

Hunt the Poem Geocache

This puzzle is a geocache.

Geocaching is an outdoor activity in which the participants use a Global Positioning System (GPS) to seek containers (called "geocaches" or "caches").

This cache is a small waterproof lock and lock box containing a logbook and a line from the poem.

This geocache is of the type that would normally be described as a multicache. A set of waypoints (co-ordinates) will lead you around some of the cemeteries of Edinburgh centre finding information about poets buried there. Once you have collected all the information, substituting the numbers collected for the letters will allow you to create the final waypoint which will lead you to the hidden cache containing a line from Elisabeth's poem.

The final cache is hidden at:

55° 5**A.(B-C)D(E-C)** North

003° 1**(F-G).(G+H)(I-G)H** West

In order to collect the numbers to complete the co-ordinates listed above you will need to follow the instructions below. Remember to take a pencil and paper or something else to keep a note of the numbers as you collect them. A handy table has been included at the end of these instructions.

The individual parts can be done in any order; the order listed below is just a suggested route to take you around the city.

Greyfriars Kirkyard

A number of notable poets are interred in Greyfriars

The first grave we will find is of **Duncan Ban MacIntyre**

His grave can be found at **55° 56.848N, 003° 11.593W**

Directly behind this grave is a grave dedicated to William Bertram, He died aged 7A

Donnchadh Bàn Mac an t-Saoir (usually **Duncan Ban MacIntyre** in English) is one of the most renowned of Scottish Gaelic poets and formed an integral part of one of the golden ages of Gaelic poetry in Scotland during the 18th century. He is best known for his poem about Ben Doran; "Moladh Beinn Dòbhrainn" (English: "Praise of Ben Doran"):

First verse:

An t-urram thar gach beinn
Aig Beinn Dòbhrain;
De na chunnaic mi fon ghrèin,
'S i bu bhòidhche leam...

English translation:

Honour beyond each ben for Ben Doran;
Of all I have seen
beneath the sun,
the most glorious...

Born in Druim Liaghart in Glen Orchy, he went on to work in various occupations, including as a soldier in the Argyll Regiment of Militia, as a forester, and as a constable of Edinburgh City Guard. While a soldier in the Argyll regiment he fought for the Hanoverian forces during the Jacobite Rising of 1745–6. He took part in the Battle of Falkirk as a substitute for a local gentleman and managed to lose his sword during the fighting — an event which would later lead to the composition of a humorous poem about the battle.

When he returned from the battle, MacIntyre was refused his pay by the gentleman who had commissioned him to fight in his stead because of the lost sword — and it was in reply that Duncan wrote the aforementioned poem, satirising the gentleman and the sword he had lost.

Most of his poetry is descriptive and the influence of the great Alasdair MacMhaighstir Alasdair is notable in much of it. Despite the Jacobite upheavals that wracked Scotland during

his lifetime it was his experience as a gamekeeper in Argyll and Perthshire in the employ of the Duke of Argyll which had greatest impact upon his poetry. His greatest work, Moladh Beinn Dòbhrainn, stems from this period. The significance of Duncan Bàn's nature themed poetry is such that it has, along with that of the aforementioned MacMhaighstir Alasdair, been described as "the zenith of Gaelic nature poetry".

Duncan moved to Edinburgh in 1767 and was to spend the rest of his life there serving with the Breadalbane Fencibles and the City Guard before retiring in 1806. During his time in Edinburgh he composed several prize winning poems and attempted to win the place of Bard to the Highland and Agricultural Society, losing to Donald Shaw despite receiving much praise for his poetry.

Duncan Ban's native region had no school and he remained illiterate throughout his life and kept his work by memory. He had to receive help from the minister of Lismore, Donald MacNicol, with transcriptions. The poetry of Duncan Bán would later be translated into English by such notable figures as Hugh MacDiarmid, Derick Thomson and Iain Crichton Smith. (Information taken from wikipedia)

Duncan Ban's grave has a very distinctive pillar on top of the commemorative stone which features deer, bagpipes, shields and many other items

The next poet you need to find is Allan Ramsay

His grave can be found at **55° 56.791N, 003° 11.562W**

Directly below Allan Ramsay's grave is a memorial to Janet McFarlan, she died 2nd December 1**BC**1

Once you have collected your numbers we head on to to St Cuthberts Kirkyard.

