

# Beauty, Beasts & Ballgowns

**Photographs from the camera of  
Lady Henrietta Gilmour 1890-1910**

An exhibition selected from negatives deposited at the  
University of St Andrews by her grandson,  
Sir John Gilmour, Bart., DSO and first shown  
at the Crawford Centre for the Arts. The support of  
the Scottish Arts Council is gratefully acknowledged.



Cilla Jackson

[c.1986?]

Photographic exhibitions are a regular feature of the Crawford Centre's programme, and have included the historical, the architectural, and the thematically linked landscape or documentary exhibition. Lady Henrietta Gilmour's collection combines all these, in a charming and personal way, and it is a particular pleasure for the Centre to show these new prints from the original glass negatives now in the care of the University; Lady Henrietta's diverse subjects are bound together by ties of family and locality, and the collection reveals the photographer as a graceful and perceptive personality. The Crawford Centre is most grateful to Sir John Gilmour for permitting the use of his family's archive, and to Robert Smart for his energetic and enthusiastic collaboration.

## The Photographer

Henrietta Gilmour was born about 1850, second daughter of David Gilmour of Quebec. In 1873 she married her cousin, John Gilmour of Lundin and Montrave, who, at Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee in 1897, was created a baronet. The Gilmours were a Renfrewshire family who had extensive interests in Canadian timber and shipping. One branch of the family settled in Fife, acquiring the estates of Lundin in 1872 and Montrave in 1873, adding Greenside, Pratis and part of Kilmux later.

In her early forties, after the birth of her seventh and last child, Henrietta Gilmour took up the pursuit of photography, so far as can be discovered, the first identified woman in Scotland to do so, and over the next twenty years assiduously produced thousands of views and portraits centred round family and friends, servants and the family's interests.

Lady Gilmour obviously regarded photography not as an end in itself but as a means of record, and her photographs have a unique quality of unaffected honesty — the posed elements are clear but not obtrusive, and many of her photographs are the simple record which differentiates the historical document from the contrived photograph which tries too hard to aspire to art.

Nevertheless, her work was not unaffected by the aesthetic movement in contemporary art photography where the aim was to use straightforward technique to render the subtleties of light in the subject. This is demonstrated in her splendid portraits where the portrayal of dress is as important as the delineation of feature.

Lady Gilmour's picture-taking ceased about 1912, and she died at Denbrae in Logie parish on 2 January 1926, just ten days after her younger son.

Fifteen hundred of her negatives were deposited by her grandson, Sir John Gilmour, 3rd Baronet of Lundin and Montrave, in St Andrews University in 1978, and a selection has been printed for this exhibition by the University Photographic Unit.





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# Portraits

- 1 **Sir John Gilmour**  
1st Baronet (1845-1920), in full dress uniform of the Fife and Forfar Light Horse
- 2 **Self Portrait** 1899  
Lady Henrietta Gilmour, the photographer
- 3 **Jack Gilmour**  
In uniform of Lieutenant, 20th Company Fife and Forfar Yeomanry. Montrave 1900.  
Second (1876-1940) but eldest surviving son of the First Baronet, he had a distinguished political career being MP for East Renfrewshire 1910-18, and the Pollock Division of Glasgow 1918-40. Among government offices held: Principal Secretary of State for Scotland 1926-29. Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries 1931-32. Secretary of State for Home Affairs 1932-35. Minister of Shipping 1939-40.
- 4 **Maud with her bicycle.**  
Maud (1882-1957) was elder daughter of the 1st Baronet and the photographer. She married, on 7 February 1906, James Younger, later Viscount Younger of Leckie.
- 5 **Netta in Grannie's dress.**  
Henrietta (1884-1962), younger daughter of the 1st Baronet and the photographer, married in 1904 Robert Purvis of Gilmerton, youngest son of John Purvis of Kinaldy.
- 6 **Douglas, c.1900.**  
The fifth and youngest son (1889-1916) of the 1st Baronet and the photographer. Died of wounds received in action in the First World War.
- 7 **Lady Gilmour in court dress, 1897**  
Court dress was worn for presentation to the monarch. The train, about 3¼ yards long, was carried on the arm until the wearer entered the reception room. The ostrich feathers in the hair had to stand erect until the presentation.
- 8 **Miss Jessie May Gilmour** (Canada)  
4th daughter of David Gilmour of Quebec.
- 9 **Lady Henrietta Gilmour, 1899** (head)
- 10 **Netta** (head)  
Daughter of the photographer (see 5 above)
- 11 **Mrs Jane Lambert.**  
Wife of Edward Tiley Lambert of Telham Court, Sussex, and daughter of James McLaren of Innergellie. Grandmother of the present Sir John Gilmour.
- 12 **Miss Mary Louise Lambert.**  
Married the 2nd Baronet in 1902. Mother of the present Sir John Gilmour.
- 13 **Group: Mrs, Miss, Mr Lambert, and Jack.**  
The 2nd Baronet (seated on floor) with his future Mother-in-law, wife and father-in-law.
- 14 **Group: Jack's wedding.**  
The second Sir John Gilmour was married at his wife's home, Telham Court, Battle, Sussex, on 9 April, 1902.



