

# Byron Cassell - A Whisky Biography

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Byron was introduced to Scotch Whisky while serving in the Air Force in the 1970's. And that started a love affair with the marvelous elixir that has only grown in intensity over the years. He has studied and done extensive research on Scotch Whisky and the Scotch Whisky industry for several decades. His whisky-related library contains hundreds of publications on the business, history, lore and appreciation of Single Malt Scotch Whiskies and their distilleries. He has made eight trips to Scotland to visit and tour over fifty distilleries. In 2002, Byron attended the first ever "Whisky School" conducted by industry leaders at the Bladnoch Distillery, in Bladnoch, Scotland. He is currently enrolled in a Whisky Course of Study with Moray College in Elgin, Scotland.

Byron began collecting Single Malt Scotch Whiskies in the early 1990's and has since built one of the largest collections in the United States. The collection now boasts nearly 700 unique Single Malt expressions from some 120 distilleries, 23 of which are now closed. And, the collection is NOT "just for viewing". He has duplicates of most bottles and actually drinks that golden nectar and shares it with friends.

His expertise and collection have been featured in several newspapers and magazines including the Jacksonville Florida Times-Union, *The Malt Advocate*, *Whisky Magazine*, and *Food & Wine Magazine*. He conducts "Tutored Tastings" and seminars all over the United States and Canada. Recently, Byron has conducted the Whisky Tastings in conjunction with Scottish Games celebrations throughout the south eastern United States, and has conducted several seminars for the sales staff of whisky distributors in Florida.

As a member of the Clan Buchanan Society International, Byron is an enthusiast for all things Scottish. He is also a member of the International Order of the Companions of the Quach, a whisky society in Ontario, Canada.

Byron and his wife, Myra, were married in Scotland, on the Island of Islay, in Bowmore, at the "little round church", near the Bowmore Distillery in July 2000. Myra is a ceramic artist and painter and shows her work in galleries throughout the southeast. In addition to their love of Scotch Whisky, Byron and Myra also share a love of art, opera, theater, and travel. They make their home in Jacksonville, Florida.