Allan Ramsay

Was born in Leadhills, Lanarkshire. His father was manager of Lord Hopetoun's mines there, and his mother, Alice Bower, was the daughter of a Derbyshire mining expert. In 1704 he

was apprenticed for five years to a wigmaker in Edinburgh. By 1718 he had become known as a poet, having issued several short humorous satires printed as broadsides. He had also written (1716-18) two additional cantos to the old Scots poem of "Christ's Kirk on the Green" that were cheerful pictures of rustic life and broad humor. He then started business as bookseller, later adding a circulating library (1725), apparently the first in Britain. Known as "Honest Allan", his career was eminently prosperous, although the theatre built in Edinburgh at his own expense (1736) was soon closed down by the magistrates. In 1740 he built a small house (the "Goose-Pie") on the Castle Hill, where he spent his last years in retirement. He was the father of the artist Allan Ramsay, his namesake.
(bio by: JK Gillon)

Other notable poets who are buried here are

William Topaz McGonagall,

The son of an immigrant Irish weaver, he spent some of his childhood on the island of South Ronaldsay in the Orkneys, settled with his family in Dundee at the age of 11, and became a handloom weaver with his father. In 1846 he married Jean King. He did some acting at Dundee's Royal Theatre, and in 1878 published his first collection of poems, including "Railway Bridge of the Silvery Tay". From then on he travelled in central Scotland, giving readings and selling his poetry in broadsheets. In Edinburgh he was lionized by the legal and student fraternity. He visited London in 1880 and New York in 1887. His poems are uniformly bad, but possess a disarming naiveté and a calypso-like disregard for metre which remain entertaining. His Poetic Gems were published in 1890, and More Poetic Gems in 1962), followed by others.
(bio by: JK Gillon)

George Buchanan

Born in Stirlingshire, Scotland, one of eight children of a small farmer who died when George was 7, leaving the family in poverty. George received a grammar school education before being sent by his uncle to study at the University of Paris when he was 14. Returning to Scotland, he served as a soldier and continued his education at the University of Edinburgh until 1526, when he began teaching in Paris. He returned again to Scotland in 1537 and served as tutor to one of the sons of King James V. He wrote a satire against Cardinal Beaton in 1567, which led to his being denounced as a

heretic. George escaped to England, then Bordeaux, where he taught until moving on to Portugal where he taught at the University of Coimbra. While there he was condemned by the Inquisition, and while in prison he translated the Psalms into Latin. He was released in 1553, and after 10 years teaching in France and Spain, finally returned to Scotland, where he became the tutor of Mary, Queen of Scots (though he would become one of her most vocal and ardent opponents) and later her son, King James VI. During this time he also served as the Moderator of the Church of Scotland and Keeper of the Privy Seal. He remained active in politics and the church until his death in Edinburgh at the age of 76. Buchanan's works, nearly all in Latin, include countless poems and treatises, several plays, and a 20-volume history of Scotland. He is considered to have been one of the greatest Latinists of his time.

(bio by: VampireRed)

St Cuthberts

Thomas De Quincy is buried in St Cuthberts Kirkyard

His grave can be found at **55° 56.945N, 003° 12.331W**

To the left of Thomas De Quincey's grave is a small white stone memorial with a very lovely inscription. The Gentleman so liked by his friends was born in Torrington, Connecticut 16th July 1752

Once you have these numbers we head along Princes Street toward Calton Hill, running beside Calton Hill is Regent Road. This is our next destination

Thomas De Quincey

Born in Manchester, his father was a successful businessman with an interest in literature who died when Thomas was quite young.

Thomas De Quincey lived in many places throughout the UK before arriving in Scotland around 1821, where he lived for the rest of his life.

More than once in his later years, De Quincey was forced to seek protection from arrest in the debtors' sanctuary of Holyrood . (At the time, Holyrood Palace and Holyrood Park together formed a debtors' sanctuary; people could not be arrested for debt within those bounds. The debtors who took sanctuary there could only emerge on Sundays, when arrests for debt were not allowed.)

He is best known for his book "Confessions of an English Opium-Eater". He also wrote "Murder Considered as one of Fine Arts" and "On the Knocking at the Gate in Macbeth".

De Quincey's writings have been published in multi-volume collections. *The Works of Thomas De Quincey* appeared in fourteen volumes! Yet De Quincey's writings were so voluminous and widely-dispersed that further collections followed: two volumes of *The Uncollected Writings* (1890), and two volumes of *Posthumous Works* (1891–93). De Quincey's 1803 diary was published in 1927. Yet another volume, *New Essays by De Quincey*, appeared in 1966.

Calton Hill

A walk to the other end of Princes Street takes you to the Burns monument of Regent Road. The gate is locked and I can find no sensible access to this monument.

