

**Scottish Studies Newsletter, No. 40, Autumn 2012**

Editors:

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### Editorial

Dear Subscriber / Reader,

The SNP has now got another two years left to convince the Scots that independence would be better for them than what they have at the moment. This will not be easy. Human beings generally prefer to stay where they are and what they are, especially when they are not sure that a radical change will really bring improvements. And not only Ian Rankin thinks that Scots basically abhor change. Sociologists, economists, many people working in the social services, investigating social policy, and the social, economic, and political situation in Scotland, however, claim that there is an urgent need for radical changes. (Cf. the review of the book *Social Justice* below and the Rankin source there.) Many people in other countries felt this need in connection with the disastrous financial crisis in 2008. Politicians promised changes then, but they are nowhere visible. Visible, however, are people suffering from huge budget cuts and austerity measures that are applied with the intention of reducing the tremendous deficits piled up by both irresponsible politicians and greedy bankers.

What has the Scottish referendum got to do with this? Very much, once the 2014 event is seen in these and other relevant contexts. This is precisely what the 2013 conference 'Scotland 2014: Coming of Age and Loss of Innocence?' wants to do. It will investigate the referendum in all of its momentous dimensions. For this purpose, speakers from all relevant areas of society have been invited, in order to address this topic from their point of view and in this way help to create a fairly comprehensive survey of ideas, opinions, and evaluations. A holistic understanding is not instantly created in this way, but it is ultimately intended. What can at least be achieved is an interdisciplinary view of the situation Scotland is now in. And that can only be constructive. One small but relevant indication of the broad view offered by the conference is the inclusion of at least two people from the arts in these discussions, from which they are too often excluded. The participants and the areas they speak from will soon be announced on the [conference website](#), where further information is already available.

What the referendum and the discussions about it really need to address from now on was wonderfully expressed by Ian Bell of the *Herald*, who not only declared that public statements and articles in the media must abandon narrow party perspectives, but also pointed out how much more is at the heart of the matter: "The point at issue, the real meaning of the 2014 question, whatever the words, is independence of mind. For or against? The rest is pernicious chatter." (<http://www.heraldscotland.com/comment/columnists/at-last-its-time-to-get-down-to-the-heart-of-the-matter.18778208>) He could not have described both the core problem of 2014 and the intention of the 2013 conference in a better way. That is why we would very much like to have Ian Bell as a speaker at the conference. If you can help us get into contact with him and one or two other equally good journalists, we would be grateful. One or two politicians are also still wanted for this event. And, as it says at the conference website, we'd be grateful for any further suggestions.

So, indeed, very much still needs to be done, and good results can be achieved only with the support of a community that is certain about its objectives. The objectives of Scottish Studies are an enhancement of knowledge and understanding of Scottish affairs. Your support in this endeavour has been excellent, and we are looking forward to hearing more from you.

The Editors

Professor Dr. Horst W. Drescher – Lothar Görke – Professor Dr. Klaus Peter Müller – Ron Walker

November 2012

### New Scottish Poetry

The poem below is from *Rug of a Thousand Colours*, a bilingual collection of poetry in English and Arabic by Scottish poet and founder of the Scottish Poetry Library, [Tessa Ransford](#), and [Iyad Hayatleh](#), a Palestinian poet from Syria, who now lives in Scotland. The poems represent a conversation between the two poets, a dialogue between their languages and cultures, and take their inspiration from the Five Pillars of Islam. One of these pillars, pilgrimage, is the inspiration for this poem.

#### **Pilgrimage** by Tessa Ransford

I saw the Canterbury Pilgrims in procession,  
tongues wagging with their tales,  
a pellmell people's holiday excursion  
along with dogs and horses, all and sundry there,  
not sure they want to know each other well  
but forced to get along the road together,  
just that painted crowd, that April morning.

And so with me. I have no other chance  
and need to make my journey from this place  
this crowd of witnesses around me  
this century and season  
these rules and these conditions for the trip.

As pilgrims we sleep after each day's advance  
and shelter as best we may, no thought for the morrow  
except to keep in the right direction. We jest and talk.  
We have come far and must go forward each day  
not waiting for what befalls. The temple dream  
is granted to those who dare to wait  
and wait in the dark  
while, hardly discernible, an image lies ahead:  
the great winged shrine to which we're all enthralled.

That shade of death is present in my childhood  
disease and dynamite on either hand.  
Progress does not describe my journey  
winding round and each ordeal repeated:  
Despond again, the Hill to climb, another and always another  
with racket of fireworks, Vanity Fair recurring.

When Faithful dies, as I let him, and Hope  
scarcely abides without that friend;  
when Despair imprisons  
and Promise is no sure key of release,  
I creep back and find old tales –  
of love of love of love of love.  
Not once in a lifetime this pilgrimage

but simply my life.

Now alone, yet in my own company,  
I desire the delectable mountains  
and wade through the river, yes,  
hands outstretched to the children  
without returning.

From [Rug of a Thousand Colours](#), (2012)

by Tessa Ransford and Iyad Hayatleh, Luath Press. £8.99

[With thanks to the [Scottish Poetry Library](#)]

**65 Years of Passion for Literature**  
**The Scottish Universities' International Summer School**  
Miriam Schröder (Mainz/Germersheim)

The Scottish Universities' International Summer School (SUISS) was founded in 1947 by the late Professor David Daiches in order to bring together students and scholars who, although they may differ widely in their cultural backgrounds, share one thing: a passion for literature. This year, too, as SUISS celebrates its 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary, this spirit remains unbroken. And so from 9<sup>th</sup> July till 18<sup>th</sup> August, students and scholars from all over the world came to Edinburgh to participate in SUISS, which today represents the following universities: Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Strathclyde, St Andrews and the Open University in Scotland. This year's programme, *Text and Context: British and Irish Literature from 1900 to the Present*, comprised three self-contained two-week courses: Modernism, Scottish Literature, and Contemporary Literature. In addition, SUISS offers a Creative Writing programme.

I was fortunate to be awarded the *Saltire Scholarship for Scottish Literature*, which is funded by the Scottish Government and the universities of Edinburgh, Glasgow, Strathclyde, Dundee, St. Andrews and Aberdeen. The scholarship covered the participation fee and accommodation for the Scottish Literature course and an additional study week. It was a great opportunity to visit Edinburgh, get involved in discussions about Scottish Literature, do research and meet scholars from all over the world. For the Scottish Literature course alone the 31 students came from 16 different countries, so class discussions and after-class conversations were always thought-provoking and helped to create a highly stimulating and vibrant atmosphere.

A typical SUISS day starts off with a lecture in the morning, held by a professor or lecturer from one of the participating Scottish universities, in each case a distinguished critic or scholar in the field. During the short coffee break which follows the lecture, the students have time to discuss the contents of the lecture and approach the speaker with questions. The ideas gathered are carried into the seminars, where the topics and texts are discussed in smaller groups, led by a tutor and aided by short presentations from the students. The seminar groups, which hold about ten students each, provide ample opportunities to bounce ideas off each other and explore various themes, such as, in the case of the Scottish Literature course, what Scottishness means and how it is represented in twentieth century texts.

The reading for the Scottish Literature module covered poetry by Hugh MacDiarmid and Edwin Morgan, plays by John McGrath, Gregory Burke and Liz Lochhead, short stories by A.L. Kennedy and James Kelman, and fiction by Lewis Grassie Gibbon, Muriel Spark and Alasdair Gray. Each seminar lesson was preceded by a morning lecture, during which Alex Thomson gave an introduction to Scottish Literature since 1900, Alan Riach spoke about Hugh Mac-

Diarmid and 20<sup>th</sup> Century Scottish Poetry, while Ian Campbell introduced Lewis Grassie Gibbon, and Robert Crawford presented on Edwin Morgan. Muriel Spark's fiction was the topic of David Goldie's lecture, Robert Irvine addressed issues to do with Scottish Theatre, Emma Lister examined Alasdair Gray's work, while Margery Palmer McCulloch gave the participants an insight into Liz Lochhead's plays and poetry, and Carole Jones rounded the course off with a lecture on A.L. Kennedy and James Kelman.

So while the course did indeed give a good insight into the variety of literary work produced and published in Scotland, much of which is still too often subsumed under British or English Literature, time was often too short to go into detail. While the discussions often touched upon important issues, the sheer amount of material covered sometimes meant that they did not really penetrate below the surface or explore some of the wider issues or themes raised by the texts or their wider contexts. For this reason, it was almost impossible for us to trace Scottishness over the whole period covered or to discuss the texts in relation to earlier Scottish works or even in relation to each other. Scottish characteristics such as the myth of deprivation and the ambiguity related to it were detected repeatedly, yet often time was too short for a closer examination of these cultural characteristics. Nevertheless, the course is an excellent introduction to the field of twentieth-century Scottish Literature.

In addition to the academic curriculum, SUISS offers an extensive social and cultural programme. During the Scottish Literature course, these activities included readings by well-known authors, such as James Robertson and Alasdair Gray, film screenings, a bus tour of Edinburgh, visits to the Scottish Poetry Library and the Scottish Parliament, and a Ghost Tour in a small part of Edinburgh's catacombs. To celebrate the School's 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary, a reception was held in the impressive Playfair Library in Edinburgh's Old College, an opportunity for the students to meet and mingle with the people who too often remain hidden behind the scenes: the organizers and patrons. The last night of the Scottish Literature course was, naturally, celebrated with a ceilidh.

The time of year during which SUISS takes place is truly the perfect time to visit Edinburgh. The city is abuzz with people, not only tourists but also artists from all over the world, participating in one of the many Festival events or the Military Tattoo. The variety of plays, shows, readings, and concerts is indeed almost overwhelming, yet what is there really to complain about when there is such an abundance of creativity and choice? In any case, SUISS is a great opportunity to visit Edinburgh and benefit from SUISS's and the city's academic and cultural richness.

For more information on SUISS and its programme go to  
<http://www.summer-school.hss.ed.ac.uk/suiss/>

[Miriam Schröder is a research assistant at Johannes Gutenberg-University Mainz and would be pleased to get your comments at [schroedm@uni-mainz.de](mailto:schroedm@uni-mainz.de).]

### **My Edinburgh Experience: English courses at the University of Edinburgh** Hanne Wiesner

Would you like to brush up your English in a relatively short time span, and get an insight into Scottish culture? Then you might consider taking part in one of the courses offered by the English Language Teaching Centre (ELTC) of the University of Edinburgh. As you can see on the [ELTC website](#), there are several courses to choose from, e.g. English for Academic Purposes (with a focus on improving your writing skills) or English for Law (with a focus on professional vocabulary). The highest level and therefore probably a good choice for Ger-

mersheim students is the course Advanced English Use (AEU). Although university courses may be a bit more expensive than those offered by private language schools – you should budget about £900 for a three-week course plus £400 for accommodation – in my experience this also means good quality and highly-motivated students. So this August I spent three weeks in Edinburgh taking part in an AEU course to practise and improve my English, and I can only recommend it.

To make sure that everyone gets into the right course, there is a placement test on the first day (consisting of a “cloze test” where you have to fill in gaps with the appropriate words, and a short interview). In my class there were 13 people, a potpourri of students, teachers, journalists and translators from Spain, Italy, Germany, Switzerland and China. We got on very well and soon were so busy talking to each other that on the second day our teacher already declared us a “class of chatterboxes”. I’d like to stress though that this is an additional advantage of such a course: you learn to understand not only native speakers, but also different varieties of English, a skill which is increasingly crucial in a world where English is used as the *lingua franca*, not least for translators and interpreters.

The ELTC has compiled a folder of teaching materials for each course, including reading and listening exercises, lists of useful vocabulary and phrases related to a certain subject, cloze text activities and additional questions to prompt further discussion. Each lesson we worked on a specific topic, usually starting with a reading exercise or watching a short news or film clip and afterwards answering questions or filling in blank texts accordingly. This served to introduce the topic as well as to enhance memory and analytical skills. We then went on to practice the new expressions provided, as well as looking at newspaper articles and other materials to help us prepare to discuss the subject with a partner or group. Most of the time we worked in small groups of 4-5 people so that everyone got a chance to have their say. Afterwards we presented our results to the rest of the class, which led to a concluding discussion on the respective subject. Over the course of three weeks we covered a broad range of topics including the Scottish-English relationship, formal and informal English, science, law and negotiating, to name but a few. We learned idioms and new expressions from these and other fields, talked about different registers and practised our fluency in several role plays where we simulated, in pairs or groups, key situations such as job interviews, think-tank meetings or radio interviews. Moreover, we got useful tips on how to modify the influence of our national accents on our English. All the time our teacher was most helpful and we could ask her whatever questions arose during class. And although the main focus of the AEU course is on developing listening and speaking skills, we were also given several suggestions for optional writing exercises, e.g. summaries, comments and reviews. We could hand in our texts for correction if we wanted, which was extremely useful. I would definitely encourage anyone keen on improving their English to take advantage of the opportunity of getting professional feedback from a native speaker. In the last week everyone had to give a 10-minute presentation on a topic of their own choice. This is a task many of us will surely come across sooner or later in our careers, so this was a great chance to practise (especially for those of us who prefer to avoid situations like this).

With regard to accommodation, there are several options. Staying with a host family is without a doubt a good opportunity to talk to locals (spending your nights in pubs would be another one, though it might not agree with the class schedule). On the other hand, if you like to party and stay out until the wee small hours, it might be a better idea to stay at a student flat. Then you would be right in the city centre, only a stone’s throw away from most of the Festival venues. Which brings us to another important point: August is FESTIVAL TIME in Edinburgh! There’s no better month to go. No matter where your personal interest lies, be it music, stand-up comedy or literature, you will find lots of events to suit your taste. Some of them

have to be booked in advance, but others you might simply stumble upon while wandering around the streets. Apart from the Festival, there are many more sights in Scotland's capital than you'll be able to visit in three weeks (at least if you attend class regularly). And if that is not enough, you can join excursions offered by the University to nearby castles, whisky distilleries or the beautiful seaside university town of St Andrews. The well-organized social programme also includes walking tours through the city, film evenings, "beerienteering" (a pub crawl) and a ceilidh (a traditional Scottish party), which for many students is one of the highlights of their stay. The walking tours of Edinburgh's Old Town and New Town are okay, but they basically consist of a short walk along the main streets, so you could do them just as well on your own. Definitely my favourite activities were the optional talks offered as part of the social programme. Every week one or two external experts came to the University and gave talks on special topics such as Scottish music, costume or storytelling. Here we had the opportunity to get interesting information on, as well as listen to, popular Scottish stories and traditional folk music, and we were even shown how today's kilts evolved from a plaid wrapped around one's body. These practical, interactive classes really conveyed a lively image of Scottish culture.

In short, I think this course is worth every penny. So if you want to practise your English, improve your fluency, learn more about Scotland and have a great time in a fascinating city at the same time – go to Edinburgh!

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### **The Boy Who Trapped the Sun: Talented Singer/Songwriter from the Outer Hebrides**

Dominik J. Strauß

Lewis, the Northern part of the largest island of the Outer Hebrides, is home to singer/songwriter Colin David MacLeod aka The Boy Who Trapped the Sun. MacLeod is a multi-instrumentalist, who plays guitar, drums and bass, and has been writing music since he was sixteen. With a population of only 20,000, Lewis soon became too small for the young musician, who had a dream of making it in the music industry. Thus, in 2007, aged 27, he decided to leave Lewis and move to London. There he was offered a publishing deal "and through that got signed by [major label] Geffen" ([YouTube](#)). In the summer of 2010, after three years of writing and recording, his 11-track debut album *Fireplace* was released.

It would be easy to characterise The Boy Who Trapped the Sun as only one of the many singer/songwriters following in the wake of artists such as Damien Rice, Newton Faulkner, or Sufjan Stevens. But MacLeod and his music stand out from the crowd: his distinctive, fragile voice emphasises the sadness and wistfulness of the slower, more melancholic songs on *Fireplace* and his lyrics mirror the listeners' own experiences of love and loss, hopes and dreams and life in general. Moreover, MacLeod's ability to write simple, yet profound songs has become rare in a world of overproduced and hollow music.

The Boy Who Trapped the Sun's debut album is a collection of 11 songs with beautifully haunting melodies, all written by MacLeod himself. While the album can generally be considered to be a folk-pop album – an interesting turn in musical direction, considering that MacLeod was the singer in several thrash-punk bands – many songs make reference to other genres of music. *Home*, for example, evokes the bluesy and wistful feeling of Johnny Cash's *American Recordings* series, while *Katy* is more of a country-esque, up-tempo song, driven by



a mandolin and a toe-tapping beat. The simple instrumentation on *Fireplace* captivates. MacLeod relies on his guitar, the piano, some strings and his voice, rather than on computer-generated beats and Auto-Tune effects. The album ends with a little surprise and a special treat for all Scotland enthusiasts: a poem by Lewis-born writer David Martin, read in both Scottish Gaelic and English.

Despite great reviews – [The Sunday Times](#) called it "one of the brightest debuts of the year" – *Fireplace* failed to meet Geffen's expectations with regard to commercial success, peaking only at number 57 in the Scottish charts. As a consequence, The Boy Who Trapped the Sun was dropped by the label after only one album. The singer moved back to Lewis and said he "actually didn't pick up a guitar for nearly a year and a half". It is a sad fact that in economically-challenging times like these, major labels are not prepared to take risks. Given his talent, however, *Fireplace* will not be the last album to be released by MacLeod. In fact, he has now signed with independent music label Chess Club and, according to his official [Facebook page](#) has returned to London in order to record new material – with one demo already uploaded to the singer's [YouTube channel](#).

[Dominik J. Strauß is a student at Johannes Gutenberg-University Mainz and would be pleased to get your comments at [dstrauss@students.uni-mainz.de](mailto:dstrauss@students.uni-mainz.de).]

**Transforming a Victorian Vision:  
Recreating the National Museum of Scotland for the Twenty-First Century (Part 2)**  
David S. Forsyth

[In the second instalment of his article on the renewal of Edinburgh's Royal Museum, David S. Forsyth, Senior Curator of Scottish Social History and Diaspora at the National Museums of Scotland takes a look at the new *Discoveries* gallery, for which he was responsible during the Museum's redevelopment. For the first instalment, cf. *Newsletter* 39, 2012.]

**The Discoveries Gallery**

*Nous tournons vers l'Écosse pour trouver toutes nos idées sur la civilisation* – 'it is to Scotland that we look for all our ideas of civilisation' (Quoted in Herman 2001, 116). Thus Voltaire waxed lyrical in admiration of the Scottish Enlightenment of the later eighteenth century. Firstly, I have to declare an interest in dwelling on the *Discoveries* gallery, as I acted as its curator. However, this relatively small gallery does provide an important case study for the redevelopment, as it very clearly connects the Scottish stories behind the objects – this being one of the main objectives of the redisplay. As Professor Tom Devine has observed, 'The major Discoveries gallery ... will not only tell the stories behind some of the museum's most treasured objects but have at its core the physical representation through material culture of Scotland's global reach down the centuries.' (Devine 2011) Clearly, the origins of the NMS can be traced right back to the Enlightenment through the connection with the museum of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, itself a manifestation of Enlightenment antiquarianism.

The American edition of the Herman book quoted above, an assessment of the Scottish Enlightenment and its legacy, has an interesting and even more bombastic title: *How the Scots Invented the Modern World: The True Story of How Western Europe's Poorest Nation Created Our World & Everything in It*. By any standards a bold assertion, and, as one might expect, many commentators have subsequently disagreed with Herman's thesis. However, even a cursory walk around the displays of the newly developed National Museum of Scotland will reveal a huge body of material evidence for Scottish ingenuity and its significant contribution to the development of the modern world.

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The newly redeveloped Victorian half of the National Museum of Scotland reveals many stories of Scotland's greatest achievers, people who have contributed to their nation's long history of innovation and invention. For such a relatively small nation, Scotland has been home to many ground-breaking discoveries and provided fertile ground for the promotion of ideas that have changed and improved the lives of people across the world. (Forsyth 2011, 6)

The achievements and innovations of famous and other less well-known Scots are revealed through the intriguing objects which will be displayed in the *Discoveries* gallery, one of the sixteen new galleries in the new National Museum of Scotland. James Bruce of Kinnaird (1730-94) was the first European to map the source of the Blue Nile. The visitor can see the silver-mounted coconut cup from which he toasted the health of King George III. From the unfamiliar to the classic 'Great Scots' – John Logie Baird (1888-1946), pioneer of modern television and represented by the oldest surviving colour television in the world, or Sir Alexander Fleming, credited with the discovery of penicillin, are two of those who feature.

Dunbar-born John Muir (1838-1914) was a trailblazing conservationist who is widely held to be the 'father' of the American National Park Service; he promoted his passion for nature through the power of his persuasive pen. As a symbol of Muir's campaigning spirit, we display a section of a fossil tree trunk from Arizona's Petrified Forest, an area made a national monument (forerunner to the National Parks Service) in 1906 thanks to Muir's efforts.

The *Discoveries* gallery also honours those people who have moved to Scotland to expand their knowledge – some of the world's greatest scientists, writers and thinkers have studied here. One notable example of this was Charles Darwin (1809-1882) who, between 1825 and 1827, pursued his medical studies at the world-renowned medical school of the University of Edinburgh. Darwin's lodgings were located in a tenement in Lothian Street, which stood on the site of the Museum, a fact commemorated by a plaque at the rear of the newly-refurbished building.

In *Discoveries* we also find a species of bird known as the scaly-throated earth-creeper, this specimen was personally collected by Darwin on his round-the-world voyage on HMS *Beagle*. Alongside, we display an early edition of his world-famous and revolutionary book *On the Origin of Species* published by the Edinburgh publisher, John Murray.

Medicine is a profession in which Scots have traditionally played a pivotal role. Indisputably one of the greatest medical advances of the twentieth century was the discovery of penicillin in 1928 by Sir Alexander Fleming (1881-1955), this accidental breakthrough led to the development of the antibiotic treatment of infectious diseases. Of course, the ultimate accolade was his Nobel Prize for Medicine of 1945, the beautiful gold medal presented to Fleming is displayed for the first time in the National Museum of Scotland. Indeed, this is one of two Nobel prizes displayed in the Chambers Street complex, the other being Lord Boyd Orr's Nobel Peace Prize of 1949, which belongs to the Hunterian Museum of the University of Glasgow.

Although most popularly linked to the development of the steam engine, the ingenuity of James Watt (1736-1819) extended to the invention in 1780 of a patented roller copying press. This machine, used to copy letters, revolutionised office work. It is displayed along with a Watt cistern barometer, made around 1760, the only surviving signed instrument made by James Watt in his Glasgow workshop.

However, this is not the end of the story, there are a further 11 galleries requiring renewal. At the time of writing, in the late autumn of 2011, this third phase of the project is already in its planning stages. When completed, this will see the realisation of a new suite of galleries devoted to a wide range of themes: Ancient Egypt; European applied arts; East Asian art and culture; and science and technology. The unique diversity of these objects from such a range

of disciplines will allow us to further ‘explore cross-currents between art, science and culture, connecting Scotland to the art and industry of the world’. (NMS Review 2011, 3)

As the National Museum of Scotland strives to display ‘the world under one roof’, perhaps the last word should rest with Thomas Archer, successor to George Wilson as Director of the Industrial Museum. Archer wrote in 1859 that once his institution was open it would ‘increase our civilisation and add to our power to civilise’ (quoted in Calder n.d., 5). If our new galleries can even partly achieve this end then the redevelopment project will have been worth every minute of the huge effort required to realise the new National Museum of Scotland.

