



# Scottish Studies Newsletter

## No. 42, October 2013

**Editors:**      **Professor Dr. Horst Drescher †**      **Lothar Görke**  
                         **Professor Dr. Klaus Peter Müller**      **Ronald Walker**

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### Editorial

Dear Readers,

Less than a year from now, on 18 September 2014, a referendum will reveal whether the majority of Scots believe that Scotland would be better off as an independent nation rather than remaining as a member of the UK. So far, it looks as though the SNP and Yes Scotland have not yet produced enough truly convincing arguments in favour of Scotland as an independent nation, though. Whatever happens next year, the Scots' choice will have an enormous impact not only on Scottish and British politics, but also on how nations within states will be dealt with in the European Union, in Europe as a whole, and even in world politics generally.

The choice between 'yes' and 'no' in the referendum, between independence and the status quo, has initiated discourses dealing with Scotland's future which also give crucial insights into the Scottish frame of mind in the run-up to the referendum. Will Scotland finally succeed in overcoming narratives of itself which in the past have too often constructed the nation either as a willing and successful member of the UK or as an underdog struggling against an overpowering neighbour? Both kinds of narratives are one-sided and do not do justice to Scotland's complex past. Unfortunately, so far it seems as if these narratives are alive and thriving, so that narratives of a confident Scottish nation that will be able to meet all the challenges of independence cannot yet take root. But new narratives are urgently needed.

For political, economic, and cultural reasons, what is happening in Scotland at the moment has enormous relevance beyond Scotland's borders. The referendum and its implications will be thoroughly discussed at the [conference 'Scotland 2014: Coming of Age and Loss of Innocence?'](#) which takes place at the Germersheim Faculty of the University of Mainz from 17 to 20 October 2013. The key issues to be debated at this conference are: the future scenarios for Scotland; the contributions of politics, the law, the economy, the media, literature & art, as well as history & philosophy to the discourses on Scotland's possible independence; past and present narratives of independence and devolution; the Scottish case in Europe and the democratic world; and the question of who will really be in control of any new Scotland that might come into existence next year. These are pressing issues which need to be addressed now so that Scotland can make an informed choice in the referendum of 2014. The next issue of our *Newsletter*, in April 2014, will feature a detailed report on the results of the conference, whereas the present issue provides more information on how the discussion on the state of the nation is currently going in its '(New) Media on Scotland' section.

Sadly, this issue also includes an obituary on Professor Dr. Horst W. Drescher, the founder of the Scottish Studies Centre in Germersheim and of this *Newsletter*, who passed away in July after a long, serious illness. He will be remembered as an expert in Scottish Studies whose excellent work and personal qualities will be fondly remembered by everybody who met him. His memory will also be honoured by our continued efforts to follow his high standards and to constantly improve the quality of Scottish Studies in Germersheim.

Examples of such studies from other regions are available in this issue in the book reviews by Carla Sassi, Peter Freshwater, and Scott McKenna. There is a new poem for the monument at Bannock-

burn from Kathleen Jamie, a section on Scottish Awards, New Publications dealing with Scottish issues, and our usual roundup of Conference Announcements. The evaluation of the results of the Scottish census, which was announced in the last *Newsletter* for this issue, has had to be postponed to the next issue in April 2014.

As always, we invite you to get involved, to send us contributions to the next issues, to comment on Scottish topics, and to let us know what you think about the *Newsletter*.

Miriam Schröder and the Editors

Prof. Dr. Horst W. Drescher † – Lothar Görke – Prof. Dr. Klaus Peter Müller – Ron Walker  
Germersheim, October 2013



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**Professor Horst W. Drescher**  
(30 January 1932 - 13 July 2013)

Scottish Studies in Germany lost a pioneering spirit with the passing, on July 13th this year, of Professor Horst W. Drescher. A distinguished academic, he and his team turned a small German town into a European outpost of Scottish Studies in the early 1980s. After completing studies in English Philology, Romance languages, pedagogy and philosophy at the universities of Heidelberg, Mainz and Marburg, Horst Drescher turned his attention to the thematic concerns and forms of the late-eighteenth century British periodical essayists for his post-doctoral thesis at the University of Munster which he completed in 1969 and published in 1971. His interest was fired in particular by the early Scottish weekly journals, *The Mirror* and *The Lounger*, founded by the Scottish lawyer and novelist Henry Mackenzie. Indeed the writings and especially the correspondence of the 'Addison of the North' would become an enduring academic passion. Also in 1969 came his appointment as professor in what was soon to become, due in no small measure to his own active and energetic support, the Department of Applied Linguistics of the Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz in Gernersheim.

His research interests were many and varied: British literature and cultural history, contemporary English literature and literary translation just some of them. He always returned to Scotland, however, to its literature, its intellectual history and, not least, to the country itself, which he visited on many occasions and for which he retained a strong fondness. Among the many honours and offices held by Professor Drescher were: Honorary President of the Saltire Society, Vice President of the Association for Scottish Literary Studies, Honorary Research Fellow of the Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities at the University of Edinburgh and Honorary Research Fellow of the School of Scottish Studies at Glasgow University and member of the Carlyle Society. In 1984 he was awarded the Robert Bruce Award for Outstanding Service to Scottish Studies from Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia, USA.

The [Scottish Studies Centre](#) in Gernersheim was set up by Horst Drescher in 1981 to encourage interdisciplinary research and teaching, with emphasis on the study of Scottish literature in its socio-cultural context. From the beginning, the international approach – the internationalisation of Scottish Studies – was a central focus for the Gernersheim Scotticists, and that long before such an approach became fashionable. The Scottish Studies Centre was followed by the launch, shortly afterwards, of a [Scottish Studies Newsletter](#), still going strong as a twice-yearly publication of the Scottish Studies Centre, and, in 1982, a book series [Scottish Studies International](#) (now approaching 38 volumes), both fitting tributes to their founder and his legacy.

Horst Drescher became an authority on Henry Mackenzie's literary correspondence and published extensively on it. Besides the above-mentioned thesis – *Themen und Formen des periodischen essays im späten 18. Jahrhundert: Untersuchungen zu den schottischen Wochenschriften The Mirror und The Lounger*, Frankfurt am Main: Athenäum 1971 – these included: *Henry Mackenzie: Letters to Elizabeth Rose of Kilravock: On Literature, Events and People 1768-1815*, Münster: Aschendorff 1967, and *Literature and Literati - The Literary Correspondence and Notebooks of Henry Mackenzie*, vol. I, *Letters 1766–1827*, Frankfurt/M. / Bern / New York / Paris: Peter Lang 1989. He was also active as co-editor of many other relevant collections such as: *Scottish Language and Literature: Medieval and Renaissance*, Frankfurt/M. / Bern / New York: Peter Lang 1986 (with Dietrich Strauss); *Nationalism in Literature, Literarischer Nationalismus: literature, language and national identity*, Frankfurt/M. / Bern / New York / Paris: Peter Lang 1989 (with Hermann Voelkel), and *Studies in Scottish Fiction: Twentieth Century*, Frankfurt/M. / Bern / New York: Peter Lang 1990 (with Joachim Schwend).

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### [New Scottish Poetry](#)

Ten acclaimed poets were commissioned by the National Trust for Scotland and Historic Scotland, in partnership with Creative Scotland and the Scottish Poetry Library to write poems inspired by the site of the Battle of Bannockburn and the surrounding landscape. The poem below by Kathleen Jamie was voted for by the public and a judging panel. It has now been carved on the Rotunda monument at Bannockburn.

In an article written by Jamie for *The New Statesman* after a visit to the site of the battlefield in preparation for the poem, she wrote of her own feelings about what she should try to achieve: "In my opinion, it needed something forgiven and forgiving, modern, aspirational, welcoming, mature, gracious – and Scottish, and all in a few short lines." (*The New Statesman*, February 7, 2013 – [full article here](#))

Here lies our land: every airt  
Beneath swift clouds, glad glints of sun,  
Belonging to none but itself.

We are mere transients, who sing  
Its westlin' winds and fernie braes,  
Northern lights and siller tides,

Small folk playing our part.  
'Come all ye', the country says  
*You win me, who take me most to heart.*

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

[Kathleen Jamie](#) is currently Chair in Creative Writing at the [University of Stirling](#)

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### **(New) Media on Scotland**

(compiled by Nora Goepel, Ivana Pavlovic, & Hanne Wiesner)

Subsections:

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

then reports in chronological order and at the end information on new websites providing views on and of Scotland from the point of view of civic society.

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

["Scotland's Referendum", \*The Scottish Government\*](#):

"The people of Scotland will vote in an independence referendum on Thursday 18 September, 2014. They will be asked the question: Should Scotland be an independent country? Yes or No. Scottish Ministers support independence, believing a sovereign nation can prosper by choosing its own policies for social and economic growth and having its own distinctive voice in Europe and the wider world. The Scottish Parliament has been granted the powers to or-

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ganise the referendum and both UK and Scottish Governments have agreed they will respect the result. The main Scottish Independence Referendum Bill was introduced to the Scottish Parliament on 21 March 2013. It sets out arrangements for the conduct of the referendum, including the date of the vote and campaign spending limits."

["Scottish independence: David Cameron will not have TV debate with Alex Salmond", BBC 27-09-13](#): "David Cameron has confirmed he will not have a TV debate on Scottish independence with Alex Salmond. The prime minister has written to Scotland's first minister rejecting his invitation for a head-to-head showdown."

["Scottish independence: MPs seek clarity", BBC 27-09-13](#):

"More information should be provided to voters on how an independent Scotland could defend itself, MPs have said. The Commons defence select committee said details given by the Scottish government fell short of requirements. It also criticised the UK government for not spelling out how the remainder of the UK would be affected, including the relocation of nuclear weapons."

["Census suggest most Scots 'feel only Scottish'", BBC 26-09-13](#):

"Most people living in Scotland describe their national identity as being 'Scottish only', according to the latest census figures. Data released from the 2011 census showed 62% described themselves as 'Scottish only', while 18% said they were 'Scottish and British'. The results also showed Scotland was becoming more ethnically diverse."

["Scottish independence Pension body's letter gave 'yes vote assurance'", BBC 26-09-13](#):

"The UK state pension would continue to be paid to people living in an independent Scotland, the pension agency has said. The comments came in a letter from the Department for Work and Pensions, which was quoted by Scottish First Minister Alex Salmond."

["Prime Minister Miliband? People will just not buy it", Herald 25-09-13](#):

"Ed Miliband's problems have been well advertised. They have something to do with his role in the last Labour government. They have a lot to do with the myth of culpability for the financial collapse. They can be explained, in part and as always, by the usual roughing up from the Tory press. But Mr Miliband is in a deeper hole than those facts suggest."

["Inside Track: A powerful example for Scotland's island councils", Herald 25-09-13](#):

"Jörgen Pettersson went down well at the conference Scotland's three islands councils organised in Kirkwall. It had been convened to maintain the momentum of the councils' campaign to win more powers whichever way the independence referendum goes."

["The silences, the gaps and the missing voices of modern Scotland", Scottish Review 24-09-13](#):

"Instead there is a Scottish propensity to not notice the missing voices and stories from public life, what I have called 'the missing Scotland'. This could be seen in Andrew Marr's preposterous comment about the Scottish Enlightenment, 'all of Edinburgh was involved in saloon discussions', which beggars belief given the nature of society then on class, status and gender. There is a modern version of it in the independence debate with the redoubtable Pat Kane recently commenting: 'This nation is in conversation'. Much as I would like it to be otherwise, the whole nation is not engaged in conversation. Challenging such assumptions isn't about some abstract notion of an idealised, participative democracy, but the limits of Scotland's public sphere and the truncated democracy we live in. If people want to

change that, as I know Pat does, we have to start by reflecting this and then discussing how we change it, not continuing the comforting stories."

["Living history: People re-creating Scotland's past", \*BBC\* 23-09-13:](#)

"Hundreds of people re-enact periods of Scotland's history in their spare time. Why are they so fascinated by the nation's past that they want to re-create it?"

["Independence pensions promise", \*The Scottish Government\* 23-09-13:](#)

"Deputy First Minister Nicola Sturgeon and Finance Secretary John Swinney today pledged that all pensions in an independent Scotland will be paid on time and in full and that pensioners in Scotland will benefit from stronger safeguards, as they published a paper outlining pensions policy. The comprehensive Scottish Government paper – Pensions in an Independent Scotland – details the arrangements for state, private and public sector pensions that will follow a vote for independence."

["Yes Scotland: thousands show up for independence march", \*Herald\* 21-09-13:](#)

"Alex Salmond has told a crowd of thousands of pro-independence marchers that there is now a 'natural majority for a Yes vote' in the referendum. The First Minister was among speakers at a march and rally in Scotland's capital, which drew crowds from across the country."

["Thousands of pro-independence campaigners have marched through the streets of Edinburgh in support of their cause", \*BBC\* 21-09-13:](#)

"The march began on the High Street and ended on the city's Calton Hill with the Rally for Scottish Independence. Police estimated that more than 8,000 people took part in the march."

["Learning languages is critical for Scottish tourism", \*Scotsman\* 20-09-13:](#)

"Translations of guide books are scarce, says Sue Gruellich. Ici on parle francais. Hier spricht man Deutsch. Sadly that is not found to be the case as one travels round Britain today. You may think that everyone visiting these shores speaks English. We seem to make this arrogant assumption all too often."

["Islands want greater voice in Europe after 2014 referendum", \*Herald\* 20-09-13:](#)

"Scotland's islands are about to stake their claim for a separate place in Europe, with direct involvement in policy-making in Brussels."

["Anti-corruption unit to safeguard public sector", \*Scotsman\* 19-09-13:](#)

"A national anti-corruption team has been set up by Police Scotland to safeguard public sector organisations. The new unit, said to be the first of its kind in the UK, will also focus on the police itself."

["MSP's show preference to go it alone in symbolic vote at Holyrood", \*Herald\* 19-09-13:](#)

"The Scottish Parliament has endorsed independence in a symbolic vote marking one year to go to the referendum."

["Think tank warns of higher tax rates and deep cuts", \*Herald\* 19-09-13.](#)

["Scottish independence: Salmond 'would reverse Royal Mail sale'", \*BBC\* 19-09-13:](#)

"The privatisation of Royal Mail would be reversed in an independent Scotland, First Minister Alex Salmond has said. The UK government wants to float the service on the London Stock Exchange to allow it to stay competitive. But Mr Salmond said, in the event of a 'Yes' vote in



2014, a post-independence government led by him would bring it back into public ownership."

["Scottish independence: Think tank warns of budget squeeze", \*BBC\* 18-09-13:](#)

"An independent Scotland would face bigger pressures to cut spending or raise taxes than Britain currently faces if oil revenues fall as forecast, a think tank said."

["Scottish independence: Holyrood debate marks one year to referendum", \*BBC\* 18-09-13:](#)

"First Minister Alex Salmond has urged Scottish voters to grab the opportunity of independence with 'both hands'. Speaking in a parliamentary debate exactly a year before the referendum on Scotland's future, he said people living in the country were best placed to make decisions about it. On 18 September 2014, they will be asked the yes/no question: 'Should Scotland be an independent country?'"

["Indy Scotland would have our own Olympics team for Rio 2016, says sports minister", \*Herald\* 18-09-13.](#)

["Scotland's future in Scotland's hands", \*The Scottish Government\* 18-09-13:](#)

"Independence is the best route to a more prosperous and just society because decisions about Scotland will be taken by the people who care most about Scotland – those who live and work here, First Minister Alex Salmond said today. Speaking in the Scottish Parliament with exactly one year to go until the historic referendum, the First Minister said Scotland was a wealthy country, with an abundance of natural resources and skilled and inventive population, which would flourish under independence."

["Darling: I speak for Scotland, Not David Cameron", \*Herald\* 17-09-13:](#)

"Alistair Darling today insists 'I speak for Scotland' as he claims David Cameron is irrelevant to the Scottish independence debate."

["Business 'relaxed' about referendum", \*Herald\* 16-09-13.](#)

["Scottish independence: New poll gives Yes camp hope", \*Scotsman\* 16-09-13:](#)

"Scotland will become an independent country in 12 months time if voters can be convinced over the next year that a Yes vote will make them better off, a new poll suggests today."

["Salmond: I challenge Cameron to a live TV debate on St. Andrew's Day", \*Herald\* 15-09-13.](#)

["Sturgeon: white paper on YES vote to be published", \*Herald\* 15-09-13.](#)

["Referendum – one year to go", \*The Scottish Government\* 15-09-13:](#)

"Deputy First Minister Nicola Sturgeon today announced the second phase of the Scottish Government's referendum information campaign, which will focus on the benefits to job creation, sustainability of pensions and long-term economic stability that will come from taking decisions in Scotland."

["Darling: Why won't Salmond debate with me? Is he running scared?", \*Herald\* 15-09-13:](#)

"The SNP-Government's White Paper on the mechanics of independence will be an abject failure unless it sets out a clear "Plan B" on Scotland's currency, Alistair Darling has claimed."

["Boris deputy tells rest of UK: spend tourism cash on London", \*The Observer\* 14-09-13:](#)

"Deputy mayor Kit Malthouse says capital 'is main reason why visitors come here' and should be the focus of all marketing. Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland should spend their tourism budgets on promoting London if they want to attract more visitors, according to the capital's deputy mayor."

["Alistair Darling: Scottish independence outcome is 'pretty fluid'", \*The Guardian\* 13-09-13:](#)

"With one year to go, the large number of undecided voters makes the result hard to predict despite persistent polling suggesting a preponderance of 'no' sentiment Alistair Darling has admitted that Alex Salmond could yet win next year's Scottish independence referendum because a 'substantial number' of voters were still undecided about remaining in the UK."

["Independence 'would risk Scots pensioners'", \*Herald\* 13-09-13:](#)

"Independence would be a serious risk to the security of Scotland's 1.5m pensioners, Gordon Brown will claim tomorrow as the former Prime Minister targets the grey vote in the referendum campaign."

["Mandatory vote call by festival boss", \*Herald\* 12-09-13:](#)

"The director of the Edinburgh International Festival has suggested that voting in next year's independence referendum is made compulsory."

["Swinney gives 'independence budget' game away", \*Herald\* 12-09-13:](#)

"Was it or wasn't it a 'budget for independence,' as the BBC had taken to describing John Swinney's spending plans in the hours before the big announcement?"

["Dave Moxham: STUC 'undecided' over future of the Union", \*Scotsman\* 11-09-13:](#)

"To the surprise and frustration of many who are accustomed to us delivering clear and unequivocal views on major issues, the Scottish Trades Union Congress and the large majority of our affiliated unions continue to deliberate rather than profess a preferred outcome for the referendum vote on 14 September, 2014."

