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# Baron Boyar

RUSSIA'S new money has finally found its way to the bleakest reaches of Scotland, where an intimate of Russian President Boris Yeltsin has bought up the medieval Skelbo Castle and baronial rights from the Colditz survivor Michael Alexander. Until now, little has been known about the buyer, who acquired the property and titles two months ago. Alexander, as much as anyone, was kept in the dark about

the new owner. It is now obvious why.

Mikhail Debouar, the new Baron of Skelbo Castle, is a wealthy businessman in Russia. He has kept quiet about his acquisition so as not to embarrass Boris Yeltsin during the ongoing Russian elections. Yeltsin's opponents would have had too much fun if they found out that one of the President's biggest supporters was buying Scottish land and titles.

Debouar, whose purchase was sponsored by the Labour life peer Lord Whaddon, will now be able to wear several sorts of baronial robe, the baronial chapeau and carry the baronial wand. His people were tigerish in their efforts to protect news of all this from seeping out.

Alexander, although interested in the political dimensions, is more concerned with the well-being of his family's inheritance. "I sold it on the understanding that restoration would occur. All I hope is that we can soon get on with it."