

Certificate of Authenticity and Opinion of Value



I have been asked to prepare this document by the current owner of the subject bagpipe, Rocket Mann, 2727 Wellington Ave, Bismark North Dakota.

Without question the bagpipe was made by Wm. Sinclair & Son Bagpipes Ltd. of Leith, Scotland. William Sinclair established the business around 1931. William Sr. was active in the business until 1955. Thereafter it was continued by his son, William Jr. The profile and details are very distinctive leaving no doubt as to the maker.



The bagpipe is made with African Blackwood and is considered “full ivory” being ivory projecting mounts, ferrules, and cap. It is fully beaded and combed and it appears to be in immaculate condition. The bagpipe also appears to be complete and original with the following exceptions:

1. The bagpipe chanter was not made available to me. If the original chanter were present it might aid in establishing what year the bagpipe was made.
2. The blowpipe may not be original as it looks to be a modern “adjustable” blowpipe.

In attempting to establish a date of manufacture the following was taken into consideration.

Sinclair bagpipes were unchanged in beading and combing throughout the history of the company (8 teeth standing and 24 TPI). The drone-stock bores also remained constant at 25/32.

There were, however, certain features that did change and Allistair Sinclair, the present-day owner of Sinclair Bagpipes has been kind enough to provide accurate and valuable information

Sinclair's signature solid ring-cap wasn't introduced until the early 1950's. Up until that time, a traditional ring and bushing was standard fare on Sinclair bagpipes.

From 1933 to around 1957 every projecting mount has a cut-in on the top. By 1962 this feature disappeared altogether. This would confirm that the subject bagpipe was made in 1957 or later.



The color and texture of ivory on Sinclair bagpipes has been consistent in my experience. When I encounter a Sinclair bagpipe, I expect to find very white ivory. Due to the consistency in color from piece to piece and from Sinclair bagpipe to Sinclair bagpipe I do not believe that ivory cue balls were ever used, as was the practice with some makers. I am told that Sinclair complied with all laws and regulations. Around the mid to late 80's They were buying ivory with the understanding that it was ivory from culled elephants and the proceeds went to help sustain the reservation/park where the elephants had lived. Unfortunately this was found not to be truthful so they stopped using ivory completely.



The early Sinclair drones were "big bore". Sinclair boring tools are made in-house so bores will not be exactly on the 64th or mm. The figures I have for the earliest Sinclair drones are wide (bass bottom joints in the neighborhood of $11/32$ - $23/64$ and middle bores in the neighborhood of $27/64$ - $7/16$). Sometime in the late 1940s to early 1950s the bores got narrower (bass bottom joints in the neighborhood of $21/64$ and middle bores in the neighborhood of $25/64$). Again, sometime after the mid-1990s they went to wider bores once again but not quite as wide as the earliest ones. Unless the bores have been modified, I would expect to find this to be a bagpipe with narrower bores.

The following is said to be the history of ownership according to Mr. John Hooker, who purchased the bagpipe off EBAY in 2000.

A doctor had originally purchased the bagpipe from Sinclair's shop in Scotland in 1956 and brought them back to America. He played them until his death mid-1970. The bagpipe ended up back in Sinclair's shop, was cleaned up, and offered for sale. A clarinetist from the Philadelphia Philharmonic purchased them late 1970 and played them until 2000, when they were placed at auction on EBAY.

In conversations between Mr. Hooker and the seller, it was said that these pipes had been turned by Jim Tweedie, a famous Scottish personality and excellent bagpipe maker. Tweedie left Sinclair's employ in 1970 to form his own company, Inveran House Bagpipes. Mr. Hooker purchased the bagpipe for \$3,500 off EBAY and gave them to Mr. Mann as a gift.



Not all the information lines up. The lack of a step on the projecting mounts suggests that the bagpipe was made in 1957 or later, rather than 1956 as stated by the EBAY seller. If Jim Tweedie made the bagpipe, he would have made it sometime between 1960 and 1970. In both cases, the ivory is pre-ban.

Based on my visual assessment and on the information contained herein, I feel confident that the ivory on this bagpipe pre-dates 1976.

The following factors were taken into consideration in establishing a value

1. Maker (Sinclair, Leith)
2. Age of the instrument (circa 1960)
3. Wood (African Blackwood)
4. Full ivory accutremments and assesories
5. Overall condition (excellent)

I have no commercial interest in this instrument. Fair market value is defined as the value that both buyer and seller would agree upon, both having equal circumstances and knowledge of bagpipes.

One does not know the impact of the new US laws and regulations concerning elephant ivory. If sold within the US, the new owner would be unable to obtain a CITES Certificate. As a result, the bagpipe may be devalued significantly. On the other hand, as ivory becomes more and more scarce, the bagpipe may increase in value significantly. The current owner is able to sell the bagpipe outside of the US and I would expect the transaction to occur at somewhere between \$3,500 and \$4,500 USD. Until more is known regarding the impact of the new US ivory laws and regulations, I would insure the instrument against loss or damage for \$5,500 USD.

This document was prepared this 18th day of July, 2014

PM Ron Bowen

www.thebagpipeplace.com

184 Russell Avenue

St. Catharines, ON

Canada L2R 1W6

(905) 641-8110

