

# Book Reviews

*The Good People: New Fairylore Essays* edited by Peter Narvez. Garland Publishing, New York and London: 1991. ISBN 0-8240-7100-X. 519+xiv pages.

The word 'fairy' can conjure up a wide range of differing interpretations. It has been applied to creatures as dissimilar as the 'good people' of traditional folklore and the tooth fairy of popular children's culture. This is due in part to the ambiguous nature of fairies themselves and in part to the popularity of the word for describing a host of analogous beings. The confusion only increases when we begin to compare material from different cultures separated linguistically, geographically or temporally. This collection of fairylore essays does not attempt to reconcile this ambiguity or offer any consistent definition for the word 'fairy'. Rather the individual essays concern a wide variety of apparently unrelated supernatural beings. The three consistent themes which run throughout this collection are the issues of context, function and belief.

In order to understand any branch of fairylore it is first necessary to consider the social and historical factors which have influenced its development. To this end we must begin by studying fairylore in the context of the tradition-bearing community. This is the purpose of three of the essays in this collection. Alan Bruford attempts to disentangle the Norse and Celtic influences which have shaped accounts of supernatural beings in Orkney and Shetland. Robin Gwyndaf describes the Welsh land of the fairies including their appearance, activities and possessions. Linda-May Ballard seems more interested in the human world. She gives a short history of Reachra (Rathlin Island) and emphasises the social context and function of the legends. Both Gwyndaf and Ballard begin with accounts of their informants and methods of recording and illustrate their essays with numerous texts.

Typically fairies have personified the potentially hostile forces outside the community. They can reward proper behaviour, but are quick to punish improper behaviour or take advantage of a momentary lapse of caution. Fairylore has often functioned to explain good or bad fortune and to reinforce accepted standards of behaviour. Richard P. Jenkins compares acts of aggression by witches and fairies in this context. He discovers that fairy aggression is often interpreted as punishment for deviance from accepted domestic relations. Peter Narvez investigates accounts of fairies leading berry-pickers astray in French Newfoundland. He argues that fairies can serve to maintain geographical as well as moral boundaries to the community.

Fairylore can also function to explain inexplicable phenomena. Three of the essays focus on fairylore as folk explanations of physical disorders. Susan Schoon Eberly and Joyce Underwood Munro offer convincing arguments when they

compare accounts of fairy changelings with disabled or 'failure to thrive' infants, though Eberly may overstate her case when she attempts to explain brownies and solitary fairies as disabled or mentally retarded adults. Barbara Rieti uses the theory of 'folk explanation' in her study of 'the Blast' in Newfoundland, but she emphasises the narrative value of the stories in accounting for their popularity.

Any attempt to explain fairylore is essentially a matter of translating supernatural accounts into our own belief system. Peter M. Rojcewicz offers the most ambitious explanation of fairylore when he compares fairy encounters with sightings of UFOs. He draws in accounts of 'nonhuman others' from around the world and attempts to explain them all as manifestations of Jungian archetypes. While Rojcewicz is careful to avoid any comment on the validity of these accounts he suggests that archetypes may 'possess . . . the ability to cross over from the psychic to the physical realm' and appear 'in the world as an external event, and occasionally even as a quasi-physical object'.

Estimating a community's level of belief in a supernatural tradition can be one of the most difficult problems facing a folklore collector. This is especially true when the tradition has maintained some metaphoric value in the absence of actual belief. In describing 'The *Lutin* tradition in French Newfoundland Culture' Gary R. Butler discusses this problem in relation to a disappearing tradition. Paul Smith's essay on 'The Cottingley Fairies' examines how media forces and a desire to believe helped to perpetuate a fairy hoax. Margaret Bennett takes up the issue of belief on a more optimistic note when she visits Balquhiddy, the home of Robert Kirk who wrote *The Secret Commonwealth of Elves, Fauns and Fairies*. Bennett's interviews with school children offer hope for the future of fairy beliefs in the Scottish Highlands.

The issue of belief appears most often in the essays concerning fairylore in contemporary societies. In a culture where the validity of fairylore is no longer accepted fairies can become a symbol of innocence and naiveté and have been relegated to the field of children's culture. This is the focus of two essays on the tooth fairy. Rosemary Wells regards the tooth fairy ritual as a rite of passage, but she stresses that it is the loss of belief, not the loss of teeth, which marks the transition from childhood to the adult world. Tad Tuleja quotes Wells's research and his essay is largely redundant. His primary independent contribution is the assertion that the tooth fairy ritual functions to indoctrinate children into the capitalist system of monetary exchange.

Often the fairy faith has had to co-exist with other systems of belief. Two essays in this collection concern the relationship between fairylore and orthodox Christianity in bicultural societies. In 'The Fairy Belief and Official Religion in Ireland' Diarmuid Ó Giolláin describes that relationship as a conflict between the hegemonic culture or the state and subordinated local cultures. Conversely Ann Skjelbred emphasises the influence which Norwegian beliefs in *huldre*-folk have had on Christian beliefs, in some cases serving to legitimate Christian rituals.