[David S. Forsyth would be pleased to get your comments at [d.forsyth@nms.ac.uk](mailto:d.forsyth@nms.ac.uk).]

### References

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Devine, T.M. (2011) ‘Enlightening Strikes’ *New Statesman*, 22 August, p 1

Herman, A (2001) *The Scottish Enlightenment: The Scots’ Invention of the Modern World*

Forsyth, D S. (2011) ‘Great Scots!’ *History Today*, August, p 6

### (New) Media on Scotland

Subsections:

- **The referendum / independence issue**
- **As Others See Scotland**
- **Creative Scotland**

#### **The referendum / independence issue:**

An excellent text and a reminder of what is really important in connection with this issue is [“At last, it's time to get down to the heart of the matter”](#), *Herald* 5-9-12. Its concluding sentence is: "The point at issue, the real meaning of the 2014 question, whatever the words, is independence of mind. For or against? The rest is pernicious chatter." Very wise words by Ian Bell, the author of this remarkable article.

The other texts are given in chronological order (beginning with the most recent date):

["A different future"](#), *Herald* 21-12-10: "SCOTS will lose the hard-won benefits of devolution such as free personal care and free higher education if they reject independence, Alex Salmond warned yesterday. Branding the Westminster Government "incompetent Lord Snooties", he said they were "hell-bent on pulling our society apart at the seams" and it was time to choose a different future. Without change, Labour and the Tories in London would continue to impose cuts on Scotland and, in the long term, starve the public services devised by Holyrood, he said. 'What was won could now be lost. Have no doubt, what was gained by devolution can now only be guaranteed with independence,' Salmond told a packed SNP conference in Perth. He called Labour and the Tories 'the two great pillars of the union – united in a death-grip programme to sweep away concessionary travel, free prescriptions and education.' Mocking Chancellor George Osborne, who was caught using a standard class ticket in a first class train carriage on Friday, he said: 'Why on earth do we allow this bunch of incompetent Lord Snootys to be in positions of authority over our country?'"

["A new generation of voters ... but will they make a difference?"](#), *Herald* 21-10-12): "ACCORDING to the rival sides in the referendum debate, votes for people aged 16 is either a landmark for democracy or a cynical SNP ploy to skew the result with naive first-timers.

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[...]The Isle of Man, the first part of the British Isles to give women the vote in 1881, extended the franchise to 16-year-olds for the Manx Parliament, or Tynwald, in 2006. [...] Rather than being last-minute converts, the SNP has been campaigning on the issue since the dog days of opposition, and was a founder member of the Votes at 16 campaign in 2003. [...] According to Professor John Curtice, psephologist extraordinaire at Strathclyde University, that would mean that on the day of the referendum, 2.2% to 2.7% of voters will be 16 or 17." And they would not make much of a difference, but: "If there was around half a percent between the Yes and No votes of the adult population, then people aged 16 and 17 would decide the outcome. Short of a knife-edge result, this cohort is very unlikely to make an impact, he says. Nor is there any proof that these new voters would vote as a bloc, Nationalist or otherwise."

["Scottish independence: 'An historic day' as referendum deal is signed", \*Scotsman\* 16-10-12:](#) "David Cameron and Alex Salmond have signed a historic deal to ensure Scots make a 'decisive and respected' call on whether to create a country independent from the rest of the United Kingdom in two years' time. Seventeen months after the SNP's landslide victory in the 2011 Holyrood elections, the First Minister and Prime Minister yesterday put their names to an agreement to ensure Scots make an irrevocable vote on the country's future in the autumn of 2014. Both London and Edinburgh are now committed to respecting whichever decision the voters take, even if either side wins by a wafer-thin majority. The agreement declared the referendum will now deliver a result 'that everyone will respect'. It also committed both UK and Scottish governments to 'work together constructively in the light of the outcome, whatever it is, in the best interests of the people of Scotland and of the rest of the United Kingdom'. Mr Salmond said the deal 'paves the way for the most important decision our country of Scotland has made in several hundred years'."

["Power or pain", \*Herald\* 14-10-12:](#) "Scotland faces a stark and simple choice between opportunity and inertia when it votes in the independence referendum, Alex Salmond will claim this week, as the most important political fight in the UK since the Irish war of independence finally gets under way. In the key theme of the SNP conference, Salmond will warn that a No vote in 2014 would not be a safe or neutral option, but would consign the country to years of powerlessness and stagnation. He will argue that rather than offering continuity or acting as a springboard to greater devolution, a No vote would leave Westminster feeling it could ignore the public's appetite for more powers and ride roughshod over Holyrood, cutting budgets and imposing unpopular policies. Labour, the LibDems and Tories have all signalled a willingness to look at enhanced devolution for Holyrood after a No vote, including more local control over tax and spending. Under the new Scotland Act, Holyrood is already due to gain control over income tax, stamp duty, landfill tax and borrowing from 2015. But at this week's SNP conference in Perth, Salmond will argue any hope of further powers or flexibility would evaporate if Scotland rejected independence, as happened under the Tories when a Scottish Assembly was rejected in 1979. The message is aimed at those who see a No vote as the automatic safe choice, and forms the 'stick' in a classic carrot-and-stick strategy, in which the carrot is the SNP's promise of Scotland flourishing under independence.

Salmond and David Cameron will tomorrow fire the starting pistol on a gruelling 100-week campaign when they sign a deal on the mechanics of the referendum in a meeting on Edinburgh's Calton Hill, the scene of decades of protests demanding Scottish self-government. [...] A TNS-BRMB poll last week found 53% of Scots would vote No tomorrow against 28% Yes, with the gap widening from 11 to 25 points this year. But the SNP believes summer 2012 has been the 'high water mark for the No campaign' because the Olympics and the Queen's Diamond Jubilee fuelled affection for Britishness and the Union. The party believes

the next two years, which are likely to include two grim George Osborne budgets, will alter that perspective. However, the centenary of the First World War in 2014, with £50m of events marking the nation's shared sacrifices through the year, may see a further surge in pro-British sentiment. Tomorrow's ceremony follows weeks of detailed talks between LibDem Scottish Secretary Michael Moore and Deputy First Minister Nicola Sturgeon."

["Scotland's automatic EU rights under fire"](#), *Herald* 13-10-12: "Alex Salmond's assertion that an independent Scotland would automatically become a member of the European Union is set to come under more fire next week when constitutional experts give evidence before MPs on the 'foreign policy implications of and for a separate Scotland'."

["Call for referendum lessons in schools"](#), *Herald* 12-10-12: "Pupils should be educated about the independence referendum in schools if the vote is extended to 16 and 17-year-olds, electoral experts and parents have said."

["Clear the fog around independence"](#), *Scotsman* 11-10-12: Many big questions remain unanswered ahead of the signing of an accord on the referendum, writes Bill Jamieson.

["Lords anger over voting age move"](#), *Herald* 11-10-12: "Plans to give the vote to 16 and 17-year-olds in a referendum on Scottish independence have come under fire in the House of Lords."

["Cameron hands SNP a choice outcome"](#), *Herald* 11-10-12: "If the speculation is correct, the SNP administration has secured a deal that allows it to organise the referendum, give votes to 16-year-olds, and – in return – only have one question on the ballot. Not good for the Prime Minister."

["Scottish independence: Deal struck for single-question referendum in Autumn 2014"](#), *Scotsman* 10-10-12: "A deal on holding Scotland's historic referendum on independence has been mapped out by the SNP and Coalition Ministers. The deal will see the vote being held in two years time, with a single question on whether or not people want the country to become an independent state. The SNP's preferred wording 'Do you agree that Scotland should become an independent country?' will be tested by the Electoral Commission to ensure fairness. It is also likely that the deal will allow Scottish Ministers to try and give 16 and 17-year-olds a vote in the referendum."

["Scottish independence: 'Very unwise' to claim referendum deal is done - Alex Salmond"](#), *Scotsman* 10-10-12: Alex Salmond has suggested the UK Government jumped the gun over a deal on the independence referendum, warning it would be 'very unwise' to say an agreement had been reached until one was actually in place."

["PM: Saving Union is my No 1 priority"](#), *Herald* 9-10-12: "The Prime Minister has made the battle to keep Scotland within the United Kingdom his top priority for the Coalition. In a rousing speech to Scottish delegates at the Tory party conference in Birmingham, Mr Cameron vowed to end the SNP's monopoly of Scottish identity."

["Leaders: Constitutional questions go beyond Nato membership"](#), *Scotsman* 8-10-12: "In pledging to bring forward a constitution after independence which would explicitly ban nuclear weapons from Scottish soil, First Minister Alex Salmond hopes to defuse a detonation at the SNP conference later this month. The party's leadership would like to see Scotland remain

within Nato – but on the clear understanding that her insistence on no nuclear weapons on Scottish soil is respected.”

[“Independence blow as support for Union soars”, \*Herald\* 8-10-12](#)

[“Scottish independence: No campaign opens up 25-point lead – poll”, \*Scotsman\* 8-10-12:](#) “Opposition to independence has grown, with an increasing gap between Scots wanting to stay in the UK and those wanting to leave, a poll has found. The survey of almost 1,000 Scots showed support for the union at 53 per cent, with 28 per cent favouring a split.”

[“Ban the bomb from Scotland says FM”, \*Herald\* 8-10-12:](#) “A written constitution for an independent Scotland should explicitly ban nuclear weapons from the country, Alex Salmond has said.”

[“Scottish independence: Independence vote must be won ‘by a mile’, warns Ruth Davidson”, \*Scotsman\* 7-10-12:](#) “Scottish Tory leader Ruth Davidson is to warn that the pro-UK cause needs to win the independence referendum ‘by a mile’ if it is to ensure stability in Scotland and avoid further constitutional warfare with the SNP after the vote. In her speech to the party conference in Birmingham tomorrow, Davidson will argue that the Better Together campaign has to achieve an ‘emphatic’ victory to avoid damage to Scotland’s long-term prosperity caused by continuing political uncertainty. The SNP has said it believes the 2014 referendum is a ‘once-in-a-generation’ event, suggesting that even if there was a ‘no’ vote the matter would be settled for decades.”

[“Greens ditch SNP ‘puppet’ fears and join the Yes Scotland campaign”, \*Herald\* 7-10-12](#)

[“Leaders: Abortion now part of debate”, \*Scotsman\* 7-10-12:](#) “Today a new front has opened up in the debate about whether Scotland should be an independent country. This area of debate was always going to be a factor in this tussle of ideas on the nation’s future, but perhaps it has taken longer than some people thought before making an appearance. So far the debate about secession has been couched primarily in economic terms – which levers of fiscal power should be operated at Holyrood, and whether Scotland’s geographical share of oil revenues should all be spent north of the Border. Lately, issues of the monarchy and defence have also made an appearance. This weekend, however, sees the arrival of abortion as a new bone of contention in the referendum campaign.”

[“Leaders: Quite enough shadow boxing from our leaders”, \*Scotsman\* 6-10-12:](#) “The intricate two steps forward, one step backwards, two steps sideways waltz between Alex Salmond and David Cameron over the terms of the independence referendum is close to an end, according to the Prime Minister. Since this is a behind-closed-doors two-step process, the progress of which can only be gleaned from partisan briefings by one or other of the partners, it is extremely hard to know whether they are really in step with each other or not. There was, however, not much mistaking the bullish tone of Prime Minister Cameron’s remarks yesterday. Agreement on what is to be put to the people is ‘close’ he said, adding that it was right that the referendum should be held and indeed that it should be ‘the people’s referendum’ that the people of Scotland ‘deserve’.”

[“Constitutional lawyers to inform referendum debate”, \*Herald\* 1-10-12:](#) “A group of leading constitutional lawyers have formed a group to provide ‘rational and non-partisan’ information to voters in the run-up to the 2014 referendum. Experts from five universities will examine

key issues including defence, currency and membership of the European Union over the coming two years.” The group’s website, i.e. the [Scottish Constitutional Futures Forum](#).

[“Is Lamont’s indecisiveness harming the Better Together campaign?”](#), *Herald* 26-9-12: “Yesterday’s speech by Scottish Labour leader Johann Lamont could have significant consequences for Scottish politics going forward – for the nature of political competition and for the 2014 independence referendum.”

[“Thousands march on pro-independence rally”](#), *Herald* 22-9-12

[“JK Rowling says no to independence”](#), *Herald* 22-9-12: JK Rowling has indicated that she intends to vote against Scottish independence in the 2014 referendum, saying “I’m pro-union.”

[“Leaders: Scotland’s welfare issues must be addressed”](#), *Scotsman* 20-9-12: “A common complaint from Nationalist politicians is that their opponents have a mindset that characterises Scotland as ‘too poor, too small and too stupid’ to be independent. Yesterday’s intervention in the constitutional debate by Iain Duncan Smith, the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, comes pretty close to justifying that accusation.”

[“Eddie Barnes: Collective thinking on independence”](#), *Scotland on Sunday* 16-9-12: “They knew it was going to be big. But not that big. As Barcelona throbbed last Tuesday night to the sound of more than one million Catalans on the streets, under the banner ‘Catalonia: a new European State’, shockwaves spread across the continent. In Brussels, European Commission president Jose Manuel Barroso and a commission spokesman muddled their way through explanations of what might or might not happen if part of an EU state were to secede. In Edinburgh, those comments kicked off another round of tit-for-tat about the uncertainties that a ‘Yes’ vote in the forthcoming independence referendum would trigger.”

[“Scots are ready for real meaningful constitutional debate”](#), *Herald* 16-7-12

[“So what does ‘No’ to independence actually mean?”](#), *Herald* 6-6-12

[“Devolution and the separation of the English mind”](#), *Guardian* 2-5-12: “Most people educated in England know little about the history of either Wales or Scotland, let alone Ireland. And this ignorance carries a price. That price is England’s institutionalised indifference about the non-English parts of Britain. When the English think about their country in the world, there is a blind spot where Scotland, Wales and Ireland ought to be. In an earlier, more unified British era, perhaps this ignorance had fewer political consequences. Today, it feeds Britain’s increasingly centrifugal politics, and means that the English are remarkably ill-equipped to understand or engage with changes in Scotland and Wales that are driving the future of the union.”

[“Scottish socialists and Scottish conservatives should support independence”](#), *Herald* 19-4-12

## **As Others See Scotland**

[“As Others See Us: the view from Italy”](#), *Herald* 8-10-12

[“As Others See Us: the view from Northern Ireland”](#), *Herald* 26-9-12



[“As Others See Us: the view from Quebec”, \*Herald\* 31-8-12](#)

[“As Others See Us: the view from Catalunya”, \*Herald\* 24-8-12](#)

[“As Others See Us: The view from Ukraine”, \*Herald\* 16-8-12](#)

[“As Others See Us: The view from Germany”, \*Herald\* 6-6-12](#)

[“As Others See Us: the view from Denmark”, \*Herald\* 28-5-12](#)

[“As Others See Us: the view from Russia and Spain”, \*Herald\* 30-4-12](#)

## **Creative Scotland**

[“Creative Scotland ‘must be pulled apart’, say campaigners”, \*Scotsman\* 11-10-12](#): “Leading figures in the campaign against the management of Creative Scotland have urged culture secretary Fiona Hyslop to begin moves to ‘unpick’ the flagship arts funding body.”

[“Culture Secretary tells Creative Scotland to sort out criticisms” \*Scotsman\* 11-10-12](#)

[“Open letter to Creative Scotland”, \*Scotsman\* 9-10-12](#): The full open letter signed by 100 Scottish artists, expressing their dismay at the ongoing crisis in Creative Scotland.

[“Under-fire arts quango agrees to face its critics in a public debate”, \*Scotsman\* 28-9-12](#): “Creative Scotland has agreed to host an open debate for aggrieved artists – after the Scottish Government told it to be more open and responsive to their concerns.”

[“A post-Creative Scotland”, \*Herald\* 14-9-12](#): "Don Paterson, the award-winning Scottish poet and editor, has written a powerful critique of national arts agency Creative Scotland. I have yet to meet one single serious artist who does not privately hold the word ‘creative’ in anything but contempt. While artists self-evidently *are* ‘creative’, they don’t regard themselves as such, because they know self-consciousness is the death of art; this is why Creative Scotland sounds like a country thoroughly uncertain if it *is*. As for our ‘Year of Creative Scotland’ ... words fail us. Its vapidness and cynicism are one thing - if you click on ‘Highlight Events’ on the VisitScotland website, you will see a long list of things that were clearly going to happen anyway– but this idiocy also manages to offend every single other year since the Declaration of Arbroath. As for next year, we can assume the nation plans to slide back into slothful unproductivity. It’s also embarrassingly provincial: how would you feel, on touching down in Skopje, of being informed that it was ‘The Year of Creative Macedonia’? [...] Just as ‘a healthy nation is as unconscious of its nationality as a healthy man of his bones’, a confident nation has no need to think of itself as ‘creative’. But semi-autonomous nations cannot fully know themselves, as they can’t fully partake in that international community which would permit them an honest reflection of their own character and worth. We currently seem to know that we are somewhere in size between the Isle of Man and Germany in size, but tend to act like one or the other, rather than anything sensibly in between. So what’s to be done? Firstly, we must abandon all foolish, short-term, PR-driven, empty and self-conscious celebrations of our own creativity, more appropriate to and becoming of a county the size of Rutland than a real nation. This perspective that cannot be aided by the adolescent, craven, and nervous recruitment of non-residents to the most culturally sensitive positions in the national arts. What is this, exactly? The *football*? [...]I propose that we end any further neurotic ‘cele-

bration' of our creativity. We need the direct appreciation of the arts, not some sentimental, reflexive, self-congratulatory meta-appreciation. We need the freedom to start *failing* a little, and to learn a modesty appropriate to our imminent international status. 'Celebrating our creativity' simply repeats our old nervous habit of selling ourselves back to ourselves, and is Kailyard 2.0. [...]The first step will be to entirely destroy Creative Scotland's dysfunctional ant-heap (I could find no polite synonym for 'cluster\*\*\*k'), the product of a shocking SNP policy vacuum and a New Labour neo-managerialism incapable of understanding the difference between art and business. (Let me spell it out for those still confused: *investing in art has no guaranteed return. If it does, it isn't art.*). The second will be to take the adult decision of trusting its artists with art, its administrators with administration, its brokers with brokerage – and then make the almost unimaginable leap of simply trusting each other. Until then we will deserve our reputation as nation of amateurs, who invest their precious and shrinking resources not in the creation and distribution of books, art, music, drama, not in the means by which the nation can dream, aspire, inspire - but in third-rate cookery programmes. As I write, I note that the almost uniformly illiterate Creative Scotland Awards website is asking for nominations. Under 'Literature Awards', we read that 'Scotland is home to some of the most celebrated literary works in history, and continues to produce writers with skill, flare and the ability to communicate.' 'Flare' as in 'distress flare', we assume – of the kind now being fired from the restless graves of Dunbar, Lyndsay, Hume, Burns, Scott, MacDiarmid and Spark. The outcry is growing, but you can be certain of one thing: Creative Scotland's first thought will not be a reimagining, a rebirth or a reform - but a rebrand. We should not allow it." *This article will be published in the book Unstated: Writers on Scottish Independence, published by WordPower and edited by Scott Hames, which is due out in November.*

#### **Other reports** (in chronological order)

["Incredinburgh! The new slogan for Scotland's capital", \*Herald\* 14-10-12](#): "THE launch of a new marketing campaign for Scotland's capital is in turmoil after councillors rejected the slogan "Incredinburgh" as the favoured branding for the city."

["How long can the housing market remain so bad?", \*Herald\* 14-10-12](#)

["Half of Scottish savers prefer green or ethical investments", \*Herald\* 13-10-12](#)

["Blow for RBS as branch sell-off collapses", \*Herald\* 13-10-12](#): "Royal Bank of Scotland's deal to sell 318 branches to Santander dramatically fell through last night in what will be seen as a major blow to the turnaround prospects of the taxpayer- owned lender."

["Information overload hiding a good news story about positive market developments", \*Herald\* 13-10-12](#)

["Salmond accused of secrecy over letter", \*Herald\* 12-10-12](#): "Alex Salmond has been accused of operating a 'culture of secrecy' after a letter in which he heaps praise on the SNP's biggest donor was made public."

["Michael Fry: Should Britain quit the EU?", \*Scotsman\* 11-10-12](#): As Germany takes an ever-tighter grip on the eurozone, driving forward its message of federalism, would the UK be better served by going it alone, asks Michael Fry.

[“Green policy and oil not at odds, says Salmond”](#), *Scotsman* 11-10-12: “Scotland’s First Minister has said there is no contradiction in promoting green energy while continuing to extract hydrocarbons such as oil from the North Sea. Speaking at the Scottish Low Carbon Investment Conference in Edinburgh, Alex Salmond described what he called a ‘moral obligation’ to lead the way in renewable energy. ‘As countries such as Denmark show, there is no contradiction between making use of substantial, in their case, gas, reserves, while leading the transition to a low carbon economy’, he said. His comments came on the day a climate change expert said additional fossil fuels cannot be exploited while trying to meet ambitious green targets. The Scottish Government wants to cut emissions by 42 per cent by 2020.”

[“Cigarette machines consigned to history as tobacco giant loses case”](#), *Scotsman* 11-10-12: “A tobacco giant’s bid to overthrow Scottish Government legislation banning cigarette vending machines north of the Border was yesterday rejected by appeal court judges. Sinclair Col- lis Ltd, a subsidiary of Imperial Tobacco, had challenged plans to outlaw the machines. Banning them is a major plank of the Scottish Government’s attempt to reduce smoking.”

[“True cost of media manipulation”](#), *Scotsman* 10-10-12:

“It was revealed last week that there are now 13 special advisers employed by the devolved Government at an annual cost of almost £1 million, making this the only growth area in the Scottish public sector. Special advisers ... are a breed which the political process could largely do without, whoever is in power. It is one thing to have a handful of trusted colleagues – there were three in Donald Dewar’s day – on whom ministers can rely for political advice. But it is ridiculous to have a £1 million public pay-roll to fund a political cadre at Holyrood which exists largely for the purpose of partisan news management.”

[“Lesley Riddoch: Welfare system at the crossroads”](#), *Scotsman* 8-10-12: “The country can’t afford ‘universal’ costs, so it must change from central to local responsibility. The universalism debate grinds on, with Labour’s Johann Lamont returning to the fray in last week’s First Minister’s Questions. Alex Salmond’s Sky package at Bute House is now the latest in a series of entertaining red herrings. Two big questions have yet to be asked about all welfare services. Do they empower the people they serve? Do they help prevent social and health problems from arising in the first place? The answer to both is usually no – if the questions are even asked.”

[“Free prescriptions costs patients’ lives, says Ruth Davidson”](#), *Herald* 8-10-12: “Patients are dying as a result of the Scottish Government’s free prescription policy because other areas of the NHS are being deprived of funding, Ruth Davidson has claimed.”

