

Sir Robin McEwen (1926-80). Lawyer, artist and laird of Marchmont. Born in London when his mother was unable to get home because of the General Strike, Robin McEwen was brought up at Marchmont and at the other family home, Bardrochat in Ayrshire. After National Service with the Grenadier Guards, during which he reported on the Nuremberg Trials for *The Tablet* magazine, he achieved a brilliant law degree at Cambridge which led to a successful career as a barrister in London which also entailed helping to write the constitution for the new country, Pakistan.

He wrote a column about law for *The Spectator* and published topical cartoons widely. As an illustrator he is best known for the drawings which adorn the books by Gavin Maxwell, *Ring of Bright Water* and *Raven Seek Thy Brother*. When his father died in 1962, Robin McEwen gave up his law career to take over the running of Marchmont.

He stood twice for Parliament but was not elected, his Catholicism proving a barrier especially in the Roxburgh, Selkirk and Peebles by-election of 1965. He succeeded to the baronetcy when his elder brother Jamie, who had been wounded in the Second World War, died without sons in 1971. A much-loved laird, he was greatly missed when he died from a heart attack aged 53. He was succeeded as baronet by his elder son James. He was survived by his wife Brigid (nee Laver) and their children Mary Christian, Katie, James, Helena, John and Isabella.