["Money agreement 'may be impossible'", \*Scotsman\* 11-09-13:](#)

"Scotland may be unable to negotiate acceptable terms for a formal currency union with the rest of the UK after independence, according to financial experts. The opinion appears in a report on a seminar held by the Royal Society of Edinburgh and British Academy in London, which looked at currency, banking and financial services, assuming a Yes vote in the referendum next September."

["Jim Gallagher: Staying in union can enable change", \*Scotsman\* 10-09-13:](#)

"Jim Gallagher argues that by preserving key features of economic integration and social solidarity, there is plenty of scope for change for Scotland within the UK. The past couple of weeks have seen different politicians making a case for the Union."

["This time it's different - Act React Impact", \*European Parliament\* 10-09-2013.](#)

["Scots currency 'serious option' after yes vote", \*Herald\* 10-09-13:](#)

"The conclusion emerged from a top-level seminar in July organised by the Royal Society of Edinburgh and the British Academy."

["Outward looking learning approach goes a long way", \*Scotsman\* 10-09-13:](#)

"Since its foundation in 1941 over a million young people have experienced an Outward Bound course, developing key life skills such as problem-solving and teamwork, confidence and resilience through challenging outdoor learning. Using the outdoors as the most perfect classroom makes absolute sense and can reap huge benefits."

["Poll: Scots to reject independence, re-elect SNP", \*Scotsman\* 09-09-13:](#)

"Scots are prepared to back the SNP again in a Holyrood election even though they look set to reject the party in next year's referendum on independence, new polling has revealed. Some 40 per cent of Scots would vote for the SNP in Holyrood elections after six years in government, against 35 per cent support for Labour. But only 26 per cent back independence, almost 40 points behind those who support staying in the UK (65 per cent)."

["Gerry Hassan: Our differences and commonalities", \*Scotsman\* 07-09-13:](#)

"Politicians must tread carefully when dealing with the values, institutions and history that divide yet unite us with the rest of the UK, writes Gerry Hassan."

["Scottish independence: Report on Glasgow autonomy", \*Scotsman\* 07-09-13:](#)

"Glasgow would want greater autonomy if Scotland voted for independence, according to a new report which says the city could lose its 'competitive advantage' against English cities."

["Osborne has a nerve to say Scots would be worse off", \*Herald\* 05-09-13:](#)

"[...] Chancellor George Osborne claimed Scotland would be worse off if it received revenues from North Sea Oil. He even put a figure on it: £2000 per Scottish family. [...] Norway has one of the largest sovereign wealth funds in the world, worth \$700bn. Britain has one of the biggest debt problems of nearly £2tr. And he has the nerve to say Scotland would be worse off? On yer bike, Chancellor: Scots have been fooled once too often."

["Peter Geoghegan: The truth and the other truth", \*Scotsman\* 04-09-13:](#)

"When experts speak, writes Peter Geoghegan, we should remember that we are getting their opinion, not some neutral reality. There has been a lot of talk of political neutrality of late – and not just among politicians and mandarins at the United Nations. Sir Jonathan Mills, director of the Edinburgh International Festival, recently said he had no plans to include works centred on the independence debate in next year's programme, saying: 'We would not wish our festival to be anything other than it has always been, which is a politically neutral space for artists.' Questions were raised about whether art can be separated from the social world in which it is created. But few asked whether a politically neutral space is actually possible, never mind desirable."

["Scottish independence: One in four will vote yes", \*Scotsman\* 04-09-13:](#)

"Support for independence has slumped to its lowest level since the start of the referendum campaign, according to a new poll which also suggests a growing number of people say they do not know how to vote next year."

["Parliament's record shows case for independence", \*The Scottish Government\* 03-09-13:](#)

"First Minister Alex Salmond today unveiled the Scottish Government's legislative programme for the coming year, underlining the case for the Scottish Parliament and the communities it serves to be empowered and responsible for all of the key decisions affecting Scotland and its people. 'Independence should be about empowering Scotland's people as well as their Parliament,' Mr Salmond said as he outlined how the Scottish Government is using

its current legislative powers and limited financial powers to accelerate economic recovery and create more jobs and to mitigate the impacts of economic austerity to help create a fairer Scotland."

["Scottish independence: BBC appoints John Mullin as referendum editor", \*BBC\* 02-09-2013:](#)

"The former editor of the Independent on Sunday newspaper has been appointed by the BBC to lead its coverage of the Scottish independence referendum."

["'No' vote opens biggest poll lead", \*Scotsman\* 02-09-13:](#)

"The campaign to keep Scotland in the UK has opened up its largest lead of the year, according to a poll. The YouGov survey put support for a 'no' vote at 59% compared with 29% for a 'yes' vote based on the voting intentions of 1,171 Scottish adults. The results show one in 10 people are still undecided and includes 2% of people who said they would not vote."

["Scotland at crossroads – Sturgeon", \*Scotsman\* 02-09-13:](#)

"Scotland will stand at a 'historic crossroads' when MSPs return to Holyrood this week, the Deputy First Minister has said. The Scottish Government is ready to 'hit the ground running' after the summer recess with the launch of its new legislative programme, Nicola Sturgeon said. The programme for government will be the next step towards delivering a Yes vote in next year's referendum, she argued."

["Scottish independence: Unis 'could get UK funds'", \*Scotsman\* 01-09-13:](#)

"Scotland's universities could continue to access lucrative UK research funding following independence, according to the principal of one of the country's leading institutions. Professor Sir Ian Diamond, principal of Aberdeen University, said there was 'no question' Scotland could remain part of Research Councils UK should Scots vote yes in next year's referendum."

["Darling in warning on independence", \*Scotsman\* 01-09-13:](#)

"Scotland would struggle to have the same diplomatic clout in dealing with international crises like Syria if it chooses to leave the UK next year, according to former chancellor Alistair Darling."

["Tory highlights Union trade benefit", \*Scotsman\* 30-08-13:](#)

"The leader of the Scottish Conservatives will argue that the benefit of the single UK market is a positive reason to remain part of the Union. The absence of barriers to trade helped Scotland become more successful and more prosperous, Ruth Davidson will tell members of the Conservative Friends of the Union campaign in Edinburgh today."

["Jim Gallagher: Referendum comes down to money", \*Scotsman\* 27-08-13:](#)

"Comment on the financial aspect of Scottish independence by Jim Gallagher, former director-general for devo-lution in the UK government, senior adviser to the Prime Minister on devolution strategy (2007-2010) and secretary of the Calman Commission."

["Ex-civil service chief: indyref debate is so polarised it may leave toxic legacy", \*Herald\*](#)

[27-08-13:](#) "The independence referendum debate has become so polarised and divisive it could leave a toxic legacy that damages the fabric of society, Scotland's former leading mandarin has warned. Sir John Elvidge, Permanent Secretary from 2003 to 2010, who latterly worked with SNP First Minister Alex Salmond in his Government, said the issue risked people being defined and divided according to whether they voted Yes or No. He said such a split could become wider if there were further referendums on other constitutional issues in

the event of a No vote next year. He also warned the debate about self-government could lead to Orkney and Shetland, which are agitating for more powers, removing themselves and their oil wealth from Scotland."

["Laurie Clark: It is time for a new deal", \*Scotsman\* 25-08-13:](#)

The independence debate is helping us to better understand the nation in which we live and hopefully to have more confidence in Scotland."

["Gerry Hassan: London Scots and the referendum", \*Scotsman\* 24-08-13:](#)

"A coterie of media-elite Scots, peddling ill-informed and biased opinion, leaves the referendum debate the poorer", writes Gerry Hassan."

["Independence vote 'would lead to second referendum' for rest of UK", \*Herald\* 23-08-13:](#)

"A vote for Scottish independence in 2014 might result in a second referendum in England, Wales and Northern Ireland."

["George Kerevan: 'Undecideds' fed up with status quo", \*Scotsman\* 22-08-2013:](#)

"The only way to persuade the group of unsure voters is to convince them that they will all be moving together, writes George Kerevan. Nate Silver is a youthful American opinion poll analyst who correctly predicted the outcome in every state, in the last US presidential election. Nate has grabbed headlines on this side of the pond by predicting the Yes camp has no hope of winning next year's Scottish referendum. Is he right?"

["Scotland's European future", \*The Scottish Government\* 21-08-2013:](#)

"£850 million in missed rural funding shows huge opportunities of independence. Scotland can look forward to a bright and prosperous future as an independent member of the European Union, First Minister Alex Salmond said today. In the fourth of a series of keynote speeches on Scotland's unions, Mr Salmond also highlighted how Westminster's proposed in-out referendum on the EU threatens Scotland's continued membership."

["Scottish independence: Salmond says yes- Scotland could have stronger EU voice", \*BBC\*](#)

[21-08-13:](#) "Scotland would have more of a say in Europe if it were independent, First Minister Alex Salmond has said. During a speech in Hawick, the SNP leader expressed fears that Scotland's voice in Europe could be silenced if the UK were to sleepwalk out of the EU."

["Nicola McEwen: Partnership after independence", \*Scotsman\* 18-08-13:](#) "

One of the striking features of the referendum campaign so far is the extent to which Scottish independence is seen as embedded within the British Isles. Leading figures in government talk of a new partnership with the rest of the UK – one which would be 'a partnership of equals'."

["Leading writer accuses arts bodies of being 'Scotophobic'", \*Herald\* 15-08-13:](#)

"Leading writer and artist Alasdair Gray has criticised arts boards for being 'Scotophobic' and appointing English administrators to top jobs."

["Referendum Q & A", \*Herald\* \(several dates\):](#)

"Find out more about some eminent Scots' attitude to independence and how they will be voting in 2014."

["Scottish independence: No chance for Yes - Silver", \*Scotsman\* 13-08-13:](#)

"The Yes campaign has 'virtually no chance' of victory in next year's referendum on Scottish independence, according to one of America's most-respected polling experts. Nate Silver, the award-winning statistician who shot to fame when he correctly predicted the outcome of all 50 states in the 2012 US presidential elections, says all the indicators point towards Scots voting to stay in the UK on 18 September next year. Only a 'major crisis' south of the Border could turn the situation in favour of independence, despite it being more than a year until polling day, he added. In an interview with *The Scotsman*, Mr Silver said polling data was 'pretty definitive'."

["Scottish independence: Scots 'could ditch Queen'", \*Scotsman\* 12-08-13:](#)

"Scots could decide to ditch the Queen as the head of state after independence, an SNP minister has said. Alex Salmond has insisted that the Monarch would continue to preside over Scotland in the event of a Yes vote in next year's referendum. But Aileen Campbell, minister for children and young people, indicated that this may not be the case in the longer term."

["Scottish independence: Call for Citizen's Panel", \*Scotsman\* 10-08-13:](#)

"A referendum Citizen's Panel should be created to oversee the independence debate, amid concern voters are being treated like 'idiots', according to a seasoned veteran of the nationalist movement. Margo MacDonald says many Scots are being lost in the volley of exchanges and reports from both sides on issues such as currency union, the EU and oil and gas figures."

["Gerry Hassan: Unionists declare your 'nationalism'", \*Scotsman\* 10-08-13:](#)

"If British nationalism wanted to be relevant, it would come up with projects which tried to tackle the realities of this disunited kingdom, writes Gerry Hassan. The story is familiar: there is a pesky, partisan, immature nationalism out and about influencing our body politic. This is the account of Scottish nationalism put forward by a range of commentators and public figures. Yet it could as easily be articulated about the ideas of unionism, because unionism is at its heart a form of nationalism – British state nationalism."

["Michael Kelly: An all or nothing independence vote", \*Scotsman\* 08-08-13:](#)

"There should be no consolation prizes in the event of the Yes campaign losing the referendum, writes Michael Kelly."

["Scottish independence: Oil workers 'divided'", \*Scotsman\* 07-08-13:](#)

"Oil and gas workers are divided over the projected impact on their industry of Scottish independence, a survey suggests. A small majority (54 per cent) believe independence will bring more jobs but nearly the same proportion (53 per cent) believe it will have a negative impact on workers. The majority of the 199 workers polled (56 per cent) believe wages will stay the same, a quarter think they will fall and around a fifth (19 per cent) think they will rise, according to the poll by oil and gas recruitment firm NES Global Talent."

["Scottish Independence: Key questions answered", \*Scotsman\* 26-07-13:](#)

"Welcome to *The Scotsman's* comprehensive guide to the Scottish independence referendum in 2014. It is our intention to draw all of *The Scotsman's* coverage together in one place to answer key questions, outline facts and provide a practical and simplified overview to voters and those interested in the referendum."

["Scotland outperforms UK in employment and growth", \*The Scottish Government\* 17-07-13:](#)

"Three percentage point fall in youth unemployment over the year. Scotland has a higher employment rate, lower unemployment rate and lower inactivity rate than any other nation in the UK according to labour market figures published by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) today. This comes as Scottish Government figures show a rise in GDP."

["Democracy at heart of independence case for fundamental change to political and economic union", \*The Scottish Government\* 12-07-13:](#) "Reclaiming political power from Westminster will leave other unions intact. Only by restoring full political sovereignty to Edinburgh from Westminster can Scotland fulfil its true potential, First Minister Alex Salmond said in a keynote speech today."

["Joyce McMillan: Scots creatives ready for Yes vote", \*Scotsman\* 28-06-13:](#)

"While fear drives the No campaign, the creative heartbeat of Scotland is ready to chance a Yes, writes Joyce McMillan. Tuesday morning, and I'm sitting in a quiet space beside the Traverse Theatre box office, waiting to record an interview with an actor who's writing a dissertation about the relationship between Scottish culture and the independence debate. 'I'd have liked to include more voices from the No side,' he says, 'but I'm really struggling to find many. A huge majority in the arts seem to be moving towards a Yes vote, now'."

["Scottish independence focus of NTS 2014 programme", \*Scotsman\* 28-06-13:](#)

"The new head of the National Theatre of Scotland has revealed that the company will stage a year-long programme inspired by the independence debate in 2014. Laurie Sansom, who replaced Vicky Featherstone in March as the company's artistic director, said a flagship new variety production called 'The Great Don't Know Show' would be the centrepiece of its programming next year. Speaking for the first time since taking up his role, Mr Sansom said all of its shows next year would tackle the 'unusual and remarkable event,' including issues of national identity, key moments in Scottish history and iconic figures."

["Stephen Noon: Embracing the independence debate", \*Scotsman\* 25-06-13:](#)

"Bill Clinton's appearance at the Scottish Business Awards last week was very well received and the loudest applause of the evening came when he said of the referendum in 2014: You will come out of this better, regardless, if you go about it in the right way."

["Azeem Ibrahim: How safe would independent Scotland be?", \*Scotsman\* 22-06-13:](#) "

How safe would an independent Scotland be? And would independence make Scotland more or less secure? The think-tank I set up last year, the Scotland Institute, set out to answer these questions, and this week we release our report."

["Bill Clinton mania sweeps Edinburgh", \*Scotsman\* 22-06-13:](#)

"Former US president Bill Clinton said Scotland would be better off as a result of the independence referendum – regardless of the result. He made the remarks at last night's Scottish Business Awards, where he received a rapturous reception as he arrived to deliver the keynote speech."

["Scottish independence would weaken UK – Hague", \*Scotsman\* 21-06-13:](#)

"William Hague, the Foreign Secretary, has claimed that the UK would be a 'diminished' force on the global stage if Scotland were to vote for independence next year. Speaking in Edinburgh on Thursday prior to a visit to the United Nations next week, Mr Hague said the remainder of the United Kingdom would be 'hindered' in its ability to lead on major

international efforts promoting human rights or campaigning against sexual violence in war zones. The UK would keep hold of its permanent seat on the UN Security Council, he said, but the 'total sum' of what the nation could achieve would be reduced."

["Scottish independence 'baffles' foreign nations", \*Scotsman\* 20-06-13:](#)

"Foreign Secretary William Hague will claim today that foreign nations are 'baffled' over why Scotland would want to leave the Union, as he uses a speech in Scotland to back the case for the UK. In the address in Edinburgh, Mr Hague will also warn that an independent Scotland would lose access to Britain's expertise in intelligence and security services if it decided to vote 'yes' next year."

["Scottish independence: MEP claim over Scotland/EU", \*Scotsman\* 17-06-13:](#)

"France and Spain would not accept an independent Scotland into the European Union, a European Parliament vice-president has claimed."

["Edinburgh Fashion Festival: Style in the city", \*Scotsman\* 16-06-13:](#)

"Brian Ferguson meets the husband-and-wife team who are putting the Edinburgh International Fashion Festival on the map by sidestepping the glitz and the glamour and getting back to the ideas that lie behind great design. It may only be on its second year, but suddenly Scotland's capital has another major new festival to contend with. In the space of 12 months, the - Edinburgh International Fashion Festival has mushroomed in size, scale and ambition."

["Scottish independence: Trident is 'ticket to Nato'", \*Scotsman\* 14-06-13:](#)

"Scotland could be forced to keep Trident nuclear weapons for up to 20 years after independence as the UK seeks out an alternative base, leading military experts have said."

["Scotland and UK are distinctly different", \*The Scottish Government\* 05-06-13:](#)

"The UK Government is wrong to measure the value of culture simply in economic terms, Culture Secretary Fiona Hyslop said today as she set out the two futures facing Scotland and its cultural community. Outlining her strong vision for the future of culture and heritage in Scotland, Ms Hyslop said there is 'clear blue water' between Scotland's approach - which focuses on the intrinsic value of culture and heritage, and that set out by the UK Government's culture secretary Maria Miller last month - which is now focussed on economic gains."

["Scottish independence: EU advice received", \*Scotsman\* 16-05-13:](#)

"The Scottish Government says it has now received legal advice about an independent Scotland's membership of the European Union. Deputy First Minister Nicola Sturgeon said last October that ministers just commissioned 'specific legal advice from our law officers on the position of Scotland within the European Union'."

["Independence debate features in Queen's Speech", \*Scotsman\* 09-05-13:](#)

"The Queen yesterday voiced the UK government's wish for Scotland to remain part of the United Kingdom, in her speech to open the new parliamentary session in Westminster. For the first time, the Queen's Speech included a reference to the independence referendum when she said: 'My government will continue to make the case for Scotland to remain part of the United Kingdom'."

["Comment: impact of the 1979 devolution referendum", \*Scotsman\* 07-05-13:](#)

"Continuing our collaboration with the University of Glasgow's Vox Populi series, Christopher Harvie considers the impact of the devolution referendum in 1979."



