

"THE STONE" RETURNS

Fifteen weeks after it disappeared from Westminster Abbey where for 650 years it formed part of the throne of coronation, the Stone of Scone, which was wrenched from here on the night of Christmas Eve has returned to the light of day.

In Arbroath Abbey, close to the grave of William the Lion - who built the Abbey - the Stone was deposited by three men who remain unknown. Here, 631 years ago the Declaration of Scottish Independence was signed.

And here, by appointment, to receive the Stone, came Councillors Thornton and Gardner.

As custodian of the Abbey, 63-years-old James Wishart took charge of the relic till it was removed from Arbroath. Nearly 350 years ago a Scottish King - James VI - was crowned at Westminster, to unite the two great nations as equals. From that union came great good to mankind; and that thought surely will guide those who decide the fate of the Stone of Scone.