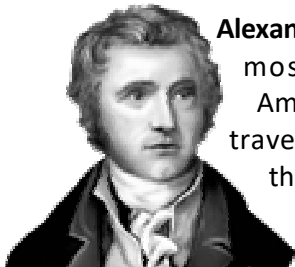


# Crossroads

CROSSROADS Language Studio's Newsletter August, 2022

## Scottish Mark on the World

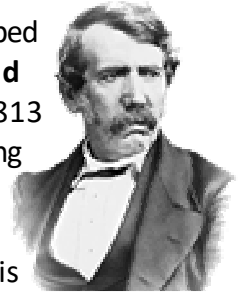
Scotland is a country in the political union of The United Kingdom, and a country unlike any other in Europe. It's of course famous for whisky and salmon and men wearing kilts, but what it's less known for is that since the 18<sup>th</sup> century it has played a significant role in shaping the modern world, as we know it. Much of North America, especially Canada, was explored by fur trappers and traders, biologists and naturalists, and a vast majority of them hailing from Scotland. The rugged and unforgiving landscape of the Scottish Highlands was inhabited by the hardest of men and women, while famous universities in Glasgow and Edinburgh would produce the best intellectuals in the field of Geography and Natural Sciences.



**Alexander McKenzie** is arguably the most famous explorer of the American continent. In 1789 he travelled from Lake Athabasca to the Arctic Sea. The biggest river in the West now bears his surname. In 1793 he travelled from East to West and was the first white man to reach the Pacific Ocean by crossing the Rocky Mountains. Most importantly, though, his book records an exceptionally detailed account of his journeys, filled with measurements of geographical landmarks and details of his interactions with the Native American tribes.

The book was instrumental in setting up many expeditions, including the famous Lewis and Clark expedition in 1903 that mapped the route to the Pacific across the United States.

Another influential Scot, who shaped the history of Africa, is **Dr. David Livingstone**. He was born in 1813 outside Glasgow and, despite growing up in abject poverty, managed to study medicine at a university and it is there that he found his calling as a missionary. David spent many years working in South Africa and Zambia helping local communities, and his efforts resulted in seriously disrupting the slave trade between those countries and the UK, later paving the way to a complete abolition of slavery.



Scottish female explorers were also prominent and the best example would be the traveller and botanist **Isobel Wylie Hutchison**.

In the early 20's it was very rare for women to travel great distances, so it is somewhat unbelievable that in 1924, Isobel set off on a solo exploration to Iceland and subsequently on to Greenland, to collect indigenous flora. A few years later, she travelled to the Panama Canal and then embarked on a trek – mainly by boat and dog sled – along the west coast to Alaska, visiting Eskimo tribes, collecting plants and sending samples back home.



In a time with limited transport options in a largely uncharted world, these brave explorers stand tall for their courage and relentless determination to achieve their ambitions.

*Article by Marek*

## Net News

**NET LESSONS:** Too busy to come to CROSSROADS?

.... Try our *lessons on the net!*

For more details, please visit:

[https://electricscotland.com/history/america/fur\\_trappers.htm](https://electricscotland.com/history/america/fur_trappers.htm)

# Some Thoughts for the Month



**Joshua Says:** Translation devices, and the software that comes with them, seem to be making quite an impression in the business world these days. But how accurate are they? In my opinion, AI is not quite ready to take over the world just yet! In fact, I don't think it ever will be; there are too many variables. On top of that, a good negotiator needs to know how to read "between the lines" to get a full understanding of what's being said. – body language, nuances and specific cultural references; things understood only in P-to-P situations.

**Junko Says:** The name "August" comes from the Latin word Augustus, the name of the first Roman Emperor. In many countries, as well as in Japan, August is the holiday month. Interestingly, there were numerous holidays during August in ancient Rome also. Now that this year's very hot August is going to end soon, I hope you all had a good, relaxing holiday this year.



**Marek Says:** As I was reading about early Scottish inhabitants of the Highlands, I learned about a common practice that people employed to protect themselves during harsh winter nights. When the temperature dropped well below zero, they would soak their clothes in a river, freeze them in the wind and then wear them during the night. Frozen fabric acts as a thermal insulation against winter winds and snow blizzards, working on the same premise as an igloo.

