

This month's Scottish discovery is connected with street architecture rather than literary allusions (see RP No 6). The Scottish connections have to do with both the road and street furniture and there is even a loose connection with the composer Edward Elgar. My friend the late Veronica Smith surmised that Clyde Road was named after Baron Clyde, and if so would be in keeping with our observations that Bristol City Council has a penchant for naming streets after the 'great & the good'



and has nothing to do with municipal sycophancy. Clyde Road is also characterised by a splendid set of very tall and ornate cast iron lamp posts. As can be seen in the picture these are very impressive and even have the Bristol City coat of arms on the base and are a splendid example of the nineteenth century output of McDowall Steven Company's Milton Foundry at Glasgow. As the lamp posts were made on the Clyde, perhaps this is a unique example of the road being named after the street furniture? Scottish Ironfounders competed successfully with Coalbrookdale for the lucrative nineteenth century market in street ironmongery. Indeed, when Elgar sailed 1,200 miles up the Amazon to visit Manaus in Brazil in 1923, he discovered the balconies of the famous opera

house, railings and lamp posts, all came from Scotland. He said how pleased he was to see that Britain could export such elegant things. I am pleased to report that during my own visit to Manaus this February 2010, I can confirm that the elegant Scottish Ironwork reported by Elgar is still there.

