

## The Robert Burns World Federation Conference and AGM 2009-Highlights

There is a report on the conference in the Tattler section of this website.

Some of the other highlights of the weekend are worth a mention.

For the reception at the National Gallery the original Burns Portrait by Nasmyth was Specially brought in and exhibited for the Federation Guests. We were also entertained by “Caledon” the 3 Scottish Tenors, a great talented group.



The Sunday Morning service at the Cannongate Kirk was also special. Several delegates took the opportunity to visit the gravesites of Robert Fergusson and Agnes McIlhose {Clarinda}, in the Kirk graveyard, before the service began.



The Minister had managed to arrange, by special permission of Her Majesty, the display of the Queen's Tam O'Shanter chair, usually kept in Hollyrood Palace.

The Chair is made of timber from the Auld Kirk Alloway.

The Back panels have a brass overlay on which is engraved the full text of Tam O'Shanter.

The Federation donated a bronze Bust of Robert Burns to the Kirk and it was unveiled by the Minister of Culture and the Constitution, Mike Russell MSP. and the Federation President Mike Duguid



Following the service and dedication, many of the group climbed up Calton Hill to the Burns Monument which had been newly restored and was then re-dedicated. A great finish to the Weekend.