- 15 **Douglas on Jenny**, c.1893.  
Douglas Gilmour, 5th son of the photographer.
- 16 **Maud and Netta riding**, c. 1893.  
The two daughters of the photographer.
- 17 **Kate and Kipper**, August 1897.  
A fancy dress tableau for the Montrave celebrations
- 18 **Father and children cutting the lawn**, 1900  
The first baronet and a friend with his youngest son, Douglas, and Waring boy in front of Montrave House.
- 19 **House Party, opening meet**, 13 November, 1896.  
Sir John Gilmour was joint Master of Foxhounds to the Fife Hunt with Captain Middleton of Kilmaron.
- 20 **Jack and servant with Bullseye & Magic**, 29 July 1901  
Trooper A. Ross from Turriff and Captain John Gilmour with the two horses, Bullseye and Magic, which carried Captain Gilmour safely through the South African campaign. The horses are getting their first bite of green grass at Montrave. Trooper Ross returned to South Africa and joined the Natal Police.
- 21 **Group of Curlers**, 1896  
Lady Gilmour was the first lady member of the Royal Caledonian Curling Club, and Sir John, President of the Royal Caledonian, 1912-13. Montrave has one of the best open artificial curling ponds in Scotland. In 1913, the Lundin and Montrave Club had 22 regular and 17 occasional members.
- 22 **Miss Martin**, 1899.  
Miss Martin was of the family of Auchendennan, Alexandria, Dumbartonshire.
- 23 **Colonel Thomas Horatio Arthur Ernest Cochrane**  
Colonel Cochrane (1857-1951) was created Baron Cochrane of Cults in 1919.
- 24 **Ruth de Prée's baby**.  
Ruth de Prée, daughter of Hugh Veitch Haig of Ramornie, married in 1897 Lt Col Cecil George de Prée of the 15th Hussars. They had two children, Cecilie and Hugh. On 22 October 1944, Ruth, her brother John and her grandson were killed when an aircraft crashed into her house.
- 25 **Miss Grace Erskine**.  
Zaida Grace Erskine (c.1882-1943), daughter of Sir Ffolliot Erskine of Cambo, married Frederick Scrymgeour Wedderburn of Balhousie.
- 26 **Mrs McAlpine**, 1899,  
Wife of Colonel Conyngham McAlpine, who resided at Garvock House near Dunning.
- 27 **Mrs McEwan's nurse and baby**.  
Not identified
- 28 **Mrs Burton Stewart, Montrave**, 1900.  
Rachel Westmacott, wife of Lt Col William Burton Stewart (1872-1936), who served with the second baronet during the South African War.
- 29 **Miss Elsie Mylne, Montrave**, 1903.  
Not identified, but Elsie Mylne had a sister Betty, who also figures in Lady Gilmour's photographs.

- 30 **Nora Rintoul**, 1900  
It has not been established whether this is the later distinguished ornithologist, Leonora Jeffrey Rintoul.
- 31 **Herbert the footman**, 1899  
The footman was employed chiefly to attend the carriage and wait at table. He was normally selected for his neatness of dress and elegance of bearing.
- 32 **Simon's daughter**, June 1899  
Simon was the grieve of Montrave for many years.