David Buchan contributes the only essay in this collection to discuss ballads. He applies talerole analysis to ballads of encounters with otherworld beings. Noel Williams offers an etymological study of the word 'fairy', drawing on texts from the fourteenth to the nineteenth centuries. Finally, Patricia Lysaght examines the biography and repertoire of a single story-teller from Ireland. Unlike the traditional Irish Gaelic-speaking male story-teller, Dr Lysaght's informant is a woman from outside the Gaeltacht, specialising in 'short realistic stories dealing with fairies, ghosts and other supernatural beings'. Focusing on a single story-teller allows Dr Lysaght to deal with questions of belief in specific terms and brings 'formation of repertoire dominants' to the level of favourite types of stories.

The largest group of essays in this collection concerns Celtic fairylore. There is an even mix of Newfoundland traditions and fairies in contemporary culture with only one essay from Scandinavia. The essays are written at a range of different academic levels, but none is so technical as to be inaccessible to the general reader while most will provide the serious scholar with some interesting points to consider. Collectively they serve to question, or even disprove, some of the accepted beliefs of fairylore: that fairy beliefs represent a dying tradition, or that fairies are rooted in the European soil and are never found in North America. They open up new avenues of research and provide informative reading for anyone with an interest in fairylore or folklore in general.

MARK HANFORD

### *Homes*

The Scottish Development Education Centre (Old Playhouse Close, Moray House College of Education, Holyrood Road, Edinburgh EH8 8AQ) has produced an Active Learning Pack for six to twelve-year-olds under the heading *Homes*. The pack contains a set of Notes for Teachers, a range of full-colour photographs and work sheets. Its interest for Scottish education is two-fold. First of all it includes a section on the homes of two families of travelling people, the Reid and Sutherland families. These are seen alongside families and homes from Sarawak and North-west China, unity lying in the concept of what is a home. Secondly, it draws attention to a new phenomenon in Western societies—their increasing multiculturalism. In the Centre's words, 'Development Education fosters skills, knowledge and attitudes which promote justice and equality in a multicultural society and an interdependent world.' The *Homes* pack matches this thinking, and can help to inculcate understanding and awareness at an early age.

*The Farmsteadings of the Bathgate Hills*, by Nils White. West Lothian District Council, 1991. 44pp, 44 photographs, 7 diagrams and map. £1.95. Available from local bookshops, Tourist Information Office and W.L.D.C.'s Planning Department, County Buildings, Linlithgow. ISBN 0 907 952 038

Based on a comprehensive survey of fifty farmsteadings in the 'heart of West Lothian', this booklet charts a process of transformation which continues to the present day.

Originating during the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries each farm has subsequently undergone a series of alterations, additions and adaptations. The author links these changes in design to changes in agricultural technology, such as the replacement of animal power by mechanical, and to more general changes in social attitudes, such as the increasing separation of the farm house from workers' dwellings. This process is brought up to date by consideration of the present use of buildings, 40 per cent of which are no longer used for farming.

The emphasis of this study is firmly on the locality. The Bathgate Hills are bordered to the north by Linlithgow and to the south by Bathgate and Uphall. Elements of upland and lowland farming were practised, giving the area a character which contrasts both with neighbouring industrial areas and with more palatial farmsteads of East Lothian.

The main farm buildings, such as the barn, byres, dairy, horse mill, stables, bothy and farmhouse are all fully described and well illustrated. Less common features of farm buildings, such as owl holes, beeholes and loupin-on-stanes, are also noted. In addition, there are more complete and detailed descriptions of the farmsteadings at Cauldhame and Brunton.

The relationship between farm buildings and their local environment is explored through examples of building materials used, such as the locally collected or quarried blue-grey whinstone and red pantiles manufactured within the county. Construction techniques may also display local character, for example the fine cornice work featured in farmhouses belonging to the Lochcote estate. Innovations are similarly considered in terms of the pace at which they were adopted within this district.

The booklet shows the extent to which traces of the past are still visible in existing structures. However, the pace of change in the countryside continues to increase and alternative pressures on the use of land and rural buildings are now creating much uncertainty concerning developing trends.

This timely contribution from Nils White and W.L.D.C.'s Planning Department will help to inform future decisions as well as serving as a useful guide for both visitors and locals.

