

J M Barrie's Birthplace cont.

No.11 next door houses the Peter Pan Room. The little wash-house outside, where the 7 year-old Barrie performed his first play, provided the inspiration for the Wendy House in Peter Pan.

Barrie is buried in the town's cemetery. If you go to visit his grave you will see on the headstone none of his degrees or honours - simply the words "James Matthew Barrie". This was at his own request.

ADMISSION TO CAMERA OBSCURA: A small admission charge is levied.

CAMERA OBSCURA: Demonstrations every 20 mins.

WEATHER: The Camera Obscura image is weather dependant. Please note on a dull day the image may not be at its best.

CAR PARKING: Free parking adjacent to the pavilion.

TOILETS: At rear of the pavilion.

PICNIC AREA: Picnic facilities are available next to the pavilion.

CHILDREN'S PLAY AREA: A children's play area is sited near to the pavilion and picnic area.

DISABLED VISITORS: Access to the pavilion is by stairs only and is therefore not suitable for wheelchair users.

PHOTOGRAPHY: Visitors are welcome to use cameras and camcorders throughout the building. However, staff reserve the right to control the use equipment.

QUESTIONS: Staff will be happy to answer any queries you may have regarding the Camera Obscura or J M Barrie's Birthplace.

INFORMATION: If there is anything that you need to know before you visit or if you are travelling a long distance, please do not hesitate to give us a call during opening hours 07774 737036 and outwith opening hours (01307) 461460 or (01575) 572646.

HOW TO GET TO THE PAVILION: By road - follow the brown tourist signs from Kirriemuir Town Centre to Kirrie Hill and the Camera Obscura.



Kirriemuir



The National Trust for Scotland

Barrie's Birthplace
Telephone: (01575) 572646

CAMERA OBSCURA and KIRRIEMUIR



Barrie's Birthplace

The Camera Obscura In General

The Camera Obscura effect - the formation of an image by light passing through a small hole into a darkened room or box - has



Barrie's Pavilion

been known for many centuries. It was first recorded by ancient Chinese philosophers and the instrument was later developed by European astronomers for observing sun spots, eclipses and planetary movements. The popularity of the Camera Obscura reached its peak in the 18th and 19th centuries and its demise thereafter was mainly due to the introduction of telescopes.

Prior to the introduction of photography the camera obscura was considered a "must" for travellers and explorers who used the apparatus to produce drawings to enhance the reports of their travels. Records show that throughout the ages, the camera obscura has been used by artists and was also a useful tool for printers and those working in drawing offices.



Despite its survival in an ever reducing number of observatories and as a form of copying machine in some drawing offices, the camera

obscura is today little known or appreciated, except among historians or collectors who regard the earlier instruments as highly prized artefacts. It is interesting to note that epidiascopes and overhead projectors are derived from the camera obscura and the camera, as we know it, is actually a camera obscura. The abbreviated title of "Camera" was employed to prevent confusion with its ancient predecessor.

Sir James Barrie's Camera Obscura at Kirriemuir

The Kirriemuir Camera Obscura, one of only three in Scotland, was gifted to the town by the author and playwright, Sir J.M. Barrie in 1929 and is housed in a purpose designed turret room within the cricket pavilion situated on Kirriemuir Hill. Cricket still proves to be popular and the home side still use the building to this day.



Rotating hood and mirror

The Camera Obscura (see opposite) consists of a darkened, octagonal shaped room with an inverted funnel shaped ceiling. Mounted in the funnel spout is a fixed lens above which is a rotating mirror set at an angle of approximately 45 degrees. In front of the mirror is an optical glass screen which protects both the mirror and the lens without affecting the true colour of the objects being viewed or distorting their image. The lens is solidly mounted below the rotating axis of the hood thus eliminating vibration. Beneath the lens is a floor-mounted, saucer shaped viewing table. Focal adjustment is obtained by raising or lowering the table.

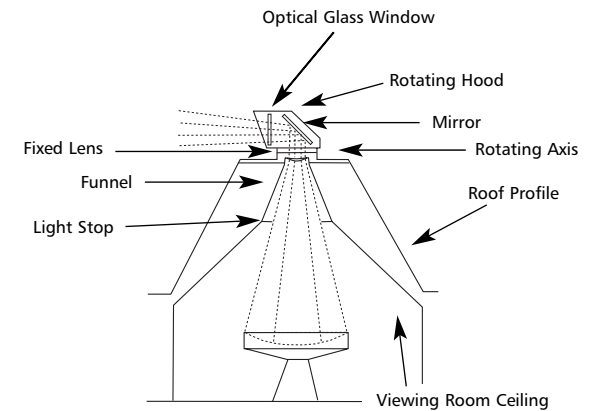
The view, which is observed through the optical glass window, is reflected by the mirror and projected by the lens down onto the table.

Commanding Views

The SIDLAWS range some 45 miles from the South East to South West and vary from 9-16 miles (14.5-25.6km) distant. To the South West may be seen the OCHILS which lie mainly in Stirlingshire and beyond these, BEN LEDI which is 58 miles (92.8km) distant. Further to the West one may see in good weather BEN LUI which is 71 miles (113.6km) away, near Criannlarich, and BEN LAWERS, some 47 miles (75.4km) by Loch Tay. Due West, lies CAIRN MAIRG 43 miles away (68.8km). These distant peaks vary in height from 2875ft (862 metres) to 3984ft (1195 metres). To the north lie the Grampian Foothills and the Angus Glens. The distance to the foothills varies from 2 to 20 miles (3-32km); their heights varies from 940-3550ft (282-1065 metres). Within this undulating skyline we have a panoramic view of the lovely and fertile Strathmore Valley.

Technical Information

- Height of viewing window above sea level - 655ft (196.5m)
- Lens 7 ins. (179mm) diameter of achromatic combination.
- Lens - focal length - 8ft. 9ins. (2667mm)
- Lens, f factor - f15
- Table, diameter - 4ft. 6ins. (1372mm)
- Table, radius of curvature of concavity - 6ft. (1829mm)
- Room dimensions : octagonal floor of internal diameter 12ft. (3.658m)
- Clearance between walls and table - 3ft. 6ins. (1067mm)
- Headroom - from floor at edge of table - 8ft. (2438mm)
- General note: The value of the lens is the ratio of the lens diameter to its focal length. In this case it is 10ins/7ins. = f15



J M Barrie's Birthplace



J.M Barrie with his god son Angus Ogilvy

The author and playwright was born at 9 Brechin Road in Kirriemuir on 9th. May 1860. The house is now owned by The National Trust for Scotland and welcomes visitors during the summer months. The upper floors are furnished as they might have been when Barrie lived there.

A View from the Camera Room

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