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# 'Going to the Moors'

The lease of a sporting property in the West of Scotland for the shooting season occasioned a large part of Lady Gilmour's photographic output.

Stalking, shooting, fishing, picnicking, bathing, boating and the family's seasonal servants, gamekeepers and ghillies, were her subjects.

After 25 years as shooting tenant of Ardlamont, the family leased Black Corries out from Kingshouse, Glencoe, from 1888-99, then had Achdaliu on the north side of Loch Eil, west of Fort William, in 1903, and from 1905-1908 they rented Inverewe from Osgood Mackenzie.

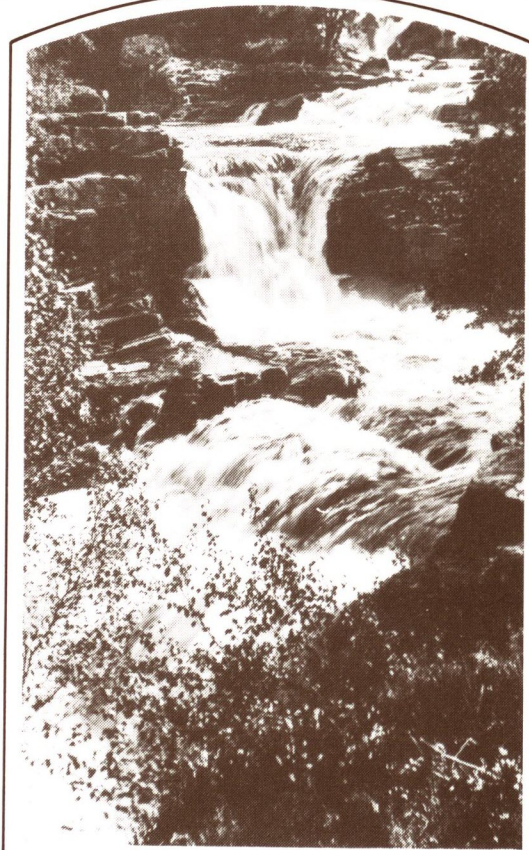
- 33 **Black Corries, 1899**  
The keeper's cottage is at the back of the middle group of buildings, and the venison safe is the building on the extreme left.
- 34 **A. Campbell, fisherman, 7 September 1898**
- 35 **John, Kinlochbeg, 7 September 1898**
- 36 **Dougal and dog, 28 September 1899**
- 37 **Cameron, stalker, Kinlochmore, 1899**
- 38 **Mrs Cameron, stalker's wife, June 1899**
- 39 **Cameron family, June 1899**
- 40 **Stag (Harry Gilmour), September 1899**  
Two ghillies with pony, and stag (19 stones) shot by Harry Gilmour.
- 41 **Walter Chamberlain**  
Not identified
- 42 **Captain Harkness**  
William Bathurst Harkness, born 18 October 1864. Captain in the Royal Marine Artillery and Adjutant in the Fife Artillery, Captain Harkness is pictured here defending himself against the midgies!
- 43 **Group, Black Corries, August 1899**  
The group includes the Gilmour family and Walter Chamberlain.
- 44 **Lady Gilmour and Miss Grace Erskine with camera, Kinlochbeg, 1899**  
The photographer with the daughter of Sir Ffolliot Erskine of Cambo, with various pieces of her camera equipment scattered around.
- 45 **Lady Gilmour and Grace Erskine fishing, Kinlochbeg, 1899.**  
This photograph was taken near the mouth of the River Leven, which gives its name to Kinlochleven.
- 46 **Netta, harvest, Kinlochbeg, 1899**  
Henrietta Gilmour, daughter of the photographer.
- 47 **Netta, harvest, Kinlochbeg 1899**  
Henrietta, daughter of the photographer.

