

# *Robert Burns Association of North America*

*Our monarch's hindmost year but ane,  
Was five-and-twenty days begun,  
'Twas then a blast o' Janwar win  
Blew hansel in on Robin.*

*He'll hae misfortunes great and sma',  
But aye a heart aboon them a',  
He'll be a credit till us a',  
We'll a' be proud o' Robin.*



On 25<sup>th</sup> January the birth of Robert Burns will be celebrated from Canada to China, America to Australia.

Hugh McDiarmid wrote:-

*Rabbie, wad'st thou wert here - the world hath need,  
And Scotland mair sae, o' the likes o' thee!*

The legacy of Burns' poems and songs fill our hearts and minds. Ian Mc Intyre in his book "Dirt & Deity" made this concluding statement:-

"{Burns} is not Dante, and he is not Pushkin. It was not given to him, as it was to Shakespeare, to illuminate our moral universe. But he makes us laugh, and he makes us cry, and in doing so, most precious of all poetic gifts, he heightens the sense we have of our common humanity. And that is why the lad who was born in Kyle belongs not just to the keepers of the flame but to the whole world".

May your Burns Suppers bring you fellowship, joy and memories!

*And there's a hand, my trusty fere !  
And gie's a hand o' thine!  
And we'll tak a right gude-willie waught ,  
For auld lang syne .*

*Chris Ballantine*

President RBANA