

**TAR/TAN** (possibly Fr. *tiretaine*, *tirtaine*, linsey-woolsey, from Sp. *tiritaña*, thin silk or woolen cloth). A well-known cloth of checkered pattern, also called plaid. The Scottish Gaelic tartan is a loan word from the English; the native name is rather breacan. These colored plaids have long been in great favor in the Highlands of Scotland, where each clan has its distinctive pattern. Consult James Grant, *Tartans of the Clans of Scotland* (Edinburgh, 1886), and C. N. North, *Leabhar communnam fìor Chael, Book of the Club of True Highlanders* (2 vols., London, 1892).