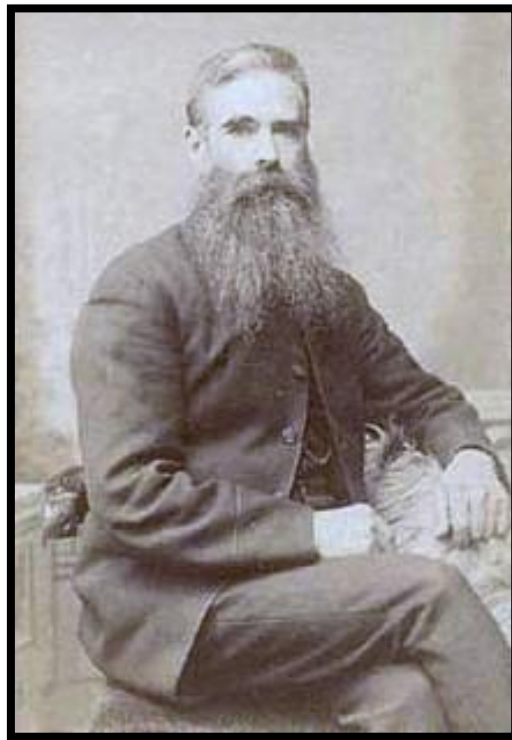


# JOHN CENTER BAGPIPE MAKER

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John Center originally from Kildrummy, Aberdeenshire is believed to have started his business as a bagpipe and reed maker in around 1870 and was based in Edinburgh. His occupation was also listed as a Photographer around that time.



*John Center Bagpipe Maker and Photographer*

His son James, one of nine children, was a pupil of John MacDougall-Gillies and was known as a champion dancer and piper. He won the Gold Medal at the Northern Meeting in 1902, the clasp in 1904 and the Gold medal at the Argyllshire Gathering in 1906. James joined his father in the family business as bagpipe makers and then emigrated to Melbourne, Australia in 1908 and continued to make bagpipes from their premises at 135 Tinning Street, West Brunswick.



*James Center champion piper (c.1910)*

John passed away in 1913 and James died during the Spanish influenza pandemic in 1919. Their workshop in Grove Street Edinburgh was taken over by James Robertson. Center bagpipes were highly sought after. The set pictured is believed to be one of a pair made to display at the World Fair before Center left Edinburgh.



As you can see, the silver work is of the finest quality and more excessive than normally found even on top range instruments. The engraving is a very fine zoomorphic pattern and the slides are very tastefully left plain. The carving of the wood is extremely unusual and not often seen.







*Chanter bulb with makers stamp*





*Chanter Sole*



*Ornate carving on all timber*





*Lower drone sections*



*Projecting mount*



*Mouthpiece*

Instrument photographs have been kindly supplied by Mark Saul.

**SAUL**  
BAGPIPE TUNER

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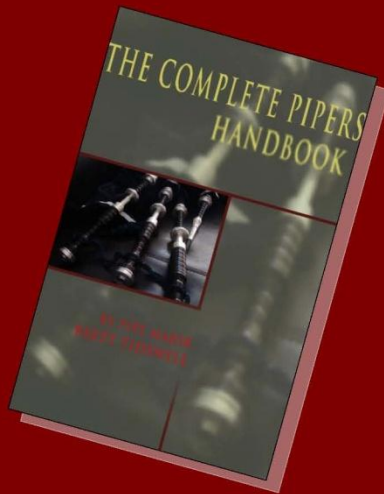
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