["Comment: Global attention on independence debate", \*Scotsman\* 01-05-13:](#)

"From Bosnia to Boston to Belfast, attention is turning to the independence debate, and our politicians deserve to do the nation justice, says Peter Geoghegan. From the outside, it can sometimes feel that everyone is looking at Scotland – and next year's referendum vote. Over the past 18 months I've heard opinions on Scottish independence expressed all around the world, from revolutionaries in Cairo's Tahrir Square to drinkers in Belfast bars."

### **Financial sector**

["Oil plan to pay off share of UK national debt", \*Herald\* 18-09-13:](#)

"A newly independent Scotland should consider an "oil-for-debt" swap to help pay off its share of the UK's national debt, economists have suggested."

["Economy emerges as key independence battleground", \*Herald\* 18-09-13:](#)

"Nearly half of Scots voters believe independence would harm the economy, according to a new poll which shows the scale of the task facing the Yes campaign exactly one year out from the referendum."

["Low interest rates are keeping savers from investing", \*Herald\* 16-09-13:](#)

"Nobody needs reminding about the exceptionally low interest rates being paid on savings at the moment. And, with rare exceptions, the current trend is for further rate cuts. It means people are having to struggle harder than ever to avoid inflation eroding the real value of their savings."

["Final days of Fred Goodwin's RBS reign revealed", \*Scotsman\* 12-09-13:](#)

"In this extract from his book revealing the inside story of the collapse of RBS, Iain Martin tells how Fred Goodwin was reduced to tears after being fired from the biggest job in Scotland."

["A False economy?", \*Herald\*, 11-09-13:](#)

"The new incumbent announced plans to keep the base rate, which determines most other lending rates, at the historical all-time low of 0.5% for at least another three years. Even then it won't be moved upwards until the economy is showing enough growth to put another 750,000 people into work."

["Back to the future: TSB, with proud Scottish roots, relaunches as separate brand.", \*Herald\* 09-09-13:](#) "TSB will become Britain's eighth biggest high street bank when it is re-launched today as a standalone brand 18 years after disappearing when it merged with Lloyds."

["Standard Life may sue RBS over £12bn deal", \*Scotsman\* 04-09-13:](#)

"Two of Royal Bank of Scotland's powerful institutional investors are considering suing the bank over its controversial £12 billion cash-call on shareholders in 2008. Edinburgh-based Standard Life Investments (SLI) and Legal & General Investments Management have hired top legal counsel to weigh up whether they were misled by the bank in its drive to raise cash from shareholders, The Scotsman understands."

["RBS refuses to comment on whistleblower claims", \*Scotsman\* 02-09-13:](#)

"Royal Bank of Scotland remained tight-lipped last night over allegations that a senior risk manager warned about a cover-up of traders' losses before the group's collapse. A new book

by former *Scotsman* editor Iain Martin claims the bank parachuted in Victor Hong from JP Morgan as a senior risk manager in 2007, but he quit after just six weeks because executives would not heed his concerns. A spokesman for the bank said yesterday it would 'not comment at all' on the contents of the book, which carries the sub-heading 'Fred Goodwin, RBS and the men who blew up the British economy'."

["Danger of banking on a union of currencies", \*Herald\* 29-08-13:](#)

"High on this list are questions about the currency and whether Scotland's banks could survive a financial crisis if the support provided last time by the UK Government and taxpayer were no longer available."

["Comment: A closer look at Stephen Hester's RBS exit", \*Scotsman\* 16-06-13:](#)

"Stephen Hester was hailed for saving RBS but his exit may be down to political expediency, write Terry Murden and Martin Flanagan."

["Leaders: RBS boss is sacrificed in political game", \*Scotsman\* 14-06-13:](#)

"Stephen Hester is a hard-nosed businessman. George Osborne is a hard-nosed politician. Those two statements explain, in a nutshell, why Mr Hester is about to leave his post as chief executive of the Royal Bank of Scotland. As the dust begins to settle after Mr Hester's surprise announcement, more details of what prompted his move have emerged. In the end, it came down to a clash between political and business imperatives which has profound implications for the bank, the way this country is run and for politics."

["Mervyn King: System to blame, not bankers", \*Scotsman\* 20-05-13:](#)

"Sir Mervyn King has called for an end to bankers being 'demonised' for their role in the financial crash, insisting the problem was with the system rather than individuals. The outgoing governor of the Bank of England said there was a failure to adequately regulate the financial sector and society had given 'too much status' to those in the City. Sir Mervyn also warned that Chancellor George Osborne's plan to boost the housing market must not become a permanent scheme because it was 'too close for comfort' to a general state guarantee for mortgages."

["Independent Scotland at risk from bank crash", \*Scotsman\* 19-05-13:](#)

"An independent Scotland would be more reliant on the banking sector than Cyprus or Iceland, making it vulnerable to a new financial crisis, a UK Treasury paper will warn this week. The paper will say that a banking collapse would pose a 'very serious risk' to Scottish taxpayers while uncertainty over the cost of borrowing would force financial firms headquartered north of the Border to move out of Scotland."

["RBS slammed for 'brutal' cuts days after bonus row", \*Scotsman\* 17-05-13:](#)

"The Royal Bank of Scotland was under fire today after announcing 1400 more job losses just two days after defending £607 million of bonuses awarded to executives."

["RBS facing shareholder anger over bonus payments", \*Scotsman\* 14-05-2013:](#)

"Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS) is facing shareholder discontent at its annual meeting tomorrow over £607 million of staff bonus handouts during a year when it lost £5.2 billion. Payouts by the 81 per cent state-owned bank are likely to infuriate investors after a 'chastening' 2012 when a £390m settlement for Libor rate-fixing, another £1.1bn of mis-selling provisions and a £175m IT fiasco drove losses deeper from £1.2bn in 2011."

### As Others See Us

["Striving to be land with its own visions", \*Herald\* 15-09-13:](#)

"Westminster is entitled to its point of view (The Westminster view of Scotland ...and why it's wrong, News, September 8)."

["As Others See Us: The View from Belgium", \*Herald\* 03-09-13.](#)

["As Others See Us: The View from Ireland \(2\)", \*Herald\* 28-08-13.](#)

["As Others See Us: the view from Russia \(2\)", \*Herald\* 29-07-13:](#)

commentator David Leask on fans of Sir Walter Scott's 'tartanised histories' in Russia.

["As Others See Us: The View from Sri Lanka", \*Herald\* 19-07-13.](#)

["As Others See Us: the view from Spain \(2\)", \*Herald\* 10-07-13.](#)

["As Others See Us: The View from the Aaland Islands", \*Herald\* 27-05-13: #](#)

if Scotland is 'too wee' to be independent – what about the Aaland Islands, an almost autonomous archipelago in the Baltic Sea?"

["As Others See Us: The View from The Netherlands", \*Herald\* 06-05-13.](#)

["As Others See Us: The View from Ireland", \*Herald\* 18-04-13.](#)

### Creative Scotland

["Creative Scotland's music review hits some wrong notes", \*Herald\* 07-09-13:](#)

"It was - and remains, although my colleague Phil Miller did ask the question - a mystery why Creative Scotland's 180-page review of the music sector of the arts in Scotland, which is clearly dated May 2013 on the cover, suddenly appeared on the quango's website on Wednesday of this week."

["Creative Scotland shelves awards ceremony", \*Scotsman\* 18-08-13:](#)

"Creative Scotland has shelved its controversial awards ceremony after just one year, Scotland on Sunday can reveal. New chief executive Janet Archer said it was likely the arts agency would not take on the organisation of such an event again. Last year's awards were dogged by controversy over the £100-a-head cost to attend the black-tie event, its all-male panel and that it went ahead while the organisation was at loggerheads with artists."

["Creative Scotland spends £45k on 'opinion survey'", \*Scotsman\* 11-06-13:](#)

"Troubled arts agency Creative Scotland is spending up to £45,000 of public money to ask people what they think of the body and its work. The agency, which has budget of around £83 million a year, is bringing in consultants so it can 'better understand our customers'."

["Leaders: Arts broom must be helped to sweep clean", \*Scotsman\* 07-06-2013:](#)

"After prolonged division and uncertainty, the appointment of a new chief executive for the arts funding body Creative Scotland could hardly have come soon enough. The organisation has been without a leader since Andrew Dixon resigned last December."

### Other topics

["Scots musicians 'struggling to make a living'", \*Herald\* 05-09-13:](#)

"Music is the second-largest employment sector in the creative and cultural industries of Scotland, after design, but more artists are having to invest in recording themselves, leading to greater financial demands on musicians."

["Environmental Art Festival is second nature", \*Herald\* 31-08-13:](#)

"A festival celebrates the unique way in which artists relate to the land, just as their forefathers imagined, writes Jan Patience."

["Scotland has a big role in sustainable energy", \*Scotsman\* 27-08-13.](#)

["Forth Bridge gets £15m visitor area and glass lift", \*Scotsman\* 27-08-13:](#)

"Designs to enable visitors to ascend to the top of the Forth Bridge were unveiled today by Network Rail, which pledged there would be at least partial public access to Scotland's biggest grade A listed structure by its 125th birthday in two years' time."

["Common Weal: indy Scotland can be richer, more progressive nation without raising income tax rates", \*Herald\* 25-08-13.](#)

["Employment at highest level in almost five years", \*The Scottish Government\* 11-09-13:](#)

"The number of people working in Scotland is at its highest level in almost five years, according to official figures published today by the Office for National Statistics (ONS)."

["Feminist wins Edinburgh comedy award with show poking fun at sexism", \*The Guardian\* 24-08-13:](#)

"Bridget Christie takes Foster's standup prize – the UK's most prestigious – with 'beautifully written, delightfully delivered' work. It was a stand-out moment for female stand-ups. The feminist Bridget Christie won this year's Foster's Edinburgh comedy award, the most prestigious prize in British comedy. Christie secured the annual £10,000 prize for her show *A Bic for Her*, which takes aim at everyday sexism, chauvinist sports commentators and the prominence of lads' mags on newsagents' shelves."

["Scotland's an enlightened country – unless you're female", \*Guardian\* 23-06-13:](#)

"Last week, it was revealed that 1,372 rapes were committed in Scotland in the last 12 months, a figure that equates to almost four each day. Overall, there were almost 8,000 sex offences in the same period, a rise of 5% on the previous year. Yet the reaction of our Justice Department was lamentable. The Scottish government report in which the numbers were revealed also insisted on claiming that overall crime was at its lowest level for 39 years. Astonishingly, the justice minister, Kenny MacAskill, said that the figures demonstrated Scotland was becoming a safer place to live."

New websites have come up that provide views on and of Scotland from the point of view of civic society: "Projects like the National Collective ('join, create, collaborate') [nationalcollective.com], We Are Northern Lights [wearenorthernlights.com], KILTR ('one clan many cultures') [www.kiltr.com] the Leith based photo-journal Blipfoto [www.blipfoto.com] and the Scottish Album of the Year Awards [sayaward.com]. These initiatives offer not just a cultural dimension to the network but a blueprint and a reflection of the self-determination model. They are driven by and for *participation* in ways that seem increasingly, markedly different

from the British experience". (Mike Small in: Hames, Scott (ed.), *Unstated. Writers on Scottish Independence*, Edinburgh: Word Power Books 2012, 182.)

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### **Education Scotland**

(compiled by Nora Goepel, Ivana Pavlovic & Hanne Wiesner)

["St. Andrew's is Scottish University of the Year", \*Herald\* 21-09-13.](#)

["Move to protect teaching of languages in Scots universities", \*Herald\* 20-09-13.](#)

["Edinburgh University ranked 17<sup>th</sup> in world", \*Scotsman\* 11-09-13:](#)

"The University of Edinburgh has climbed to its highest-ever place in a global rankings list to be named the 17<sup>th</sup> best university in the world. The institution reached the milestone in the latest annual QS World University Rankings, with judges praising its world-class research and saying 'graduates are some of the most employable in Europe'. The University of Glasgow also gained its highest world ranking, rising three places from 54<sup>th</sup> to 51<sup>st</sup>, and the University of St Andrews rose ten places to 83<sup>rd</sup>. Edinburgh moved up from 21<sup>st</sup> place last year and, in a further breakdown, was placed 13<sup>th</sup> in the world in the Arts and Humanities category."

["Universities serve our nation with distinction", \*Scotsman\* 11-09-13:](#)

"Universities are key to economic growth and a vital link in the development of firms internationally, says Alastair Sim. A new framework captures the full extent of higher education's contribution to sustainable economic growth. This describes four dimensions of how universities drive Scotland's prosperity."

["Scots universities rise up rankings of world's top 100", \*Herald\* 10-09-13.](#)

["Sir Ian Wood: Develop Scots' vocational education", \*Scotsman\* 06-09-13:](#)

"Scottish school pupils should be allowed to study vocational instead of academic subjects, as part of a 'culture shift' in the education system, a report has said. Oil tycoon Sir Ian Wood hit out at the 'ingrained and ill-informed' view that vocational training was an inferior option to university, as he launched the report aimed at getting more young Scots into work. But he also said business chiefs had to do more to give youngsters work experience and help develop apprenticeships."

["Attack on pupil philanthropy plan", \*Herald\* 06-09-13:](#)

"Brian Boyd, emeritus professor of education at Strathclyde University, in Glasgow, said the suggestion was 'misconceived' and 'out of kilter' with the notion of a Common Weal."

["Scotland's future workforce", \*The Scottish Government\* 05-09-13:](#)

"A new report on how to help Scotland become a European leader in vocational education and training has been welcomed by the Scottish Government. The Commission for Developing Scotland's Young Workforce, chaired by leading industrialist Sir Ian Wood, was asked by Youth Employment Minister Angela Constance to explore ways to improve the transition from education to employment."

["Universities slated over staff on zero-hours contracts", \*Herald\* 05-09-13:](#)

"Two-thirds of Scottish universities employ lecturers on controversial zero-hours contracts, far more than other workforce sectors, according to a survey."

["Robert Gordon Uni to train Russian energy workers", \*Scotsman\* 05-09-13:](#)

"Aberdeen's Robert Gordon University has joined forces with one of Russia's leading educational providers in a £1.2 million partnership to train the next generation of Russia's offshore energy professionals."

["Radical plans to fund gifted pupils using private money", \*Herald\* 05-09-13:](#)

"Scotland's schools would be able to develop the country's most talented pupils using private money from a National Lottery-style fund under radical new proposals."

["England's seven-year-olds better at reading than Welsh peers", \*Guardian\* 04-09-13:](#)

"Seven-year-olds in England are better at reading than their peers in Wales and improving more quickly than their counterparts in Scotland, according to new research that highlights the diverging paths the home countries have taken since devolution in the 1990s."

["Foreign students' input gets top marks", \*Herald\* 03-09-13:](#)

"The benefit to wider Scottish society from the influx of thousands of international students has been highlighted in a new report."

["Religion in schools should be opt-in, say secularists", \*Herald\* 03-09-13:](#)

"Secularists say that parents are often unaware of their rights to withdraw their child from activities such as church services or religious assemblies, and in many cases pupils who do opt out are not given meaningful alternative activities."

["Extra engineers to meet industry demand", \*The Scottish Government\* 02-09-13:](#)

"The First Minister today announced the creation of 100 additional engineering places at Banff and Buchan College. Alex Salmond said almost £1 million of extra Scottish Funding Council (SFC) investment would increase student places over the next two years as he officially opened the Fraserburgh campus's new welding facility."

["Scots universities 'bring in half of foreign cash'", \*Scotsman\* 02-09-13:](#)

"Scotland's universities play a crucial role in attracting foreign investment to the country, a report claims today. The higher education sector is one of the key reasons foreign investors come to Scotland, the new analysis by Universities Scotland reveals. The report found universities produced highly skilled graduates, world-class research and development facilities, and clusters of industry, all of which helped attract overseas investors. Only the energy and financial and business services sectors contribute more in terms of adding value to the economy, the report said."

["Work to start on Glasgow 'super campus'", \*The Scottish Government\* 01-09-13:](#)

"Construction is underway on the biggest college in Scotland, Deputy First Minister Nicola Sturgeon confirmed today. The £228 million investment in the City of Glasgow College super campus development will cover two city centre sites with 1,200 staff serving 40,000 students. It comes on top of the Government's commitment to maintain college funding at £522m in this year and next, and of colleges success in continuing to deliver the Government's pledge on student numbers."

["Scots set record at home universities", \*Herald\* 31-08-13:](#)

"Final figures from university applications body Ucas show 27,170 Scots got a place this year - up 1.2% on the previous year which was itself a record. Just 100 extra students from England secured a place, with numbers rising 2.5% from 4050 to 4150."

["Employers helped to recruit young people", \*The Scottish Government\* 30-08-13:](#)

"Funding for employers has been made available as part of a drive to help young people with additional support needs into jobs. As part of Make Young People Your Business Week, Minister for Youth Employment Angela Constance has increased the funding available for Skills Development Scotland's Targeted Employer Recruitment Incentive up to £2 million to ensure opportunities exist for more young people."

["More college savings needed: Report", \*Scotsman\* 30-08-13:](#)

"College funding continues to fall and further savings will be needed from the current programme of college mergers, according to the public spending watchdog. College income has fallen by 9% since 2010-11, with a reduction in grant funding of £56 million from the Scottish Funding Council, the Scottish Government's education funding body, Audit Scotland revealed."

["Apprenticeships on course for 2013", \*The Scottish Government\* 29-08-13:](#)

"Almost 5,000 people have already been helped into a job through a Modern Apprenticeship (MA) in 2013/14. This means that 500 more opportunities have been created compared to the same time last year, the clearest indication yet that both employers and prospective young employees understand the benefits of an MA. Figures for the first quarter of the financial year have been released by Skills Development Scotland (SDS) and demonstrate that the Scottish Government's target of at least 25,000 new MAs every year is well on course to be met this year."

["New incentive to employ young people", \*The Scottish Government\* 26-09-13:](#)

"A new way to recognise employers that take on young people is to be piloted using £35,000 funding from the Scottish Government. People management specialists Investors in People Scotland are to develop and pilot an award to help employers understand the potential benefits of recruiting young people and provide recognition for those already with a strong youth policy. The announcement forms part of Make Young People Your Business Week."

["Companies urged to take on more young staff", \*Scotsman\* 25-08-13:](#)

"Companies are to be encouraged to consider the benefits of employing young people during a week-long Scottish Government campaign. The Make Young People Your Business drive is being launched today with the announcement of 70 new youth jobs at employment training firm Webhelp TSC in Glasgow. The campaign is aimed at increasing the number of companies which will consider taking on young people directly from school, college or university."

