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Editorial

The last issue of *Scottish Studies*, Volume 30, appeared in 1991. We apologise to subscribers, who should be getting an issue each year, and our intention is that Volume 32 should follow the present one very quickly, to try to catch up. Delays were due to publishing difficulties. We now have in Canongate Academic a new publisher and distributor, and look forward to continuing collaboration with them.

The previous editor of *Scottish Studies*, Miss Daphne Hamilton, retired in 1992, after a long association with the Journal. She deserves full thanks for her standard of meticulous editing. She will continue to have a link with the forthcoming volume, which is to be dedicated to the late Eric Cregeen. Meantime, editing has been taken over by Alexander Fenton, Director of the School, with the assistance of Ian Fraser, Head of the School's Place-Name Survey of Scotland.

Volume 31 includes Alexander Fenton's inaugural lecture following the setting up of the first established Chair of Ethnology in the British Isles. The University of Edinburgh deserves much praise for this pioneering move, which now brings Scotland into line with most countries of Europe, including Southern Ireland. It also includes the sermon delivered by Donald Meek on the occasion of a University church service to mark the School's fortieth anniversary in 1991. The remaining papers, and the *Notes and Comments* section (revived from an earlier practice), reflect the work of the School, whether it relates to traditional forms of oral and material culture, or emigrant experiences, or the languages of Scotland. In Susan Storrier's contributions on *Jewish Cuisine in Edinburgh* and on *Bunning*, we are looking at aspects of contemporary ethnology.

Another new feature is the information on Postgraduate Theses by students of the School of Scottish Studies, and the Departments of Celtic and of Scottish History. These three bodies together form what is called the—Scottish Studies' Planning Unit, within the Faculty Group of Arts, Music and Divinity. This and subsequent volumes of *Scottish Studies* will act as a voice for all three, and for any other departments with Scottish interests, as part of the promulgation of the concept of 'Scottishness' as a major feature of the attraction of students to the University of Edinburgh.

Another new feature is the organisation of *Books Noticed* according to the classification system of the International Ethnological Bibliography (Internationale Volkskundliche Bibliographie—IVB). This is seen as an aid to comparative international ethnological studies. Even if there is not room to review all books received, it seems to us that a short notice, with an indication of the main points of importance, is a worthwhile service that allows us to mention many more books than would otherwise be possible.

The Editors

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