[“Conservative leader Ruth Davidson: Just 12% of Scottish homes contribute to economy”](#), *Scotsman* 8-10-12

[“Why we must save universal benefits”](#), *Herald* 7-10-12: Alex Salmond on health care

[“Unionists should catch the drift on spin”](#), *Herald* 6-10-12: “This week ministers hired three new advisers, taking the total to 13, the highest ever at Holyrood. The wages of spin have spiralled to £933,000, another all-time high (though those same spin doctors quickly calculated that, allowing for inflation, they were earning slightly less than Lord McConnell’s lot). The mood of optimism has been replaced by cynicism, with Labour, the Liberal Democrats and Tories complaining wearily that the First Minister is amassing an “army” of taxpayer-funded advisers in the run-up to the referendum.”

[“Leaders: Question of universal benefits needs real debate”, \*Scotsman\* 5-10-12](#): “Until recently outsiders may have been forgiven for thinking that while we thrash around in recession, the only issue preoccupying Scotland’s political elite was independence. But Scottish Labour leader Johann Lamont has bravely raised the issue of universal welfare benefits and whether these can be sustained in an era of deep budget austerity. On this issue in Scotland there has prevailed between the main parties a sulphurous armed stand-off: no-one dared put the issue of universality up for discussion for fear that it would be immediately seized and used against them in election campaigns. Thus an omerta has persisted, spending continues to rise, the welfare bill climbs new peaks – and budget debt and deficit totals soar to new records. It is unsustainable.”

[“Andrew Whitaker: Salmond’s great giveaway is a lie”, \*Scotland on Sunday\* 30-9-12](#): Johann Lamont’s attack on the free provision of public services has been met with scorn, but does she have a point, asks Andrew Whitaker.

[“Leaders: Extended scope of debate is to be welcomed”, \*Scotsman\* 29-9-12](#): “This week has seen a political debate in Scotland which is refreshing for two reasons. First, it was not about the constitution and, second, it was not started by the SNP. It was, of course, about the provision of universal benefits, such as free prescriptions, which was begun by Johann Lamont, the leader of Scottish Labour. The two-fold welcome arises because firstly, important though the constitution is, it is merely a framework for delivery of public services, and secondly, it shows signs of thinking beyond mere reactive opposition from one of Scotland’s main political parties.”

[“Scotland ‘not windy enough’ for green power”, \*Scotsman\* 27-9-12](#): “The amount of electricity produced from ‘green’ energy sources in Scotland fell by almost half for a period earlier this year – because it was not wet or windy enough. The figures prompted opposition concerns that Scotland could be left in the dark if the ‘wind isn’t blowing’. First Minister Alex Salmond wants to pioneer a ‘renewables revolution’ by generating the equivalent of all the country’s electricity needs from ‘clean’ sources, such as hydro, wind and wave power.”

[“Leaders: Lamont is brave, but has she chosen a wise path? Action needed over Sweeney saga”, \*Scotsman\* 26-9-12](#): “Johann Lamont’s speech yesterday on the future of Scottish Labour was billed as a landmark event for a party that has recently struggled to present itself in a coherent and compelling way to the electorate. Much of the party’s energy of late seems to have been expended on internal turf wars between MPs and MSPs. With recent personnel changes indicating this tussle had been won – for now – by the MSPs, all eyes were on Ms Lamont to see if she could inject some purpose into her party. What she demonstrated yesterday is that she is a serious politician who is not afraid to tackle the big issues with bold ideas. There is no bigger issue facing Scotland than how to deliver quality public services with a flat-lining budget. Ms Lamont’s response to that dilemma is to say, plainly, that tough decisions must be taken if the distribution of public finances is to be fair and equitable to the public as a whole.”

[“One wind-farm appeal lodged every week in Scotland”, \*Scotsman\* 13-9-12](#): “The number of wind energy planning applications going to appeal in Scotland has more than trebled over the past year, new figures show. Latest statistics reveal that appeals lodged by developers against planning authorities over rejected proposals for wind farms or single turbines rocketed from 15 in 2010-11 to 53 in 2011-12 – the equivalent of one a week.”

[“Tourist boss: we need politicians to cut visitor taxes”](#), *Herald* 11-9-12: “Visitors to this country are faced with the added expenses of VAT, Visas and Air Passenger Duty. These must be addressed if Scotland is to compete globally in tourism, says Visit Scotland’s chief executive Malcolm Roughead, ahead of Wednesday’s Energy, Enterprise and Tourism debate at Holyrood.”

[“Scotland stalls in bid to cut smoking”](#), *Scotsman* 27-5-12: “Scotland has lost its place as a world leader in tackling smoking rates and now lags behind almost all other developed countries, a leading anti-tobacco activist has claimed. Anne Jones, chief executive of ASH Australia and a key figure in the anti-smoking movement, will use a speech in Scotland this week to call on the Scottish Government to do more to put tobacco control at the top of its agenda.”

### **Education Scotland**

[“One in seven graduates takes low-paid job”](#), *Scotsman* 11-10-12: “Almost 15 per cent of university leavers are forced to take jobs as bar staff, sales assistants and check-out operators due to a lack of opportunities for graduates, according to a new report. The study by the Higher Education Careers Services Unit (Hecsu) found Scotland one of the best places in the UK to find a well-paid graduate position. But throughout the UK, the biggest proportion of those leaving university and finding work was taking low-skilled jobs in retail and catering.”

[“Glasgow University principal to stay in post until 2019”](#), *Scotsman* 10-10-12

[“Poor teaching leaves bored students badly prepared for work”](#), *Scotsman* 10-10-12: “Students in Scotland’s colleges are often left ‘bored’ and ‘disengaged’, and lacking in the skills required by employers, according to inspectors. A report by watchdog Education Scotland, which was carried out on behalf of the Scottish Funding Council, found that ‘more than a few’ students were turned off from learning due to the way they were being taught. The study comes as colleges undergo a radical overhaul as part of the Scottish Government’s plans to merge institutions to save money.”

[“University funding ‘anxiety’”](#), *Herald* 9-10-12: “Scottish universities are ‘anxious’ over future levels of funding without the introduction of student tuition fees, a UK Government minister has claimed.”

[“Scottish universities ‘anxious’ about fees issue says David Willetts”](#), *Scotsman* 9-10-12: “England’s universities minister has questioned the long-term future of the Scottish Government’s decision to keep tuition free for students north of the Border.”

[“Hugh Reilly: Loan-based education is a backward step”](#), *Scotsman* 9-10-12: “They say you can’t put a price on education but my best guess is about £30,000.”

[“Call for reform at new university”](#), *Herald* 9-10-12: “Significant structural changes need to be made to improve the running of Scotland’s newest university, says a Government-commissioned report.”

[“Big changes in prospect at Highlands University”](#), *Scotsman* 9-10-12: “The governance of Scotland’s newest university is to be overhauled following warnings over the institution’s fu-



ture. A report published yesterday recommends streamlining how the University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI) is run, including reducing from 28 to 18 the number of those on the university court. It follows the publication of a damning report earlier this year which warned the institution was in jeopardy unless 'radical changes' were made to the university's 'unwieldy' governing body."

["John Swinney: Free care and tuition will pay off", \*Scotsman\* 8-10-12](#): The Scottish finance secretary on benefits and the social contract.

["Protest at cutbacks in further education", \*Scotsman\* 7-10-12](#): "Teachers and lecturers took to the streets yesterday to protest against cutbacks in Scotland's further education sector."

["Michael Russell: Preparing for the best education possible", \*Scotsman\* 5-10-12](#): Education secretary Michael Russell responds to the views of parent Gaynor Allen on Scotland's new Curriculum for Excellence in education.

["George Kerevan: Add apples and bicycles for a confusing result", \*Scotsman\* 5-10-12](#): "Performance tables never offer an entirely accurate picture but Scotland's universities must adapt to face the future."

["SNP cuts bursaries for poor students by £1,000", \*Scotsman\* 5-10-12](#): "Bursaries available to thousands of poor and middle-income students are to be cut next year, forcing them to rely on higher loans for their day-to-day living costs."

["Universities ordered to admit deprived students", \*Herald\* 5-10-12](#): "Scotland's Education Secretary Michael Russell has ordered elite universities to admit hundreds more students from the most deprived backgrounds under a £10 million initiative."

["Scots college numbers drop 70,000 in two years", \*Scotsman\* 5-10-12](#)

["Scottish seats of learning fall in key rankings", \*Herald\* 4-10-12](#): "Some of Scotland's most prestigious universities have dropped down a new league table of the top 200 in the world as a result of the rise of institutions in Asia."

["University rankings blow for Scottish education", \*Scotsman\* 3-10-12](#): "Four of Scotland's major universities have plummeted in an annual list of the world's best higher education institutions. The universities of Aberdeen, Dundee, Glasgow and St Andrews all slipped down the Times Higher Education World University Rankings, with only Edinburgh improving on the position it held last year. Scotland's poor showing in the league table, which ranks institutions based on teaching, research and international outlook, prompted the survey's authors to question whether the Scottish Government's decision to keep tuition free for Scots and EU students was sustainable. While Edinburgh was the top-ranked Scottish institution, moving from 36th to 32nd spot, St Andrews fell from 85th to 108th in the survey, one of the most authoritative global assessments of universities' performance. The University of Glasgow dropped 37 places to 139th, while Aberdeen fell 25 places to joint 176th. The University of Dundee fell out of the top 200 altogether, and is now ranked in the 201-225 band on the 'best of the rest' list."

["University 'report card' may one day replace traditional honours degree system", \*Scotsman\* 3-10-12](#): "New school-style report cards for university graduates could replace traditional de-



gree classifications, it has been suggested. More than half of UK universities, including Edinburgh, Glasgow and St Andrews, have implemented the Higher Education Achievement Report (Hear), which will give a detailed record of a person's university achievements alongside their final degree award. The record, which includes details of volunteering work, any prizes a student has won and membership of sporting clubs, was introduced in September after being piloted at several universities."

["Colleges to receive £24m more funding from Government", \*Herald\* 3-10-12](#)

["Research centre for culture and the natural world is launched", \*Scotsman\* 3-10-12](#): "The University of Glasgow unveiled the Solway Centre for Environment and Culture where natural scientists and cultural specialists will collaborate on interdisciplinary courses, including projects studying the impact of wildfires across the UK last year."

["College student numbers down by 80,000", \*Herald\* 2-10-12](#)

["Ewan Crawford: Free university pays dividends for the nation", \*Scotsman\* 2-10-12](#): "Labour's call for tuition fees is an ill-advised import of UK policy, not least because graduates more than make up for the costs in taxes."

["Scotland's first mega-college opens its doors after mergers", \*Scotsman\* 2-10-12](#): "The first new college to be created as part of a radical shake-up of further education in Scotland has been officially launched. Edinburgh College, which was formed following the merger of Telford, Jewel and Esk and Stevenson colleges, opened its doors yesterday."

["Under-13s unaware of Shakespeare", \*Scotsman\* 1-10-12](#): "Almost a third of schoolchildren under 13 do not know who William Shakespeare is, a survey has found."

["Warning over budget cuts for Scotland's colleges", \*Scotsman\* 1-10-12](#): "Business leaders have raised concerns about cuts being made to Scotland's further education sector amid warnings from colleges that student numbers have fallen by 80,000 in the past two years. The Scottish Council for Development and Industry (SCDI) is among the bodies which will today warn MSPs on the Scottish Parliament's education committee that cuts to college budgets are harming the country's economy and jobs market."

["Robert Karling: Top marks to Holyrood for its reform of education", \*Scotsman\* 28-9-12](#): "News that GCSE exams are to be scrapped and replaced by an English baccalaureate certificate gives observers in Scotland the opportunity to reflect on some stark differences between the way governments have approached educational change on their respective sides of the Border."

["Heriot-Watt is best in UK for student experience", \*Scotsman\* 28-9-12](#): "In between partying and studying, students have voted Heriot-Watt University as providing the best student experience in Britain, as well as being the best university in Scotland. The Edinburgh institution, which was founded in 1821 to provide apprentices with mathematical skills, has been highly praised in two different surveys. The National Student Survey (NSS) 2012 has revealed Heriot-Watt's rise to the top ranked university in Scotland, up from third place last year, as well as ranking it fourth in Britain, up from 29th last year. Earlier in the week, The Sunday Times University Guide 2013 named Heriot-Watt as Scottish university of the year for the second year running, as well as ranking it the UK university of the year for student experience."

["More than half of all new Scottish graduates manage to find work"](#), *Scotsman* 26-9-12: "Just over half of those graduating from Scottish universities are finding permanent employment in the UK, according to a new report. Of the 45,000 students who left higher education in 2010-11, 55.6 per cent secured full-time work in the UK, figures from the Scottish Government show – a 2.2 per cent rise on 2009-10. Overall, 88.5 per cent of graduates went into further study or some form of employment, while 5.9 per cent were believed to be unemployed."

["Silence is golden in classroom"](#), *Herald* 25-9-12: "Silence in the classroom can enrich children's educational experience and improve behaviour and exam results, according to a Scottish academic."

["Holyrood warned college merging is not a quick fix"](#), *Herald* 24-9-12: "The strategy of widespread college mergers across Scotland is not a quick fix for the problems facing the sector, a leading academic has warned."

["Northern Irish backlash over tuition fees"](#), *Herald* 22-9-12: "Moves to close a loophole that allows students from Northern Ireland free university places in Scotland have provoked a backlash."

["GCSE to be axed in exam shake-up"](#), *Herald* 18-9-12: "The GCSE exam in England is to be replaced by a new qualification called the English Baccalaureate Certificate in a move that widens the gulf between schools north and south of the Border."

["Colleges turning away thousands of students"](#), *Herald* 10-9-12

["Reputation is key for universities"](#), *Herald* 5-9-12: "Students continue to choose universities based on reputation and history rather than quality of teaching and cost, research suggests."

["Principal: University cash bias will harm economy"](#), *Herald* 6-8-12: "A leading figure in higher education has issued a warning over the Scottish Government's policy of concentrating research funding on traditional universities."

["Ewan Crawford: Textbook lessons in how not to bridge the inequality gap"](#), *Scotsman* 25-7-12: Ewan Crawford on social inequality in Scottish education.

["Teachers slam SNP 'diktat' over Scottish question in English exam"](#), *Herald* 10-6-12: "The Scottish Government has been accused of 'nationalistic fervour' over its plans to introduce a compulsory question on Scottish literature in the new Higher English exam."

### **Scottish Award Winners**

#### **Literature**

[Scottish Mortgage Investment Trust Book of the Year](#) winner 2012 was Janice Galloway for *All Made Up*, Granta Books, 2011. (paperback, £8.99, 320 pp). The book also won the Literary Non-Fiction category. In the second volume of her memoirs, Galloway reveals how the child introduced in *This is Not About Me* evolved through her teenage years. Shortlisted in this category were also: Bella Bathurst, *The Bicycle Book* (HarperPress), Roger Hutchinson, *The Silent Weaver* (Birlinn), Kapka Kassabova, *Twelve Minutes of Love* (Portobello), Emma Rothschild, *The Inner Life of Empires* (Princeton University Press).

**Fiction winner** was Ali Smith for *There but for the*, Hamish Hamilton, 2011 (hardback £16.99, 357 pp). Ali Smith's novel is a funny, moving book about time, memory, thought, presence, quietness in a noisy time, and the importance of hearing ourselves think. Shortlisted were also: Alan Bissett, *Pack Men* (Headline), Jane Harris, *Gillespie and I* (Faber), J M Ledgard, *Submergence* (Jonathan Cape), Zoe Strachan, *Ever Fallen in Love* (Sandstone Press).

**Poetry winner** was Angus Peter Campbell for *Aibisidh*, Polygon 2011 (paperback, £9.99, 164 pp) The poems in this bilingual collection by award-winning poet examine the decay and fragmentation of Gaelic language and identity in the modern age, exploring the ways in which language and identity intersect with the historical and natural landscapes of Scotland. Shortlisted for the poetry award were: John Burnside, *Black Cat Bone* (Jonathan Cape), Carol Ann Duffy, *The Bees* (Picador), Andrew Greig, *As Though We Were Flying* (Bloodaxe), J O Morgan, *Long Cuts* (CB Editions).

**First Book winner** Simon Stephenson for *Let Not the Waves of the Sea*, John Murray, 2011 (hardback, £16.99, 320 pp), a moving account of the writer's journey, following the loss of his brother in the Indian Ocean tsunami. If it is a story of grief, it is also a story of hope and of the unexpected places where healing can be found. Simon's journey takes him from Edinburgh in the immediate aftermath of the disaster, to Downing Street in London, to Thailand and the island where his brother died, to the scene of an ancient tsunami on the north-west coast of the United States, and to the town where he and his brother's favourite childhood film was made. Along the way there is heartbreak, dengue fever, Greek mythology, and hard physical labour in the tropical heat, but there is also memory, redemption and humour as well. Shortlisted for this award were: Luke Williams, *The Echo Chamber* (Hamish Hamilton); Karin Altenberg, *Island of Wings* (Quercus); Rachael Boast, *Sidereal* (Picador); Allan Wilson, *Wasted in Love* (Cargo). (<http://www.scottishbookawards.com/>)

Winners of the 2012 [James Tait Black Prizes](#) were American novelist Padgett Powell (Fiction), for *You and I*, and Fiona MacCarthy (Biography), for *The Last Pre-Raphaelite: Edward Burne-Jones and the Victorian Imagination*. Shortlisted for the fiction category were: A.D. Millar, *Snowdrops* (Anchor); Belinda McKeon, *Solace* (Picador); *There but for the*, Ali Smith (Hamish Hamilton). Shortlisted in the biography section were: Ian Donaldson, *Ben Johnson: A Life* (OUP); Manning Marable, *Malcolm X: A Life of Reinvention* (Viking); Susie Harries, *Nikolaus Pevsner: The Life* (Chatto & Windus). A new category for drama has been added to the JTB Prizes, with the first £10,000 award winner due to be selected in August 2013. (<http://www.ed.ac.uk/news/events/tait-black>)

The 2012 [Edwin Morgan Poetry Competition](#) was won by Jen Hadfield for her poem *The Kids*. Second prize went to Mike Valley for *Look Homewards Now* and third prize to Malcolm Watson for *The Perils of Surgery*.

### **Film, television and media**

The [BAFTA in Scotland New Talent Awards 2012](#) saw Ainslie Henderson win the Best Animation category for her film "[It's About Spending Time Together](#)". The award for the Best New Work went to Anna Ginsburg for her four-minute promotional piece for the Bombay Bicycle Club's single "[How Can You Swallow So Much Sleep](#)". Best Actor / Actress was Lyn Murray, Best Director of Photography Hakon Palsonn, Best Writer went to Agata Jagodzinska, Best Editor to Johanna Erholtz. Other winners included: Ruaridh Arrow, Julian Schwanitz, Neil Hartop and Gareth Griffiths.

## Photography

The [Scottish Nature Photography Awards](#) 'Favourite Scottish Nature Photography Book 2012' title was won by *Eilean Dubh – The Black Isle* –Photographs in the book are by Andrew Dowsett, James A. Moore and Russell Turner.

### New publications May-October 2012

[Anderson, Peter, \*The Stewart Earls of Orkney\*](#), Edinburgh: Birlinn 2012 (paperback £25.00)

For almost a century the islands of Orkney and Shetland were under the rule of the Stewart earls, father and son, a rule remarkable for its infamous reputation in island history. Robert Stewart was an illegitimate son of James V, king of Scots, who seized power in Orkney in the 1560s and was created earl of Shetland in 1581. Robert's son was the extraordinary and ill-starred Earl Patrick, 'Black Patie', whose execution for treason in 1615 brought the era to a close. This book has its foundations in two previous books by Peter Anderson, one on each character. This new book builds on more recent work by the author and by other historians of Orkney and Shetland working in a field which attracts a strong popular island readership as well as an academic one.

[Bertram, Jan / Ralf Gantzhorn, \*Schottland. Outdoor-Erlebnis am Rande Europas\*](#),

Oberhaching: Bergverlag Rother 2012 (hardback 49,90 €)

Ob Karomuster, Kilt und Clan – das im Wind und Wetter exponierten Norden der britischen Inseln gelegene Schottland gebiert seit Jahrhunderten eine reiche Auswahl an touristischen Klischees. So nah und doch so fern... Das nur etwas mehr als eine Flugstunde entfernte Schottland strotzt nur so vor Geschichte und Geschichten: Ob Reisen zu den Wiegen des Golfsports, die nicht enden wollende Suche nach den besten Whisky-Destillen oder ausge dehnte Trips durch die Highlands – viele der häufig von viel Nebel, Wind und Regen und knietiefem Torf bestens beschützten Attraktionen des Landes eignen sich erstaunlich gut fürs erzählerische Nacherleben im örtlichen Pub oder am heimischen Kamin. Die Schotten hegen die Überzeugung, dass die Benutzung von Karte & Kompass charakterbildenden Einfluss haben kann und ein Schuss Selbstverantwortung zum Leben und Überleben in unverbauten Naturräumen gehört. Die Wanderbeschreibungen bleiben spärlich, die als Berghütte unzureichend beschriebenen »Bothy« sind im mitteleuropäischen Sprachgebrauch eher als Notunterkunft zu verkaufen. Das dünn besiedelte Land weist aber auch für den weit gereisten Besucher – so die Meinung der nach Studienjahren vor Ort dutzendfach wiedergekehrten Schottland-Fans Ralf Gantzhorn und Jan Bertram – landschaftliche Glanzlichter auf. Die mitunter minütlich veränderten Lichtstimmungen können für Wechselbäder der Gefühle sorgen. Frust über lausige Sicht wie fassungsloses Staunen inklusive. Das nominell nur mit Mittelgebirgshöhen aufwartende Wander- und Kletterparadies am nordwestlichen Rand Europas bietet zudem Weltklasse-Reviere fürs Eisklettern, Bergsteigen und Mehrtageswandern. Der opulente Bildband fängt Dramatik der Wetterstimmungen ein, inspiriert mit dem umfangreichen Karten- und Planungsmaterial zu eigenen Trips. Wanderer finden die kompakten Informationen inklusive Übersichten und Höhenprofilen zu allen wichtigen Trekkingrouten des Landes. Kletterer können sich auf Routenskizzen (Topos) den Gullys, Graten und Gipfeln bereits vom heimischen Herd her nähern. Mit dem Bildband haben die Autoren den Charakter und die Liebeswürdigkeit des Landes und der Bewohner eingefangen – und so ihren Tribut an Schottland entrichtet.

[Blaikie, Thomas, \*Diary of a Scotch Gardener at the French Court at the End of the Eighteenth Century\*](#) (ed. Francis Birrell), Cambridge: CUP 2012 (paperback £19.99)

Scottish gardener and botanist Thomas Blaikie (1751–1838) spent the majority of his life in France, where he designed and planted some of the most famous Parisian gardens: he drew up the original plans for the gardens of the Château de Bagatelle and renovated the Parc Monceau. He became a favourite of Marie Antoinette, and served patrons among the highest ranks of the aristocracy in pre-revolutionary France, including the Comte d'Artois and the Duc d'Orléans. After surviving the French Revolution, he received a commission to create gardens for Empress Joséphine at her Malmaison country retreat. Blaikie kept this fascinating diary from 1775 until August 1792. More than just an account of his vast gardening knowledge and achievements, the book gives a unique insight into the social history of the revolutionary period in France. It was edited by the critic and journalist Francis Birrell (1889–1935) and first published in 1931.