["Fee-paying English enjoy Scottish university boom", \*Scotsman\* 20-08-13:](#)

"Students from England are 30 per cent more likely to win a place at a Scottish university since the introduction of higher fees, it has emerged. [Admissions](#) body Ucas said that in the 2012 cycle, 15.3 per cent of those from south of the Border who applied to a Scottish university were accepted, up from 11.8 per cent the previous year, despite a fall in the number of applications."

["English students cash boost for Scots universities", \*Scotsman\* 16-08-13:](#)

"Scotland's universities are set to receive a financial boost from growing numbers of fee-paying students from England after figures showed acceptances are at a record high."

["Edinburgh opens first dedicated Gaelic school", \*Scotsman\* 16-08-13:](#)

"The opening of Edinburgh's first dedicated Gaelic school has been hailed as a 'landmark day' for the capital. A total of 213 pupils, including 53 primary one youngsters, have enrolled for the new school, where lessons will be taught entirely in Gaelic."

["Education 'has failed to improve with devolution'", \*Scotsman\* 15-08-13:](#)

"Scotland's education system has not progressed at the same rate as the English system since 1999, a study by the London School of Economics has found. Read more about the report, Education in a Devolved Scotland: A Quantitative Analysis."

["Revealed: importance of rest of UK students to universities", \*Herald\* 15-08-13:](#)

"The money Scottish universities make from English, Welsh and Northern Irish students is likely to match the current income from overseas undergraduates in just three years' time."

["St Andrews University tops student happiness poll", \*Scotsman\* 13-08-13:](#)

"St Andrews University has been ranked top in Scotland after a poll for student satisfaction. The National [Student Survey](#) (NSS) found that 93% of students were 'satisfied or very satisfied' with the overall quality of their university education. St Andrews in Fife ranked first in Scotland and second in the UK behind Bath University."

["Grant puts Malawi students in universities", \*Scotsman\* 06-08-13:](#)

"Gifted students in Malawi are being supported by a grant from Scotland to study at university. A total of £100,000 is being spent on the scheme across 11 higher education institutions in the south-east African nation which has the lowest university enrolment rate in the world at just 0.05%. The Scotland Malawi Partnership, funded by the Scottish Government, awarded 35 scholarships for young and underprivileged Malawian students to study at masters level."

["'Physical literacy' programme for Scottish schools", \*Scotsman\* 21-07-13:](#)

"Thousands of pupils are to undergo a new training programme in 'physical literacy' to improve the uptake of physical education (PE) in Scotland's schools and raise the chances of producing future sporting champions."

["Scots councils set to use bonuses to lure English teachers", \*Scotsman\* 20-07-13:](#)

"Scottish councils are using cash bonuses and anxiety over curriculum changes to lure English teachers to fill vacancies. Aberdeen City Council has already approved a plan to offer £5,000 bonuses to entice teachers to fill shortages in the area, while Scottish Borders Council is considering targeting 'disaffected English teachers' in a bid to fill posts."

["Education Bill to widen access to university", \*Scotsman\* 26-06-13:](#)

"Legislation aimed at reforming further and higher education is a crucial part of the generational change required to widen access to universities, the Education Secretary has said."

["Oil tycoon Ian Wood calls for change in schools", \*Scotsman\* 19-06-13:](#)

"One of Scotland's most successful captains of industry has called for a culture change in the way youngsters are prepared for the 'world of work', including classroom lessons on the workplace. Oil and gas services magnate Sir Ian Wood said too many Scottish youngsters don't 'understand' what work is all about - but businesses must do more in schools to prepare them for the change. More apprenticeships should be provided and could even get underway in the classroom, he told the National Economic Forum in Edinburgh today."



["£5m refit for Edinburgh College's Sighthill campus", \*Scotsman\* 17-06-13:](#)

"Bosses at the newly merged Edinburgh College have unveiled a landmark £5 million investment aimed at transforming its oldest campus into a 'state-of-the-art' education gateway."

["Parents call for state school 'alternative'", \*Scotsman\* 16-06-13:](#)

"Parents are mounting a bid to create their own 'alternative' state school, amid fresh calls for local authorities to provide greater choice within the education system. The New School Action Group in the Southside of Edinburgh has entered talks with council chiefs to design their own primary school, run from within the council system but with its own ethos. The parents are fans of the Montessori education system – which advocates more freedom for children – but say they do not want to have to go into the private sector to get it."

["Number of kids needing language help doubles", \*Scotsman\* 14-06-13:](#)

"The number of schoolchildren receiving help with English as a second language in the Capital's schools has more than doubled in only eight years, new figures show. One in every 11 pupils in the city's primary and high schools is receiving extra support, with the city investing £1.6 million in an effort to ensure 134 schools and learning establishments get the resources that they need to support 3721 youngsters."

["Universities to recruit more poorer", \*Scotsman\* 12-06-13:](#)

"Scottish universities are to recruit more than 700 extra students from poorer backgrounds in a drive to widen access to higher education. The £40 million initiative involves all 19 universities in Scotland, who have signed up to the commitment under agreements with the Scottish Funding Council. Edinburgh University will provide 50 extra places."

["Scottish universities social mix 'changed little'", \*Scotsman\* 11-06-13:](#)

"Access to Scotland's universities remains as socially unequal as it was in the mid-1990s, despite the scrapping of tuition fees and attempts to encourage more working-class students, a major study has found. Research by Edinburgh University found the composition of students by social class had 'changed little' across the UK, regardless of whether or not fees were charged."

["Mike Russell pledges to cut teachers' workloads", \*Scotsman\* 09-06-13:](#)

"Education secretary Mike Russell yesterday pledged to cut teachers' workloads in a move to head off strike action in Scotland's schools. Addressing the annual general meeting of the Educational Institute of Scotland (EIS) in Perth, Russell told delegates he plans to set up a working group to reduce the 'bureaucracy and unnecessary paperwork' associated with Curriculum for Excellence (CfE)."

["SNP challenged over 'perverse' education funding", \*Scotsman\* 06-06-13:](#)

"The Scottish Government has been challenged to end the 'perverse' higher education funding system amid evidence it makes poor students poorer by pushing them into debt. Education secretary Michael Russell faced calls from the Labour party to provide 'decent grants' in a Holyrood debate yesterday. Mr Russell responded by accusing Labour of trying to take away free education without having the 'guts' to say so."

["Scottish Independence: Schools to be battle ground", \*Scotsman\* 15-05-13:](#)

"Secondary schools are set to become key political battlegrounds as pro and anti-independence groups go head-to-head to sway first-time 16-year-old voters. With both sides expected

to address pupils on the issues involved, headteachers are to be offered guidance on how to ensure impartiality in the classroom ahead of the poll in September next year."

["Half of teachers considered quitting over past year", Scotsman 09-05-13:](#)

"Just over half of Scottish teachers have considered leaving the profession during the past year, a survey has found. The study by the NASUWT, which polled 800 teachers, found 51 per cent had thought about quitting – a rise of 9 per cent on the previous year. The union said that its survey had uncovered 'plummeting' levels of job satisfaction at a time when workload and stress levels are on the rise."

["Fourfold rise in pupils who need extra support", Scotsman 06-05-13:](#)

"The number of children in Scottish schools who need extra help in the classroom due to conditions such as autism, ADHD and learning difficulties has shown a dramatic fourfold increase in the past ten years, figures reveal. Campaigners have called for an investigation after statistics showed the number of children needing extra support in their studies rose from fewer than 29,000 in 2002 to 118,034 last year."

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## **Scottish Award Winners**

### **Literature**

The [Deanston Scottish Crime Book of the Year](#) title for 2013 was won by Malcolm Mackay for his novel *How a Gunman Says Goodbye* ([Pan Macmillan](#)). The prize was handed over at an awards dinner at the Bloody Scotland Crime Writing Festival in Stirling.

The [Dundee International Book Prize](#) finalists have been announced. Novelists Jeff Hayden, Colette Victor and Nicola White, have been named on the short list and will be competing for the £10,000 prize and publishing deal. The competing novels are: *Mango* (Hayden), *What to do with Lobsters in a Place Like Klippisfontein* (Victor), and *In the Rosary Garden* (White) The winner will be announced this month at the [Dundee Literary Festival](#).

The finalists of this year's [Scottish Mortgage Investment Trust Book Awards](#) have also been named. Ewan Morrison, Gavin Francis, Richard Price, and Kerry Hudson have each received £5,000 as winners of the Fiction, Non-Fiction, Poetry and First Book categories. Kerry Hudson is winner in the First Book category for *Tony Hogan Bought Me an Ice-Cream Float Before He Stole My Ma*, [Chatto & Windus](#) (2012); Gavin Francis has won the Non-Fiction category for *Empire Antarctica*, [Chatto & Windus](#) (2012); Richard Price took the Poetry category for *Small World*, [Carcenet Press](#) (2012); Ewan Morrison is winner in the Fiction category for *Close Your Eyes*, [Jonathan Cape](#) (2012). The books will now compete for a £25,000 top prize as Book of the Year. The winner will be named in November.

Novelist Alan Warner and art historian Tanya Harrod received the prestigious [James Tait Black Memorial Prizes](#) at this year's Edinburgh International Book Festival. Warner won the fiction prize for his book *The Deadman's Pedal*, [Jonathan Cape](#) (2012). The biography prize went to Tanya Harrod for *The Last Sane Man: Michael Cardew, Modern Pots, Colonialism and the Counterculture*, [Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art](#) (2013). Each prize winner received £10,000. The inaugural [James Tait Black Prize for Drama](#) was awarded Tim Price for his play *The Radicalisation of Bradley Manning*, [Methuen](#) (2012) - the US soldier convicted of espionage for leaking secrets.

Winners of the 2013 [Neil Gunn Writing Competition](#) in the various categories are: Adult Short Story: theme 'The Tenderness of Stone' – First Prize Andrew Broadfoot for *Fault*, Second Prize Fiona Lang for *The Calf*. Third Prize was shared by Kenneth Steven for *The Listener* and Catharine Mee for *Fugit Amor*. Adult Poetry theme 'The Tenderness of Stone' – First Prize went to Jim Waite for *Ma Faither*, Second Place to James Knox Whittet for *A Machine at Full Speed*, and Third Prize to Mary Spence for *The Tenderness of Stones*. All winners' compositions can be read online at the [am baile](#) website

The 2013 [Kelpies Prize](#), awarded annually to encourage and reward new Scottish writing for children, was won by Alex McCall for *Attack of the Giant Robot Chickens!*

The winner of the [Angus Book Award](#) is chosen by pupils from the region each year. This year's winning writer and recipient of a replica of the Aberlemno Serpent Stone and £500 was Teri Terry whose novel *Slated* is published by [Orchard Books](#) (2012).

The [Grampian Children's Book Award](#) for 2013/14 went to Patrick Ness for *A Monster Calls* [Walker Books](#) (2011).

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

The [BAFTA in Scotland New Talent Awards](#) 2013 brought a best acting performance award for Daniel Kerr for "The Wee Man". Kate Charter and Joseph Atkinson topped the Animation category with "Hannah and the Moon", which also took the Best New Work prize. Director of Photography winner was Alan McLaughlin for "Lost Serenity"; best Editor went to Douglas King for "Let's Go Swimming"; best Factual production was "Everybody's Child", Garry Fraser and Aimara Reques; the Fiction prize went to "Ahora, No", Elia Ballesteros, Gloria Bartolomé, Kate Campbell; Game category winner was "Mr Montgomery's Debonair Facial Hair"; Original Music went to Chris Bradley for "Killer"; Sound Design winners were Pier Daniel Cornacchia and Ana Irina Roman; best Writer was Rory Alexander Stuart for "Liar".

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### **New Publications October 2012 – April 2013**

(compiled by Ivana Pavlovic, Ilka Schwittlinsky & Hanne Wiesner)

Alexander, Neal / James Moran (eds.), *Regional Modernisms*, Edinburgh: EUP 2013 (hardback £70.00)

This book explores the regional contexts of literary modernism, reading international aesthetics through local cultures. Where did literary modernism happen? In this book, a range of scholars seek to answer this question, re-evaluating the parameters of modernism in the light of recent developments in literary geography as well as literary history, examining an array of different literary forms including novels, poetry, theatre, and 'little magazines'. The volume identifies and appraises the local attachments of modernist texts in particular geographical regions and also interrogates the idea of the 'regional' in light of the alienating displacements of transnational modernity.

(<http://www.euppublishing.com/book/9780748669301>)

Aliaga Lavrijsen, Jessica, *The Fiction of Brian McCabe and (Scottish) Identity*, Bern: Peter Lang 2013 (paperback £45.00)

This study is the first monograph on the Scottish writer Brian McCabe. It focuses mainly on McCabe's fiction and on the elements in his writing that allow for a redefinition of individual and national identity. The book opens with an examination of the socio-cultural context that shapes McCabe's position in contemporary Scottish literature. The author goes on to consider McCabe as a writer of the Second Renaissance and the generation of the Lost Poets, and also focuses on the Scottish preoccupation with identity and its representations in the contemporary Scottish short story. Finally, she provides a chronological and thematic analysis of McCabe's short story collections *The Lipstick Circus*, *In a Dark Room with a Stranger* and *A Date with my Wife*, and his novel *The Other McCoy*.

(<http://www.peterlang.com/index.cfm?event=cmp.ccc.seitenstruktur.detailseiten&seitentyp=produkt&pk=66176&concordeid=430830>)

Barclay, Gordon, *If Hitler Comes: Preparing for Invasion: Scotland 1940*, Edinburgh: Birlinn 2013 (paperback £20.00)

Between May 1940 and the summer of 1941 the British people expected a German invasion that, had it succeeded, would have enslaved them into the Nazis' racist war. This period saw an unparalleled effort to prepare the defence of the UK against invasion. Scotland's nationally important heavy industries, vital Royal Navy bases, and one of the UK's key ports were very vulnerable to the sort of airborne attack that had devastated the defences of Belgium. Everyone was certain that a Fifth Column of Nazi sympathisers and agents was working actively to spread rumours and despair, and to aid the invasion forces, and in reality the country was far from united.

Although the 1939–45 War is the most written-about war in history there is no account of the heroic efforts made in those months to prepare Scotland for the inevitable invasion, and how the defences were intended to be used. This book tells that story, against the wider history of the period and its people, and describes what was built, and what now survives.

(<http://www.birlinn.co.uk/If-Hitler-Comes.html>)

Blaikie, Andrew, *The Scots Imagination and Modern Memory*, Edinburgh: EUP 2013 (paperback £24.99)

A cross-disciplinary exploration of how our memories are formed. This highly original study explores how different, but connected ways of seeing infuse relationships between place and belonging. Its argument is that all memories, whether fleeting glimpses or elaborated narratives, necessarily invoke imagined pasts – tenement life, island cultures, vanished moralities, even the origins of social science. But do these multiple recollections share a common frame of reference? Are perceptions conditioned by a collective social imaginary?

Visions of nation and community, from Adam Ferguson's ideas on the development of civil society through John Grierson's pioneering of documentary film to the structures of feeling in popular fiction, reflect the impact of modernity on Scottish culture since the late eighteenth century. While landscape as the symbolic 'face of Scotland' and its attendant mental contours have been produced and debated in many genres, including travel literature, social commentary, novels and magazines, changes in the means of capturing and presenting images, particularly the emergent possibilities of the photograph, have affected the ways we identify and remember. The analysis adopts a broadly sociological approach, but its range lends equal appeal to social historians, cultural geographers, and particularly those pursuing visual or memory studies.

(<http://www.euppublishing.com/book/9780748617876>)

Bowd, Gavin, *Fascist Scotland: Caledonia and the Far Right*, Edinburgh: Birlinn 2013 (paperback £12.99)

On 10 May 1941, Rudolf Hess, deputy Führer of the Third Reich, entered Scottish airspace in an ill-fated attempt to discuss peace with the Duke of Hamilton. For the Nazis, Hess was the victim of 'tragic hallucinations'. But how far had Hess really flown from reality? Although Fascism in Britain is normally associated with England, and especially the East End of London, and even then dismissed as a marginal political phenomenon, Fascism did find support in Scottish society. Scotland has provided its own cohort of idealists, fanatics and traitors for extreme racist, nationalist and authoritarian politics. From Dumfries to Alness, one of the main ideologies of the first half of the twentieth century found its standard-bearers. But when Fascism crossed the Cheviots, it found itself in a restless part of a multi-nation state, riven by sectarian hatreds. Rudolf Hess felt the natives looked at him 'in a compassionate way', but Scottish Fascism had to carve out a niche in a crowded market for bigotry.

Gavin Bowd teaches French at St Andrews University. He has published widely on Scottish, French and Romanian culture and politics. He is also a poet, fiction writer, journalist and translator.

(<http://www.birlinn.co.uk/Fascist-Scotland.html>)

Broun, Dauvit, *Scottish Independence and the Idea of Britain: From the Picts to Alexander III*, Edinburgh: EUP 2013 (paperback £24.99)

When did Scots first think of Scotland as an independent kingdom? What did they think was Scotland's place in Britain before Wallace and Bruce? The answers put forward in this book provide a fresh perspective on Scotland's relationship with Britain. Broun challenges the idea that the Scots were an ancient nation whose British identity only emerged later on, in the early modern era, and provides new evidence that the idea of Scotland as an independent kingdom in actual fact predated Wallace and Bruce. This leads him to radically reassess several fundamental issues: the fate of Pictish identity and the origins of Alba; the status of Scottish kingship vis-à-vis England; the papacy's recognition of the independence of the Scottish Church; and the idea of Scottish freedom. He also sheds new light on the authorship of John of Fordun's 'Chronicle' – the first full-scale history of the Scots – and explains, in historical terms, the widespread English inability to distinguish between England and Britain.

Broun places his arguments in the wider context of the concepts of ultimate secular power in Britain and Ireland and the construction of national histories which were emerging in the middle ages. In conclusion, he casts a fresh aspect on how a Scottish national identity emerged and how the medieval era and, more specifically the Scottish nation, contributed to what is often regarded as an exclusively modern phenomenon.

(<http://www.eupublishing.com/book/9780748685196>)

Bryce, T. G. K. / W. M. Humes / Donald Gillies / Aileen Kennedy (eds.), *Scottish Education: Referendum*, 4th ed., Edinburgh: EUP 2013 (paperback £29.99)

This 4th edition of *Scottish Education* takes account of an important political milestone in Scotland's history: the 2014 Scottish Independence Referendum. The text looks at that closely in the context of education, reflects on the very considerable changes which have taken place since devolution in 1999, and incorporates a wealth of contemporary research evidence and scholarly analysis. Featuring some 60 new authors, the latest edition contains forthright and informed commentary on every aspect of education and is essential reading for anyone who needs to know how education 'works' in Scotland. The final section looks to the future, offering thoughtful critical assessments of the educational landscape ahead, whether in an even more devolved Scotland or an independent European state.