**Mandey dit:** Chaque année au mois d'août, je me pose la même question. Pourquoi il n'y a personne qui nage dans la mer ? En effet, les français adorent prendre un bain de mer et de soleil. j' adore aussi boire un cocktail sur la terrasse d'un café et aller à la piscine. Mais, au Japon, mes amis préfèrent aller à la montagne, faire un BBQ et du camping. Je pense qu'il fait plus frais dans la montagne alors c'est très agréable !! Et vous ? Préférez-vous la mer ou la montagne



**ACROSS**

- 1 native
- 4 regardless of
- 5 rough, uneven, rocky
- 6 helpful, influential,
- 11 people who study nature
- 12 do away with, end
- 14 most unfortunate, miserable
- 16 plant life
- 17 far beyond what is normal
- 18 standing out above others
- 19 family name
- 20 following in time or order

**DOWN**

- 2 interfering, causing disorder
- 3 important in effect or meaning
- 7 reciprocal actions
- 8 to a great extent
- 9 most physically strong
- 10 a person who studies plants
- 13 having the power to effect
- 15 scientists who study living organisms

## Play A Game!

Find the answers on P1

[\(print version here\)](#)



## S(B)1's Yukiko on the Tanka Poet, Hiroshi Homura



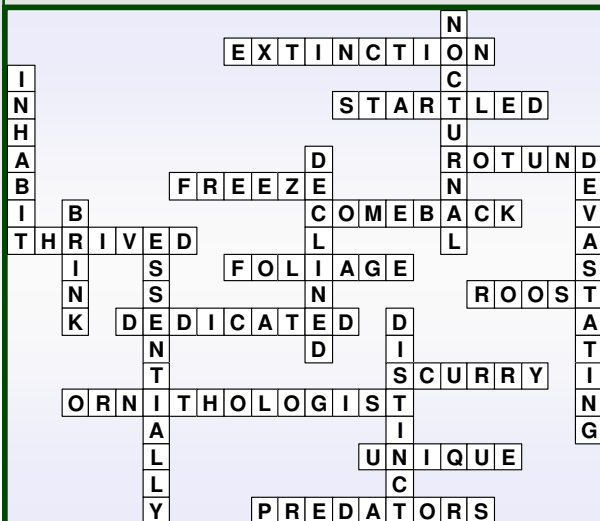
### The Football World Cup

Tanka is a form of traditional Japanese poetry which dates back over 1000 years, so it is older than haiku. Over time, the Royal family designated it a part of the nation's culture.

Hiroshi Homura is a famous tanka poet. Not only is his tanka good, but his essays are very good too. When the Football World Cup was held, he enjoyed watching it live. On the day of the final, however, he couldn't get time to watch it because he had to go out, so he recorded it to enjoy later.

As the game was important to him, he didn't want to know the result before he got back, but it was very difficult to avoid overhearing the result, especially in Tokyo. If he took a train, someone would talk about it, and some evening papers would say which team had won. He wanted to avoid contact with people and public transport, so he decided to take a taxi home. When he got in the taxi, he said to the driver "Don't tell me the result of the World Cup, please". He thought to himself, "I did as much as I could. After coming back home, I'll relax and enjoy the game".

As soon as he got out of the taxi, a boy and his mother came near him and the boy said "Mom, it's good news, Spain won!" Oh no! All his effort was for nothing. He screamed in his mind: "return my taxi fee!"



### Last Month's puzzle Solution

#### ACROSS

- 2 no longer existing
- 4 surprised suddenly
- 6 fat, round shape
- 8 suddenly stop moving
- 10 return to an earlier condition
- 11 grow vigorously
- 13 a cluster of plant leaves
- 14 settle down, sit or stay
- 15 devoted to
- 17 moving, rushing about hurriedly
- 18 a zoologist who studies birds
- 19 one of a kind
- 20 animals that prey on other animals

#### DOWN

- 1 active at night
- 3 exist or be situated in
- 5 grown worse or less
- 7 having a completely destroying effect
- 9 up to the limit
- 12 basically, fundamentally
- 16 easily recognizable



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See our notice board, or ask Junko in our office, for the details.