[Boardman, Stephen, \*The Early Stewart Kings, Robert II and Robert III\*](#), Edinburgh: Birlinn 2012 (paperback £25.00)

*The Stewart Dynasty in Scotland* series aims to bring the rich political heritage of late medieval and early modern Scotland before as wide a reading public as possible, with specialist authors writing for the general reader as well as the student or academic.

This volume is number one in the series and is also the first scholarly biography of the two kings who established medieval Scotland's most famous and durable royal dynasty.

Robert II, long regarded as a weak and ineffective king, pursued a determined political and propaganda campaign which largely overcame initial political opposition. Robert III was forced to engage in a long-term struggle with his brother Albany for control of the kingdom.

[Brewster, David, \*The History of Free Masonry, Drawn from Authentic Sources of Information. With an Account of the Grand Lodge of Scotland, from its Institution in 1736, to the Present Time\*](#), Cambridge: CUP 2012 (paperback £23.99)

The Scottish natural philosopher and historian of science Sir David Brewster (1781–1868), best remembered as a friend of Sir Walter Scott and the inventor of the kaleidoscope, contributed reviews and articles on a huge variety of subjects to such periodicals as the *Edinburgh Review* and *Fraser's Magazine*. (His *Letters on Natural Magic Addressed to Sir Walter Scott* and his two-volume *Life of Isaac Newton* are also reissued in this series). In this work, published in 1804, Brewster is determined to refute the allegations often directed against the Freemasons, as representing 'caverns of darkness, in which the most detestable schemes have been hatched'. He does so by tracing the history of the 'peaceful institution' of Freemasonry from antiquity until the end of the eighteenth century. He then describes the history of the Grand Lodge of Scotland from its institution in 1736, basing his account on the records of the Lodge.

[Brown, Ian, \*From Tartan to Tartanry, Scottish Culture, History and Myth\*](#), Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press 2012 (paperback £24.99)

An historically and critically sound - and contemporary - evaluation of tartan and tartanry based on proper contextualisation and coherent analysis. This critical re-evaluation of one of the more controversial aspects of recent debates on Scottish culture draws together contributions from leading researchers in a wide variety of disciplines, resulting in a highly accessible yet authoritative volume.

This book, like tartan, weaves together two strands. The first, like a warp, considers the significance of tartan in Scottish history and culture during the last four centuries, including tar-



tan's role in the development of diaspora identities in North America. The second, like a weft, considers the place of tartan and rise of tartanry in the national and international representations of Scottishness, including heritage, historical myth-making, popular culture, music hall, literature, film, comedy, rock and pop music, sport and 'high' culture.

*From Tartan to Tartanry* offers fresh insight into and new perspectives on key cultural phenomena, from the iconic role of the Scottish regiments to the role of tartan in rock music. It argues that tartan may be fun, but it also plays a wide range of fascinating, important and valuable roles in Scottish and international culture.

[Brown, Rhona, \*Robert Fergusson and the Scottish Periodical Press\*, Aldershot: Ashgate 2012 \(hardback £60.00\)](#)

Though Robert Fergusson published only one collection of poems during his lifetime, he was a fixture in the Scottish periodical press. Rhona Brown explores Fergusson's poetic output in its immediate periodical context, enabling a new understanding of Fergusson's contribution to poetry that also enlarges on our understanding of the Scottish periodical press.

Focusing on the development of his career in Walter Ruddiman's Weekly Magazine, Brown situates Fergusson's poetry alongside contemporary events that expose Fergusson's preoccupations with the frivolities of fashion, theatrical culture, the economic status of Scottish manufacture, and politics. At the same time, Brown offers fascinating insights into the political climate of Enlightenment Scotland and shows the Weekly Magazine in relationship to the larger Scottish and British periodical milieu. She concludes by exploring reactions to Fergusson's death in the British periodical presses, arguing that contrary to critical consensus, the poet's death was ignored neither by his own country nor by the larger literary community.

[Carruthers, Gerard / David Goldie / Alastair Renfrew \(eds.\), \*Scotland and the 19th-Century World\*, Amsterdam, New York: Rodopi 2012 \(€ 60 / US\\$ 81\)](#)

The nineteenth century is often read as a time of retreat and diffusion in Scottish literature under the overwhelming influence of British identity. *Scotland and the 19th-Century World* presents Scottish literature as altogether more dynamic, with narratives of Scottish identity working beyond the merely imperial. This collection of essays by leading international scholars highlights Scottish literary intersections with North America, Asia, Africa and Europe. James Macpherson, Francis Jeffrey, Walter Scott, Robert Louis Stevenson and John Davidson feature alongside other major literary and cultural figures in this groundbreaking volume.

[Clarkson, Tim, \*Columba\*. Edinburgh: Birlinn 2012 \(paperback £14.99\)](#)

Who was Saint Columba? How did this Irish aristocrat become the most important figure in early Scottish Christianity? In seeking answers to these questions this book examines the different roles played by the saint in life and death, tracing his career in Ireland and Scotland before looking at the development of his cult in later times. Here we encounter not only Columba the abbot and missionary but also Columba the politician and peacemaker. We see him at the centre of a major controversy which led to his excommunication by an Irish synod. We follow him then to Scotland, to Iona, where he founded his principal monastery. It was from this small Hebridean isle that he undertook missionary work among the Picts and had dealings with powerful warrior-kings. It was from Iona, too, that his cult was vigorously promoted after his death in 597, most famously by Abbot Adomnan, whose writings provide our main source of information on Columba's career. The final chapters of the book look at the evolution of the cult of Columba from the seventh century onwards, examining the important roles played by famous figures such as Cinaed mac Ailpin, before ending with a study of the image of the saint in modern Scotland.



[Clarkson, Tim, \*The Makers of Scotland, Picts, Romans, Gaels and Vikings\*, Edinburgh: Birlinn 2012 \(paperback £14.99\)](#)

During the first millennium AD the most northerly part of Britain evolved into the country known today as Scotland. The transition was a long process of social and political change driven by the ambitions of powerful warlords. At first these men were tribal chiefs, Roman generals or rulers of small kingdoms. Later, after the Romans departed, the initiative was seized by dynamic warrior-kings who campaigned far beyond their own borders. Armies of Picts, Scots, Vikings, Britons and Anglo-Saxons fought each other for supremacy. From Lothian to Orkney, from Fife to the Isle of Skye, fierce battles were won and lost. By AD 1000 the political situation had changed for ever. Led by a dynasty of Gaelic-speaking kings the Picts and Scots began to forge a single, unified nation which transcended past enmities.

[Coira, M. Pía, \*By Poetic Authority: The Rhetoric of Panegyric in Gaelic Poetry of Scotland to c.1700\*, Edinburgh: Dunedin Academic Press 2012 \(hardback £45.00\)](#)

Pía Coira presents a comprehensive survey of medieval and early modern Scottish Gaelic poetry and studies the particular form of poetic diction in the extant corpus. Through a fixed set of literary conventions the court poets of the period gave sanction to their patrons' leadership, an essential task which served to preserve the cohesion of society. These conventions, known as the panegyric code, were in a large measure borrowed by the more demotic vernacular poets, and indeed permeate all Gaelic literary genres, including annals and chronicles. Originally established in the poetic schools of Ireland, the code adopted some distinct forms in Scotland, reflecting particular social and political developments.

This book is the first detailed and systematic collection and classification of the rhetoric of leadership in Scottish Gaelic poetry, from the earliest times to the beginning of the eighteenth century. Because of its social and political function, however, this poetry also reveals much about the society in which it flourished, particularly in respect of issues of Gaelic identity and loyalties, as Gaels, as Scots, and as members of the early-modern kingdom of Britain.

Particularly helpful features of the book are its careful analysis of the 'panegyric code', including its composition and employment; its divergences from the established conventions received from the schools of Ireland; its discussion of issues of sovereignty, loyalties and identities as reflected in the poetry; and a novel systematic classification of Scottish kindreds (clans) according to their own genealogical claims. The book will prove an invaluable resource for those studying Celtic, Gaelic and Scottish literature and history of the medieval and early modern periods.

[Crofton, Ian, \*A Dictionary of Scottish Phrase and Fable\*, Edinburgh: Birlinn 2012 \(hardback £25.00\)](#)

This authoritative, entertaining and eminently browsable reference book, arranged in easily accessible A–Z format, is an absorbing and imaginative feast of Scottish lore, language, history and culture, from the mythical origins of the Scots in Scythia to the contemporary Scotland of the Holyrood parliament and *Trainspotting*. Here Tartan Tories rub shoulders with Torry girls, the Misery from the Manse exchanges a nod with Stalin's Granny, Thomas the Rhymer and the Wizard of Reay walk hand in hand with Bible John, and the reader is taken for a rollercoaster ride round Caledonia, from Furry Boots City to the Costa Clyde, via the Cold Shoulder of Scotland, the West Lothian Alps and the Reykjavik of the South. The result is a breathtaking and quirky celebration of Scotland, packed with fact and anecdote.

[Deacon, Russell, \*Devolution in the United Kingdom\*](#), Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press 2012 (paperback £19.99)

The only up-to-date introduction to the politics of devolution in the UK

New for this edition: revised and updated throughout ; new case studies and tables; new sections on topics including English regionalism, the London Mayor, the Calman Commission, Labour and the Welsh Assembly, and Ian Paisley.

The political landscape of the UK was altered dramatically with the devolution of power to London, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. This introduction to the major changes caused by devolution looks at both the historical background and contemporary political events. It assesses the operation, strengths and weaknesses of the devolved state, and uses relevant case studies to illustrate the more complex ideas.

[Devine, T. M., \*Scotland's Empire. The Origins of the Global Diaspora\*](#), London: Penguin Press 2012 (paperback £9.99)

From T. M. Devine, acclaimed author of *The Scottish Nation* and *To the Ends of the Earth*, *Scotland's Empire* tells the compelling story of Scotland's role in forging and expanding the British Empire, from the Americas to Australia, India to the Caribbean. By 1820 Britain controlled a fifth of the world's population, and no people had made a more essential contribution than the Scots - working across the globe as soldiers and merchants, administrators and clerics, doctors and teachers. In this highly acclaimed book, T. M. Devine traces the vital part Scotland played in creating an empire - and the fundamental effect this had in moulding the modern Scottish nation.

[Devine, T. M., \*The Scottish Nation. A Modern History\*](#), London: Penguin Press 2012 (paperback £9.99)

The acclaimed history of Scotland from T. M. Devine, who is also the author of *Scotland's Empire* and *To the Ends of the Earth*. This bestselling history of Scotland traces the epic story of a nation from the act of union to today's ongoing debates regarding its future. Ranging from high politics to everyday life, *The Scottish Nation* is the definitive account of modern Scotland.

[Devine, T. M., \*To the Ends of the Earth. Scotland's Global Diaspora, 1750-2010\*](#), London: Penguin Press 2012 (paperback £9.99)

From T. M. Devine, acclaimed author of *The Scottish Nation* and *Scotland's Empire*, *To the Ends of the Earth* is the story of the Scottish people and their role in the world. It was a Book of the Year in the *Herald* (chosen by Alex Salmond), *Scotland on Sunday*, *New Statesman* and *Spectator*. The Scots are one of the world's greatest nations of emigrants. For centuries, untold numbers of men, women and children sought their fortunes in every part of the globe, from the British Empire to the United States, in cities and on prairie farms, as traders, bankers, missionaries, soldiers, politicians and engineers. *To the Ends of the Earth* puts this extraordinary epic centre stage in Scottish history, cutting through myth and sentiment surrounding stories such as the Highland Clearances and the Enlightenment to show the true impact of Scottish emigration on the world, and on the nation it left behind.

[Forbes, Anne L., \*Trials and Triumphs, The Gordons of Huntly in Sixteenth-Century Scotland\*](#), Edinburgh: Birlinn 2012 (paperback £25.00)

This book first traces the rise of the Gordons from minor magnates in Berwickshire to major players in the north and nationally. They reached their zenith in the person of George Gordon, 4th Earl of Huntly, during the sixteenth century. The rest of the book focuses on his family,

with the parallel biographies of four of his sons and two of his daughters. Their very different stories illuminate the period because they participated in, and were deeply affected by, the lives of Mary Queen of Scots and her son James, who were vital pawns in the European power play between England, France and Spain during a crucial time of religious and political change. This book is an important addition to the historiography of the Gordons of Huntly, rulers of the north of Scotland and involved in most significant events of sixteenth-century Scotland.

[Gantzhorn, Ralf, \*Schottland. Wanderungen an den Küsten und in den Highlands\*.](#)

Oberhaching: Bergverlag Rother, 4th ed. 2012 (paperback 14,90 €)

Der Rother Wanderführer »Schottland« stellt 50 ausgewählte Tages- und Mehrtagestouren in den Southern Uplands, in den Highlands, an den Küsten und auf den Inseln vor. An der Nahtstelle zu England befinden sich die Uplands, die den Wanderer mit sanften Hügeln, malerischen Buchten und Zeugnissen englisch-schottischer Geschichte locken. In den Central Highlands thronen grüne Berge über weiten Hochflächen und kristallklaren Seen. Die Gebirgsgruppen der Grampian und Cairngorm Mountains werden auf aussichtsreichen Gratwanderungen, teilweise in anspruchsvollem, felsigem Gelände erkundet. Auf den Inseln der Hebriden lässt sich vom Strandspaziergang bis zur hochalpinen Gratüberschreitung für jeden Geschmack das Richtige finden. Grandiose Touren finden sich auch im einsamen Norden Schottlands und auf den Orkney-Inseln. Ralf Gantzhorn, Autor und Fotograf, hat Schottland zu allen Jahreszeiten durchstreift. Auf 50 abwechslungsreichen Touren führt er den Leser durch die Wanderregionen dieses ursprünglichen Landes. Ausführliche Routenbeschreibungen, Karten mit eingezeichnetem Routenverlauf und aussagekräftige Höhenprofile machen die Planung und Durchführung einfach. GPS-Tracks stehen zum Download bereit. Zusammen mit detaillierten Hinweisen zu Anfahrt, Anforderungen, Einkehrmöglichkeiten und Sehenswürdigkeiten ist dieser Rother Wanderführer ein unentbehrlicher Reisebegleiter für alle Schottland-Liebhaber. Für die vierte Auflage wurde dieser Rother Wanderführer vollständig überarbeitet.

Goodwin, Mark / Martin Jones / Rhys Jones, [Rescaling the state: Devolution and the geographies of economic governance](#), Manchester: MUP 2012 (hardback £65.00)

Rescaling the state provides a theoretically-informed and empirically-rich account of the process of devolution undertaken in the UK since 1997, focusing in particular on the devolution of economic governance. Using case studies from England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales, the book examines the purported reasons for, and the unintended consequences of, devolution. As well as comparing policy and practice across the four devolved territories, the book also explores the pitfalls and instances of good practice associated with devolution in the UK.

Rescaling the state is an important text for all social scientists – particularly political scientists, sociologists, anthropologists and human geographers – interested in the devolution of power in the UK and, indeed, all instances of contemporary state restructuring. It is also a significant book for all policy-makers interested in understanding the increasing complexity of the policy landscapes of economic governance in the UK.

Table of Contents: 1. Introduction: Devolution and the geographies of economic governance, 2. The theoretical challenge of devolution and constitutional change, 3. New politics/new institutions/new strategies, 4. Territories and scales of economic governance, 5. Peopling a devolved UK state, 6. The political geographies of filling in: the case of Northern Ireland, 7. Conclusions: devolution in retrospect, References

[Griffiths, Trevor, \*The Cinema and Cinema-Going in Scotland, 1896-1950\*](#), Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press 2012 (hardback £70.00)

This monograph will be the first to deal with the growth of cinema-going in Scotland in an extended scholarly manner, integrating the study of cinema into wider debates in social and economic history.

The author draws extensively on archival resources concerning the cinema as a business, on documentation kept by cinema managers, and on the diaries and recollections of cinema-goers. He considers patterns of cinema-going and attendance levels, as well as changes in audience preferences for different genres, stars or national origins of films. The thematic chapters broaden out the discussion of cinema-going to consider the wider social and cultural impact of this early form of mass leisure. The book will make a significant contribution to a growing body of work on the exhibition and reception of films across Britain.

[Hassan, Gerry / Eric Shaw, \*The Strange Death of Labour Scotland\*](#), Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press 2012 (paperback £19.99)

Analyses the rise and fall of Labour in Scotland and asks: is Labour's decline irreversible?

After being the leading party in Scotland for 50 years, Labour was shocked to lose an election and office to the SNP in the 2007 Scottish Parliamentary elections, and thunderstruck when the SNP won a majority government in the same elections in 2011. This book analyses the last 30 years of Scottish Labour, from the arrival of Thatcherism in 1979 right up to the results of the 2010 Westminster elections and 2011 Scottish Parliamentary elections.

Key Features: The book draws on extensive research including archival sources and includes interviews with some of the key participants in Scottish Labour.

[Leith, Murray Stewart / Daniel P.J. Soule, \*Political Discourse and National Identity in Scotland\*](#), Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press 2012 (paperback £22.99)

Uses manifesto analysis to measure political nationalism in Scotland

Murray Leith and Daniel P. J. Soule explore the importance of groups, concepts and events such as the SNP and devolution, unionism, the political elite, political and public discourse, inclusion and exclusion, enforced nationalism, and birth, race and citizenship to nationalist feeling in Scotland. The authors set the Modernist view of Scottish nationalism against the work of Gellner, Anderson and Billig to create their own 'mixed method' of evaluating nationalism.

Key Features: a detailed consideration of the language used within the political and nationalist arena in Scotland; compares a variety of attitudes and opinions held within Scotland from the political elite to the masses; introduces a new method for measuring political nationalism using manifesto analysis. [Reviewed in the *Scottish Studies Newsletter* 39, 2012.]

MacKenzie, John M. / Nigel R. Dalziel, [\*The Scots in South Africa. Ethnicity, identity, gender and race, 1772-1914\*](#), Manchester: MUP 2012 (paperback £15.99)

The description of South Africa as a 'rainbow nation' has always been taken to embrace the black, brown and white peoples who constitute its population. But each of these groups can be sub-divided and in the white case, the Scots have made one of the most distinctive contributions to the country's history. Now available in paperback, this book is a full-length study of their role from the eighteenth to twentieth centuries. It highlights the interaction of Scots with African peoples, the manner in which missions and schools were credited with producing 'Black Scotsmen' and the ways in which they pursued many distinctive policies. It also deals with the inter-weaving of issues of gender, class and race as well as with the means by which Scots clung to their ethnicity through founding various social and cultural societies. This book

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offers a major contribution to both Scottish and South African history and in the process illuminates a significant field of the Scottish Diaspora that has so far received little attention.

[MacLeod, Anne, \*From an Antique Land, Visual Representations of the Highlands and Islands 1700–1880\*, Edinburgh: Birlinn 2012 \(paperback £25.00\)](#)

This book looks at visual images as an alternative and undervalued source of evidence for ideas about the Scottish Gàidhealtachd in the period 1700–1880. Illustrated with 100 plates, it brings together many little known and previously unrelated images. Addressing the textual bias inherent in Scottish historical studies, the book examines a broad range of maps, plans, paintings, drawings, sketches and printed images, arguing that the concept of antiquity was the single most powerful influence driving the visual representation of the Highlands and Islands from 1700 to 1880, and indeed beyond. Successive chapters look at archaeological, ethnological and geological motives for visualising the Highlands, and at the bias in favour of antiquity which resulted from the spread of these intellectual influences into the fine arts. The book concludes that the shadow of time which hallmarked visual representations of the region resulted in a preservationist mentality which has had powerful repercussions for approaches to Highland issues down to the present day. The book will appeal to historians, art historians, cultural geographers, and the general reader interested in Highland history and culture.

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[McIntosh, William Carmichael, \*The Resources of the Sea. As Shown in the Scientific Experiments to Test the Effects of Trawling and of the Closure of Certain Areas off the Scottish Shores\*, Cambridge: CUP 2012 \(paperback £30.99\)](#)

William Carmichael McIntosh (1838–1931) was a Scottish physician and marine biologist and the first director of the Gatty Marine Laboratory, founded during 1896 in St Andrews. Originally published in 1921, this is the second edition of a work first published in 1899. The text is based on observations made, over a number of years, during trawling investigations off the coast of Scotland. In a lengthy and rigorous exposition, McIntosh argues that the restrictions imposed on trawling in coastal waters by the Fishery Board are unjustified, lacking a foundation in scientific data. This book will be of value to anyone with an interest in marine biology and fisheries policy.

[McKay, John, \*Scotland's First Oil Boom, The Scottish Shale-Oil Industry, 1851–1914\*, Edinburgh: Birlinn 2012 \(paperback £25.00\)](#)

At its peak in the years before the Great War the Scottish shale oil industry gave employment to some 10,000 people and was a major factor in the economy of the Lothians, particularly in the Almond valley, from Tarbrax to Dalmeny. The history of its development has largely been neglected, yet Scotland was one of the few countries in which the shale oil industry ever became a successful commercial venture. This book tells the history of the development of this unique industry for the first time. The discovery of petroleum and the shale industry took place at a time of great change in British society: wages were rising and prices were falling. Hours of work were controlled in many industries, giving more time for leisure activities such as reading, which required adequate, inexpensive artificial light. The shale-oil industry successfully identified an opportunity and applied new techniques to meet this demand. From 1860 to 1863, 23 works were set up to exploit the oil shales, and from 1864 there was a ‘Scottish Oil Mania’, as the industry produced a range of petrochemicals, including lubricating oil, burning oil and paraffin. The industry survived from the 1850s to 1919, in competition with natural petroleum, firstly from the United States and then from Russia and the Far East. Ultimately the innovation of the shale oil industry provided a valuable recruiting ground for Scotland’s expertise in oil.



[McLeish, Henry, edited by Tom Brown, \*Scotland: The Growing Divide: Old Nations, New Ideas\*, Edinburgh: Luath Press 2012 \(paperback £11.99\)](#)

In 2007, Scotland: The Road Divides posed a provocative political question:

*Had the SNP victory at Holyrood changed forever the mindset of Scottish politics?*

As a Scottish Independence referendum fast approaches, *Scotland: The Growing Divide* returns to answer this question and more with a hard-hitting, incisive and informed look at where the devolution journey has taken us – from the heady days of the new Blair government in 1997 to the Independence referendum in 2014. It poses new questions about the issues facing Scottish politics:

*How has devolution altered Scotland's national perception of itself? Is there a fusion of identity and nationality politics with traditional politics and priorities taking place in Scotland? Is this creating a serious realignment of political thinking and ideas and the possible demise of the old politics of both the UK and Scotland?*

Arguing that the Union must adapt to survive, former First Minister Henry McLeish contends that the devolution referendum paved the way for a bold new constitutional settlement. A contentious and pertinent commentary, this book maintains that many politicians have yet to come to terms with these dramatic changes and do not appear to understand the 'new politics', or the new Union.