(<http://www.eupublishing.com/book/9780748645824>)

Campbell, Thorbjørn, *Arran: A History*, Edinburgh: Birlinn 2013 (paperback £10.99)

Arran is an archaeological and geological treasure trove of stunning scenic beauty. Its history stretches back to the great stone circles, more than 5,000 years old, whose remnants still decorate the plains of Machrie. Runic inscriptions tell of a Viking occupation lasting centuries. Later, in 1307, King Robert the Bruce began his triumphant comeback from Arran. Subsequently, the island was repeatedly caught up and devastated in the savage dynastic struggles of medieval Scotland.

After the 1707 Parliamentary Union, came a new and strange upheaval – unwarlike but equally unsettling: Arran became a test-bed for the new theories of the ideologists of the Industrial Revolution. The ancient 'runrig' style of farming gave way to enclosed fields and labour-saving methods, which eventually lead to the socially disastrous Highland Clearances to Arran, and the misfortune of the times was culminated by the Great Irish Potato Famine of 1845. At last, the area began to settle down through an increasingly stable mixture of agriculture and tourism in the 19th and 20th centuries. In this book, Thorbjorn Campbell gives an original, fascinating and comprehensive account of Arran's long and eventful history.

(<http://www.birlinn.co.uk/Arran.html>)

Carman, Christopher / Robert Johns / James Mitchell, *More Scottish than British? The 2011 Scottish Parliament Election*, Basingstoke: Palgrave 2013 (hardback £57.50)

With the aid of the most extensive and comprehensive survey data extracted from voters during the 2011 Scottish General, this book analyses the reasons behind why the SNP not only retained their mandate from the people to govern Scotland but further succeeded in winning a resounding majority in the Scottish Parliament. In tackling this overarching question other complex issues are also explored such as whether a pre-occupation with events at Westminster confined the Scottish Elections to the realm of 'second-order' elections? What impact the financial crisis had on elected a parliament that in reality has little economic power? The volume also has a broader appeal to devolved parliamentary elections more broadly by exploring what matters to voters when they cast their ballots for their national parliament in a complex, multi-level Political system. Examining performance evaluations, party loyalties and constitutional preferences, the authors show that Scottish elections are increasingly Scottish affairs, where voters are concerned with government competence – in domestic matters and in managing relations with Westminster.

(<http://www.palgrave.com/products/title.aspx?pid=579701>)

Clarkson, Tim, *The Makers of Scotland: Picts, Romans, Gaels and Vikings*, Edinburgh: Birlinn 2013 (paperback £9.99)

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.

Tim Clarkson worked in academic librarianship before setting up a business with his wife. He gained an MPhil in archaeology (1995) and a PhD in medieval history (2003) from the University of Manchester. He is author of *The Men of the North* (2010) and *The Picts*.

(<http://www.birlinn.co.uk/The-Makers-of-Scotland.html>)

Crawford, Barbara, *The Northern Earldoms: Orkney and Caithness from AD 870 to 1470*, Edinburgh: Birlinn 2013 (hardback £25.00)

The medieval earldoms of Orkney and Caithness were positioned between two worlds, the Norwegian and the Scottish. They were a maritime lordship divided, or united, by the turbulent waters of the Pentland Firth. This unlikely combination of island and mainland territory survived as a single lordship for 600 years, against the odds. Growing out of the Viking maelstrom of the early Middle Ages, it became an established and wealthy principality which dominated northern waters, with a renowned dynasty of earls. Despite their peripheral location these earls were fully in touch with the kingdoms of Norway and Scotland and increasingly subject to the rulers of these kingdoms. How they maintained their independence and how they survived the clash of loyalties are themes explored in this book from the early Viking age to the late medieval era when the powerful feudal Sinclair earls ruled the islands and regained possession of Caithness. This is a story of the time when the Northern Isles of Scotland were part of a different national entity which explains the background to the non-Gaelic culture of this locality, when links across the North Sea were as important as links with the kingdom of Scotland to the south.

Barbara Crawford was born and brought up in Yorkshire. She read Modern and Medieval History at the University of St Andrews, gaining a PhD in 1971. She was elected Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries (FSA) of Scotland in 1964, FSA in 1973, Member of the Norwegian Academy in 1997 and a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh in 2001. In 2011 she was awarded an OBE for services to History and Archaeology.

(<http://www.birlinn.co.uk/Northern-Earldoms-The.html>)

Fenton, Alexander (ed.), *Scottish Life and Society Volume 1: An Introduction to Scottish Ethnology*, Edinburgh: Birlinn 2013 (paperback £25.00)

'Ethnology is a subject that relates to each and every one of us and there is no one who cannot be a practitioner. It is one in which personal roots, the home and environment... become part of the research apparatus of national identity' – Alexander Fenton.

The publication of *An Introduction to Scottish Ethnology* sees the completion of the fourteen-volume *Scottish Life and Society* series, originally conceived by the eminent ethnologist Professor Alexander Fenton. The series explores the many elements in Scottish history, language and culture which have shaped the identity of Scotland and Scots at local, regional and national level, placing these in an international context. Each of the thirteen volumes already published focuses on a particular theme or institution within Scottish society. This introduction provides an overview of the discipline of ethnology as it has developed in Scotland and more widely, the sources and methods for its study, and practical guidance on the means by which it can be examined within its constituent genres, based on the experience of those currently working with ethnological materials. Theory and practice are presented in an accessible fashion, making it an ideal companion for the student, the scholar and the interested amateur alike.

(<http://www.birlinn.co.uk/An-Introduction-to-Scottish-Ethnology-hbk.html>)

Fry, Michael, *The Union: England, Scotland and the Treaty of 1707*, Edinburgh: Birlinn 2013 (paperback £9.99)

In this fresh and challenging look at the origins of the United Kingdom, Michael Fry focuses on the years which led up to the Union of 1707, setting the political history of Scotland and England against the backdrop of war in Europe and the emergence of imperialism. He rejects the long-held assumption that the economy was of overwhelming importance in the Scots' acceptance of the terms of the Treaty, showing how they were able to exploit English ignorance of and indifference to Scotland to steer the settlement in their own favour. The implications of this have influenced the dynamics of the Union ever since, and are only being fully worked

out in our own time.

(<http://www.birlinn.co.uk/Union-The.html>)

Gallagher, Tom, *Divided Scotland. Ethnic Friction and Christian Crisis*, Glendaruel: Argyll Publ. 2013 (hardback £15.99) [This book will be reviewed in the next *Newsletter*.]

Why has inter-communal strife involving the use (and many would say mis-use) of religious and national symbols enjoyed such an extended life in Scotland? Why does it still manage to persist despite changes in Scottish society which would appear to remove the oxygen enabling sectarianism to breathe? Football seems to be its most visible outlet but has it merely been a channel for deeper suspicions and conflict? What role have the state and powerful institutions played in allowing such antagonism to continue or in belatedly limiting its worst effects? Is friction over symbols, territory, and allegiances part of a deeper factionalism in Scottish life that may not easily vanish even if state action drives sectarianism underground in Scotland? This book is the first full-length study of Scotland's ethno-religious discord that has appeared in the devolution era. It explores the origins and staying power of sectarian conflict and analyses the new tensions that have erupted since 2010, and the response of the state, the media, churches, the soccer world, and a range of civic groups. It argues that while Scotland has ceased to be overtly Protestant, anti-Catholicism remains an option that is acquiring respectability of the kind that it never had for almost a century. The Catholic Church's defence of traditional social values has placed it on a collision course with secular interests who have filled the power vacuum in Scotland that opened up following the crumbling of a once-dominant Protestant order. The book argues that Catholicism continues to be seen as a backward force and as a drag on a modernising Scotland. Ironically, some of its staunchest allies are now to be found in the depleted ranks of protestant Scotland. So Scotland may be slowly overcoming one kind of sectarianism only to be embroiled in a new kind of war over faith and culture familiar to continental European countries like France and Spain in the last two hundred years. Arguably, Scots who despise their religious or ideological enemies are growing in number, not diminishing. They might ponder what happens when clashes of societal values, along with religious differences, are pushed to outright division.

([http://www.argyllpublishing.co.uk/index.php?page=shop.product\\_details&flypage=flypage.tpl&product\\_id=137&category\\_id=3&option=com\\_virtuemart&Itemid=11](http://www.argyllpublishing.co.uk/index.php?page=shop.product_details&flypage=flypage.tpl&product_id=137&category_id=3&option=com_virtuemart&Itemid=11))

Gillen, Con, *Geology and Landscapes of Scotland*, Edinburgh: Dunedin Academic Press 2013 (paperback £24.99)

The six hundred miles between the northernmost Shetland island and the Mull of Galloway in the South of Scotland contain some of the most interesting geology and most varied landscapes in Europe. This variety was the inspiration for a tradition of geological investigation that stretches back to the earliest earth scientists. The origins of the Scotland that we know today lie in five quite distinct geological histories.

The *Geology and Landscapes of Scotland* takes the reader on a tour of each of these regions in turn, starting with the Northwest Highlands and Outer Hebrides, which contain some of the oldest rocks on Earth, through the mountain terrains of the Highlands and Uplands to the Lowlands and then the fringes of the North Sea. A section describes the volcanic provinces of Scotland; another deals with the effects of the Ice Ages while a final section looks at Scotland's natural resources.

Of equal appeal to the professional geologist seeking a broad overview of a much-studied terrain and a resource for the resident, visitor, walker, climber or angler who wants to understand the origins of the landforms they observe, *Geology and Landscapes of Scotland* has proved itself as a reliable guide. In this thoroughly revised edition the many illustrations are presented



in colour.

(<http://www.dunedinacademicpress.co.uk/display.asp?k=9781780460093,9781780460093>)

Goodare, Julian, *Scottish Witches and Witch-Hunters*, Basingstoke: Palgrave 2013 (hardback £60.00)

This book brings together twelve studies that collectively provide an overview of the main issues of live interest in Scottish witchcraft. *Scottish Witches and Witch-Hunters* considers how people came to be considered 'witches', with new insights into the familiar topic of neighbourhood quarrels and misfortune. It also delves more deeply into folk belief and practice than ever before, with nightmarish studies of nocturnal attacks and flying. The book is also about 'witch-hunters' in various senses. One chapter explores the 'urban geography' of witch-hunting; another traces Scotland's international connections. A chapter on a witch-hunter of 1591, and the countess who was his intended victim, reveals a new dimension to the much-studied North Berwick witchcraft panic. A reconstruction of how witches were ceremonially strangled and burned is a gruesome but compelling reminder of the importance of the subject.

(<http://www.palgrave.com/products/title.aspx?pid=694101>)

Hammond, Matthew, *New Perspectives on Medieval Scotland, 1093-1286*, Suffolk: Boydell & Brewer Ltd 2013 (hardback £60.00)

The years between the deaths of King Mael Coluim and Queen Margaret in 1093 and King Alexander III in 1286 witnessed the formation of a kingdom resembling the Scotland we know today, which was a full member of the European club of monarchies; the period is also marked by an explosion in the production of documents. This volume includes a range of new studies casting fresh light on the institutions and people of the Scottish kingdom, especially in the thirteenth century. New perspectives are offered on topics as diverse as the limited reach of Scottish royal administration and justice, the ties that bound the unfree to their lords, the extent of a political community in the time of King Alexander II, a view of Europeanization from the spread of a common material culture, the role of a major Cistercian monastery in the kingdom and the broader world, and the idea of the neighbourhood in Scots law. There are also chapters on the corpus of charters and names and the innovative technology behind the People of Medieval Scotland prosopographical database, which made use of over 6000 individual documents from the period. Matthew Hammond is a Research Associate at the University of Glasgow.

(<http://www.boydellandbrewer.com/store/viewItem.asp?idProduct=14269>)

Harper, Marjory / David Worthington (eds.), *Northern Scotland*, Edinburgh: EUP 2013 (paperback £25.99)

A cross-disciplinary publication which addresses historical, cultural, economic, political and geographical themes relating to the Highlands and Islands and the north-east of Scotland.

(<http://www.euppublishing.com/book/9780748682379>)

Hutchinson, Roger, *The History of St Kilda*, Edinburgh: Birlinn 2013 (paperback £7.99)

As one of the most remote corners of the British Isles, the island archipelago of St Kilda has long held a fascination for travellers from mainland Britain and beyond. The unique way of life and customs of its inhabitants has generated an enormous amount of literature over a period of hundreds of years. Kenneth Macaulay's book is one of the most significant works ever written about the islands, and is a description of what he saw there on his visit of 1763, at which time the island population had dwindled to just 88. In addition to giving vivid descriptions of the islanders themselves and their living conditions, Macaulay also offers a huge amount of information on the animals and birds found there - the sheep and cattle, and above

all the wildfowl, which were used for a huge variety of purposes, including oil, shoes and medicine as well as food.

(<http://www.birlinn.co.uk/History-of-St-Kilda-The.html>)

Jackson, Alvin, *The Two Unions: Ireland, Scotland, and the Survival of the United Kingdom, 1707-2007*, Oxford: OUP 2013 (paperback £22.50)

Much has been written about the decline of the United Kingdom. *The Two Unions* looks instead at the lengthy survival of the Union, examining the institutions, structures, and individuals that have contributed to its longevity.

In order to understand its survival, the author, one of the foremost historians of modern Ireland and of the British-Irish relationship, sustains a comparison between the Irish and Scots Unions, their respective origins and subsequent development. He provides a detailed examination of the two interlinked Unionist movements in Scotland and Ireland. Alvin Jackson illuminates not only the history and varied health of the United Kingdom over the past 300 years, but also its present condition and prospects.

(<http://ukcatalogue.oup.com/product/9780199675371.do#.UjcWZz-EXak>)

Kelly, Aaron, *James Kelman: Politics and Aesthetics*, Bern: Peter Lang 2013 (paperback £38.00)

This study argues that James Kelman's work should not be construed as a resigned capitulation to capitalist domination or to the fracture of a once unified working-class collective purpose. Politics are to be found not only in the content but also the form of Kelman's work. The radical aspect of his style is that rather than pandering to a ready-made identity, he remains antagonistically non-identical to the prevailing logic of capitalism by contesting its supposedly shared worldview and modes of perception. Instead, Kelman's fiction continually disputes the notion of consensus by revealing the voices of those excluded, those who are unaccounted for in that false consensus. His work uncovers a stark contradiction in the governing logic of our times: we are asked to accept that class has disappeared at the same time that we are told the system that causes it in the first place – capitalism – is inevitably here forever. Even the most alienated individuals in his stories remind us that isolation can transcend itself by returning us to the social conditions that are its cause. We find politics in Kelman's aesthetics, as his work formally contests who has the right to feel, to think, to speak.

(<http://www.peterlang.com/index.cfm?event=cmp.ccc.seitenstruktur.detailseiten&seitentyp=produkt&pk=50287&concordeid=11130>)

Kerr, Douglas, *Conan Doyle: Writing, Profession, and Practice*, Oxford: OUP 2013 (hardback £30.00)

From the early stories, to the great popular triumphs of the Sherlock Holmes tales and the Professor Challenger adventures, the ambitious historical fiction, the campaigns against injustice, and the Spiritualist writings of his later years, Conan Doyle produced a wealth of narratives. He had a worldwide reputation and was one of the most popular authors of the age.

A critical study of the writings of Arthur Conan Doyle and a cultural biography, this is a book for students of literary and cultural history, and Conan Doyle enthusiasts. It is a full account of all of his writing, and an investigation of the role of the author as he practised it, as witness, critic, and interpreter of his times.

His work was widely read and enjoyed, but it is far from being a simple endorsement of the masculine, imperialist, bourgeois, scientific world he so often portrayed.

The subject of this study is what Conan Doyle knew - the knowledge of his own culture, its institutions and values and ways of life, its beliefs and anxieties, which is created and shared

by his writing. The book is organized according to a number of cultural domains - sport, medicine, science, law and order, army and empire, and the spiritual life. At a time when before or since, Conan Doyle emerges as a maker of culture, offering his readers an image of themselves, their past and their future.

(<http://ukcatalogue.oup.com/nav/i/category/academic/9780199674947/R/narrow+by+publication+date/last+3+months/n/4294927094.do#.UjcURD-EXak>)

Lloyd, Genevieve, *Enlightenment Shadows*, Oxford: OUP 2013 (hardback £30.00)

The idea of the Enlightenment has become a touchstone for emotive and often contradictory articulations of contemporary western values. *Enlightenment Shadows* is a study of the place of Enlightenment thought in intellectual history and of its continued relevance. Genevieve Lloyd focuses especially on what is distinctive in ideas of intellectual character offered by key Enlightenment thinkers—on their attitudes to belief and scepticism; on their optimism about the future; and on the uncertainties and instabilities which nonetheless often lurk beneath their use of imagery of light. The book is organized around interconnected close readings of a range of texts: Montesquieu's *Persian Letters*; Voltaire's *Philosophical Dictionary*; Hume's essay *The Sceptic*; Adam Smith's treatment of sympathy and imagination in *Theory of Moral Sentiments*; d'Alembert's *Preliminary Discourse to the Encyclopedia*—together with Diderot's entry on *Encyclopedia*; Diderot's *Rameau's Nephew*; and Kant's essay *Perpetual Peace*. Throughout, the readings highlight ways in which Enlightenment thinkers enacted in their writing—and reflected on—the interplay of intellect, imagination, and emotion. Recurring themes include: the nature of judgement—its relations with imagination and with ideals of objectivity; issues of truth and relativism; the ethical significance of imagining one's self into the situations of others; cosmopolitanism; tolerance; and the idea of the secular.

(<http://ukcatalogue.oup.com/nav/i/category/academic/9780199669561/R/narrow+by+publication+date/last+3+months/n/4294927094.do#.UjcSlj-EXak>)

Marr, Andrew, *The Battle for Scotland*, London: Penguin 2013 (paperback £8.99)

Scots have tried unfamiliar political tactics as they struggle with the dilemma of being a minority inside a centralised state and their experience is now being studied by opposition leaders in England. Yet for many Scots, their own political history is a dim mystery; and outside Scotland, it is almost unknown. Here, Andrew Marr provides the only modern account of the distinctive story of Scottish politics, from the collapse of Liberalism and the rise of radical Labour, to more recent Tory agonies and the complexities of contemporary Nationalism. He uses party and individual records, pamphlets, learned works, interviews and literature to tell a colourful and surprising tale which zig-zags from the Victorian world to today's arguments about the future of the nation state.