- 48 **Launch at Kinlochbeg, September 1899**  
The family launch was called 'Netta', no doubt after the photographer or her daughter.
- 49 **Children bathing, Kinlochbeg.**  
This photograph was taken on the shores of Loch Leven.
- 50 **Tent, Black Corries**  
Dougal on left, Cameron on right. Both servants and guests might be accommodated in tents.
- 51 **Group of servants, Black Corries.**
- 52 **MacDonald, Glencoe, September 1899**
- 53 **Highland woman spinning, 1899**
- 54 **Dr Alexander Stewart, Onich, September 1899**  
The Rev Dr Alexander Stewart was minister at Ballachulish, 1851-1901. A distinguished writer, he was one of the founders of the Highland Association and of the Mod.
- 55 **Mrs Mary Stewart, Onich, June 1899**  
Mary Janet Morrison married Dr Stewart, Onich, in 1852. She died 22 January 1902.

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# Trees and Water

Trees and water fascinated Lady Gilmour, and she made many tree and water negatives to capture the shape of the silhouettes and texture of the bark of the former, and the movement of the latter through its own momentum or by the action of the wind.

- 56 **Oak tree Lundin**, May 1912
- 57 **Elm tree, Lundin Park**, May 1912
- 58 **Beech trees in Lundin Wood**, undated.
- 59 **Plane tree, Lundin**, May 1912
- 60 **Waterfall on the remote Black Water**,  
September 1899  
The Black Water is a river much altered by the formation of the Blackwater Reservoir to serve the aluminium works at Kinlochleven, on which building was started in 1908.
- 61 **Black Water Lochs**, 1897  
Now submerged in the Blackwater Reservoir.
- 62 **Breakneck pools, River Black Water**, September 1899
- 63 **River Etive**, June 1899
- 64 **Top Pool, River Black Water**, September 1899







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# Animals

The chief preoccupation of the photographer's husband was agriculture and the breeding of prize livestock — farming about 1,000 acres with, besides, 500 acres in grass at Montrave, Greenside and Pratis. His stud of Clydesdale horses, numbering about 50 animals of all ages, was of national reputation, and this, with his prize crossbred cattle and sheep, provided the subject of a series of sympathetic, but never sentimental, photographs by Lady Gilmour. The Clydesdale stud was sold about 1912.

- 65 **Sheep: Smithfield Crosses**, December 1897
- 66 **Prize Sheep**, 1902
- 67 **Twenty guineas shearling, black faced ram, Montrave**, September 1909
- 68 **Sheep**, 1899  
Peter Johnmann, the head shepherd, is on the left. He was one of the pall bearers at Lady Henrietta's funeral in 1926.
- 69 **Smithfield Bullock**, undated
- 70 **Bull and Cattleman, Greenside**, 1899
- 71 **Highland Ox, (Smithfield)**, December 1897
- 72 **Cow at Cameron's, Gilston Mains West**, c.1900
- 73 **First Prize Cow, Shorthorn, Smithfield Show**, December 1896
- 74 **Moss Rose and daughters**  
Moss Rose was 'undoubtedly the most famous Clydesdale mare of the century', with a long list of prize-winning progeny.
- 75 **Group of mares**, 20 August 1901
- 76 **McGregor**, 1898  
Robert Forsyth, stud groom, holding him.
- 77 **Montrave Sam**  
Robert Forsyth, stud groom, holding him.
- 78 **Roberta and Montrave Radiance**, 1901
- 79 **Lady and foal**, 22 July 1898

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- 80 **Prince of Albion**, 12 April 1899  
This famous stallion was purchased by John Gilmour for £3,000. At the Royal Show at Windsor in 1899 it carried off the supreme awards.
- 81 **Moss Rose**, 20 September 1898  
Purchased for £1,000, she was the champion Clydesdale mare at both the Royal and Highland Shows of 1887.
- 82 **Montrave Rosette**, 31 May 1901  
Robert Forsyth, stud groom, holding her.
- 83 **Montrave Maud**  
She obtained the Duke of York's medal at the 'Highland' in Aberdeen in 1894; first in class at Ayr and Glasgow in 1896; Cawdor Cup at 'Highland' in Perth 1896 (which became John Gilmour's property, having won three years in succession). Foaled 22 May 1889 by Prince of Wales out of Moss Rose.
- 84 **Montrave Rowena**, 6 August 1898
- 85 **Harvest Money, KP thoroughbred**, 30 June 1907
- 86 **Ketha**, 18 April 1899
- 87 **Lancer**, 1898

Catalogue and notes compiled by RN Smart.





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