1500	1600	1700	1800	1900
CHURCH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● 573-600 'St. Regulus, Columbus missionary' [conjectural]</li><li>● 732-761 Relics of St. Andrew</li><li>● 761-908 Culdee Community St. Mary on the Rock 'Chief of Scots' here</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● 1127 Augustinian Priory</li><li>● 1144 First mention of Holy Trinity Church</li><li>● 1161 Cathedral started [Founder: Bishop Arnold]</li><li>● Visit of Edward I &amp; Queen 1303-4 [Jewels presented to St. Andrew's reliquary]</li><li>● 1080 Church of St. Rule</li></ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● 1270 Bishop of St. Andrews' income: £8,018 [next comes Glasgow: £4,080]</li><li>● 1318 Cathedral completed</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● 1366 Pop. of Scotland: 400,000 [Diocese of St. Andrews: 88,000]</li><li>● 1378 Cathedral burnt down</li><li>● 1418 End of Great Schism</li><li>● 1410 Holy Trinity</li><li>● 1405 St. Leonards Chapel</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● 1525 Blackfriars Chapel</li><li>● 1472 Bishopric raised to Archbishopric</li><li>● 1546 Martyrdom of George Wishart</li><li>● 1533 Martyrdom of Henry Forrest</li><li>● 1546 Murder of Cardinal Beaton rebuilt by Prior J. Bisset</li><li>● 1528 Martyrdom of Patrick Hamilton</li><li>● 1558 Martyrdom of Walter Myln</li><li>● 1516 Cathedral restored; Abbey Wall rebuilt [destroyed 1559] by Prior Hepburn</li><li>● 1559 Cathedral severely damaged by retainers of the Lords of the Congregation</li></ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● 1843 Martyrs Free Church</li><li>● 1841 The Baptist Church</li><li>● 1924 All Saints Ch</li><li>● 1864 Hope Park Church</li><li>● 1884 St. James R.C.</li><li>● 1909 Holy Trinity rebuilt</li><li>● 1904 St. Leonards Church</li></ul>	<p>© 1982 compiled by Nick Halpin with the help of Dr. R. Cant, Mr. G. Christie and Mr. J. Putter.</p>	
TOWN		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● 1140 Foundation of the City of St. Andrews by David I</li><li>● 1144 First 'Provost' 'Mainard the Fleming'</li></ul>			<div>The April Senzie Fair was attended by 200/300 vessels from Flanders, Holland &amp; France</div> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● 1337: 33,000 pilgrims</li><li>● 1457 Archery Butts</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● 1500 Pop: 4,000</li><li>● 1589 West Port</li><li>● 1563 Chastelard beheaded</li><li>● 1645 Meeting of the Scottish Estates in Parliament Hall</li><li>● 1537 Marriage of Mary of Lorraine</li><li>● 1573: 72 Bakers &amp; 50 Brewers working in the town</li><li>● 1450 Beginnings of Golf</li><li>● 1390 Castle rebuilt by Traill</li><li>● 1200 Bishop's Palace [Castle] Bishop Roger</li><li>● 1298-1337 Castle changed hands 6 times</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● 1546 Siege</li><li>● 1654 Castle used for Harbour Wall</li><li>● 1587 Castle annexed by Crown</li><li>● 1672 Red gowns</li><li>● 1696 Suggestion to move to Perth turned down</li><li>● 1512 St. Leonards</li><li>● 1538 St. Marys - completed 1554 [Founder: Archbishop J. Beaton]</li><li>● 1579 'New Foundation' [Reorganization]</li><li>● 1590 Deans Court</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● 1770 Pop: 3,000</li><li>● 1843-44 Dysentery: Over 300 died</li><li>● 1852-1869 Leuchars-St. And. railway</li><li>● 1894 Boys Brigade</li><li>● 1832 Madras College [Rev. A. Bell]</li><li>● 1869 Burns Club</li><li>● 1877 St. Leonards Sch.</li><li>● 1880 St. Andrew Soc.</li><li>● 1937 Preservation Trust</li><li>● 1754 Society of St. Andrews Golfers</li><li>● 1786-1861 Provost Sir Hugh Lyon Playfair</li><li>● 1834 Royal and Ancient</li><li>● 1861 Town Hall</li><li>● 1903 Merchants Ass.</li><li>● 1850 St. Andrews Railway Co</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● 1960 Pop: 12,000</li><li>● 1861 Pop: 6,500</li></ul>	
UNIVERSITY					<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● 1410 Teachers in town</li><li>● 1412-14 Formal foundation</li><li>● 1430 Pedagogium/St. Johns</li><li>● 1450 St. Salvators/Chapel [Founder: Bishop J. Kennedy]</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● 1512 St. Leonards</li><li>● 1538 St. Marys - completed 1554 [Founder: Archbishop J. Beaton]</li><li>● 1579 'New Foundation' [Reorganization]</li><li>● 1590 Deans Court</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● 1672 Red gowns</li><li>● 1696 Suggestion to move to Perth turned down</li><li>● 1512 St. Leonards</li><li>● 1538 St. Marys - completed 1554 [Founder: Archbishop J. Beaton]</li><li>● 1579 'New Foundation' [Reorganization]</li><li>● 1590 Deans Court</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● 1747 United College</li><li>● 1772 St. Leonards sold</li><li>● St. Mary's Holm Oak</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● 1820 D. Dewar spent 6 months as student: £14</li><li>● 1883 University College Dundee established</li><li>● 1966 Dundee Uni.</li><li>● 1973 St. Leon. revived</li><li>● restructuring 1982</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● 1929 Younger Hall</li><li>● 1868 College Hall</li><li>● 1876 Threat of extinction: 130 students</li></ul>
CROWN		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● 1124 David I</li><li>● 1153 Malcolm IV</li><li>● 1165 William I</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● 1292 John Balliol</li><li>● 1306 Robert Bruce</li><li>● 1329 David II</li><li>● 1214 Alexander II</li><li>● 1249 Alexander III</li><li>● 1286 Margaret</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● 1370 Robert II</li><li>● 1390 Robert III</li><li>● 1406 James I</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● 1437 James II</li><li>● 1460 James III</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● 1488 James IV</li><li>● 1513 James V</li><li>● 1542 Mary</li><li>● 1567 James VI &amp; I [1603: Union of the Crowns]</li><li>● 1625 Charles I</li><li>● 1660 Charles II</li><li>● 1685 James VII &amp; II</li><li>● 1688 William II &amp; III and Mary II</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● 1707 The Union</li></ul>			