([http://www.penguin.co.uk/nf/Book/BookDisplay/0,,9780241967935,00.html?/The\\_Battle\\_for\\_Scotland\\_Andrew\\_Marr](http://www.penguin.co.uk/nf/Book/BookDisplay/0,,9780241967935,00.html?/The_Battle_for_Scotland_Andrew_Marr))

McCrone, Gavin, *Scottish Independence: Weighing Up the Economics*, Edinburgh: Birlinn 2013 (paperback £7.99)

In autumn 2014 those living in Scotland will face the most important political decision of a lifetime. Whether Scotland becomes an independent state once again, as it was before 1707, or remains within the United Kingdom will have profound consequences for everyone in Britain.

There are many issues involved in this important choice, but a key part of the debate centres around the question of whether Scotland would prosper more or less after independence. How well off are we? Would we have a faster or slower growing economy if we were independent? What currency would we use – the pound, the euro or a new currency of our own? What

should our energy policy be? There are those who would like to see a more egalitarian society, like Scandinavia, with a reduction in poverty and deprivation; would we be likely to achieve that? Would we continue to be in the European Union but with Scotland becoming a member in its own right? Is that right for Scotland and what problems might that involve?

In this impartial, clearly expressed and thought-provoking book, economist Gavin McCrone addresses these, and many other, questions which are of vital importance in the run up to the referendum.

(<http://www.birlinn.co.uk/Scottish-Independence-Weighing-up-the-Economics.html>)

McGonigal, James, *The Poetry of Edwin Morgan*, Glasgow: Association for Scottish Literary Studies 2013 (paperback £5.50)

Edwin Morgan (1920–2010) is one of the giants of modern poetry. Scotland's national poet from 2004 to his death in 2010, he produced an astonishing range of work, from the playful to the profound. James McGonigal's new Second Edition of this Scotnotes Study Guide covers the entirety of Morgan's work throughout the poet's long and hugely productive life, and is an ideal guide for senior school pupils and students to Morgan's overflowing creativity.

(<http://www.arts.gla.ac.uk/ScotLit/ASLS/SN2.html>)

McGrigor, Mary, *Argyll: Land of Blood and Beauty*, Edinburgh: Birlinn 2013 (paperback £10.99)

Argyll's great names, deeds and institutions resonate through the annals of Scottish history, from Dunadd (the ancient capital of the kingdom of Dal Riata) and St Columba (who brought Christianity to the Picts) to the Lordship of the Isles (at its height one of the most powerful political entities in the British Isles), the clan rivalries (which reached their climax in the seventeenth century) and the terrible Clearances of the nineteenth century (when tens of thousands were forced to leave their homeland). This book is a comprehensive study of Argyll and the Inner Hebrides. Mary McGrigor, who has lived in Argyll for many years, brings the past alive in this fascinating account which not only introduces the history, but also examines the physical remains which are Argyll's direct links with its past, from pre-Christian and Medieval sculpture to churches, great castles and houses. She also explores the industry of the area, from farming and forestry to fishing and whisky distilling, and writes about the main towns. Illustrated with spectacular, specially commissioned photography, this book captures Argyll's inexplicable magic, which continues to cast its spell over those who know and love the area; it is also a magnificent introduction for those yet to be enthralled by this 'land of blood and beauty'.

(<http://www.birlinn.co.uk/Argyll.html>)

McHardy, Stuart, *Scotland the Brave Land: 10,000 Years of Scotland in Story*, Edinburgh: Luath Press 2013 (paperback £7.99)

From bold heroines to clan battles, standing stones to castles, there is hardly any aspect of Scotland's heritage that does not feature in our storytelling traditions. This collection of stories from all parts of Scotland, and from all periods of our dramatic – and often truly heroic – history is both an introduction to and a journey into Scotland's rich cultural heritage. Covering the same themes as Disney-Pixar's new fairytale film, *Brave*, this book provides the next step for those wishing to delve deeper into Scotland's culture and traditions.

(<http://www.luath.co.uk/brave-land.html>)

McKean, Charles / Patricia Whatley, *Lost Dundee: Dundee's Lost Architectural Heritage*, Edinburgh: Birlinn 2013 (paperback £14.99)

Lost Dundee brings the second city of renaissance Scotland back to life showing, through pre-

viously undiscovered photographs and drawings, the life and the maritime quarter of this great port. It illustrates Dundee's transformation into a major Georgian town at the centre of the flax trade between St Petersburg and the USA, with the development of major public buildings a result of the influx of wealth into the region. This book goes on to examine Dundee's next transformation into the jute capital of the world. Its identity was transformed by the arrival of railways, which separated the town from the sea, and by the great mills and factories which engulfed it on both sides. The pressures upon medieval Dundee proved so great that in 1871 the process of replacing it with grandiose Victorian boulevards began.

The final section illustrates the changes wrought in the twentieth century with the death of jute and its replacement as the city's major employer by tertiary education. This book draws particularly upon the rich visual history sources of Charles Lawson's drawings of old Dundee in the Central Library, the DC Thomson photographic collection, and the University of Dundee Archives. Essential to the understanding of this constantly re-generating city, this book contains 150 drawings, photographs and plans of Dundee.

(<http://www.birlinn.co.uk/Lost-Dundee-9781780271064.html>)

McLean, Jack, *The Bedside Urban Voltaire*, Glasgow: Neil Wilson Publishing Ltd 2013 (paperback £9.99)

Jack McLean - aka The Urban Voltaire - was one of the most original columnists in the Scottish press. In the 1980s and 1990s he became an institution with a loyal readership as well as a healthy number of opponents and critics.

This is a compilation ebook edition of his columns from the Glasgow Herald and The Scotsman and is guaranteed to entertain, enrage and shock in equal measure depending on your outlook. Very few subjects escaped McLean's distinctive penmanship over those two decades: education, sport, religion, food and women all find a place in the mix. His writing moves speedily from affectionate reverie in one paragraph to scathing wit the next, leaving some readers laughing at one moment and setting with indignation the next.

McLean is one of modern journalism's great stylists, a proponent of the written word and remains one of Glasgow's most recognisable icons. Above all he is still great company.

(<http://www.nwp.co.uk/cgi-bin/cart.cgi?action=search&pageid=14>)

Meeker, Kevin, *Hume's Radical Skepticism and the Fate of Naturalized Epistemology*, Basingstoke: Palgrave 2013 (hardback £50.00)

Was David Hume radically sceptical about our attempts to understand the world or was he merely approaching philosophical problems from a scientific perspective? Most philosophers today believe that Hume's outlook was more scientific than radically sceptical and that his scepticism was more limited than previously supposed. If these philosophers are correct, then Hume's approach to philosophy mirrors the approach of many contemporary philosophers. This similarity between Hume and many aspects of contemporary philosophy suggests that we should try to understand Hume not as an historical relic but as a partner in a continuing philosophical dialogue. When we look closely at Hume's thoughts about human understanding, we find that Hume's scepticism emerges very insistently in the context of Hume's scientific approach. This book tries to come to terms with Hume's scepticism in a way that sheds light on contemporary philosophy and its relationship to science.

(<http://www.palgrave.com/products/title.aspx?pid=579261>)

Mitchell, Sebastian, *Visions of Britain, 1730-1830: Anglo-Scottish Writing and Representation*, Basingstoke: Palgrave 2013 (hardback £55.00)

*Visions of Britain* is an inquiry into the literary and visual representation of Great Britain in the eighteenth century and early nineteenth century. The book considers the inter-relationship of text and image for the purposes of national projection. It analyses an extensive range of poems, novels, journals, drawings, satirical prints, portraits, landscapes, and history paintings. The study follows recent discussions of Anglo-Scottish writing in this period in the attempt to determine the salient characteristics of the imaginative depiction of the Kingdom of Britain, but challenges their more confident claims for the development of a progressive integrated nationhood. It argues instead that the most engaging literary and visual accounts of Britain in this era subject their imagery to extensive artistic pressure, threatening to dismantle the national vision at the moment of its construction.

(<http://www.palgrave.com/products/title.aspx?pid=647512>)

Munro, John Neil, *Lust for Life! Irvine Welsh and the Trainspotting Phenomenon*, Edinburgh: Birlinn 2013 (paperback £12.99)

In the early 1980s Irvine Welsh's life was going nowhere fast. His teenage dreams of being a footballer or a rock star were over, and he was stuck in a series of dull white-collar jobs which he despised. He was drinking heavily and experimenting with heroin. The outlook wasn't good. With one last throw of the dice he started writing. His debut novel, *Trainspotting*, which centred on the day-to-day struggle to survive of a group of Edinburgh junkies, was released in 1993. The reviews were good, but even Irvine's publishers didn't hold out high hopes.

Yet, just a couple of years later, *Trainspotting*, a dazzling collection of loosely connected stories, was voted the greatest novel of the twentieth century in a UK poll. It went on to sell over one million copies in the UK alone and has been translated into thirty languages. The subsequent stage-play adaptation of the book has been produced in nineteen countries, and the film version directed by Danny Boyle became a stunning award-winner, rebooting the UK film industry and helping to launch the careers of a squad of young Scottish actors such as Ewan McGregor, Kelly Macdonald, Ewen Bremner and Peter Mullan.

So, how did an unknown writer pen the most talked-about book of a generation? Now, for the first time, the real story of how Irvine Welsh wrote the novel 'that changed everything' can be told. With contributions from Irvine Welsh and many of the key players involved in the book's publication, access to never-before-seen letters and rare photographs, this is the inside story of Irvine Welsh and the *Trainspotting* phenomenon.

(<http://www.birlinn.co.uk/Lust-for-Life-The-Trainspotting-Phenomenon.html>)

Purdie, Rhiannon, *Shorter Scottish Medieval Romances-Florimond of Albany, Sir Colling the Knycht, King Orphius, Roswall and Lillian*, Suffolk: Boydell & Brewer Ltd 2013 (hardback £40.00)

The four romances in this collection have been unjustly neglected. Indeed, *Florimond*, *King Orphius* and *Sir Colling* were entirely unknown to modern audiences - despite some late-medieval references to the first two - until fragmentary copies were unearthed in the National Archives of Scotland in the 1970s: all three are researched and fully edited for the first time here. *King Orphius*, closely and significantly related to the famous Middle English romance *Sir Orfeo*, is supplemented here with the Laing fragment discovered by the present editor in 2010. *Roswall and Lillian* survives in later prints and was a favourite text of Sir Walter Scott's - he owned at least three copies of it - but it has not been edited since the nineteenth century. Each text is supplied with comprehensive explanatory notes and an introduction, including

full discussion of extant witnesses and circulation history; linguistic and other evidence for date and provenance; literary context; analogues and influences. There is a combined glossary, and an Appendix presents the text of the English Percy Folio ballad "Sir Cawline" as derived from the Scots *Sir Colling*. Dr Rhiannon Purdie is Senior Lecturer in Medieval English, University of St Andrews.

(<http://www.boydellandbrewer.com/store/viewItem.asp?idProduct=14204>)

Reese, Peter, *Flodden: A Scottish Tragedy*, Edinburgh: Birlinn 2013 (paperback £8.99)

In the breadth of bitter-sweet Scottish history there is no more poignant, not more important, battle than Flodden. Before Scotland's disastrous defeat at the hands of the English under the Earl of Surrey, a proud country under its dynamic Stewart king, James IV, was emerging as a distinct and flourishing nation within Europe. With defeat the inevitability of Scotland's Reformation and union with England is hard to deny. Flodden was an ignominious and disastrous moment for the Scots, all the more so for being a largely unnecessary encounter, fought with superior numbers and arms, which left the country weak, exposed and leaderless.

In this bestselling study of one of the most famous battles in history, Peter Reese recreates the drama and calamity of the battle fought just south of the River Tweed on 9 September 1513. Drawing together the political, military and historical background to the conflict, he examines the two armies and their leaders and explains the crucial tactical moves both before and during the encounter. The result is a thoroughly researched yet always accessible and realistic account of the battle Scotland has tried to forget.

(<http://www.birlinn.co.uk/Flodden.html>)

Richards, Eric, *The Highland Clearances*, Edinburgh: Birlinn 2013 (paperback £12.99)

This is the first documented study of one of Scotland's most emotive subjects for many years. It traces the origins of the Clearances from the eighteenth century to their culmination in the crofting legislation of the 1880s, showing how the process of clearance was part of a wider European movement of rural depopulation.

Eric Richards describes the appalling conditions and treatment suffered by the Highland people, yet at the same time illustrates how difficult the choices were that faced even the most benevolent landlords in the face of rapid economic change. The Clearances were the most rugged and painful of many 'attempted' solutions to the problem of how to maintain a population on marginal and infertile land. In drawing attention away from the mythology to the hard facts of what actually happened, this book offers a balanced analysis of events which created a terrible scar on the Highland and Gaelic imagination, the historical legacy of which still lies unresolved in the twenty-first century.

(<http://www.birlinn.co.uk/Highland-Clearances-The.html>)

Riddoch, Lesley, *Blossom: What Scotland Needs To Flourish*, Edinburgh: Luath Press 2013 (paperback £11.99)

Weeding out vital components of Scottish identity from decades of political and social tangle is no mean task, but it's one journalist Lesley Riddoch has undertaken. Dispensing with the tired, yo-yoing jousts over fiscal commissions, Devo Something and EU in-or-out, Blossom pinpoints both the buds of growth and the blight that's holding Scotland back. Drawing from its people and history, as well as the experience of the Nordic countries and the author's own passionate and outspoken perspective, this is a plain-speaking but incisive call to restore equality and control to local communities and let Scotland flourish.

(<http://www.luath.co.uk/books/new-books/blossom.html>)

Ross, Peter, *Daundlerlust: Dispatches from Unreported Scotland*, Dingwall: Sandstone Press Ltd 2013 (paperback £8.99)

Peter Ross's weekly articles from around Scotland have been a sterling attraction for the readers of Scotland on Sunday for years. A selection of the best are collected here, for the first time. Each a gem of insight and wit, they provide a piece-by-piece portrait of a nation as it changes. Always with his eye on the individual, Peter Ross presents some of the less well known aspects of the country, including the latex-clad patrons of a fetish club, as well as a new look at some of the more familiar, such as the painters of the Forth Rail Bridge. It is a look from the inside, one you are likely to recognise although one you will not have read about before, not in quite this way. The Anatomy Rooms is an exotic mix indeed, Scotland as she really is, a hopeful country not without problems and pain, but a nation made great by the people who live, love, laugh and graft there. From anatomists who find dissection beautiful to chip-shop owners who sing arias while serving fish suppers, the Scots in these pages come over as eccentric, humorous, moving and extraordinary.

([http://www.sandstonepress.com/title/the\\_anatomy\\_rooms](http://www.sandstonepress.com/title/the_anatomy_rooms))

Royle, Trevor, *A Time of Tyrants: Scotland and the Second World War*, Edinburgh: Birlinn 2013 (paperback £9.99)

Acclaimed military historian Trevor Royle examines Scotland's role in the Second World War. The country's geographical position gave it great strategic importance for importing war materiel and reinforcements, for conducting naval and aerial operations against the enemy and for training regular and specialist SOE and commando forces.

Scotland also became a social melting pot with the arrival of Polish and eastern European refugees, whose presence added to the communal mix and assisted post-war reconstruction. In addition to the important military aspects – the exploits of the army's renowned 15th Scottish and 51st Highland Divisions in Europe and North Africa and the role played by the RAF and the Royal Navy from Scottish bases – Scotland was also hugely important as an industrial power house and the nation's larder.

The war also had a huge impact on politics, with national centralization achieved through the creation of the Scottish Office and the Scottish Grand Committee. With the emergence of the post-war Labour government and the welfare state, nationalism went into decline and the arrival of socialist hegemony, especially in the west, paved the way for the command politics which dominated Scotland for the rest of the century. Based on previously unseen archives in the Scottish Record Office, *A Time of Tyrants* is the first history of the unique role played by Scotland and the Scots in the global war to defeat Nazi Germany and Imperial Japan.

(<http://www.birlinn.co.uk/Time-of-Tyrants-A-Scotland-and-the-Second-World-War.html>)

Sergeant, David / Fiona Stafford (eds.), *Burns and Other Poets*, Edinburgh: EUP 2013 (hardback £65.00)

In this volume, 17 leading Burns scholars, poetry critics and practising poets reflect on the enduring significance of one of the most important poets of the 18th century. They show that Burns was a highly innovative and technically accomplished poet, as capable of transforming earlier traditions as of launching new literary trends.

By looking at Burns in the context of other poets, each chapter sheds new light on his own practices and the practice of poetry in general. They investigate the political, national, philosophical and ethical aspects of his poetry, showing how you can deepen your close readings with historical awareness.

(<http://www.euppublishing.com/book/9780748664887>)



Vaughan, Geraldine, *The 'Local' Irish in the West of Scotland 1851-1921*, Basingstoke: Palgrave 2013 (hardback £45.00)

Irish immigration was one of the major events in the history of Victorian and Edwardian Scotland. Vaughan renews perspectives on the changes brought about by Irish migrant communities in terms of identity, politics and religion. The book examines the experience of generations of Irish migrants in the West of Scotland (Airdrie, Coatbridge and Greenock) from the aftermath of the Great Famine until the creation of the Republic of Ireland. *The 'Local' Irish* investigates the meaning of Irishness in medium-sized industrial towns with sectarian reputations. Areas long neglected are given careful consideration, including the history of the 'invisible' Irish Protestant diaspora, the role of the immigrant élites in local politics and the complex position of the Catholic clergy.

(<http://www.palgrave.com/products/title.aspx?pid=669183>)

Wightman, Andy, *The Poor Had No Lawyers: Who Owns Scotland and How They Got It*, Edinburgh: Birlinn 2013 (paperback £12.99)

Who owns Scotland? How did they get it? What happened to all the common land in Scotland? Has the Scottish Parliament made any difference? Can we get our common good land back? In *The Poor Had No Lawyers*, Andy Wightman, author of *Who Owns Scotland*, updates the statistics of landownership in Scotland and takes the reader on a voyage of discovery into Scotland's history to find out how and why landowners got their hands on the millions of acres of land that were once held in common. He tells the untold story of how Scotland's legal establishment and politicians managed to appropriate land through legal fixes. From Robert the Bruce to Willie Ross and from James V to Donald Dewar, land has conferred political and economic power. Have attempts to redistribute this power more equitably made any difference and what are the full implications of the recent debt-fuelled housing bubble? For all those with an interest in urban and rural land in Scotland, this updated edition of *The Poor Had No Lawyers* provides a fascinating analysis of one of the most important political questions in Scotland – who owns Scotland and how did they get it?

