

# Scotland Group News

The next Scotland group meeting is likely to be at the Highland Folk Museum in the autumn. If you want to know more about our activities, contact Stephen Jackson (0131 247 4275 or s.jackson@nms.ac.uk).

## **Blair Castle (September 2006)**

We were met by the Duke of Atholl's archivist, Jane Anderson, and taken to the heights of the castle to 'rake around in the attics'. The hope of many was that we would find laburnum and we were not disappointed, encountering many examples of chairs, and a press, in this typically Scottish timber. There was also a delightful collection of 'cutty stools', many with the trace marks of an axe on the underside where, in an upturned state, they had been used to hold logs to be cut into 'kindlers'. We then examined a number of 18th century bills including those from George Sandeman for the study furniture veneered in broom (1775). After lunch we took the formal tour of the castle. Our guide was both informative and receptive to the group's contributions - a pleasantly reciprocal experience.

*Dave Hutchinson*

## **Burrell Collection (March 2007)**

The originator of this collection, the wealthy ship-owner Sir William Burrell (1861-1958), was particularly interested in the 16th and 17th centuries, amassing an impressive collection of over 500 pieces. We started our day in the galleries, concentrating on the reconstructed Hutton Castle rooms, where an impressive French *caqueteuse* was found, and its features discussed in relation to Scottish chairs of the same type. After lunch we made our way to the basement stores to look at a wide selection of material including beautifully carved bed structures and early regional chairs from both England and Scotland.

*Lindsay Gordon*