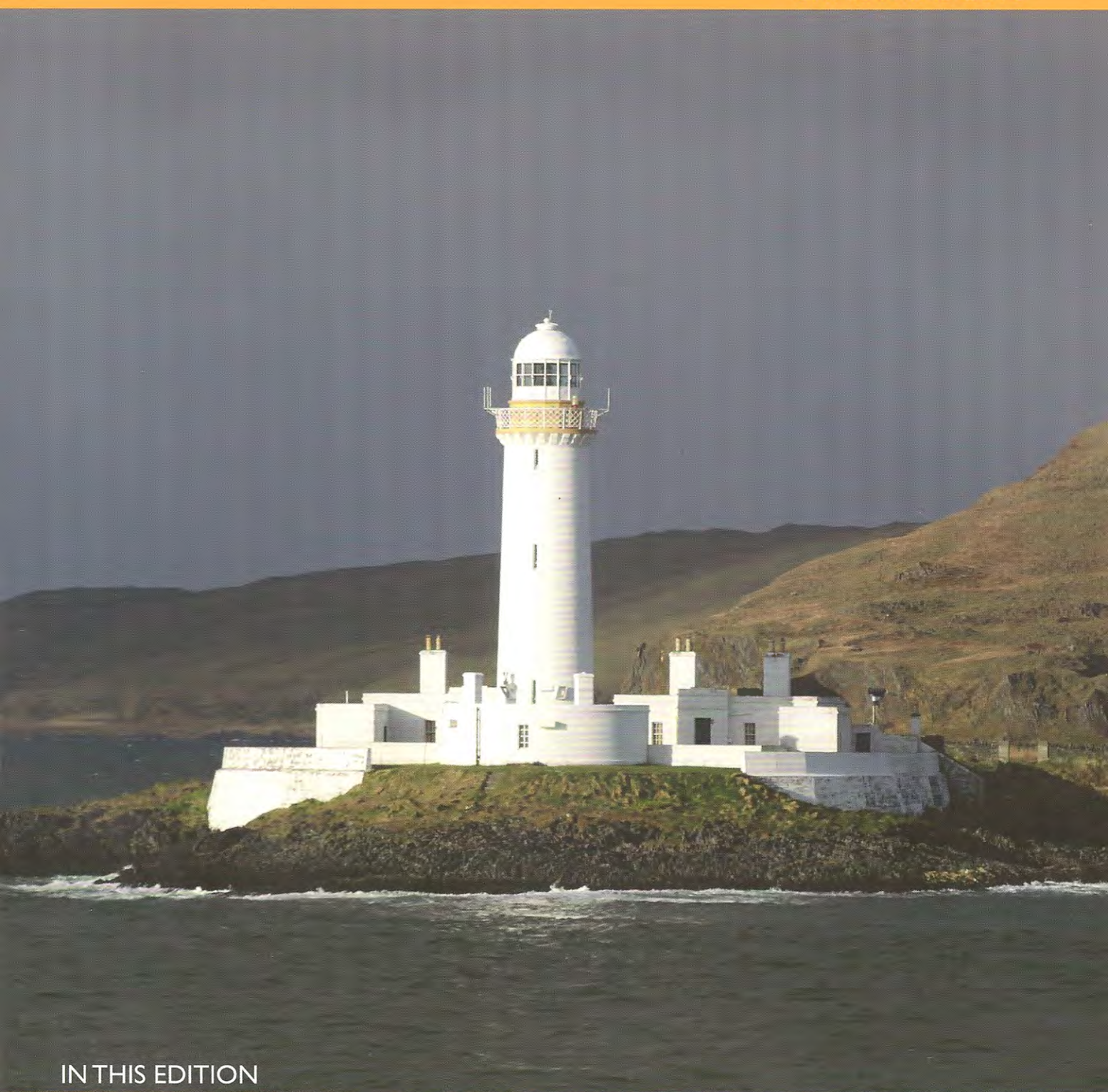


NORTHERN LIGHTHOUSE BOARD

Serving the Mariner for 230 years 1786 - 2016

Journal

CHRISTMAS 2016



IN THIS EDITION

Escape & Casualty Rescue ~ Recollections of FINGAL ~ Dubh Artach - 150 Years Ago

IMAGES THIS PAGE CLOCKWISE: MAUGHOLD HEAD, THE GROUP AT THE TOP OF MAUGHOLD, THE GROUP AT POINT OF AYRE, FRED FOX RLK, LANGNESS, CALF OF MAN OLD LIGHT; OPPOSITE PAGE: CHICKEN ROCK.