[Mooney, Gerry / Gill Scott \(eds.\), \*Social Justice and Social Policy in Scotland\*, Bristol: Policy Press 2012 \(ix, 281 pp., £70 \(£56\) \(paper £28.99 or £23.19 directly from the publisher\)\)](#)

*Social justice and social policy in Scotland* offers a critical engagement with the state of social policy in one of the devolved nations of the UK, a decade after the introduction of devolution. Promoting greater social justice has been held up as a key vision of successive Scottish administrations since devolution began. It is argued throughout this important book that the analysis of Scottish social policy must therefore be located in wider debates around social injustice as well as about how the devolution process affects the making, implementation and impact of social policy. *Social justice and social policy in Scotland* focuses on a diverse range of topics and issues, including income inequalities, work and welfare, criminal justice, housing, education, health and poverty, each reflecting the themes of social inequality and social justice. This book will be essential reading for academics, researchers, policy makers and practitioners as well as students of social policy and of society in Scotland and other devolved nations.

[Morton, Graeme, \*Ourselves and Others, Scotland 1832-1914\*, Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press 2012 \(hardback £65.00\)](#)

*What does it mean to be a Scot and what forged that identity?* This revised and updated volume of the *New History of Scotland* series explores a period of intense identity formation in Scotland. Examining the 'us and them' mentality, it delivers an account of the blended nature of Scottish society through the transformations of the industrial era from 1832 to 1914.

Alongside the history of Scotland's national identity, and its linked political and social institutions, is an account of the changing nature of society within Scotland and the relentless eddy of historical developments from home and away. Where previous histories of this period have focused on industry, this book will take a closer look at the people that helped to form Scottish national identity. Graeme Morton shows that identity was a key element in explaining Industrial Scotland, charting the interplay between the micro and the macro and merging the histories of the Scots and the Scottish nation.



Graeme Morton is the Scottish Studies Foundation Chair and Director of the Centre for Scottish Studies at the University of Guelph.

Key Features: popular and well-liked student series; completely updated and revised with new research; charts the birth of modern Scottish identity 1832-1914; emphasis on weather, sport, leisure, consumption, and material culture of childhood.

[Mulhern, Mark A, \*Scottish Life and Society: The Law\*](#), Edinburgh: Birlinn 2012 (hardback £60.00)

The law comes from, and runs through, society at all levels. It regulates human interactions and touches individuals at key moments in their lives. This volume provides an easily comprehensible account of the law in Scotland, beginning with its historical development and professional structure before going on to consider the law as an institution. To understand the law as a cultural phenomenon it has also to be considered in application. The book reflects on the impact of the law on communities and on individuals at key stages of life. It provides a starting point for those wishing to understand the context in which law shapes, and is shaped by, life and society across Scotland.

[Oram, Richard, \*Alexander II, King of Scots 1214-1249\*](#), Edinburgh: Birlinn 2012 (paperback £25.00)

By equal measure state-builder and political unifier and ruthless opportunist and bloody-handed aggressor, Alexander II has been praised or vilified by past historians but has rarely been viewed in the round. This book explores the king's successes and failures, offering a fresh assessment of his contribution to the making of Scotland as a nation. It lifts the focus from an introspective national history to look at the man and his kingdom in wider British and European history, examining his international relationships and offering the first detailed analysis of the efforts to work out a lasting diplomatic solution to Anglo-Scottish conflict over his inherited claims to the northern counties of England. More than just a political narrative, the book also seeks to illuminate aspects of the king's character and his relationships with those around him, especially his mother, his first wife Joan Plantagenet, and the great magnates, clerics and officials who served in his household and administration. The book illustrates the processes by which the mosaic of petty principalities and rival power-bases that covered the map of late 12th-century Scotland had become by the mid-13th century a unified state, hybrid in culture(s) and multilingual but acknowledging a common identity as Scots.

[Rickard, Jane, \*Authorship and authority: The writings of James VI and I\*](#), Manchester: MUP 2012 (paperback £14.99)

James VI of Scotland and I of England participated in the burgeoning literary culture of the Renaissance, not only as a monarch and patron, but as an author in his own right, publishing extensively in a number of different genres over four decades. As the first monograph devoted to James as an author, this book offers a fresh perspective on his reigns in Scotland and England, and also on the inter-relationship of authorship and authority, literature and politics in the Renaissance.

Beginning with the poetry he wrote in Scotland in the 1580s, it moves through a wide range of his writings in other genres, including scriptural exegeses, political, social and theological treatises and printed speeches, concluding with his manuscript poetry of the early 1620s. The book combines extensive primary research into the preparation, material form and circulation of these varied writings, with theoretically informed consideration of the relationship between authors, texts and readers. The discussion thus explores James's responses to, and interven-

tions in, a range of literary, political and religious debates, and reveals the development of his aims and concerns as an author.

Rickard argues that, despite the King's best efforts to the contrary, his writings expose the tensions and contradictions between authorship and authority. This book will be of interest to scholars and students of the reign of James VI and I, the literary and political cultures of late sixteenth-century Scotland and early seventeenth-century England, the development of notions of authorship and the relationship between literature and politics.

Table of Contents: Introduction: Reading James VI and I, 1. Constructing the Writer-King: the early poetry, 2. The word of God and the word of the King: the early scriptural exegeses, 3. Print, authority, interpretation: the major prose works, 4. Monumentalising the royal author: *The Workes* (1616), 5. The late poetry and the deconstruction of authority, Afterword, Bibliography, Index

[Rigney, Ann, \*The Afterlives of Walter Scott: Memory on the Move\*, Oxford: OUP 2012 \(hardback £55.00\)](#)

The phenomenon of Scott's rise and fall is explained from the perspective of cultural memory studies. Scott's writings are studied as active ingredients within a broader cultural and social framework and not just as autonomous pieces of literature. Includes many hitherto unknown examples from a range of cultural expressions, from theatre to material culture, showing the influence of Scott. Richly illustrated with visual materials in a way that 'concretizes' the story being told.

Sir Walter Scott (1771-1832) was once a household name, but is now largely forgotten. This book explores how Scott's work became an all-pervasive point of reference for cultural memory and collective identity in the nineteenth century, and why it no longer has this role. Ann Rigney breaks new ground in memory studies and the study of literary reception by examining the dynamics of cultural memory and the 'social life' of literary texts across several generations and multiple media. She pays attention to the remediation of the *Waverley* novels as they travelled into painting, the theatre, and material culture, as well as to the role of 'Scott' as a memory site in the public sphere for a century after his death. Using a wide range of examples and supported by many illustrations, Rigney demonstrates how remembering Scott's work helped shape national and transnational identities up to World War One, and contributed to the emergence of the idea of an English-speaking world encompassing Scotland, the British Empire and the United States. Scott's work forged a potent alliance between memory, literature, and identity that was eminently suited to modernization. His legacy continues in the widespread belief that engaging with the past is a condition for transcending it.

[Scott, Walter, \*The Border Antiquities of England and Scotland. Comprising Specimens of Architecture and Sculpture, and Other Vestiges of Former Ages, Accompanied by Descriptions\*, Cambridge: CUP 2012 \(paperback £41.00\)](#)

The work of the poet and novelist Sir Walter Scott (1771–1832) frequently reflected his interest in Scottish history, and he is regarded as having written some of the most influential historical fiction of the nineteenth century. His literary works include the poem *The Lady of the Lake* and the novels *Waverley* and *Ivanhoe*. Originally published in two volumes in 1814–17, this one-volume reissue is a work of non-fiction that illuminates Border history as revealed through architecture and artefacts. Scott was not the sole author, but his substantial introduction sets the historical scene for the entries on various castles, churches and other historic structures on both sides of the border. Illustrative extracts of his poetry are also included, along with many detailed engravings of the evocative scenes and buildings described.

[Shukman, Ann, \*Bishops and Covenanters, The Church in Scotland, 1688–1691\*](#), Edinburgh: Birlinn 2012 (paperback £12.99)

Why did the young Protestant monarch William of Orange fail to make his mark on Scotland? How did a particularly hard-line ‘Protester’ branch of Presbyterianism (the last off-shoot of the Covenanting movement) become the established Church in Scotland? And how did it come about that Scotland suffered a kind of ‘cultural revolution’ after the Williamite revolution, nipping in the bud the proto-Enlightenment? This book reviews the political events that led to the abolition of episcopacy in 1689 and with it the concerted attack on the parish clergy. It explores for the first time the background and influences that led to the brutal ‘rabbling of the curates’ in south-west Scotland. It explores the mind-set of the notorious Covenanting tract *Naphtali* (1667), and of its author Sir James Stewart of Goodtrees, who was the author of the Act establishing hard-line Presbyterianism in 1690, and became Lord Advocate of Scotland in 1692. The purges of the universities after the 1690 Act led to a hardening of attitudes, and the on-going purging of the parishes led ultimately to the emptying of two-thirds of all the parishes of Scotland. The book suggests how these events contributed to the notion of ‘King William’s ill years’.

[Simpson, Roddy, \*The Photography of Victorian Scotland\*](#), Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press 2012 (paperback £24.99)

This is the first book to provide a full and coherent introduction to the photography of Victorian Scotland. There are many books which deal with particular elements and individual photographers, which show the interest in the subject, but no book draws everything together to provide an understanding of the multi-faceted nature of photography and the inter-relationship with other activities in the society of the time. This authoritative introduction, building upon these other publications, will provide a wide-ranging appreciation of early Scottish photography and in particular that Scottish photography was in the vanguard of many international trends. The material has been structured and the topics organised, with appropriate illustrations, as both a readable narrative and a foundation text for the subject.

Key Features: Draws together a coherent narrative of the many different aspects of photography in Victorian Scotland; shows how photography was related to, and was influenced by, the society and culture of the time; highlights how Scotland and Scots were in the forefront of photography in Victorian times; uses the most apt illustrations to emphasise the quality of the image-making. Includes 130 illustrations.

Terrell, Katherine / Mark P. Bruce (eds.), [\*The Anglo-Scottish Border and the Shaping of Identity, 1300-1600\*](#), Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan 2012 (hardback £52.00)

The Anglo-Scottish border in the late medieval and early modern period was a highly contested region, a militarized zone that was also a place of cultural contact and exchange. The contributors to this volume explore the role of this borderland in the construction of both Scottish and English identities, seeking insight into the role that Scotland and England played in one another's imaginations. Texts that originate in, pass through, or comment on the Anglo-Scottish borderland reveal the border as a crucial third term in the articulation of Scottish and English national consciousness and cultural identity.

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[Torrance, David, \*Whatever Happened to Tory Scotland?\*](#) Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press 2012 (paperback £19.99)

Explores the history and ideas of the Scottish Conservative Party since its creation in 1912. You might not believe it now, but the Scottish Conservative Party played a significant role in the politics of Scotland during the last century. The party governed Scotland and the UK for

much of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. But their support has nosedived from a majority of votes and seats at the 1955 general election to just a single constituency and 17 per cent of the vote in May 2010.

This collection brings together academics, writers, commentators and analysts of Scottish politics to address the nature of the Scottish Conservative Party: its standing in Scotland, its influence on the Union, its role in the Scottish Parliament and why it fell so out of favour with the Scottish electorate.

Key Features: Divided into 2 parts: The Rise and Fall of Unionist Scotland and In the Political Wilderness; includes contributions from leading academics and political commentators including Richard Finlay, Colin Kidd, Catriona Macdonald, James Mitchell and Alex Massie.

[West, Gary, \*Voicing Scotland: Folk, Culture, Nation\*](#), Edinburgh: Luath Press 2012 (paperback £12.99)

*Voicing Scotland* takes the reader on a discovery tour through Scotland's traditional music and song culture, past and present. West unravels the strings that link many of our contemporary musicians, singers and poets with those of the past, offering up to our ears these voices which deserve to be more loudly heard.

What do they say to us in the 21st Century? What is the role of tradition in the contemporary world? Can there be a folk culture in the digital age? What next for the traditional arts?

[Winstanley, Lilian, \*Hamlet and the Scottish Succession: Being an Examination of the Relations of the Play of Hamlet to the Scottish Succession and the Essex Conspiracy\*](#), Cambridge: CUP 2012 (paperback £22.00)

First published in 1921, this volume constitutes an attempt to view Hamlet in the light of contemporary history, pointing out possible links between the action of the play and the surrounding context of its creation. Given the lack of biographical material on Shakespeare and the consequent mystery surrounding his intentions, attention is focused on the relationship between the play and its potential audience. Through this approach an unusual thesis is developed, one in which the play is seen as casting a positive light on the Essex conspiracy and the future succession of James I. This is a fascinating and controversial study that will be of value to anyone with an interest in Shakespeare, Elizabethan and Jacobean history, or literary criticism.

Table of Contents: Preface, Introduction, 1. Richard II and Hamlet, 2. Hamlet and the Darnley murder, 3. James I and Hamlet, 4. 'The play within a play' and Hamlet's voyage to England, 5. Polonius, Rizzio and Burleigh, 6. Ophelia, 7. Hamlet and Essex, 8. Conclusion, Appendices, Index.

### **Book Reviews**

**Groundwater, Anna, *The Scottish Middle March, 1573-1625: Power, Kinship, Allegiance*, Boydell, 2010 (*Royal Historical Society Studies in History*) (Hard-back, £50, ISBN 978-0-86193-307-5).**

The Anglo-Scottish borders have long been an area heavily associated with notions of pervasive violence and criminality. This vision of the borders largely originated in the eyes of sixteenth-century English observers and, to a lesser degree, central Scottish government, but subsequently has been adopted with alacrity by modern scholars. Located on the geographical periphery of both England and Scotland, distance from their respective centres of government

has encouraged the development of a historiographical myth that whilst the borders were *in*, they were somehow not quite *of* the kingdoms to which they formally belonged. Dr Groundwater's key contention is that this must be challenged, at least in the case of the Scottish Middle March. An attempt to rescue the Middle Marches from their historiographically splendid (or, perhaps more appropriately, squalid) isolation is the driving force of the monograph, twinned with a no less important intention of providing a counterbalance to previous Anglo-centric accounts of the region. In both cases, the evidence which Groundwater brings to bear on her arguments is persuasive: it is quite clear that no one alive today knows more about the men and machinations of the late sixteenth and early seventeenth-century Middle March than this author. The monograph is accordingly filled with impressively detailed observations and accounts of the political position and significance of the important border families of the Armstrongs, Kers and Scots.

Of the seven chapters, the first five constitute an exploration of how life in the Middle March was structured and functioned, considering in turn the nature of 'frontier society', socio-political and administrative structures, connections between central government and the Middle Marchers, and issues of crime, feud and violence. The final two chapters shift gear to provide a chronological account of the process of pacifying the borders, demonstrating how the influential factors identified in the first part of the book played out in specific circumstances. This division, however, also serves to highlight the contrast drawn by Groundwater between the continuity present in the structure of Middle March society and the changing reactions of central government to the Marches. As such, it also serves Groundwater's explicitly myth-busting agenda. This myth-busting approach is two-pronged: first, through a detailed consideration of the role of kinship as a force for continuity and stability in the Middle March. Secondly, Groundwater highlights the extent to which government policy and pronouncements on the borders cannot be used as an accurate gauge of on-the-ground events.

Groundwater reveals the extent to which the Middle Marches were firmly integrated into Scottish national life by demonstrating the extent to which the heads and senior members of border kindreds served to connect their localities and central government, and the related willingness of successive governments to utilise these connections. Kin-groups therefore serve as a central unit of analysis for Groundwater and consideration of their influence advances her argument in three ways. First, by demonstrating the extent to which the Middle March can be regarded as part of Scotland: here, as elsewhere, kinship was paramount. Secondly, she argues that, as elsewhere in Scotland, kin-groups provided continuity in the government of the marches and thus served as a force for stability throughout the period of her study: this point in particular forms a sharp contrast to previous accounts in which the notorious border 'surnames' were synonymous with disorder (53). Thirdly, however, Groundwater argues that the strong force for continuity and, indeed, stability, provided by Scottish kin groups was a crucial differentiating factor between the Scottish Marches and their English counterparts (102). In drawing this distinction, Groundwater simultaneously demonstrates the importance of viewing the Scottish borders as a region distinct from their English neighbours – an approach which, again, places her at substantial variance with previous commentators (25).

Whilst kin-groups provided continuity, however, the relationship the borderers had with Edinburgh between 1573 and 1625 was marked by considerable change. Groundwater considers government policy towards the borders to be characterised by several different periods. The first of these was Morton's regency, when, in the aftermath of the Marian Civil War, the Regent sought 'to tighten judicial measures' (158) motivated in part by concerns surrounding the necessity of continued English support in the post-war period. Interestingly, the failure of Morton's attempts to control the borders through placing his own supporters in positions of

power underscores the importance and longevity of existing borders kin-networks. Following Morton's fall, 'traditional methods' of border management fell into abeyance until 1586 (173). At this point, increasing Privy Council involvement in relatively minor borders decision making can be seen as evidence of the fact that in this period 'the way in which government perceived the Borders appeared to be worsening' (174). This contention, that changed Council involvement indicates a change in perception rather than an actual increase in crime levels, is valuable. Nevertheless, in the context of Groundwater's earlier emphasis on the number of Middle Marchers involved in central government it is a pity that a further intriguing possibility, namely, that the Council's new behaviour indicates a change in its perceptions of its own functions, in turn possibly linked to an increased borders presence in its membership (outlined at 112), is not explored more explicitly. The two developments are, of course, not mutually exclusive, and such a potential change in the Council's understanding of its role would provide further support for Groundwater's 'bigger picture' contentions regarding Scottish state building in this period. This picture of increased central interest in the borders is, however, far from straightforward, since James VI habitually pronounced his dissatisfaction with the disorder either enacted or permitted by his border officials whilst showing them substantial favour (21). This ambiguity created a situation which 'facilitated (if not actually encouraged) an increase in internal and cross-border raiding – or at least the reporting of it' (169) in the 1580s.

From 1597 onwards, however, such ambiguity dissolved, and Groundwater identifies a new urgency in James' attitude towards the borders driven, unsurprisingly, by his concerns surrounding the English succession (181). Particularly interesting in this context is Groundwater's important observation, based on the numbers of Acts of Caution in the Privy Council Register, that although crime in the borders was slightly above post-Union Scottish averages, the difference between the borders and elsewhere in Scotland was not particularly substantial (195).

In fulfilling its agenda as a corrective to previous Anglocentric accounts of the borders, Groundwater's book also raises some important points of contrast with the English experience. For instance, whilst observing that the Scottish borders were pacified more slowly than their English counterparts (195), Scottish border officials were apparently more willing to be drawn into central government initiatives than their opposite numbers. Groundwater cites the fall of the Dacre family as evidence of such English reluctance (214). The attainted Northern Rebel, Leonard Dacre, however, died in 1573, his father, William, whose influence Henry VIII attempted to curtail, died in 1563. The slight chronological disparity with her English comparators is not commented on by Groundwater but may serve to explain the differing cross-border experiences which she identifies. A study of the borders prior to 1573 is necessary to consider this further.

Despite its considerable strengths, there are areas where Groundwater's account leaves the reader wanting more. For example, an interesting discussion of crime in the Middle March based upon the extant Sheriff Court book of Roxburghshire raises the intriguing point that relatively little violent crime was recorded in this forum. Whilst Groundwater remarks that 'violent crime may have been recorded separately' (75), it is a pity that this suggestion was not interrogated further, by, for instance, considering the frequency of appearance of cases from the Middle March in the records of the Justiciary Court. Whilst earlier records of this court are patchy, these are extant in a continuous run from 1576 onwards with the sole exception of a gap from 1591-1596 (NAS JC1 and NAS JC2). Whilst Groundwater makes it clear that her focus is not crime in the borders but Crown responses to reports of such crime (2), greater consideration of crime itself would arguably have strengthened some of her conclusions.



Furthermore, whilst Groundwater's familiarity with a slew of borderers, their lands and familial or political affiliations is clearly unequalled, for the first-time visitor to the Middle March sometimes a little too much is taken as read. For instance, references to 'the Kinmont Willie episode' occur throughout the first half of the book (57, 86, 112-113), however, a detailed account of this affair is only given in chapter five of seven (131).

In the context of a detailed and impressive overview of fifty-three years of political life in the Middle March, these criticisms are minor. This study is a well-written and substantial contribution to our understanding of early modern Scotland. It is to be hoped that Groundwater's work will in due course inspire a comparable study for the West Marches, the only area of the Scottish borders now lacking their own modern reassessment.

[Amy Blakeway \(Homerton College, University of Cambridge\)](#)

**Rieuwerts, Sigrid (ed.), *The Ballad Repertoire of Anna Gordon, Mrs Brown of Falkland*, Woodbridge: Boydell 2011 (*The Scottish Text Society, Fifth Series, no. 8*) (xiii + 339pp., £35)**

As a non-academic I was very pleased and flattered to be asked to review such an important book, but beg the understanding of readers if I inadvertently breach any of the rules of academic etiquette. I had been looking forward to reading this work ever since advance notice of its publication appeared.

To those not fully familiar with the Child Ballads canon it may be necessary to explain why this book, like other recent tomes, is so important to students of the ballads, and why it supersedes any previous study of Mrs Brown's repertoire. The most obvious reason is that it brings together for the first time all of the known surviving manuscripts of the repertoire of Anna Brown (nee Gordon) of Falkland, some of them only relatively recently rediscovered. All students of balladry will already be aware of the uniqueness of Mrs Brown's ballads, their importance, the use made of them by the great Scottish collectors, and the placing of them at the very pinnacle of excellence in his *English and Scottish Popular Ballads* by Professor Child.

Not for the first time we also have a study of the comparative differences between versions of Mrs Brown's ballads written down by several people on different occasions with significant time lapses between notations. Indeed, David Buchan in *The Ballad and the Folk*, chapters 7 to 13, used Mrs Brown's ballads as prime evidence for his oral formulaic theory in Scotland relating it to Albert Lord's studies among ballad singers in the Balkans. It was therefore with great interest that I desired to know Rieuwerts' take on this.

The old ways lingered longer in the more remote parts of Scotland, such as Mrs Brown's native Aberdeenshire, and it is quite possible that her versions of the ballads hark back, at least partly, to a time when they were the province of the more sophisticated members of society, those who largely populate the ballad stories. Mrs Brown claimed her ballads were mainly derived from her mother's side of the family, particularly her Aunt Anne, and a very musical family it was, her grandfather William Forbes owning a music library and valuable musical instruments. Her mother and aunts, who seem to have provided most of her ballads, had died before Mrs Brown was 25. Whilst there is surely no question that she should be considered a source singer, having learnt her ballads in her youth from her own family, by the time they were being noted down she seems to have become something more than just a ballad singer, passing comment on the ballads in a manner that brings her closer to the likes of Jamieson and Scott with whom she was corresponding. Indeed Rieuwerts, on the first page of the preface, refers to her as 'the female Robert Burns' which does seem somewhat stretched,

unless she is referring to Burns's contributions to Johnson's *Musical Museum*, though we have no evidence to suggest Mrs Brown deliberately mediated any of her texts.