WITH THE COMPLIMENTS OF  
THE SAINT ANDREW SOCIETY OF ST. ANDREWS

c/o 2 Queens Gardens, St. Andrews, Fife, Scotland

Mr. David Niven, President  
Mr. Gordon Christie,  
8 Alexander Place





WITH THE COMPLIMENTS OF  
**THE ST. ANDREWS MERCHANTS ASSOCIATION**

Secretary: Charles S. Alexander, 83 Market St. Tel: St. Andrews 75001



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Tel. 023 - 24 01 69

9th August 1982


30, Saxonrodeweg  
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Holland

Mr. Nick Halpin  
7, South Street  
St ANDREWS, Fife KY16 9QS  
Scotland

Dear Mr. Halpin,

Thank you very much indeed for your kind letter of the 1st August and for all the interesting information in it. Will you please be kind enough to also thank Mr. Jurek Putter for his contribution and give him my regards when next you see him. I was only in St Andrews for one day so I did not have the time to go round and see him as normally I do. I am also grateful for mentioning Dr. Brill. One of the things I am trying to chase is the export of golf balls from Bergen op Zoom (and possibly Delft) to Scotland in the 15th century. The toll-registers in this country bear evidence of such shipments from 1486 onwards but I would not be in the least surprised if shipments had gone out earlier than that. Unfortunately the earlier toll-registers are incomplete and less detailed than the later ones. The registers here bear evidence of Scottish ships and merchants having come to the Easter Fair and the 'Cold Fair' (around All Saints Day) at Bergen op Zoom. It may well be that merchants and ships from the Low Countries carried balls and sold them at the Senzie Fair. The problem is to find them! I am looking forward to meeting you on my next visit to St Andrews.

Sincerely yours,

  
Steven J. H. van Hengel