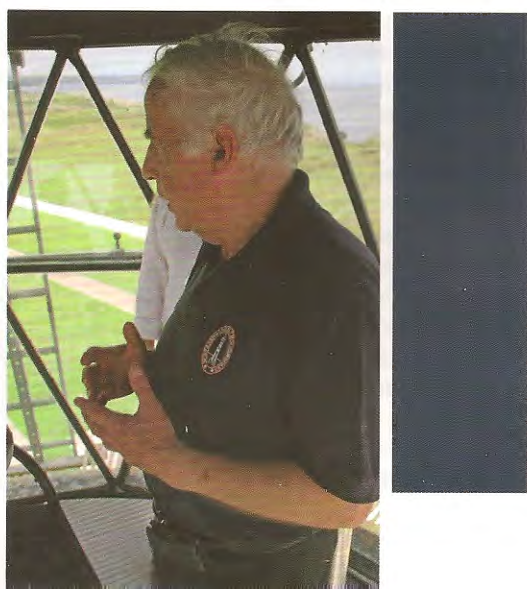
United States Lighthouse Society Tours

Isle of Man Lighthouses

by Skip Sherwood

The United State Lighthouse Society, a prominent non-profit lighthouse educational and preservation organisation, completed a sixteen day lighthouse tour of Wales and the Isle of Man this past July. Hailing from fifteen different American states, the thirty five lighthouse enthusiasts spent four of those days enjoying and photographing the lighthouses on both the Isle of Man and Calf of Man. As the ferry from Heysham approached Douglas Harbour, all hands were on deck taking pictures of the imposing Douglas Head Lighthouse as well as the Battery Pier light and Tower of Refuge. That evening, they were greeted at dinner by NLB Commissioner Mike Brew and John Hellowell, the Association

of Lighthouse Keepers (ALK) representative for the Isle of Man. Commissioner Brew addressed the group, discussing among other things, how the NLB obtained the responsibility for the Isle of Man lights. The following morning, despite cloudy skies and uncertain seas, the group headed to Port St. Mary for a trip out to view the Calf of Man lighthouses. Fortunately, the weather held and the group was able to land at the island's South Harbour where they were greeted by Ian Lycett, the Calf Estate Warden. Hiking the 1.5 km up to the three Calf of Man lights also provided an opportunity to view Chicken Rock Lighthouse through the haze and light fog. That same afternoon at Langness Lighthouse they were met by Fred Fox,





NLB Retained Lightkeeper (RLK) for the Isle of Man, who provided the group with some history and an opportunity to climb the tower.

The second full day on the island found the group at the northern end of the island visiting the Point of Ayre Lighthouse. This light station with its imposing tower, low light ("Winkie") and fog signal provided lots of photo opportunities and was selected as the location for the tour's official group photo. The next lighthouse, Maughold Head, was accessed via a walk through the Kirk Maughold parish church grounds with its fascinating collection of ancient Celtic crosses and slabs. At the lighthouse, like many perched on the side of a cliff, one has to climb down before being able to climb up to the tower's lantern room. It was the ability to access and climb the four major lighthouses on the Isle of Man that attracted many of the tour's participants. This is not something that most individuals ever get an opportunity to do. While taking photos and learning the history of a lighthouse are important parts of USLHS tours, the ultimate goal is getting inside the lighthouse, climbing the tower, viewing the lens and walking outside on the gallery. With the assistance of Lorna Hunter, NLB Information Officer, the Society was able to obtain permission from current property owners to gain access to the lighthouses. This, combined with the services of Fred Fox, provided these once in a lifetime opportunities.

As rain clouds gathered on the tour's last full day on the Island, there was one more climb up, then down and up again to reach the lantern room of the Douglas Head Lighthouse. As the group returned to their tour coach it began to rain for the first time in four days, which prompted them to express their appreciation to the local tourist bureau and NLB for making sure the showers held off until the last tower was climbed! ■

MORE THAN LIGHTHOUSES - www.nlb.org.uk

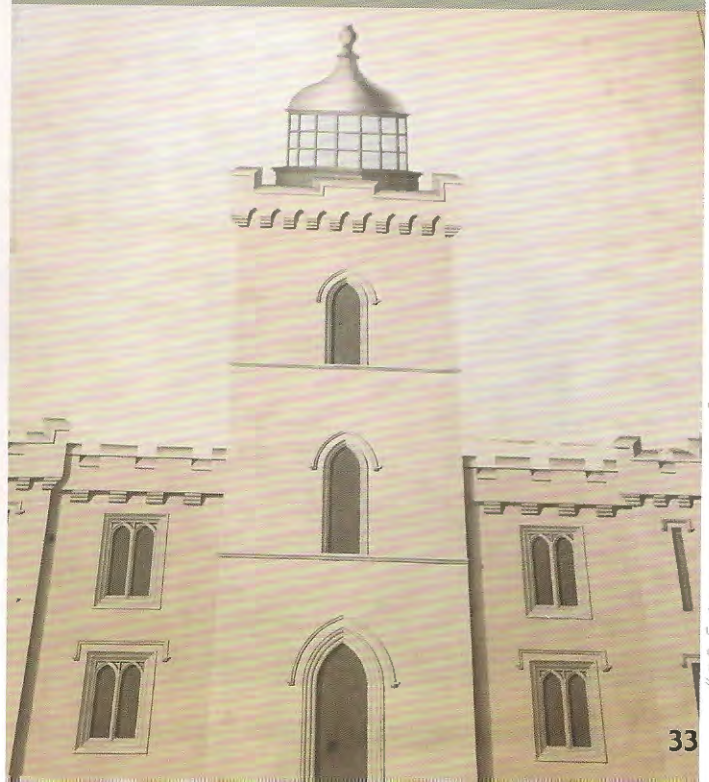
The HERITAGE TRUST visit the NATIONAL LIBRARY of SCOTLAND to view the STEVENSON FAMILY ARCHIVE



L to R: PETER MACKAY, ALASTAIR BEVERIDGE, BARRI MILLAR, JOHN ROSS

The private collection of books and records from the archive of the firm of Robert Stevenson, his three sons Alan, David and Thomas, and later generations of the family are on deposit with The National Library of Scotland, Edinburgh.

This great collection of papers includes some original plans for Corsewall lighthouse (above) and Isle of May (below).



"Helping conserve and promote awareness of our lighthouse heritage"