(<http://www.birlinn.co.uk/The-Poor-Had-No-Lawyers.html>)

Zabel, Tobias, *Nach Schottland also! Schottlandwahrnehmungen und Deutungen deutscher Reisender zwischen Romantik und Sachlichkeit von 1800-1870*, Bern: Peter Lang 2013 (hardback £52.00)

Die Studie geht einem bisher kaum behandelten Aspekt der Romantik nach, der *Scotophilie*. Es handelt sich dabei um eine perceptions- und mentalitätsgeschichtliche Entwicklung Schottlands und Deutschlands. Ziel der Studie ist die Rekonstruktion der Wirklichkeitsauffassung deutscher Reisender anhand ihrer publizierten Erfahrungsberichte, nicht die Wirklichkeit selbst. Aufgrund der Vielschichtigkeit einer kulturwissenschaftlichen Untersuchung ist die Methode interdisziplinär und synthetisch ausgelegt, um den zeitgeistbedingten Deutungskontext philosophisch und kulturhistorisch zu fassen. Die Wahrnehmung des *Fremden* aus der Sicht des *Eigenen* ist dabei von besonderer Bedeutung. Sie prägt letztlich ein klischeehaftes und verklärtes Bild von Schottland, das bis in unsere Tage bestand hat.

(<http://www.peterlang.com/index.cfm?event=cmp.ccc.seitenstruktur.detailseiten&seitentyp=produkt&pk=76655&concordeid=264196>)

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### Book Reviews

**Macdonald, Alan R / Verschur, Mary (eds), *Records of the Convention of Royal Burghs, 1555; 1631-1648*. Woodbridge: Boydell Press 2013 (*Scottish History Society, Sixth Series*) (hardback, 348 pp., £40)**

The seven magisterial volumes of the *Records of the Convention of the Royal Burghs of Scotland*, edited by J D Marwick, were published in Edinburgh between 1866 and 1918. The compilers, transcribers and editors of the day were well aware of the gaps in the series, and in the archives of Scotland. This new and most welcome volume goes some way towards plugging one of those significant gaps, the period between 1631 and 1648 as well as of another gap, 1555, in the earlier patchy sequence from 1552 to 1580.

The Convention of the Royal Burghs of Scotland is the fore-runner of today's Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (better known as COSLA). It was made up of representative Commissioners elected by the burgh councils from among the merchants and tradesmen of their towns. Commissioners appointed by the Convention communicated with members of Parliament, and formed one of the *Thrie Estaitis* (the clergy, lords and burgh representatives or commons) of Sir David Lyndesay's *Satyre*, which was first performed in 1552 in Cupar, Fife on the burgh playing field, and again in 1554 in Edinburgh on a public platform erected for the purpose in Greenside.

The Convention itself was autonomous and not part of the Parliamentary system, which the King controlled directly; but since he identified and nominated towns as Royal Burghs he thus, indirectly controlled them as well. The relationships between the Three Estates are complex and fascinating to historians, and represent a form of democracy long before the introduction of local and, later, manhood suffrage.

Even this seventeen-year block of records is not complete, and the editors of this volume are as aware of this as were their predecessors. The Convention began systematically to preserve its records only in 1580, and even then, many records have since been lost. The minutes of the meetings in this volume have been garnered – 'excavated' may be a more appropriate description – from individual Burgh archives, especially from those of Aberdeen.

In the sixteenth, seventeenth and eighteenth centuries Scotland was a kingdom in two halves, and the Convention of the Royal Burghs emphasises this. Indeed, a systematic list of the Royal Burghs, with dates, would have been a helpful appendix to this volume. The Burghs represented at each meeting, and the names of the Commissioners, are normally recorded in the minute, and practically all of them are from the Lowlands. Probably for reasons of access and transport, few if any Burghs to the west and north of the Great Glen are represented. Until the advent of the railways and macadamed roads during the nineteenth century, Burghs in the Highlands were few and far between, and the sea provided the principal means of transport. All the Burghs that hosted meetings of the Convention were ports or towns, like Edinburgh, within easy reach of the sea, and mostly on the east coast including the Firths of Forth and Tay. Dumbarton was the only west coast Burgh to host the Convention.

As with all annalistic records, following the threads of matters of interest and topics of concern is not easy. The editors' introduction is succinct and helpful here, since it highlights a number of concerns that preoccupied the Convention at meeting after meeting. Trade with mainland Europe is constantly under discussion, and especially communication with, and the activities of, the Scottish staple and court at Veere in the Netherlands, and the perceived inequality on the part of King Charles I on the provision of trading and fishing licences to Scotland, England and Ireland. The introduction of David Wedderburn's *Short Introduction to Grammar* as a national school text also became a matter of great debate. Surprisingly, there is

hardly any mention of the four universities, particularly Edinburgh, the only civic and post-Reformation foundation by Royal decree, which was managed as a department of the burgh council (and known for many generations as 'The Tounis College'); by the middle of the 17<sup>th</sup> century they were attracting students ineligible to enter Oxford and Cambridge from elsewhere in Britain and from mainland Europe.

Even more surprising is the almost complete lack of debate on the National Covenant. Its adoption at a special meeting of the Convention in 1638 (of which the minute appears not to survive) by all Burghs except, for a time, Aberdeen, and was the culmination of years of concern at the King's interference in burgh affairs and in the worsening tax situation. The majority of the debates are concerned with trade, taxation, and the legal aspects of burgh management.

The introduction, including a note on editorial conventions, provides helpful summary guidance to the contents of the volume and to the main threads of debate, especially for users unfamiliar with the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> Scots language. The comprehension of particular words and phrases can often be helped by reading them aloud, since Scots was (and still is) primarily a spoken, rather than a written, language.

The Index is detailed and thorough but must be used with care and persistence, as the preferred main headings may not be the obvious ones. The National Covenant, for instance, appears under 'Covenant, National' with no cross reference from 'National Covenant'; 'schools', 'colleges' and 'universities' are grouped under 'education'.

This volume must be used in conjunction with the seven-volume set of volumes referred to at the beginning of this review. Both are essential for anyone researching the history of Scotland in the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries.

Peter Freshwater, Honorary Editor, *University of Edinburgh Journal*

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**Todd, Margo (ed.), *The Perth Kirk Session Books (1577-1590)*, Woodbridge: Boydell 2012 (*The Scottish History Society, Sixth Series*) (584 pp., hardback £40)**

This work is a fascinating insight into the life of 'ordinary' Scottish society in the late sixteenth century. In her *Introduction*, Margo Todd states that the Reformation was, in a sense, a 'parochial endeavour' to rid the people of popish superstitions and allow them to emerge enlightened into a godly community (p5). The minutes of the Session of St John the Baptist Kirk in Perth bring us down into the fabric of community life. Of the 574 pages, almost 400 are extracts of varying lengths from the minutes, which are written in Scots with a translation into English where necessary. The extracts are listed chronologically. Both the *General Index* and the *Index of Names* are extensive and *Appendix 1* provides biographical information on the elders who served on the Kirk Session, giving family details and, in some cases, the worth of their estate. The *Introduction* (66 pages) is compelling reading and, in broad terms, offers a defence of the worthy work undertaken by elders in the years immediately following the Reformation.

The Kirk Session of St John the Baptist, like many kirk sessions, met once a week and more as required. Elders were typically men in good standing with the community, leaders who were educated or wealthy, such as merchants, craftsmen, lawyers and schoolmasters. They were 'powerful' people who came to the business of the church already experienced in self-government, administration, the provision of aid and the discipline of others. The minutes provide an insight into the matters discussed. In addition to doctrinal examination, the elders carried out investigations, offered advice and arrived at decisions on what we would call domestic abuse; they also dealt with marriage counselling, child support (in the case of absent

fathers), adult children being neglectful of their elderly parents, sexual misconduct, assault, theft, neighbourhood quarrels, allegations of rape and infanticide.

Todd chose Perth as the church and town for her work because, she says, the records are 'among the earliest, fullest and most continuous of the first century after the Reformation.'(p4) Where it has been helpful, Todd has used additional sources, such as marriage registers, baptismal rolls and *The Chronicles of Perth*. Helpfully, Todd provides some background information on the ministers of the period and the session's office-bearers, its procedures and penalties. Founded on the broad support of the community, elders decided on the nature of penalties and their severity. There were also penalties for elders who failed to attend session meetings or whose punctuality was poor.

The minutes also reveal the strong providential theology of the Kirk Session and the period. While the elders sought to free themselves and their community from 'popish superstition', their own theology is no less superstitious, at least from our perspective. For example, the condition of the bridge over the River Tay connecting Perth to the Dundee Road was read as a barometer of divine approval or punishment. Often in need of repair, it was battered by flood and, at times, earthquake, and these natural phenomena promoted the Kirk to respond with seasons of fasting or sterner moral discipline in order to placate an angry God, lest more severe punishment was forthcoming.

While flood, earthquake, famine and disease were seen as divine punishment for sin, usually sexual sin, the minutes provide an insight into the devastating plague of 1584, during which around a quarter of the population was lost, and the compassionate response of the elders to offer help where possible. The Session cared for the community through the provision and management of hospitals and schools and made special effort for 'the poor members of Jesus Christ'. (p56) Children without means were supported at grammar schools by the elders and fines from fornicators were used to pay for books for poor scholars. The Session also investigated allegations of witchcraft, most of which were dismissed as cases of slander by in-laws. In one case, a woman gaoled for witchcraft was provided for by the Session because, it seems, she had no friends to visit or feed her while in prison. The minutes also record the details of Communion and door duties in much the same way as they do today!

Todd's book promises hours of enjoyment as well as being of academic value. For some, the extracts in original Scots will be a struggle but the footnotes are detailed and useful. Without more work on other Session minutes from elsewhere in Scotland, it is difficult to know to what extent the contents reflect the wider situation in Scotland. An encyclopaedic work which, in the end, shows the Kirk and its elders in a positive light, as a body committed to caring for its community.

[The Revd. Scott S McKenna](#) (Mayfield Salisbury Parish, Edinburgh)

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**Hames, Scott (ed.), *Unstated. Writers on Scottish Independence*, Edinburgh: Word Power Books 2012 (204 pp., £ 12.99 direct from the publisher)**

In the context of the 2014 referendum, the voices of creative artists have been heard occasionally, e.g. in connection with the Edinburgh Festival (<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-23633820>; <http://www.channel4.com/news/scotland-independence-edinburgh-fringe-festival-arts> with videos, where artists like playwright David Greig express their opinions and productions like the 'Bloody Great Border Ballad Project', directed by Lorne Campbell for Northern Stage (cf. <http://www.edinburgh-festivals.com/blog/2013/08/04/the-fringe-and-scottish-independence/>), the band The Union singing 'We Are All in This Together' in the Welshman Tim Price's play *I'm with the Band* produced by the Traverse Theatre Company (cf. [\*Scottish Studies Newsletter\* 42, October 2013](http://www.</a></p>
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[independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/theatre-dance/reviews/edinburgh-2013-im-with-the-band--a-compelling-allegory-on-the-issue-of-scots-independence-8746611.html](http://independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/theatre-dance/reviews/edinburgh-2013-im-with-the-band--a-compelling-allegory-on-the-issue-of-scots-independence-8746611.html)) are mentioned. The Channel 4 video there ends with inciting people to take part in the referendum, because only then they can really complain about the result, and, "let's face it", the man says, "if you are not complaining, you're not Scottish". (See also the National Collective website, Artists and Creatives for Scottish Independence (<http://nationalcollective.com/2013/07/31/edinburgh-festivals-2013-scottish-independence-related-events/>)).

The topic was not, however, unanimously welcomed at the Festival. The director of the Edinburgh International Festival, Jonathan Mills, does not wish "the festival to be anything other than it has always been, which is a politically neutral space for artists." (<http://www.csmonitor.com/World/Europe/2013/0826/Should-Scotland-s-famous-arts-fest-join-the-independence-debate>; <http://www.scotsman.com/lifestyle/arts/news/scottish-independence-productions-not-at-eif-2014-1-3040283>). Is it not very surprising to hear such a statement in the 21<sup>st</sup> century? It sounds more like a comment from centuries ago. But even then artists were, of course, also always political. Mills was, therefore, with much justification strongly criticised by artists for his opinion (<http://www.theguardian.com/culture/2013/aug/12/edinburgh-festival-independence-referendum-omission>).

Scott Hames's intriguing collection of 28 artists expressing their opinions about Scottish independence belongs to such contexts and to the wider discussions that include social, historical, economic, and moral perspectives. His introduction goes back to "March 1979, when McIlvanney lambasted 'The Cowardly Lion' who chose the feeding bowl over 'the terrible distances to freedom'", asks how much distance has been covered since then, "and what role have writers and artists played in crossing it?" (1) Hames claims that since then Scotland has achieved a form of cultural autonomy, "led above all by novelists, poets and dramatists", and he points out Alasdair Gray, Tom Leonard, James Kelman, and Liz Lochhead, all of whom, apart from the last one, have also contributed to his book. The other contributors are (in the alphabetical order the book itself uses for presenting their texts) John Aberdein, Allan Armstrong, Alan Bissett, Jenni Calder, Bob Cant, Jo Clifford, Meaghan Delahunt, Douglas Dunn, Margaret Elphinstone, Leigh French and Gordon Asher (who have written a text together), Janice Galloway, Magi Gibson, Kirsty Gunn, Kathleen Jamie, Ken MacLeod, Aonghas MacNeacail, Kevin MacNeil, Denise Mina, Don Paterson, James Robertson, Suhayl Saadi, Mike Small, Gerda Stevenson, and Christopher Whyte.

The important role played by Scottish writers in representing the nation until the re-opening of the Parliament is emphasised by Hames as well as the fact of them having done so on their own, without any political support. This, however, has had a long tradition. And creative artists' disaffection with the government and its institutions is reflected plainly by their complaints about Creative Scotland (cf. the *Scottish Studies Newsletter* 41 Spring 2013, p.18f ([http://www.fb06.uni-mainz.de/anglistik/Dateien/SSN\\_41.pdf](http://www.fb06.uni-mainz.de/anglistik/Dateien/SSN_41.pdf), the 'Open Letter to Creative Scotland signed by 100 artists' (<http://www.word-power.co.uk/viewPlatform.php?id=603>)), or Kelman's criticism of the British Council (<http://www.word-power.co.uk/viewPlatform.php?id=601>). Scottish culture according to these artists has been reduced by government strategies "to tourist-bait, and the arts to 'creative industries'." (2) Murray Pittock, Bradley Chair of English Literature at Glasgow University, is quoted with a characterisation of the modern SNP in his book *The Road to Independence?* (London: Reaktion 2008, 114) as "'frequently almost indifferent to cultural matters'". (3) On the other hand, before the 1979 referendum, creative writers were also not really concerned with politics either, and today, Hames says, "a few prominent writers are [...] aligning themselves overtly with the official campaigns, while others signal their enthusiasm or scepticism – and often both – from a distance." (3f)

"A qualified distrust of the SNP remains strong among the writers I've contacted" for this book, he says (6), and then he speaks of Edwin Morgan's 1991 'A Warning', addressed to the people of the former Soviet Union, making them aware of the dangers and problems lying ahead (8). Hames finds "both the hope and the warning" pertinent to the Scottish people before the referendum, where one great danger exists in the neglect of "the truly thorny, exciting and difficult questions about self-determination – including the basis of that national 'self'". (9) His book wants to offer the space for such extensive reflections and intends to first "set the question of Scottish political independence within the much wider and often radical horizons which inform these writers' work", and second "to document the true relationship between the official discourse of Scottish nationalism, and the ethical concerns of some of the writers presented as its guiding lights and cultural guarantors." (9f)

The book is meant to step back from both official campaigns on the independence question and to allow the writers themselves to select the parameters they find important for dealing with this question. Hames, of course, invited more people than have responded, and some names one would have liked to find are missing, but this is normal. He explicitly excluded academics and journalists whose voices are heard anyway and "focused on novelists, poets, playwrights, editors and translators." (12) Their texts are presented in the authors' alphabetical order, which makes sense and is a simple device for not favouring anybody. That the texts have no titles, however, is a pity and an unnecessary shortcoming, as it would have been nice to read where the focus or the particular perspective of each writer is. It might also have enhanced the creative and imaginative quality of each text. Fifteen texts express a fairly clear preference for Scottish independence, there is no outspoken opposition to independence, but one text in favour of a federal Britain, and the other eleven somewhat undecided or less outspoken. Their position is nicely expressed by the words of the novelist, former fisherman, teacher, and political activist John Aberdein who says that he himself might prefer to vote for "merely *Uhuh*." His plausible reason is that "we have had a measure of independence for quite some time – but what have we done with it?" (19) We have created an education system "con-founded by hype", and he refers to the "*Curriculum for Excellence*." He mentions more such failures, e.g. the National Health Service, which are "our fault, not Westminster's" (20), and ends with a firm "Yes" "on the side of *our life*, and not for capitalism." (24)

Another example of those texts that address specific and serious problems is the one by Leigh French and Gordon Asher who do not give a yes or no vote but "seek to problematise the central terms, narratives" etc. and raise important questions, such as the fundamental problem of the state of democracy. They claim that "'At the local level Scotland is the least democratic country in Europe. The state of local democracy in Scotland means that it is virtually impossible for any community to make any decision about itself.'" (79) They quote from Eberhard Bort / Robin McAlpine / Gordon Morgan, "The Silent Crisis: Failure and Revival in Local Democracy in Scotland", publ. by The Jimmy Reid Foundation in April 2012 (<http://reidfoundation.org/portfolio/the-silent-crisis-failure-and-revival-in-local-democracy-in-scotland/>), which is available as a pdf-file (<http://reidfoundation.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/04/The-Silent-Crisis1.pdf>).

Democracy, however, is underdeveloped, even seriously threatened not only in Scotland, but in Germany, in Europe generally and in the Americas. What French and Asher say about "the curtailment of holding power to account" and "the increasing neoliberalisation of the Scottish education system" (79) is also absolutely true in all Western countries. Their text speaks about other ways in which democracy is threatened in a "post-political condition" (82), ways which are again very similar to the situation in these other countries. Just one book of many others that could be mentioned here with regard to Germany is the description of the parliamentary system in Germany by the representative in the Lower House of the German Parliament, the

SPD MdB Marco Bülow, *Wir Abnicker. Über Macht und Ohnmacht der Volksvertreter*, Berlin: Econ 2010, where the Social Democrat describes representatives as people who only nod their assent to everything the government proposes (which makes them *Abnicker* who, therefore, also politically nod off (*abnicken* again)). There was a radio discussion about this problem called 'Die Trägheit der Parlamente – Ist die Demokratie zu langsam?' ('The sluggishness or lethargy of parliaments – is democracy too slow?', which you can listen to or read the manuscript of at (<http://www.swr.de/swr2/programm/sendungen/wissen/die-traegheit-der-parlamente/-/id=660374/nid=660374/did=11427394/izum9c/index.html>)). In this programme many examples were given of government decisions (both national and in various federal states) which were not even dealt with in the respective parliaments at all. Many more examples of democracy under serious threat could be given in support of the points made by French and Asher.