The introduction commences with a detailed description of each of the 5 sources (designated A, B, C, D and E) and their life histories from their formation to the present are traced in painstaking detail right down to the watermarks in the paper used. It is here worth including a brief summary of each of the documents:

A. 20 ballads noted down by her nephew Robert Eden Scott c1780-81, often referred to as the Jamieson-Brown Manuscript, now in the David Laing Collection in Edinburgh University Library.

B. 15 ballads with music again noted down by her nephew in 1783 and often referred to as William Tytler's Brown Manuscript, for many years considered lost, it did not surface until the 1930s at Aldourie Castle, the seat of the Fraser Tytlers, now on long-term deposit in the National Library of Scotland.

C. 9 ballads written out by Mrs Brown in 1800 and sent to Alexander Fraser Tytler, known as the Alexander Fraser Tytler's Brown Manuscript, now in the National Library of Scotland.

D. 3 ballads contained in correspondence to Robert Jamieson in Mrs Brown's husband's hand c1800-5. These are bound in with manuscript A.

E. 5 ballads published in his *Popular Ballads* by Jamieson, which he took down directly from Mrs Brown.

The introduction continues with as thorough an account of Mrs Brown's family background as one can expect of such a private person at such a remove in time. Like some of the other excellent and fascinating books on the Child Ballads in recent years Rieuwerts' work relies heavily on correspondence between the main characters. Quoting whole letters, it gives a deep insight into the thoughts and feelings of those who carried and those who cherished the ballads at the time. These are interspersed with Rieuwerts' comments on other relevant events in the lives of those concerned. As one would expect, Scott and Jamieson feature heavily in this, as do others not so well remembered today but important in the history of ballad collecting. Even in her own time Mrs Brown's ballads caused some controversy. Some thought them too modern and to some they were too good to be true and thus treated with suspicion.

Towards the end of the introduction, Rieuwerts quite rightly sets out a series of questions based on the ongoing controversies surrounding Mrs Brown and her ballads. She sets forth a brief summary of both David Buchan's and Nygard's theories on the extent to which these ballads can be said to relate to the oral formulaic theory. Having those ballads that were recorded more than once next to each other on the page, it becomes difficult to see how Mrs Brown could be said to be remaking her ballads as the great majority show very little variation from one version to the other. Rieuwerts also reports on the suspicions held by some collectors of the influence of Mrs Brown's literary background and social position. After summarising the evidence, Rieuwerts opts to defend Mrs Brown's ballads, seemingly agreeing with Child as to their importance, but suggests that further study is required to compare the ballads closely with other versions from that period and region.

The introduction concludes with a short section on the music of the ballads preserved in Manuscript B noted down by her nephew when he was but 14. These tunes, as the editor states, are invaluable to our understanding of an early Scottish ballad tradition as they are among the oldest, and indeed four of them the only known tunes of these ballads. Rieuwerts adds in Bronson's comments on the perceived mistakes with timing and rhythm. The tunes as

they appeared in the manuscript are given in facsimile on the text pages along with a modern set score, and Bronson's amendments are given in the notes to each ballad at the back of the book, along with some settings by Walter Scott's daughter, Sophia, and modern comments on the comparative singability of the various interpretations. It would be interesting, with further study, to see if any of Mrs Brown's tunes are related to other known tunes.

As one would expect, the bulk of the book is taken up with the texts of the ballads. The A texts appear first, where applicable, opposite the same ballad in the B (14 ballads) or C (2 ballads) manuscripts, stanza for stanza where possible, which makes for ease of comparison. However, the same system, inexplicably and curiously, is not used for ballad 29 where a D version and its E equivalent are compared and the equivalent blocks of three or four stanzas are placed on the same page one underneath the other. In all, just under half of the 35 ballads are given in two versions, the rest being represented by a single version.

The only ballad in Manuscript B that doesn't appear in A, a version of Clerk Colvill (Child 42), was in fact available to Child and published by him as his A version. He got it from another William Tytler Brown manuscript which also had a version of Willie's Lady (Child 6), and, whilst Rieuwerts refers to these two versions, (p10) it is a pity they were not included for comparison with the B versions alongside them in the same manner, although this would have been difficult in the case of the latter in three versions. In a very few cases the stanzas of versions on opposite pages could have been placed more precisely opposite their equivalents, but this is a minor quibble. (See pp. 184-185, lines in A stanzas 17, 18 could easily have been placed opposite the equivalent B lines of stanzas 18, 19). Of course, where this is caused by a different order of stanzas from one version to another, then it would not be right to place them opposite one another and change the given order.

Having all of Mrs Brown's extant repertoire together like this brings back to mind all of the old questions. Most of the ballads are, as Professor Child states, exceptional, but are they just too good? He was looking at the ballads through the eyes of a professor of literature. They certainly contain very few flaws, which might suggest the touch of a sophisticated hand, or perhaps those that are near perfect are close to the more sophisticated originals. It would be good to have some of these questions back on the table and discussed by those far better qualified than me, a mere ballad enthusiast, to do so.

The few ballads here that contain excessive incremental repetition, which Child was ironically so scathing of in Peter Buchan's recompositions, might not appeal to modern minds, but this is a feature of several types of oral lore and its usage here and elsewhere would reward much further study, likewise the presence of so many commonplaces in Mrs Brown's repertoire, and indeed the usage of certain noticeable language from an earlier period, 'I wis' and 'I wot' in a manner greatly overdone by the likes of Peter Buchan.

Finally, it is not very often one gets a chance to review a book that is at the very top of one's wants list and whilst many of the ballad versions here have been available to scholars for more than two centuries, having been utilised by Jamieson and Scott and followers, the book is worth its price just to have all of the material in one place. Mrs Brown's repertoire is unique in so many different ways that, in my opinion, it is the most valuable collection of British ballads ever assembled from a single source. First of all it was recorded from a living singer on several occasions at a very early period in ballad study. Coupled with this is the fact that she was from a noted and sophisticated family so records of her family life are still available and well utilised here.

Rieuwerts emphasises that the book is intended as a starting point for further research, and whilst endorsing this heartily I would also like to suggest that it might also be a starting

point for something else, if such a thing has not already been made available - an audio version of these ballads performed by appropriate Aberdeenshire singers.

Rieuwerts has at once produced a book that is an important anthology, a scholarly thesis, and a very readable and interesting account for the casual reader. It is an essential book for ballad scholars and one that will sit on my shelf alongside Child, Bronson and other recent books by Emily Lyle and Mary Ellen Brown.

Steve Gardham, Hull ([gardhams@hotmail.com](mailto:gardhams@hotmail.com)) (Cf. <http://sounds.bl.uk/World-and-traditional-music/Traditional-music-in-England/025M-C1023X0062XX-0400V0>.)

**Mooney, Gerry / Gill Scott (eds.), *Social Justice and Social Policy in Scotland*, Bristol: Policy Press 2012 (ix, 281 pp., £70 (or £56) (paperback £28.99 or £23.19 direct from the publisher))**

The following review is longer than what is normally presented in this section for four reasons: 1) the book addresses a key problem in all societies, not only in Scotland: social justice. 2) All of the book's chapters deal with topics that are relevant in the Scottish as well as the European and global contexts. They are, therefore, all briefly discussed, in order to show how comprehensive the book is and how various the aspects that need to be considered. 3) These topics and aspects are put into the context of the 2013 [international conference on 'Scotland 2014: Coming of Age and Loss of Innocence?' at the Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz in its faculty 06 in Gernersheim](#) by this review. 4) Some key elements that are connected with social justice, the 2013 conference, and the 2014 referendum are pointed out, namely the importance of the third sector, democracy, and power, i.e. the question of who is in charge and who determines how social justice and everything else is achieved. We briefly thought about taking the two paragraphs on the third sector out and giving this topic a section of its own, but eventually decided against it, as the topic originated with this review where we have, therefore, also left it. We hope you, the readers, will forgive us for allowing this extension of space and appreciate a text that tries to point out the relevance of this book, the dimensions of next year's conference, and the enormous scope of the Scottish referendum. – The Editors.

One of the key characteristics of the Scottish National Party that has been repeatedly pointed out by the media is that it "has firmly positioned itself as Scotland's party of social justice." At its annual conference in Perth this year, Alex Salmond pledged £11m to provide family nurses in every local authority, and Nicola Sturgeon announced a £33m fund to help the country's most vulnerable. The *New Statesman* of 24-10-12 was thus convinced that "this option for the poor will come to dominate the party's white paper on independence late next year." (Cf. <http://www.newstatesman.com/politics/politics/2012/10/will-referendum-come-too-soon-salmond-snp-pretender> and its excerpts in the section '(New) Media on Scotland' in this *Newsletter*.) The introduction to the book under review begins with a quotation from Donald Dewar, "the First Minister in the first Labour-led Scottish government that was reconvened following devolution in 1999" (1), in his preface to the first social justice strategy of devolution, *Social Justice – A Scotland Where Everyone Matters* (Edinburgh 1999), saying "'We need to harness the efforts of many to the greater good of all, and establish social justice as the hallmark of Scottish society.'" The public in such cases always has to find out how such pledges are later turned into reality, where the money is actually spent, or whether the promises are simply forgotten. It is instantly evident, however, how topical the book edited by Mooney and Scott is, quite apart from the fact that it also addresses vital questions for a society at all times in history, questions like 'is there social justice in our society?', 'how can it or has it been achieved?', and 'what kind of society do we need for an equal and free life?'. Such

questions are of fundamental relevance especially in the context of the referendum in 2014, where much more than independence is at stake.

In their first chapter, "Devolution, social justice and social policy: the Scottish context" (1-24), the editors say that their book wants to find out whether "Scotland really does have a different set of values", whether these values have effectively influenced "budget decisions", "whether the Scottish government really has such autonomy, whether Scottish government policies have had a positive impact on inequalities", and whether "possibilities for Scotland and other countries to resist threats to state welfare in the 21<sup>st</sup> century" (2) have become visible. "Is Scotland now a fairer and more just country following a decade and more of devolution? [...] Does it have lessons for others? Are there alternative ways to address social injustice that have simply not been tried in Scotland? [...] These are among the central questions and themes that run through this book." (3)

Mooney has worked in Social Policy and Criminology at the faculty of Social Sciences at the Open University, and Scott is Emerita Professor at Glasgow Caledonian University, where she led the Scottish Poverty Information Unit. She was the Lead Expert for a European Union project on urban regeneration and equalities from 2009-12 and an external expert on poverty and employability for the Scottish government 2003-7. They point out four key factors in the landscape of policy in Scotland in 2012, namely 1) "the maturing of the institutions of a devolved government", 2) "changes in the UK government", 3) "the economic crisis which developed in late 2008", 4) the "monumental victory for the SNP" in 2011. (3) Of the various effects of this victory and subsequent "policy measures which gained widespread support across Scotland", "the abolition of prescription charges by 2011, a renewed emphasis on the construction of social housing and the promise of smaller class sizes" are mentioned, which, however, were subsequently rendered infeasible by the large-scale budget cuts by both the Scottish and UK governments during 2010 and 2011. (5) Free personal care for older people, the abolition of student fees, and the rejection of the "promotion of 'choice' and consumerist models of governance, engagement and participation in England" are highlighted as examples of key policy divergences in Scotland. (9) The idea that Scotland remains "as a bastion of public service" (9) is rejected, however, and the general threat to services and jobs as well as the far-reaching transformations in working-conditions are pointed out.

One essential aspect of the 2014 referendum has already been touched by devolution, because "devolution has raised some serious questions about the nature of UK citizenship – and of citizenship in the devolved nations". (11f) Citizenship quite clearly is not the same when Scottish citizens get free personal care, pay no student fees, and English citizens are treated very differently. Can a UK citizenship be preserved by such popular experiences as that provided by team GB during the Olympic Games or with references to a common past? The result of the referendum will provide an answer. While Mooney and Scott clearly address this issue (without referring to team GB; their text preceding that event), they do not mention the past in this context either. I am bringing it in, as the past has had an enormous influence on the creation of a British identity and is currently very much used for keeping this identity alive. What is really at stake now and of utmost importance in the referendum is not the past, however, nor a brief, if widely shared feeling of a common Olympic success, but a sense of solidarity that provides concrete strategies and mental as well as emotional energies for the conscious construction of the future. In this context, the book "does not purport to offer a comprehensive overview of each and every aspect of social policy making in contemporary Scotland", but "offers a report card on the extent to which Scottish society has become more socially just during the first 12 years of devolution." (14f) Chapter 1 ends with the indication that devolution has not really made a great difference, that "health improvements are not greater than in England and inequalities remain worse on many measures". (18)



Mooney and Scott have invited eighteen competent and experienced people to contribute to the book, which has fifteen chapters, the first and last by the editors, and the contributors, of course, use theories, approaches, and arguments from the various fields they come from. The second chapter, "Between autonomy and dependency: state and nation in devolved Scotland" (25-42), tries to set the scene for the others, like the first one, and is by Alex Law, Professor of Sociology at the University of Abertay Dundee. It begins with the evidently justified statement that Scotland is neither a sovereign nation-state nor "wholly dependent on the external authority of the UK state or the European Union (EU)." Devolution is regarded as "an ongoing process rather than a finished article", which is the common opinion. (25) Rather uncommon is the idea that devolution is "a transitional form of state". It is not made intelligible how this might be helpful, and it contradicts a) the usual and accepted definitions of the term 'state', b) the fact that the common understanding and political practice in the world is that Scotland is not a state, and c) Law's own sentence that "This chapter discusses how devolution was shaped by a crisis of legitimation for the UK state in Scotland." (26) There can be no objection to this sentence, as it expresses the widely acknowledged fact that the UK is the state, of which Scotland, the nation, is a part. This is exactly what Law himself repeats several times, as the point he is trying to make is simply that Scotland demands "increased autonomy [...] within the protective shell of the larger institutional framework of the UK state." (29)

This unconvincing starting point is then unfortunately continued in exactly the same way – namely with a confusing use of key terms – when the concept of liminality is introduced, taken over from the anthropologist Victor Turner, and defined as indicating "a movement or ritualistic passage between two fixed points or conditions." Law thinks that Scotland can be defined like other liminal nations (not states!) with "what Turner (1985) termed a 'normative *communitas*', i.e. "as an equalising but changeable form of social solidarity". This *communitas* is seen as "subject to a dialectic interplay with the unequal social structure of community", as represented by the UK. Law quotes Turner's statement that liminality "operates as a 'time outside time in which it is often permitted to *play* with the factors of sociocultural experience, to disengage what is mundanely connected [...], and to join the disarticulated parts in novel, even improbable ways.'" Law's conclusion then is: "If liminality is transposed to the level of the state form, devolution might comparably be said to reconstitute 'the disarticulated parts' of the UK state in novel, although not improbable, ways, and break the mundane connection of sovereignty routinely assumed to exist between statehood and nationhood." (29)

One thing is instantly clear even from this shortened version of Law's text: it makes so many assumptions that one wonders whether they are at all justified and whether the result achieved is worth having. It is unfortunately evident that there is no useful result here at all. One would have to prove first that Scotland is indeed a *communitas*, and it is clearly intelligible that devolution in Scotland does not operate outside time and is not at all engaged in playfully reconstituting disarticulated parts of the UK. There is no space here to discuss in detail Law's misreadings of both Turner and Benedict Anderson, whom he puts forward as supporting the distinction between "the equal belonging of *communitas* and the unequal hierarchical integration of community." (29f) In the only passage where Turner is quoted in the revised edition of Anderson's *Imagined Communities* (2006, 53), there is no support for this at all. On the contrary, Anderson repeatedly uses the term 'community' in the sense of *communitas*. What Anderson does point out, though, precisely in connection with Turner, is the fact that liminal periods are connected with "meaning-creating experience[s]." (Anderson 2006, 53) Anderson significantly refers to Turner's chapter "Betwixt and Between: The Liminal Period in *Rites de Passage*" in Turner's book *The Forest of Symbols* (1967). The other book by Turner in Anderson's bibliography is *Fields and Metaphors. Symbolic Action in Human Soci-*

ety (1974). The creation of meaning by using symbols, which is essential in both Turner and Anderson, is of no relevance for Law, who lists Turner's *On the Edge of the Bush: Anthropology as Experience* (1985) in his bibliography. But even this title speaks about what Law should have looked at more thoroughly, human experience. Of course, Scotland is in a transitional passage, and that is why the conference that will investigate this passage thoroughly next year speaks of Scotland coming of age and, perhaps, losing its innocence. This is precisely a passage where meaning is (re-)created.

If Law had neglected only this aspect, which he does, it would not have been such a big problem, even though this makes him miss highly significant processes involving current human experiences. But he also rather surprisingly completely fails to see that this is not at all a unique characteristic of Scotland. It is indeed currently most evident in Scotland, precisely because of the differences between the Scottish and the Westminster governments and the possibility of Scottish independence. But all other nations and states are in the same process. The UK has been changing after the end of empire and through the effects of immigration, the EU is currently significantly changing, and the opposition set up here by Law is so evidently one-sided that it is not acceptable. And nobody would want to say that the EU, or the UK (and many other regions in the world) are in a liminal position, with Scotland a bit more so than others, as this does not at all advance the discussion or provide enhanced understanding. Actually one does not need the concept of liminality to come to the awareness that "the Scottish state-nation relationship is determined by questions of legitimacy, autonomy and dependency." (30) There is some ironic truth in the last sentence: "the crisis of neoliberal political economy and public sector retrenchment demands a more critical sociological theory of the relationship between the devolved state, nation and social policy." (39)

Carlo Morelli and Paul Seaman are Senior Lecturers in Economics in the School of Business at Dundee University and address the question of "Income and wealth inequalities in Scotland since 1997" (43-60). They clearly say that "Scotland is a highly unequal society", as is the UK, "where the proportion of total wealth accrued by the top 1 per cent of the population now exceeds the levels that existed before the Second World War". (44) The situation in Scotland was even worse than in the UK, and devolution has produced more similarity between Scotland and the rest as well as some results in improving equality. (44-7, 52f) Both anti-poverty measures and redistribution policies are needed, if Scotland wants to become "more inclusive and solidarity focused." (45) Inequality is "bad for society generally", costing both money and quality of life. (54) A serious danger is the fact that "higher income / wealth is the means by which the rich can separate themselves off from the rest of society", which has been the case for quite some time now. The current situation will, therefore, continue, unless "a more far-reaching approach to redistribution" is adopted. (55) They ultimately suggest three policy examples which, they admit, are not the most far reaching ones but are "available for action under the current devolution settlement" (57), namely "moving decisively towards universality in the provision of welfare", introducing a living wage, and "addressing the concentration of wealth at the top of society". One way of dealing with the last point could be "the replacement of the Council Tax with a local income tax". (56) This well-written and informed chapter ends by pointing out that this last measure is already available but hardly used, that no measure is suggested for dealing with accumulated wealth, which is "even less evenly distributed than earned income in the UK and even more so in Scotland", and that the SNP's silence about how to deal with inequality "in the six months following the May 2011 election" was most worrying. (57)

John McKendrick and Stephen Sinclair are from the School for Business and Society at Glasgow Caledonian University and have worked with the Community Regeneration and Tackling Poverty Learning Network of the Scottish government, and Sinclair was previously

Head of the Local Government and Public Services Reform Research Branch in the Scottish Executive. They give a survey "From social inclusion to solidarity: anti-poverty strategies under devolution" (61-79) and point out that devolution "has provided only a limited opportunity for 'path departure' from the approach taken by UK governments" and that they will discuss the measures introduced by the devolved governments in Scotland to reduce poverty directly, not measures addressing social exclusion more generally. (62) A first result is that poverty in Scotland has been reduced since 1999 as in the UK generally, "but success has been relatively modest, particularly in comparison to the scale of the problem" and to other parts of Europe. Whether this success is due to devolution or not is unclear. (66) The SNP governments have had – like Westminster – a clear "focus on employment and rejection of overt redistribution". There are, therefore, no signs "that the Scottish government has embarked on a distinctive approach to tackling poverty" (70), but the authors nevertheless assume that "the next 10 years of devolution will see the emergence of a distinctive Scottish approach to the problem of poverty", as the Scottish government has not yet adopted the "'compassionate conservatism' and the shibboleth of blaming the victim" that characterises the UK government. (74)

Gill Scott, "Regeneration policy and equalities issues" (81-97), briefly mentions the fact that "social exclusion owes much to global economic restructuring" (81), but addresses the importance of local policy as well as EU support for urban development and regeneration with "over £1.1 billion of support for Scotland." (82) It is a pity that the comparison with Europe or other parts of the UK is not preserved throughout the text, though, as the Scottish figures given would have been far more impressive if they had been related to European countries or other parts of the UK. But the final evaluation is straightforward and notices "the failure to effectively engage with the equalities issues outlined", a failure that "carries the potential risk of exacerbating established inequalities". (92)

Philomena de Lima, Director of the Centre for Remote and Rural Studies at the University of the Highlands and Islands, discusses "Migration, 'race' equality and discrimination: a question of social justice" (97-112) and finds strong similarities in the immigration policies of Scotland and the UK. Both see sustainable economic growth as "an overarching objective" and there is an almost total "absence of strong social justice considerations" in Scotland and the UK. (109)

Lynne Poole, Lecturer in Social Policy at the University of the West of Scotland, writes on "Health policy and health inequalities" (113-130) and also speaks of the need of a "specific, focused commitment to redistributing resources" as something that has not yet been put into practice, but as vital when one wants to "deliver real improvements in terms of health inequalities." Failure to do so is "the reality to date." (126)

Sue Dumbleton, Senior Lecturer in the Faculty of Health and Social Care and Mo McPhail, Head of Social Work (Scotland), both at the Open University, discuss "The coming of age of Scottish social services?" (131-146), mention the global banking crisis briefly (135), but say nothing more about it and also notice an overwhelming "'lack of concern of broader social justice issues'". (141) Scottish social services as well as the social reality have not yet come of age.

Margaret Arnott, Reader of Political Science, Glasgow Caledonian, and Jenny Ozga, Professor of the Sociology of Education, Education Department, University of Oxford, elucidate "Education policy and social justice" (147-164) and begin with Alex Salmond's 2011 statement that his new government's intention is "'to build a better nation.'" (147) They think that the majority government will not change its approach to governing very much from its first term in office as a minority between 2007 and 2011, which their chapter investigates. Two

important reasons are given for this continuity rather than significant changes, namely the SNP's need to build consensus in connection with their main goal of independence and the early adoption of a broad approach to governing with a particular focus on "outcomes-based policy making." Nevertheless, reform "of the public services is likely to be one of the most contentious areas facing the SNP majority administration." (148) One highly significant characteristic of the first period in office and the SNP's approach to government was that it was "heavily dependent on discourse" and that education policy offered and still offers "resources that can be discursively mobilised to enable the projection of the Scottish government as a 'learning' government that combines a focus on education as a source of economic recovery and independence with an agenda of fairness and inclusion". (148) The Scottish Government text [\*Choosing Scotland's Future: A National Conversation: Independence and Responsibility in the Modern World\*](#), Edinburgh 2007 is an excellent example of this approach and of the importance of story-telling for a) giving meaning to things quite generally, b) advocating policy, and c) the (re-)writing of "Scotland's story" (Salmond in his 2011 speech, here on p.147). It is very good that Arnott and Ozga have highlighted this key element, on which they have already done excellent work.