As there is no access to this monument the next number can be found a little further down Regent Road at the Calton Hill Cemetery

Just as you enter the Calton Hill Cemetery you will see on your left the impressive tomb of Alexander Henderson

55° 57.225N, 003° 10.644W

The fourth line on this tomb is just a date **F8G7**

The monument to Burns leads us nicely on to our last graveyard - Canongate Kirkyard.

Robert Burns in Edinburgh

On 27 November 1786, Burns borrowed a pony and set out for Edinburgh. On 14 December William Creech issued subscription bills for the first Edinburgh edition of Poems, Chiefly in the Scottish dialect, which was published on 17 April 1787. Within a week of this event, Burns had sold his copyright to Creech for 100 guineas. In Edinburgh, he was received as an equal by the city's brilliant men of letters and was a guest at aristocratic gatherings, where he bore himself with unaffected dignity. Here he encountered, and made a lasting impression on, the 16-year-old Walter Scott, who described him later with great admiration:

"His person was strong and robust; his manners rustic, not clownish, a sort of dignified plainness and simplicity which received part of its effect perhaps from knowledge of his extraordinary talents. His features are presented in Mr Nasmyth's picture but to me it conveys the idea that they are diminished, as if seen in perspective. I think his countenance was more massive than it looks in any of the portraits ... there was a strong expression of shrewdness in all his lineaments; the eye alone, I think, indicated the poetical character and temperament. It was large, and of a dark cast, and literally glowed when he spoke with feeling or interest. I never saw such another eye in a human head, though I have seen the most distinguished men

of my time."

— Walter Scott

In Edinburgh, in early 1787, he met James Johnson, a struggling music engraver and music seller with a love of old Scots songs and a determination to preserve them. Burns shared this interest and became an enthusiastic contributor to The Scots Musical Museum. The first volume of this was published in 1787 and included three songs by Burns. He contributed 40 songs to volume 2, and would end up responsible for about a third of the 600 songs in the whole collection, as well as making a considerable editorial contribution. The final volume was published in 1803

Canongate Kirkyard

Robert Fergusson was an Edinburgh poet who had a huge influence on Burns, there is a statue and a plaque in front of the wall of the Canongate Kirkyard dedicated to Fergusson.

Robert Fergusson's grave can be found at **55° 57.109N, 003° 10.802W**

Near Robert Fergusson's grave is the grave of Thomas Calder; he "was interr'd near this place on the **H1** of January 17**I0**"

Robert Fergusson

Born in Edinburgh, the son of a solicitor's clerk. He was educated at the Royal High School of Edinburgh and the High School of Dundee, he then when to St Andrews University, where he excelled.

He was employed in the commissary office in Edinburgh, contributing poems to Ruddimman's Weekly Magazine from 1771, which gained him local fame. His company was much sought and convivial excesses permanently injured his health. Following an awakening of religious interest, inspired by a meeting with the minister John Brown, he fell into deep depression. Around the backend of the year 1774, after sustaining a head injury in circumstances that are obscure, Fergusson was submitted against his will into Edinburgh's Darien House "hospital" where, after a matter of weeks, he suddenly died. He had only just turned 24.

He was buried in an unmarked grave on the west side of the Canongate kirkyard. He was a major influence on and inspiration to Robert Burns, who placed a headstone on his grave in 1789 (later repaired by Robert Louis Stevenson). He left 33 poems in Scots, and 50 poems in English. Essentially an Edinburgh poet, his most famous poem is Auld Reekie (1773), tracing a day in the life of the city.

Finally

You should now have all the numbers required to find the waypoint of the cache. There is a handy table below to fill in the numbers. Once you have found the cache take the line to the Scottish Poetry Library. Good luck.

Waypoints

Duncan Ban MacIntyre	55° 56.848N, 003° 11.593W
Allan Ramsay	55° 56.791N, 003° 11.562W
Thomas De Quincey	55° 56.945N, 003° 12.331W
Alexander Henderson	55° 57.225N, 003° 10.644W
Robert Fergusson	55° 57.109N, 003° 10.802W

Final waypoint

A	
B	
C	
D	
E	
F	
G	
H	
I	

55° 5**A.(B-C)D(E-C)** North

003° 1**(F-G).(G+H)(I-G)H** West

Hints

Additional clue for the final cache: **Haqre erq ebpxf**

A|B|C|D|E|F|G|H|I|J|K|L|M

N|O|P|Q|R|S|T|U|V|W|X|Y|Z