Allan Armstrong speaks out for "an Internationalism from Below" that challenges the "New World Order" and becomes "independent of both the City of London and the European Central Bank (ECB); and removed from the British military machine." (30f) Alan Bissett's text has a very different style, he uses a new perspective, and this diversity is one of several assets of this book. He sees an enormous "potential in this country for real, peaceful, democratic change" and ultimately the alternative that an "independent Scotland could become either part of this global justice movement [of which he gives several examples, ranging from the Occupy movement to "Barclays shareholders rebelling against obscene executive bonuses"] or yet another means for multinationals to exploit local economies." (37)

Jenni Calder thinks that "the north of England would be effectively disenfranchised by Scottish independence" and finds "a federalist Britain, acknowledging regional identities and ensuring functioning representation" a better solution. (44) Bob Cant hopes for "a New Deal for Scotland", for "growth with social justice", which would give "queer people", from whose point of view he speaks, "an opportunity to participate openly in their own society" and help "generate a profound cultural shift that does not tolerate prejudice." (51) Jo Clifford, playwright and performer with an intriguing adaptation of Dickens's *Great Expectations* first produced at Glasgow's TAG Theatre in 1988 and at London's Vaudeville Theatre in 2013 (<http://www.greatexpectationstheplay.com/creative-team.php>; <http://www.theguardian.com/stage/2013/feb/07/great-expectations-review>) makes fun of Marks & Spencer trying to sell him "Madeira cake with union-jack icing [...], a biscuit tin with the Queen's head on it" (52), and all those things celebrating Britain which for him are like the strategies of the European Central Bank and the IMF: "trying to apply remedies that may have worked in the past. But not now." Most of our ideas, behaviours, and common attitudes are like this: "Old, worn out, tired: no longer fit for a changing world." (53) Art is one way of accepting change without fear.

Meaghan Delahunt detects the "'cultural cringe' of a nation [suffering] from a sense of powerlessness, a lack of self-determination, a lack of true freedom" in Scotland that she also detected in her native Australia. (57) But this is now changing. Changing into what, however, she asks and mentions useful lessons Scotland should learn from Australia. Douglas Dunn presents his readers with "Another and unfathomable nation [...] called Poetry." (63) He does this with poetry and claims "Not nationality but language", actually "three sound tongues" which are three good reasons "To triplicate our nationality." (63f) One should not allow oneself to be dominated by the past, which is "an interesting cadaver; / But let it rot. Don't let it stink forever", especially not in your head, "*but get your head in gear!*" (64) Then you can with "well-chosen words / Turn time around, direct it on ahead / Instead of back [... to] Great Britain, that convenient phrase, / A rhotic, tri-syllabic nasty poem / Invented by a Treaty,

tuned to praise / Union, aggrandizement, possession, money, / An archipelago of gluttony." (65)

There is much more of this excellent poetry, rhetoric, political argumentation as well as satirical polemics in Hames' book. Read it for yourself, statements like the ones just quoted, usually presented in prose, but in such great variety, in so many different styles, and from such a stimulating diversity of perspectives that the reading is simply fun and at the same time makes you think about Scotland, your nation, and yourself anew. Art is often presented as offering alternatives to the narrow-minded arguments of politics and business. Scottish nationalism is not seen as positive by any of these texts which favour a generous plurality of voices, narratives and social as well as political concepts, even though the need for social justice is often emphasised.

I would have liked to go on in this way and speak about each particular text, especially as all the other contributors are as deserving of individual mention as those I have discussed so far with the intention to take the book closer to you, the readers of this review, and give you direct examples of how it is written. But I am running out of space. You should simply buy the book. You'll enjoy reading it yourself and detecting all the other subtleties, historical allusions and political references that could not be mentioned here but are worth going into, if only in order to become aware of where exactly you stand with regard to Scottish history and Scottish independence.

Klaus Peter Müller (Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz)

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**Powell, Avril A. *Scottish Orientalists and India: The Muir Brothers, Religion, Education and Empire*. Woodbridge: Boydell Press, 2010. (336pp., hardback £70)**

The challenging interdisciplinary scope and counterconventional methodological orientation of this fascinating and extremely rich study can barely be surmised by its title. Drawing on an impressive range of archival sources, Avril A. Powell provides a remarkably detailed reconstruction of the lives and achievements of two brothers, who were among the most prominent (and yet underinvestigated) Scottish orientalists of the 19th century – Dr John Muir (1810-1882) and Sir William Muir (1819-1844). Born in Kilmarnock, Ayrshire, into a family which had built its economic fortune around commerce and trade with India, both became renowned scholars, educators and administrators in the East India Company and the Raj in North-West India between 1827 and 1876, and both, on their return from India, became influential intellectuals on the Edinburgh scene. John, a renowned Sankritist, would further his studies on Hindu religion and history and lead a semi-withdrawn scholar's life in Edinburgh, while William, whose remarkable career had seen him rise to the Lieutenant-Governorship of the NWP, would first take up a seat on the Council of India in London and then preside as Principal of the University of Edinburgh. An established Islamist and Arabist, he, like his older brother, also engaged in study and publication, his own focus being the origins and history of Islam. Powell's study, however, goes a long way beyond the conventional biographer's chronological and empirical approach, in at least three ways.

*Scottish Orientalists and India* represents in the first place a successful example of the micro-historical approach – very much like Emma Rothschild's *The Inner Life of Empires: An Eighteenth-Century History* (2011), it charts the lives of individuals, their family affiliations, networks of friends, patrons and social relations, it retrieves their voices and thoughts through their correspondence and writings, and thus effectively reconstructs their wider social and cultural milieux. Accumulation of details not only builds up a dynamic picture of the interactions and tensions between Scottish and English institutions and agendas in the administration of the Empire, and of the complex debate between British and Indian scholars, it also provides a



valuable illustration of transnational and transcultural relations in the imperial age. And this is the second important feature of this study – a dialogic/relational approach that allows Powell to overcome the Eurocentric bias of other, similar investigations, and to reveal how the Muirs’ involvement “in some important colleges in cities such as Benares, Agra, Allahbad and Aligarh, often in close association with the pandits and Muslim patrons and teachers of such institutions, opened up some dialogic exchanges on many aspects of knowledge, morality and truth” (16). The main focus on the Muir brothers’ achievements is complemented by an attentive recording of the Indian responses to their scholarly work: a whole chapter and a substantial section of the bibliography, for example, are devoted to William’s friend and colleague, the judicial official and scholar Sir Saiyid Ahmad Khan (1817-98), and to his critique of William’s negative evaluation of Islam (chapter 8 – “Contestation: An Indian Response on Religion and Civilization”). Thus, the impact of the orientalist debate is shown as routed in two directions – on British scholars and institutions as much as on India’s modern cultural identity. The concluding section (chapter 10 – “Retrospective from late Nineteenth-Century Edinburgh” – and the “Afterward”) tracks the further developments of such dialogue till the present. Finally, a third, important feature of Powell’s investigation is its ‘post-saidian’ theoretical perspective: Powell distances herself from Edward Said’s seminal 1978 lesson in *Orientalism* by turning to an “analytical re-direction of the term orientalism” (13), that is by considering instances of “constructive orientalism” (i.e. fostering cross-cultural communication) side by side with examples of the hegemonic cultural practices identified by Said. In this way she usefully re-defines orientalism (in a way which is – to be fair – not too distant from Said’s later writings) as a complex event which, albeit inscribed in colonial discourse, did contribute to the shaping of a new global dialogue and understanding. This is effectively exemplified by John and William’s ‘dialogic’ reform of the Indian education system, or by John’s campaign for a Sanskrit chair at the University of Edinburgh, as part of his wider attempt to reform the Scottish education system in the light of his Indian experience.

Structured in ten chronological chapters, *Scottish Orientalists and India* opens in Scotland, describing the social/cultural environment in which two generations of Muirs gradually built their fortune: “businessmen-on-the-rise” who “gravitated between Glasgow and Kilmarnock, aiming to make good in the larger city, but remaining at the same time big men in the smaller pool of prospering Kilmarnock” (26). It reconstructs the growing involvement of the Muir family with evangelicalism, “a consequence of the growing impact of evangelicalism in Lowlands Scotland generally, but particularly in the new manufacturing and commercial quarters of some West lowlands towns” such as Glasgow and Kilmarnock (29). Charting the stages of the Muir brothers’ education, it highlights how even small towns in Scotland invested in education in this period - institutions such as the Irvine and Kilmarnock Academies (attended by John, William and two of their six brothers) represented indeed “an exceedingly good system ... capable of great improvement”, as pointed out by William himself in an 1886 speech (35). After shedding light on the tenets of post-enlightenment education in the Scottish university curriculum, with its emphasis on classical languages and ‘common sense’ philosophy, Powell turns her attention to the pillars of the educational project of Haileybury College for India (Hertfordshire), where the Muirs completed their training before taking up the Company’s service. Haileybury encouraged a process of Anglicization and exerted a strong evangelical influence on its students, the Muirs included (who nonetheless would “intermittently” stage “manifestations of conscious Scottish posturing in the cause of specific Scottish interests”, 54). The core of Powell’s investigation, however, is focused on the Muirs’ contribution as orientalist in the specific context of north-west India, a contribution which was distinguished from that of most of their colleagues by a distinctive engagement with evangelicalism and with oriental religious and education systems – by a “willingness and capacity to lend their scholarly skills to evangelical causes in ways that would be productive not only of important

new histories of Vedic India and Islamic origins, but would also trigger some responses from the pandit and the *ulama* scholarly classes” (96). Among the distinctive features of the Muirs’ approach to education, Powell identifies a few significant Scottish threads: while William projected his boyhood positive experience of co-education in Scottish schools to India and to his commitment to institutional education for Indian girls, John attempted to introduce in Benares that Scottish Enlightenment mode of teaching philosophy which had shaped his Glasgow studies in the mid-1820s. More generally, both brothers followed a ‘moral improvement’ agenda with a markedly evangelical subtext, and while both favoured ‘Anglo-Oriental’ colleges for advanced education, they also strove to expand (and revise) vernacular instruction in indigenous village education, as “the most substantial fulcrum upon which the Christian lever can be brought to work” (119). Finally, Powell highlights also a few substantial differences in the two brothers’ individual approaches: John collaborated more closely with native scholars and on the whole opted for a more dialogic strategy, William, who was “more combative than his brother in refuting previous scholarship both Muslim and Western was also more independent in asserting his own interpretations of the past” (130). *Scottish Orientalists and India* comes full circle back to Scotland, which becomes “the pivot, until William’s own death in 1905, of a now extensive Muir ‘dynasty’ of sons, grandsons and nephews serving mainly in the Indian army” (249). Back in Edinburgh, both brothers upheld the goodness of the distinctive form of higher education they had experienced in their boyhood and contributed to further shaping through their Indian experience. The Scottish system, in fact, based on a broad humanistic grounding in classics and philosophy, was now being challenged by a request for increased specialization (introduced by the new ICS examinations in the 1850s) that, among other things, threatened Scottish access to the Indian Civil Service.

*Scottish Orientalists and India*, which has the further merit of being a highly readable work, goes a long way towards highlighting the complex intranational dynamics within the ‘British’ Empire – while Empire studies scholars will be able to (further) appreciate the importance of a critical devolved outlook for a firmer understanding of colonial history, Scottish studies specialists will no doubt expand their awareness of the transformations undergone by Scottish cultural expressions and institutions in the imperial age. Both sets of scholars, hopefully, will fully appreciate the need for more theoretical and theoretically driven empirical research across Scottish and Empire/post-colonial studies.

[Carla Sassi](#) (University of Verona)

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### **Conference Announcements**

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

17–20 October 2013, [Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz, Scottish Studies Centre](#)  
Germersheim, Germany.

[Conference website](#)

One year before the Scottish referendum on independence this conference will investigate the possibilities and prospects Scotland now has. The conference intends to define past and present conceptions of devolution and independence in large contexts, but will also try to develop ideas about the future of Scotland, Europe and the democratic world. We'd be pleased to hear your ideas and suggestions for this event which will take place at Mainz University in its Faculty 06 in Germersheim. Alex Salmond said in early September 2012 that the 2014 referendum should be on 18 October 2014. Our conference will, therefore, examine the situation exactly one year earlier and analyse, describe, and discuss it from Thursday 17 to Sunday 20

October 2013, with an opening ceremony on Wednesday 16 October at 6.30pm. (These e-mail addresses can be used for your comments, suggestions, and ideas: ([walkerro@uni-mainz.de](mailto:walkerro@uni-mainz.de); [schroedm@uni-mainz.de](mailto:schroedm@uni-mainz.de); [lgoerke@uni-mainz.de](mailto:lgoerke@uni-mainz.de); [kmuellet@uni-mainz.de](mailto:kmueller@uni-mainz.de).)

**The environment and the (post)human in Scotland: representing nature and the living**  
Annual International Conference of the SFEEc ([Société Française d'Études Écossaises](#)), in  
partnership with the [Association for Scottish Literary Studies](#)  
17–19 October 2013, Université de Franche-Comté, Besançon, France  
[Conference website](#)

#### Call for Papers

This international conference will explore how the environment – the land and nature – has been represented and considered throughout the ages and how the environment has often assumed a key position in Scotland's artistic, political, social and cultural expression. Our aim is to see how these elements can be understood in their relationship to human beings – to their past and present existence, their future and their evolution: the human or posthuman dimensions.

Nature and the environment lie at the core of our current concerns and scientific paradigms. Political speeches or policies, packed with ecological concerns and considerations, have often advocated a return to nature. Scottish history, civilization, politics, art, literature and cinema will provide us with the means to explore these themes.

Throughout the ages, the environment and the notion of territory have often been considered as necessary to the manifestation of a Scottish identity or to the expression of specifically Scottish traits. It is possible to consider the land in a nationalist light: as a place of belonging and as an illustration of the intimate links that are claimed by some – or the intimate links that some claim to enjoy with the nation and its history. The land has often been used as a means of expression for nationalist and independent rhetoric or politics.

Nature and the environment can also be explored through the prism of Scottish history and the concomitant narratives of Scottishness. For instance the development of the nation can be charted through human transformations of the natural landscape and how these have in their turn impacted upon the perception and self-perception of the Scottish people. Indeed, before its Romantic, post-bellum recuperation as synecdoche of the nation, the Highlands and its inhabitants were long figured and often branded as the mysterious and frightening “Other”. During the nineteenth century, in the name of Improvement, the Highlands were transformed forever as crops and farming methods were altered and glens emptied, while the industrial revolution radically redesigned the Lowlands, modifying lifestyles and living conditions and irrevocably expanding the urban environment.

Today nature often seems entirely absent from the steel and concrete cityscapes of Scotland's great urban centres. The contemporary metropolis has become a site of never-ending cultural and social change where the relationship between man and machine, be it car or computer, seems to be in a state of constant flux.

Nature and the environment also represent potential threats to the very existence of humanity, through natural or man-made disasters. The awesome power of nature ultimately places it beyond man's control. The result is a potentially posthuman world, made up of adaptations and mutations, of disintegration and the disappearance of humanity or of cultures, or the birth of a new type of society or species.

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

### **Stenton Symposium & Lecture**

Lecture 21, and Symposium 22, November 2013, 10.30-16.30, Henley Business School, University of Reading, Whiteknights Campus. All welcome. Booking fee: £15. Please register at: [Stenton Symposium](#) Lecture: "From Jacobitism to the SNP: the Crown, the Union and the Scottish Question" - 21 November 2013 18.30 pm

### **The British Conception of Citizenship: History, Changes and Transfers, 3-5 April 2014, Toulouse 2 - Le Mirail University, France**

This conference is co-organized by Nathalie Duclos (Toulouse II) [Conference pdf](#)

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

### **Robert Burns and His Nineteenth-Century Literary Heirs**

45th Annual Convention, [Northeast Modern Language Association](#) (NeMLA)  
3–6 April 2014, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, USA

#### Call for Papers

This panel seeks papers that interrogate the impact of the Scottish poet Robert Burns on nineteenth century writers across the globe. How did his efforts in developing a poetry that deals with freedom and nationalism inspire later authors in Canada, the United States, South America, or Russia? What happens when the poetry of "homely subjects" intersects with the poetry of nationalism? How did nineteenth century Scottish writers, at home or abroad, view Burns' importance in their own constructions of national identity? How is Burns' poetics of national identity transported beyond Scottish borders to influence how writers across a variety of nations articulate shared national identity? We also welcome papers that consider the ways that global writers responded to themes of music, love, language, religion, political turmoil, or nature in Burns' work.

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

### **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 is hosting the first World Congress of Scottish Literatures in the College of Arts, with the involvement of the Association for Scottish Literary Studies and other bodies. The conference will be organised under four main themes: Authors, Theorising Scottish literature, Gaelic, Mediaeval, Musical and Artistic Scotland and Scotland in global culture and context. Colleagues in the US, Europe, UK and Australia have already agreed to organise panels, and the congress steering group, together with a wider internationally based committee, are planning regular updates to interested colleagues. If you would like to be on our mailing list, please contact [Rhona Brown](#). The conference will be held in an exciting month in Glasgow, with the Commonwealth Games and the major Georgian Glasgow exhibition both taking place in July. We plan to work closely with our colleagues in the city and its galleries and museums to make this a truly exciting experience for our delegates.

Panel discussion will include among other topics:

- Book History
- Creative Writing
- Diaspora
- Eco-Criticism

- Editing
- Enlightenment
- Gaelic
- Gender
- The global reception of Scottish literature and culture
- Languages
- Literature and Representation
- Media (representations of) Scotland
- Medicine
- The Medieval period
- Modernism
- Nationalism
- Post-Colonialism
- Post-Modernism
- Religion
- Renaissance
- Romanticism
- Science
- Scotland & Empire
- Scotland in the World Wars
- Theory
- Translation Studies
- Victorianism.

Author Panels will include such figures as:

- William Dunbar
- Robert Henryson
- Robert Burns
- Walter Scott (especially celebrating the bicentenary of the publication of *Waverley*)
- Robert Louis Stevenson
- Muriel Spark
- Sorley Maclean
- Edwin Morgan
- Alasdair Gray.

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