They also point out the European and global contexts for education policies, where there has been an important shift from seeing education as "the space for the construction of national identity" to putting education at the centre of developing "a globally ordered knowledge economy and [...] knowledge society, transcending national frontiers". (150) This has produced an increased homogeneity in education policy, with institutions like the OECD and the EU exercising strong influences. Fiona Hyslop's 2007 speech "Debate on Making Scotland Smarter" is very clear about what is intended with the 'new' education policy: "the creation of 'new' Scots who are 'better educated, more skilled and more successful, renowned for our research and innovation, [...] successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens'". (151) ([The speech is available here](#), with other links giving information on the SNP governments from 2007 till today here <http://www.fb06.uni-mainz.de/englisch/204.php>.) Is this really a new objective and a new policy? References to fairness and egalitarianism that "position Scotland in a social democratic policyscape alongside the Nordic social democracies" quite clearly belong to the context of "shaping myths" (151) that have been used for a long time and are again a strong indicator of the various stories about Scotland, Scottish values and Scottish education that have been constructed by educators and politicians since the beginning of education.

Scottish education policies since 2007 have always connected education with discussions about obstacles to success, such as poverty and the lack of material and other resources. (152) This has not really produced "a new policy direction", however, but rather just a "new way in which this policy was promoted", and has been promoted, one could add. (154) The chapter ends with pointing out the various links between SNP education policy and Europe, which provides Scotland with many more progressive ideas than England and with a great number of similarities in educational as well as political and national contexts. (160f) Whether Scotland is for these reasons "arguably an identity between two unions, one in the UK and one in Europe", as Dardanelli, *Between Two Unions: Europeanisation and Scottish Devolution* thought in 2005 (161), or is now moving beyond this stage, will, perhaps, be revealed in 2014.

Eddy Adams is an independent consultant who writes about "Policies for young people in contemporary Scotland: a 'lost' generation?" (165-178) and describes "the social and economic factors contributing to the issue in Scotland and the extent to which the policy response has been distinctive from that of the rest of the UK". (165) In comparison to Europe, Scotland is – like the rest of the UK, Ireland and Portugal – "at one extreme of the spectrum in an economy with a high proportion of low-paid jobs and minimal job security." (169) It also has

the "third highest NEET rate among OECD countries." (170, NEET = not in employment, education or training) Adams thinks it is too early to say whether the *Curriculum for Excellence* (CfE), introduced by the first SNP government in 2009, "will achieve its goals." (172, the CfE is available at [http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/Images/BtC4\\_Skills\\_tcm4-569141.pdf](http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/Images/BtC4_Skills_tcm4-569141.pdf)) One of the main "structural weaknesses within the Scottish education system [...] is the fragmentation between the vocational and the academic offer" made by schools. The vocational pathway is undervalued and fragmented, whereas the path from school to higher education is clearly visible to young people. Adams quotes an OECD review of the Scottish system of 2007 that already noticed this, and he mentions "the dual system in place in Germany and Austria" as ensuring a high quality vocational offer and a clearly structured pathway. (172)

Unfortunately the text then only briefly says that at the local level "there is ample evidence of *what works*" and mentions "coordinated agency activity", the "partnership model" and voluntary as well as "community-based organisations" as playing an important role. (174) It would have been good to hear a bit more about this, in particular about the involvement of the third sector, which is of great importance in the context of the shortcomings of both the first and the second sectors and as an ideal place for experiencing democracy in action.

Information on the 'third sector' from the government's point of view is available here: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/Topics/People/15300>. Their own website is at <http://www.thirdsector.co.uk/>. The third sector is also called the 'voluntary sector', 'community sector', 'non-profit sector', or 'civic sector'. There was a government Office of the Third Sector until 2010, when the Tories renamed it Office for Civil Society, and it is now often called 'Big Society' ([http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Voluntary\\_sector](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Voluntary_sector)). This is important indeed, and a big move away from Margaret Thatcher's 1987 statement that "there is no such thing as society". (Cf. <http://www.guardian.co.uk/news/datablog/2012/jan/06/iron-lady-margaret-thatcher-data>; <http://www.bmj.com/content/342/bmj.d303>, and <http://suite101.com/article/camerons-big-society-victorian-values-by-another-name-a263690> on relevant contexts.) Social economy is significant in the third sector where civil society, the people in a community are directly involved in efforts to create not only a social economy but social justice in every sense of the term and directly in the community where they live. The [Third Sector Research Centre Informing Civil Society](#), the [International Society for Third Sector Research](#), and the National Audit Office give information on the third sector, too ([http://www.nao.org.uk/sectors/third\\_sector/successful\\_commissioning/successful\\_commissioning/introduction/what\\_is\\_the\\_third\\_sector.aspx](http://www.nao.org.uk/sectors/third_sector/successful_commissioning/successful_commissioning/introduction/what_is_the_third_sector.aspx)).

The third sector thus is extremely important in the context of evident dangers to democracy, very well described by the founder of the *Independent*, Andreas Whittam Smith, in his initiative 'Democracy 2015' (<http://www.independent.co.uk/voices/democracy2015/>) with which he hopes to save "our desperately sick democracy". The first, governmental or state sector, and the second, the private sector with enterprise for profit, need to be complemented by the third sector, because it is driven by values other than money and material profit. The Scottish government indeed claims it as very relevant, but is it really? It evidently is not for Westminster, where banks and the second sector economy dominate political decisions. Ken Clarke is a lonely voice there, and significantly a minister without portfolio, who almost desperately and clearly in vain tries to make his colleagues aware of the fact that Britain's economic difficulties have not been caused by the EU, but by "'the folly of bankers, the uselessness of regulators and the weakness of government'". ([Clarke in the Guardian 27-10-12](#)) Scotland will have to ask itself whether it is not easier to strengthen its traditional values as an economy and a society that does not look at material profit only, but takes into account other



significant factors, such as social justice, equality, morality, and the democratic participation of its people once it is independent of Westminster dominance.

More on the third sector thus would have provided this chapter with a certain edge which it also does not have with regard to the answer to the question raised in the title: whether the evidently visible greater willingness of the SNP government to "invest in tackling youth unemployment" is really enough to prevent the result of a lost generation for Adams simply "remains to be seen." (175) This is part of the polite restraint addressed in my final evaluation of this book.

Hazel Croall is a Professor Emerita of Criminology at Glasgow Caledonian University who has worked on several aspects of crime and inequality, white-collar and corporate crime amongst them. Her topic is "Criminal justice, social inequalities and social justice" (179-201), and she intends to present a broad analysis of the links between social inequalities in Scotland and crime and criminal justice, to point out "the global and national context of criminal justice policy", and to look into its key areas. She begins by pointing out that what is called a crime depends on the culture one lives in (179) and that crime is connected with a great number of different factors and effects in society, such as unemployment, the "'three 'd's' of 'drink, drugs and deprivation'" (181), poor health and insecurity. Crimes committed by people who in the perception of the public and the media are obvious criminals must "be set against the vast amount of crime committed by more wealthy individuals, by corporations and state agencies. Often known as the crimes of the powerful, these are not generally regarded as crime and subject to far lower levels of criminalisation despite their considerable physical, economic and emotional impact." Mass deaths connected with such crimes are often "subsequently attributed to failures on the part of management or regulators." (182) She gives several examples ranging from the explosions on the Piper Alpha North Sea oil production platform in 1988 that killed 167 workers to Faslane, the nuclear submarine base, about which "SEPA has stated that it would close the base down if it had the legal powers". (183, with reference to R. Edwards article in the *Sunday Herald* 20 Sept. 2009, "Revealed: radioactive waste leak into the Clyde", available at [www.robedwards.com/2009/09/revealed-radioactive-waste-leak-from-hunterston.html](http://www.robedwards.com/2009/09/revealed-radioactive-waste-leak-from-hunterston.html). SEPA = Scottish Environment Protection Agency) Such offences are often simply "described as 'breaches' or 'exceedences' [...] and subject not to policing and punishment, but to regulation and sanctions." (184)

Devolution has not increased the differences that had existed since long before its inception between a distinctively Scottish legal culture and the English system, but it has, surprisingly, led to "a greater convergence and a process of 'detartanisation' accompanied by greater punitiveness" (185), even though Labour and the Conservatives still "attacked the SNP as 'soft on crime'" in the context of the 2011 elections. (191) The conclusion is that much more needs to be done, with the "'deep and persistent social polarisation between rich and poor'", which is even worse in Scotland than in England (190), and the "different criminal status of corporate and environmental harms" (194) as two significant examples of social injustice that need to be dealt with.

Christine Bertram (Research Officer at the Institute for Employment Studies, Brighton) and Sharon Wright (Lecturer in Social Policy at Stirling University) have much experience in social policy work, especially front-line service delivery, governance of welfare services, and they have compared the Scottish situation with Europe and Australia, in particular welfare reforms and the contracting-out of employment services. "Working Scotland" (203-222) begins with appropriate reminders of the importance of work in human life and the successful Scottish history in this respect, e.g. Scotland's consistently high employment rates. They conclude, however, that UK and Scottish policies trying to get people away from welfare and

back into work "have failed to meet their objectives in Scotland". (216) Powerful divisions remain in the Scottish labour market, for which "a decentralisation of policy-making power from Westminster to the local level" and an "increased support for Local Regeneration Agencies by the Scottish government" are seen as possible solutions. Ultimately, however, "Holyrood's capacity to take effective action" against employment-related social injustice is not considered to be sufficient so that the existing gaps "are unlikely to disappear." (218)

Kim McKee, from Housing and Urban Studies in the School of Geography and Geosciences of the University of St. Andrews, and Danny Phillips, an independent researcher and writer working mostly in the third sector, present a chapter on "Social housing and homelessness policies: reconciling social justice and social mix" (223-238), which gives a good survey of key points, in particular the policy shift from social to affordable housing. A distinctly Scottish approach to social housing reform is a possible result of devolution, but has not yet been achieved. The current focus is on "meeting the requirements of the politically iconic homelessness legislation and its ambitious 2012 target to end homelessness." (224) Scotland is different from the rest of the UK in having a single regulatory framework, the Scottish Housing Regulator, created in 2010, and a single tenancy since 2001. There is also a much stronger focus on local needs and cooperation with small, community-based landlords. (225) The English move towards market rents has been rejected by the SNP, but it is not yet clear what the SNP government intends to do with the more than 30% cut from the affordable housing budget in the Comprehensive Spending Review of 2011. (226) A "policy of tenure mix" has been pursued (230) and connected with "low-cost homeownership initiatives", which represents "a shift in government priorities from social to affordable housing". (231) At the same time, responsibility for housing provision has been transferred "downwards from the state to the individual consumer, representing a further example of rolling back the state." (232)

The final conclusion is that the symptoms have been addressed, but not "the causes of structural inequalities", and the entire nation must ask itself what it wants "the future of social housing to be". (233) Is it "not the whole point of devolution, to pursue distinctly Scottish policy agendas?" "The future of social housing in Scotland can be transformed, but only if there is the political will and a commitment of public resources to allow this transformation to happen." (234) One can only agree with this.

Eurig Scandrett, Lecturer in Sociology at Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh, a Fellow of the Centre for Human Ecology, and former Head of Community Action at Friends of the Earth Scotland, writes on "Environmental justice: a question of social justice?" (239-255). He relates the well-known fact that the first SNP government "adopted a public position as 'more environmental' than Labour", but then gives a critical evaluation of this public image which may also have helped the SNP in the 2011 election, by concluding that while the theory, the rhetoric of the SNP appeared environmental "in practice its environmental policies have lacked cohesion, and are divorced from social policies." (239) In all discussions and policies there is a strong "tension between (weak) social democracy and (strong) neoliberalism." (244) After elucidating comments on development planning, climate change, and waste policies, the conclusion is that the wide-spread and predominant neoliberal thinking is the main reason for environmental injustice, that it is "unlikely that social justice can be achieved under capitalism", and that all efforts to increase "environmental justice in all its dimensions is an important component of the transition to a post-capitalist society." (251) Scandrett has unfortunately not shown – and indeed not been able to show – any signs that this transition is already taking place anywhere, but he gives a very apposite description of the situation Scotland, Europe, and the rest of the 'democratic' world is in.

What is the editors' "Conclusion: towards a new phase of devolution?" (257-272) Surprisingly and unfortunately, this last chapter does not begin with conclusions at all. It first repeats the questions already raised in the first chapter, put in such a way that one wonders why the book has been written in the first place, then it repeats well-known facts, using sources that are either old or present banal statements, such as this one in a long quotation of just this quality: "the contest for Scotland's future will be decided in Scottish elections, and not in Westminster." (263) Even seriously controversial points are made, as in a 2009 quotation that claims "that the EU is not a happy place for regional governments to develop distinctive social models." (261) This is in direct opposition to the principle of subsidiarity which is at the core of the EU, even though many bureaucrats in Brussels tend to prefer to forget it. Regional governments simply have to fight against such tendencies, which, however, are not an essential part of the EU. And what is the point of this quotation here? Do the editors claim that the Scottish governments have not had any possibilities to develop distinctive social models? No, that is not their point. So what are they doing here?

They are not drawing conclusions from the texts in their book. They actually only start doing this from p.265 onwards. An earlier conclusion makes another even more controversial claim that is not supported in the chapters at all: "They [probably meaning the authors of the chapters, although the pronoun could grammatically also refer to "the Scottish Government" or to "people in Scotland"] also show that the political will to make decisions in Scotland to reduce social inequality cannot be assured alongside moves to raise the powers of a devolved Scottish government or towards independence." (258) Why should the two not be possible at the same time? There is no reason given for this anywhere in the book, and I would even make the opposite claim: the question of the referendum is a question not only about independence or not, it is a question precisely about the shape the Scottish people want to give their nation. This includes all questions of social justice, of the nation's economy and of who decides its form (capitalist, post-capitalist, socialist or otherwise), of people's participation in all decisions on the local as well as national and international levels and so on. These things cannot be separated from each other, and why it is that the editors, in dealing with social justice and social policy, think they can or perhaps even must be separated is something I do not understand at all.

The conclusions drawn from the book's texts are as plain and straightforward as the texts themselves, once they are presented: "the political will of those in power since 1997 to fully address inequalities does not exist" (265), and that while "Scotland can be rightly proud of innovations such as increased service user involvement in the care service and in children's services", such positive developments "are threatened by a combination of non-ring-fenced local authority budgets and the impact of the global crisis together with [...] a lack of concern for broader social justice issues". (267) Not presented is chapter 12, which is simply forgotten, and what is called "Chapter Twelve on housing and Chapter Thirteen on environmental justice" (268) are in fact chapters 13 and 14. It is evident (and predictable) "that there are no single or even simple technical conclusions – they are affected by economic change, political and social contestation and political will", but it is again not really clear whether the quotation from the Scottish Government text of 2011 is actually also a conclusion from the book's chapters or not. The editors perhaps thought that the government statement "a radical change in the design and delivery of public services is necessary to tackle the deep-rooted social problems that persist in communities across the country" (269) did not need to be elaborated on.

This is a wrong assumption, though, partly because 'a radical change' is precisely not what the editors' conclusion speaks of, even though they notice that "we are entering a period not seen before", with "scope and potential for divergent policy making, and for some radical

policies to emerge." Why do they fail to notice and point out those passages in their book's chapters that directly address key points where radical change is possible and indeed absolutely necessary? There are six chapters that speak about the need to deal with accumulated wealth and to make necessary redistributions, about the crimes committed by international corporations and governments themselves which are not treated like crimes at all and therefore not punished in the same way as every individual civilian would be. The society in Scotland is as unjust as every other society in the west. When even somebody who formerly wrote speeches for Margaret Thatcher, thus a supporter of Tory politics, like Ferdinand Mount, writes about the stupendous difference between rich and poor people in the UK, which today is worse than it ever was in the past, it is again evident how important the question of social justice is. (Cf. Mount, *Mind the Gap. The New Class Divide in Britain*, London 2012, first ed. 2004.)

Social justice is even more important now, because Mount's solution (2012, 312) "that civil society – the world of association and mutual aid – should be opened up to them" (i.e. to the poor) is no longer sufficient. Class or a classless society, equality etc. are not the main issue anymore, the issue now and always is power. The articles in Mooney and Scott's book, and the editors themselves, repeatedly speak of the political will of governments as determining factors for the creation of a just society. What if this will of governments is determined by other factors and by powers with no interest at all in a fair society? Both the British author Mount and the American writer and film director Charles H. Ferguson describe the powers that dominate their states. Mount does so in polite, restrained, almost diplomatic terms in *The New Few or A Very British Oligarchy* (London 2012a), Ferguson in an American, catchy, spicy, and sharp way in *Predator Nation: Corporate Criminals, Political Corruption and the Hijacking of America* (New York 2012). Both show Britain and the US as totally unfair societies, the oligarchy as a criminal elite that dominates politics and the entire economy and profits from the lack of justice, equality and fairness. Both reveal how seriously democracy is threatened and how urgent it is that the public becomes active, in order to bring back real accountability to business and politics as well as fairness to our society.

It is precisely in these contexts that a 'radical change' is needed. A 'yes' vote in the referendum would be fairly radical for many, but it would not be enough. Agreement or disagreement with independence must be based on a very conscious and enlightened decision for the kind of nation and government one wants Scotland to adopt. This is a very serious and difficult situation which next year's conference in Gernersheim intends to address. Many things need to be considered, which is why speakers from all important areas of society have been invited so that one can eventually come to a fairly comprehensive understanding, if probably not yet to a holistic conception of the matter. People should, however, be very much aware of the consequences of a 'yes' or 'no' vote and the most important things connected with their decisions. All questions linked with social justice are involved in the seemingly simple choice. That the editors do not see these links, but instead see a division between "two forms of justice: territorial and social" (270) is rather surprising. It is, therefore, very good that they will come to the conference and take part in the discussions there.

The "vexed question of social justice" is not "more difficult" than that of territorial justice, as the editors think (270), because the two cannot be separated from each other but need to be seen together. It is precisely here that the 'radical change' begins. I've been wondering why the editors have been so reticent about pointing out the various references to radical changes in their book. Is it because of the characteristic of Scottish people described by Ian Rankin in *Rebus's Scotland. A Personal Journey* (London 2005), where he says that Scotland is "unsure of itself and staying quiet until it knows it is safe to speak"? The Scots thus "tend towards reticence", which foreigners find surprising. (Rankin 2005, 35) "Change, too, is

frowned upon in many quarters, as has always been the case." (Rankin 2005, 45) In the entire book Rankin hopes for change. Will the Scots in 2014 dare to become independent? Or are they too shy and reticent for this enormous degree of change? It still looks as though they are. But they, like the editors, should see that radical change is absolutely necessary. And they should also be quite aware of what that means in practice in their real lives, where not only social justice but also democracy and freedom are in serious danger.

So this is a very useful book, written by competent people on highly significant topics. Its only shortcoming is that the need for radical change that is so visible in our everyday lives and in many passages of the book is expressed in a typically Scottish reticent and shy way. There is no longer any time for reticence, shyness, politeness, or kindness, though, because all this has lasted too long already: "The oligarchic character of the modern English commonwealth does not rest, like many oligarchies, on the cruelty of the rich to the poor. It does not even rest on the kindness of the rich to the poor. It rests on the perennial and unfailing kindness of the poor to the rich.' G. K. Chesterton, *Heretics*, chapter 15" (quoted as a motto at the beginning of Mount 2012). Now is indeed the time for radical change. The 2013 conference will present relevant ideas for consideration in this context, where social justice is just one important aspect among many others that must be taken into account.

Klaus Peter Müller (Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz)

**Conference Report**  
**Crime Scotland: Then and Now**  
**Georg August University Göttingen, Germany – May 31-June 3, 2012**

A shared interest in Scottish crime fiction brought delegates from a variety of countries, including Spain, Iceland, Poland and Italy, as well as the UK and Germany, to the city of Göttingen for three days in early summer. The second annual conference of the Society for Scottish Studies in Europe provided the occasion, and the English Department of the University of Göttingen the venue. An excellent programme was put together by conference organisers Kirsten Sandrock and Frauke Reitemeier.

Opening keynote speaker was respected Conan Doyle biographer Andrew Lycett (*Conan Doyle: The Man Who Created Sherlock Holmes*, 2007). In his talk on "Sherlock Holmes – Scottish Detective", Lycett focused on the dark side of Holmes, which he saw as reflecting the tensions in Doyle between the scientific rationalism of the writer's own times (and university training) and earlier Scottish beliefs and superstitions. It was a tension always present and always held in balance in Doyle, he said, until that balance was tipped during the last third of the author's life, when he became a committed adherent of the spiritualist movement and a much ridiculed champion of fairy photography.

**Session 1: Crime across the Genres**

The first of the thematic sessions was opened by Andras Beck (Salamanca), whose paper "21<sup>st</sup> Century Criminals on the Contemporary Scottish Stage" looked at crime in the context of its treatment in contemporary Scottish drama. The works of three playwrights; Gregory Burke, David Harrower and David Greig were discussed.

Rohan Berry's (Koszalińska) "nothing silences an awkward truth more effectively than ridicule' – Covert Biographies in Denise Mina's Paddy Meehan Trilogy" looked at Denise Mina's incorporation of investigative and academic research into her trilogy and asked why it



is that the crime novel lends itself so well to documenting covert recent, or contemporary histories.

In “What’s in an ‘M’?” Responsibility and Wrongdoing in the Novels of Iain M. Banks and Iain Banks, Joseph Walton looked at the tensions expressed and obscured by the overlapping and fluctuating preoccupations and sensibilities of the writer’s chosen genres.

### **Session 2: Exploding the Canon: Old Classics, New Narratives**

This session was given over to Gioia Angeletti’s (Parma) “‘Rewriting’ a Nineteenth Century Classic: *The Private Memoirs and Confessions of a Justified Sinner* and the Contemporary Scottish Intertextual Novel”. The paper explored the influence of Hogg’s classic on some of Scotland’s contemporary writers. Its main focus was on Emma Tenant’s *The Bad Sister* and particularly on the writer’s complication of the ‘open text’ quality of Hogg’s work through her blurring of the boundaries between the real and the surreal.

### **Session 3: Historical Crimes in Fiction**

Ingibjörg Ágústsdóttir (Reykjavik) opened the third session with “Treatments of Historical Crime in Literature and Film: The Case of Mary Queen of Scots and the Murder of Lord Darnley”. Ranging widely, both chronologically and stylistically, she discussed Mary’s various portrayals at the hands of novelists, television and film makers and noted the trend in recent academic studies towards exoneration of the Queen of Scots.

Silvia Mergenthal (Konstanz) talked on “Walter Scott’s Walking Stick – The Case of Major Weir”. She looked at Scott’s engagement with the story of the renowned Edinburgh criminal in various texts and at how he embedded the case in specific historical contexts, using it to negotiate between discourses; his ultimate intention, she explained, being to discredit the covenanters.

Tobias Arens (Greifswald) discussed “The Literary Construction of Crime: the Glasgow Ice Cream Wars in Romance and Crime Fiction”. His paper looked at certain textual formulas he had identified in the fictional retrospective reconstructions of the so-called Glasgow Ice Cream Wars of the 1980s, and at how these affected readers’ perceptions of the actual events.

The day ended with a keynote talk by crime writer Lin Anderson. “Crime Writing – Scotland’s Cultural Export” gave us some personal insights into the practice of crime writing. The dark material of Scottish crime fiction, with its characteristic lacing of gallows humour, marked it out, she said, from other successful crime writing such as the Scandinavian variety, where the darkness tends to remain unrelieved. She talked also of the importance of attention to detail in bringing authenticity to her work and suggested that forensics was primarily about asking the right questions. Asking the right questions and thinking forensically, she said, were the hallmarks of the first great Scottish detective, Sherlock Holmes.

### **Session 4: Ian Rankin’s Edinburgh**

Caroline Jones (Salford) began the first session of the day with “Capital Crime: Ian Rankin’s Inspector Rebus and the Many Faces of Edinburgh”. Her paper offered an exploration of the complexity at the heart of Ian Rankin’s vision of Edinburgh. She argued that while Rankin incorporates the city’s tradition of duality into his work, it is his preoccupation with the many-shaded nuances of the city’s and Scottish society’s reality that is the strength of his fiction.

In “A Crime Scene Waiting to Happen: Edinburgh in the Novels of Ian Rankin”, Agnieszka Siekiewicz-Charlish (Gdansk) also focused on the complexity of Rankin’s Edinburgh and on how effectively his Detective Rebus character allows him to explore the almost limitless diversity of the city and urban Scotland.

“Age of Devolution, Age of Retirement: John Rebus and Ageism” was the title of the paper by Cyprian Piskurek (Dortmund). Moving away from the Rebus as restless explorer of his environment theme, he turned the spotlight onto a little discussed but unavoidable consequence of the detective’s real time fictional existence – age and ageism. Post-Devolution Scotland’s attempts to strike a balance between tradition and innovation, it was argued, provides an interesting backdrop to Rebus’s own dilemma as he grows older and becomes increasingly uneasy with his own life and lot.

### **Session 5: Crime and the City**

We returned to the notion of the detective as wanderer in Janneke Rauscher’s (Frankfurt) exploration of Denise Mina’s *Garnethill*. The structuralist model of space developed by Jurij M. Lotman was used for an investigation of the semantic space of Glasgow as depicted in the novel. This model, it was argued, allows the novel to be divided into a complex series of sub-spheres whose borders are negotiable, though only for the central amateur detective figure of Maureen O’Donnell. O’Donnell, therefore, may be seen as a translator between the different worlds, able to overcome borders and define new ones of her own.

Marie Hologa’s (Dortmund) “Resurrecting the Old Town: Body-Snatchers, Ghost Tours and Edinburgh Tourism” explored the static nature of Scotland’s, and particularly Edinburgh’s, tourist industry. She argued that Scottish tourism in the post-devolution era appears happy to perpetuate and commercially utilise old notions of an allegedly split Scottish psyche.

### **Session 6: The Sociology of Crime Fiction**

The preoccupations of post-devolutionary Scottish crime writing were examined by Natascha Haas (Heidelberg) in “A look at the Hyde side: does duality still work in post-devolutionary crime fiction?” She asked what types of criminals were being created by contemporary Scottish crime writers to reflect the radical changes in Scottish society and whether or not duality still has any part to play.

Saturday’s final session closed with “Scottish Noir: *Complicity*”, by Christopher Kydd (Dundee). The paper outlined the transnational roots of noir and went on to examine the ways in which Iain Banks’s novel *Complicity* pays homage to the conventions and traits of this global mode, whilst also translating and articulating these in a distinctively Scottish way. This was especially evident, it was argued, in passages where the gothic roots of noir and the gothic in the Scottish literary tradition intersected.

### **Session 7: Gendered Crime Fictions**

Mariagiulia Garufi’s (Verona) “‘Inside the Frame.’ Resisting Genders in Crime Fiction: *The Cutting Room* by Louise Welsh” investigated the handling of questions of gender in Welsh’s novel and examined the ways in which the writer has subverted the conventions of detective fiction and challenged its mechanisms.

The final paper “The Scottish Landscape and Crime in Non-Canonical Texts by 20<sup>th</sup> Century Female Crime Writers, Gladys Mitchell and Josephine Tey” was presented by Samantha Walton (Edinburgh), who explored the subversion of the Scottish landscape’s traditionally purifying role “as a repository of natural feeling” in the works of Mitchell and Tey. In such works, she suggested, we may find “new ways to consider the ‘Caledonian Antisyzygy’ in the tensions [these writers’ works create] between consciousness and the natural world, and rationalism and Romanticism.”

Ron Walker (Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz)

## Conference Announcements

### **Scottish Literature International Lecture 2012**

The 2012 [Scottish Literature International lecture](#), “The Discovery of Scotland: Walter Scott and the Invention of World Literature” will be held in Committee Room 1, The Scottish Parliament, Holyrood, Edinburgh, on Wednesday 7 November 2012.

### **Ireland and Scotland: Conflicts and Cross Currents**

10th NEICN Conference: North East Irish Culture Network in Association with the Scottish Irish Network (SIN) and the University of Sunderland.

9 – 11 November 2012, Chester Road Campus of the University of Sunderland, Sunderland, England. [NEICN website](#)

#### Call for Papers

Following the success of the previous nine international Irish Studies conferences, this year the University of Sunderland, in association with NEICN, invites papers for an interdisciplinary conference, which will run from 9th to 11th November 2012.

The conference organisers hope to represent a wide range of approaches to Irish and Scottish culture from academics and non-academics alike. Performances, roundtables, collaborative projects, and other non-traditional presentations are encouraged in addition to conference papers. We welcome both individual submissions and proposals for panels. In connection with the conference theme we welcome submissions for panels and papers based around the often overlapping and interconnected histories and cultures of Ireland and Scotland. Possible themes include, (but are not limited to): Theory, Gender, Advertising and Commodity Culture, Gothic, Fantastic, Tartan and/or Emerald Noir, Romanticism, Revolution, Evolution, Language, Immigration, Diaspora, Borderlands and Border Identities, Devolution, Ulster, Partition, Celticism

Along with papers specific to the conference theme, we are interested in using this conference to highlight the most recent work in the field. Therefore, we welcome submissions addressing any and all topics or themes relevant to Irish and/or Scottish studies. Following the interdisciplinary nature of the conference we welcome proposals from the areas of:

- Literature, Linguistics, Creative Writing, Performing Arts, History, Politics, Folklore and Mythology, Anthropology, Sociology, Geography, Tourism, Art and Art History, Music, Dance, Media and Film Studies, Cultural Studies, Celtic Studies and Studies of the Diaspora.
- North American and other international scholars, practitioners in the arts, and postgraduate students are all encouraged to submit proposals to the conference organisers.

Each session will include three or four 20-minute presentations each followed by discussion. A selection of the accepted papers will be subsequently published in the conference proceedings. Length: Papers should not exceed 2000 words / 20 minutes’ delivery.

**The deadline for submissions to this conference has passed.**

### **Alasdair Gray International Conference**

Université Européenne de Bretagne & Université de Brest

15 – 17 November 2012, HCTI, EA 4249, Université de Brest, Brest, France

Call for Papers (pdf: [here](#))

Ever since the publication of *Lanark* in 1981, Alasdair Gray (1934–) has become one of the most influential and prolific artists of his generation. He is now considered a major contributor to not only Scottish but also European literature. A true polymath, Alasdair Gray is at the same time a writer of fiction and non fiction, a gifted playwright, pamphletist (*Why Scots Should Rule Scotland* – 1992 and 1997, *How We Should Rule Ourselves* – 2005), poet and painter.

From *Lanark* to the recent publications of *Old Men in Love* (2007), *Fleck* (2008), *A Gray Play Book* (2009) and the impressive autopicography *A Life in Pictures* (2010), Alasdair Gray's literary and pictorial works display a continuously renewed energy that it will be our task to comprehend.

We will be interested in Alasdair Gray's creative independence and contribution to the aesthetics of subversion inherited from the political and cultural past of Scotland. Through his experiments in generic hybridisation and parodic rewriting, Alasdair Gray has proved committed to the complex notion of truth, often viewed in his fiction and non fiction as a catalyst for social change and progress.

This first international conference on the artist whom Ali Smith once called a “necessary genius” will welcome proposals that address issues that can be varied and broad in scope (the following are but indicative topics). We will also be happy to explore ideas with colleagues who are interested in cross-disciplinary issues.

- Alasdair Gray's symbolical and formal contribution to the reinvention of devolutionary and post-devolutionary Scotland
- the author and his avatars: God, the mad scientist, the Oracle, the ageing pedestrian ...
- the word/image relationship in Gray's works, intertextuality and interpictoriality
- the Gothic and the fantastic in Alasdair Gray's fiction and painting
- parody, satire and commitment: the birth of new cultural nationalism?
- captation and subversion of allogeneous materials: the ethics of rewriting in Alasdair Gray's fiction and pamphlets
- fiction and metafiction, modernism and (or vs.?) postmodernism, etc. ...

**The deadline for submissions to this conference has passed.**

### **Robin Jenkins: A Centenary Celebration**

A celebration of the life and work of [Robin Jenkins](#) (1912–2005), to be held in the Hunterian Art Gallery, University of Glasgow, on Saturday 24 November 2012.

### **Special Session on Robert Louis Stevenson's Life & Works**

Loco/Motion: 34th Annual Conference of the [Nineteenth Century Studies Association](#)  
7 – 9 March 2013, Fresno, California, USA.

#### Call for Papers

As part of next year's NCSA conference, I'm seeking papers for one or more panels about Robert Louis Stevenson that address the theme of “Locomotion”. Scholars may consider the theme literally (treating images of travel and physical movement in Stevenson's works), or metaphorically (e.g. chronological, ethical, historical, intellectual, psychological, or spiritual “motion”). Feel free to email me if you have questions about the appropriateness of a topic for presentation.

A representative of the Robert Louis Stevenson Silverado Museum will join us to discuss the library's rare books/manuscripts and to display exhibits from the collection.

The long nineteenth century set the world on the move. Travel became increasingly important for business and pleasure, for war and peace. At the same time, new forms of moving people arose: the balloon, ships, undergrounds, funiculars, the railroads. Each carried riders to great distances, different locales, and novel pursuits. But motion wasn't purely spatial; new movements arose as well, sweeping the inhabitants of the period into fresh vistas of thought and endeavor. We seek papers and panels that capture the sense of movement at work and at play during the long nineteenth century (1789–1914). Papers may address the intersections of movement/s, focus on technologies of motion in isolation, or reveal the desires— for gain, glory, greed – that set the world on its feet.

Some suggested topics:

We also welcome other interpretations of the conference theme.

The campus of California State University, Fresno, will host us in 2013. Its setting makes it the perfect place to explore the conference theme, since Fresno is ringed by the original Gold Rush towns and three superb national parks (Yosemite, Sequoia, and Kings Canyon), two of which are nineteenth-century creations. As a result, Fresno still bears evidence of the vast changes caused by the movements of the nineteenth century. The library of CSU Fresno houses the Donald G. Larson Collection on International Expositions and Fairs; material from this archive will be featured in a special exhibition for the conference. Please note: submission of a proposal indicates intent to present.

**The deadline for submissions to this conference has passed.**

### **Haggis Hunting: Fifty Years of New Playwriting in Scotland**

Marking the 40th anniversary of the Scottish Society of Playwrights and the 50th anniversary of the Traverse Theatre 4 – 6 April 2013, Traverse Theatre, Edinburgh, Scotland.

2013 marks a dual anniversary for theatre Scotland: the 40th anniversary of the Scottish Society of Playwrights and the 50th anniversary of the Traverse Theatre in Edinburgh, Scotland's leading new writing venue. The purpose of this conference is to explore, interrogate and celebrate fifty years of new playwriting in Scotland. It will examine the influence of Scottish plays and playwrights internationally, as well as considering the changing focus of the work in terms of theme, politics and dramatic form and production. See the [conference website](#) for more information.

#### Call for Papers

Contributors to Haggis Hunting: Fifty Years of New Playwriting in Scotland are invited to submit proposals for 20 minute papers exploring work from this period. Proposals must include:

- A title and abstract of 300 words
- The author's full contact details
- For performance-based proposals:
  - Technical or spatial requirements
  - Biography of 150 words

All proposals should be sent to:

[playwriting.scotland@ed.ac.uk](mailto:playwriting.scotland@ed.ac.uk)

Possible topics, themes and approaches include (but are not limited to):

- Plays or playwrights by decade
- Contemporary plays and playwrights
- Explorations of national identity
- Forgotten voices of the Scottish stage
- National Theatre of Scotland

- Scottish Theatre and Internationalism
- Dramaturgy in Scotland
- Devised theatre work
- Contemporary theatre practice in Scotland
- Political theatre including the legacy of 7:84 Scotland
- 'Other Scotlands'
- Scots abroad
- The Traverse Theatre
- The work of individual playwrights, not limited to, but including: David Greig, Zinnie Harris, Linda McLean, Nicola McCartney, John McGrath, David Harrower, Gregory Burke, DC Jackson, Morna Pearson, Sue Glover, Liz Lochhead, Hector McMillan, Stanley Eveling, Peter Arnott, Rona Munro. *NB: Papers on other playwrights are most welcome.*
- Theatre for Children and Young People in Scotland

Proposals for performance presentations and reflections are also welcome.

**Deadline for proposals: 30 November 2012**

### **Crosscurrents**

The 8th Cross-currents Postgraduate Conference in Irish and Scottish Studies  
12 – 14 April 2013, University of Aberdeen, Aberdeen, Scotland.

### Call for Papers

The [AHRC Centre for Irish and Scottish Studies](#) is holding a major international 3-day postgraduate conference at the University of Aberdeen, 12–14 April 2013. The conference provides a forum for postgraduate students and research fellows who are working on Irish and/or Scottish Studies. The key disciplines covered in this conference are Literature, History, Celtic Studies and Film Studies. We would welcome submissions for individual 25-minute papers in any of these disciplines.

### **Suggested topics:**

- Nation and Narration
- Place and Text
- Screening Identity
- The Limits of Representation
- Constructing Histories
- The Politics and Poetics of Translation
- The Politics of Memory
- Representing Colonial/Postcolonial Society
- The Decline of Empire
- The Question of Historical Authority
- Representations of Conflict
- Remapping the Nation
- The Future of Irish/Scottish Studies

Selected Proceedings will be published.

200-word abstracts are to be posted/emailed by 28 January 2013 to:

Shane Alcobia-Murphy  
Cross-Currents  
School of Language & Literature  
King's College  
University of Aberdeen



AB24 2UB

Aberdeen (UK) [sam@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:sam@abdn.ac.uk)

The AHRC Centre offers a number of bursaries to cover the full cost of accommodation. If you wish to apply for one of these, please send a personal statement along with your abstract. There is no conference fee.

### **On the Edge: Transitions, Transgressions, and Transformations in Irish and Scottish Studies**

The [Canadian Association for Irish Studies/L'Association canadienne d'études irlandaises](#) and the [Research Institute of Irish and Scottish Studies, University of Aberdeen](#) 19 – 23 June 2013, Simon Fraser University, Harbour Centre, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

#### Call for Papers

The Canadian Association for Irish Studies/L'Association canadienne d'études irlandaises and the Research Institute of Irish and Scottish Studies, University of Aberdeen, invite you to participate in **On the Edge** – an international and interdisciplinary conference to be held 19–23 June 2013 at Simon Fraser University, Harbour Centre, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada.

The conference venue, itself, is on an edge between the North American continent and the Pacific Ocean, and we hope that it will provide a stimulating setting for discussion of the conference themes. We ask potential presenters to explore the idea of the edge creatively and critically, in all its manifestations and evocations. The edge can be a space (physical, social, cultural, political) between the known and the unknown. It can be a place of endings and beginnings. It can be a border and hence a potential site of marginalization, tension, and conflict. Or it can be more permeable – a contact zone where cultures meet and interact or where border crossings are fluid and ongoing. Transgression often takes place at edges and signals a challenge to boundaries and binaries. The result of such destabilization can often be transformation. The conference theme speaks to disability studies (bodies on the edge) and mental health studies (minds on the edge). It also suggests edginess – the provocative, located at the leading edge.

Conference organizers welcome paper, panel, and presentation proposals from a diversity of individuals or groups engaged in Irish and/or Scottish studies, including graduate students, junior and senior scholars, independent scholars, public and community historians, authors, poets, artists, musicians, dancers, activists, and community associations. We encourage participants to engage with the conference themes, although papers and presentations dealing with other issues will also be considered. Panels that explore transnationalisms, cross over disciplinary boundaries, or speak to the cutting edge of theory, practice, or pedagogy will be particularly welcomed.

To apply as a panel, please submit a title and abstract of the session (2 pages maximum), including the names of the chair and each of the panel members as well as a 250-word biography or one-page CV for each participant. To submit individual proposals, please provide a paper or presentation title and an abstract of no more than 350 words, along with a 250-word biography or one-page CV.

Proposals must be received by 1 October 2012. PLEASE NOTE that this deadline is firm because of venue and funding deadlines. Kindly submit all proposals to [the website](#).

Should you have questions about the conference or the website for submissions, please contact the following:

**Re: Conference:**

Dr Willeen Keough, Simon Fraser University

Email: [wkeough@sfu.ca](mailto:wkeough@sfu.ca)

**Re: Submission Website**

Dr Jonathan Cameron, University of Aberdeen

Email: [jon.cameron@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:jon.cameron@abdn.ac.uk)

**Scotland, Europe and Empire in the Age of Adam Smith and Beyond**

26th Annual Conference of the [Eighteenth-Century Scottish Studies Society](#) and [The International Adam Smith Society](#).

3 – 6 July 2013, University of Paris, Sorbonne; hosted by the Centre Roland Mousnier–UMR 8596 CNRS.

**Call for Papers**

ECSSS returns to Europe for the first time in six years when it holds its 2013 conference in Paris, jointly sponsored by the International Adam Smith Society. The conference organizer is Jean-François Dunyach of the Sorbonne's Centre Roland Mousnier.

The theme of the conference is eighteenth-century empire. What role did Scotland play in the British Empire (and other empires), from the Americas in the west to Asia in the east? How did Scots interact with Europeans at home and abroad? How was the concept of empire theorized in the emerging, largely Scottish discipline of political economy, especially in the work of Adam Smith? How was the theme of empire addressed in novels, plays, and other works of imaginary literature, as well as in travel literature, religious and philosophical works, and other genres? The conference will also include papers on the later impact of Adam Smith's thought, especially on empire. As at all ECSSS conferences, proposals for papers and panels on other aspects of eighteenth-century Scottish culture and history will also be welcome.

The conference will kick off on Wednesday 3 July with a plenary lecture by Emma Rothschild of Harvard University, on "Overseas at Home: France and Scotland in the Eighteenth Century". This will be followed by three days of concurrent panels, a plenary lecture by Amartya Sen of Harvard University on a topic to be announced, and a concluding plenary lecture by Michael Bizziou of the University of Nice on "Kant and Smith as Critics of Hume's Theory of Justice: Property, Poverty and Redistribution of Wealth". There will also be a concert by the Sorbonne Scholars (Thursday); a visit to Le Musée Carnavalet – the museum of the history of Paris – followed by a buffet (Friday); and a conference dinner at Paris's oldest restaurant, the famous Le Procope (Saturday). Thanks to generous support from the Sorbonne, all of this will be included in the comprehensive registration fee of €135 (€110 for graduate students, retirees, and guests). Further details on [ECSSS website](#)

Places for this conference are limited, and we expect them to fill up quickly. Please e-mail a title and one-page description of your proposed 3-paper panel or 20-minute paper, along with a one-page CV, to the program organizer, Richard B. Sher ([sher@njit.edu](mailto:sher@njit.edu)), no later than 1 December 2012.

**Scotland 2014: Coming of Age and Loss of Innocence?**

17 – 20 October 2013, Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz, Scottish Studies Centre Gernersheim, Germany

**Conference website:** [http://www.fb06.uni-mainz.de/anglistik/conference\\_2013.php](http://www.fb06.uni-mainz.de/anglistik/conference_2013.php)

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### **First World Congress of Scottish Literatures**

2–5 July 2014, University of Glasgow, Glasgow, Scotland.

[World Congress website](#)



From 2-5 July 2014, the University of Glasgow will host the first ever World Congress of Scottish Literatures in the College of Arts, with the involvement of the Association for Scottish Literary Studies, *Scottish Historical Review* and other bodies. Partner organizations include the Burns Federation, University of California at Berkeley, Charles University Prague, Guelph, Otago, Simon Fraser University, University of South Carolina, the International Association for the Study of Irish Literatures (IASIL) and the Eighteenth-Century Scottish Studies Society. There is an international advisory panel consisting of scholars from the UK, US, Australia, Canada, Czech Republic, Germany, Ireland, Italy, New Zealand and Spain, and the novelist James Robertson will give the opening plenary.

The conference will be organized under four main headings:

- Authors
- Themes including Drama, Environment, Film, Genre, Histories, Ideas and Beliefs, Language, Modernity, Places, Theorizing Scotland / Scotticizing Theory
- Gaelic, Mediaeval, Musical and Artistic Scotland
- Scotland in global culture and context

The conference will be held during an exciting month in Glasgow, with the Commonwealth Games and the major Georgian Glasgow exhibition both taking place in July 2014. As part of the celebration of the world in Scotland and Scotland in the world in 2014, the College intends to offer a full overseas fee waiver bursary over three years to a Commonwealth student wishing to work on a PhD on any aspect of Scotland in its international context in the College of Arts.

The College of Arts at Glasgow is at the heart of studying Scotland worldwide. It has an unmatched reach in research terms. Indeed, with some £8M of research income in recent years, the College leads the world in Scottish Studies research. Major projects include Leverhulme Scottish Seventeenth-Century Philosophy, the AHRC Breaking of Britain project with its ground-breaking database, AHRC Editing Robert Burns for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, AHRC Early

Scottish Cinema, AHRC Scottish Place Names, ESRC Working-class Marriage in Scotland, Digital Archive of Scots Gaelic, AHRC Burns Beyond Text, AHRC Neo-Latin in Jacobean Scotland, Historic Scotland Battlefields Inventory, Historic Scotland Strathearn and Royal Forteviot, AHRC Scottish Musical Traditions and many others.

We will work closely with our colleagues in the city and its galleries and museums to make this a truly unique experience for our delegates. Colleagues in Ireland, Italy, Switzerland, New Zealand, the Czech Republic, North America, the UK and Australia have already agreed to organize panels, and the congress steering group, together with a wider internationally based committee, are planning regular updates to interested colleagues.

This is only the beginning. The Congress is intended to mark the launch of an International Association for the Study of Scottish Literatures, providing for the first time organized global reach for the study of the literatures of Scotland in a single organization. Everyone attending the Congress will be a founding member of the Association, and we intend to seek bids to hold successor Congresses at three year intervals worldwide.

If you would like to be on our mailing list, please contact Rhona Brown at:  
[scottishliteraturecongress2014@glasgow.ac.uk](mailto:scottishliteraturecongress2014@glasgow.ac.uk).

Come to Glasgow in 2014 and help make this a global gathering to remember.