ANDREW MORRISON

*The Culbin Sands—Fact and Fiction*, by Sinclair Ross. Centre for Scottish Studies, Aberdeen, 1992. xi+196pp. £7.95. ISBN 0 906265 16 9

Sinclair Ross, the Sherlock Holmes of geomorphology, has produced an excellent and meticulously researched account of the Culbin story in *The Culbin Sands—Fact and Fiction*. The story is immediately compelling and one quickly shares the author's

determination to get to the bottom of the sand dune mystery. Did the Barony of Culbin really disappear one night in 1694 in one of the most vicious sandstorms ever to be recorded (inaccurately?) in Scotland? Mr Ross traces the many written accounts of the great storm theory and discovers that the few original facts have been so embellished over the years as to make the popular account quite unreliable. In fact his research concludes that the land devastation was created by a gradual advance of sand caused by patterns of bad weather, and accelerated by the damage done in stripping vegetation from the old shingle ridges. Although the original estate was known as the garden and granary of Moray, the extent of the arable land and the information on the grain rents available were grossly exaggerated. The first serious attempt to reclaim the sandy wastelands by planting trees was made by R. Grant of Kincorth as long ago as 1837, and there have been many schemes since with varying degrees of success.

In addition to the Culbin Sands mystery, which is central to the book, there are two chapters dealing respectively with Agriculture and Farm Life in Seventeenth-century Moray and the Buildings on the Old Culbin Estate. In the former chapter the author provides a good account of tenant farmers' rights and obligations (the obligations were much more numerous) and paints a good picture of just how primitive the countryside was at that time—very poor standard buildings and houses, few fences and walls and the almost impossible task of keeping the animals alive over the winter months. The chapter on the buildings gives an interesting account of the various styles of cruck-framed houses. The book concludes with an account of the families of Murray and Kinnaird.

The text is supported by numerous illustrations and graphs and there is a comprehensive bibliography and several appendices. The technical data will not be lost on the expert and it need not detract from the enjoyment of the general reader.

MALCOLM CANT

*Evidence for Old English. Material and Theoretical Bases for Reconstruction.* Edited by Fran Colman. John Donald Publishers Ltd., Edinburgh, 1992. £32.00.

This is the second volume in an occasional series, *Edinburgh Studies in the English Language* (general editors: John Anderson and Norman Macleod). The series is thematic, the present volume being devoted to the examination and interpretation of problems presented by the surviving corpus of Old English data. The papers cover a range of phonological and syntactical questions; they are ordered alphabetically by author rather than by subject matter. The editor maintains that fact is dependent upon theory, but this cannot be true (any more than theory can depend upon fact) until the relevant facts are discovered and noted. It is refreshing to find among the contributions to this volume warnings against the dangers, all too often incurred, of recycling ready-made data packages. There is here recognition

that even though all the manuscript sources for Old English have long been known about and adequately catalogued there still remains much to be gleaned from them as well as from the complementary sources of coins, runic inscriptions and place names.

1. Cynthia Allen, 'Old English and the Syntactician', points out that editions of OE texts, often assembled from several different manuscripts, are frequently inadequate for linguistic research. Rightly advocating recourse to the original manuscripts she offers as a preliminary towards a syntactic study of Ælfric's prose a check-list collated with N. R. Ker's *Catalogue of Manuscripts Containing Anglo-Saxon*, Angus Cameron's list of texts for the *Dictionary of Old English* and the major editions.

2. Ann King, 'Interpreting Old English Written Data', offers a thoughtful analysis of OE <a>~<o> variation in words of the *man*, *hand* type and warns of the dangers of drawing wide-ranging conclusions from inadequately scrutinised data. Her own conclusions, though understandably cautious, are well argued and backed by extra-linguistic historical evidence and palaeography.

3. Willem Koopman, 'Old English Clitic Pronouns', also takes as his starting point a critique of another scholar's work, producing some modifications to Van Kemenade's thesis that OE personal pronouns may be regarded as clitics. Some initial definition of terms here would have been useful for those unfamiliar with government-binding theory.

4. Roger Lass, 'Front Rounded Vowels in Old English', gives a very useful conspectus of knowledge and opinion to date with some new insights and several considered conclusions ranged in order of preference.

5. C. B. McCully, 'The Phonology of Resolution in OE Word-stress and Metre', examines the device of resolution in OE metrics and argues for a biplanar analysis, stress and time occupying different planes. McCully's 'template' for the phonology of OE metrics seems to confirm the phonological reality of Sievers' metrical 'Types'.

6. Donka Minkova and Robert Stockwell, 'Poetic Influence over Prose Word Order in Old English', consider different views of Old English verse syntax and its influence on changes in prose word order. The conclusion finds that OE main clauses became more like Dutch and German (i.e. verb second) and that only much later did English change into an atypical West German language in this respect.

7. Matti Rissanen, 'Computers are Useful—for *Aught* I know', introduces the OE section of the *Helsinki Corpus of English Texts* showing the new possibilities provided by a computerised corpus specially constructed for structural and lexical studies. The OE sub-corpus consists of half a million words of text, both poetry and prose, and is arranged with reference to date, dialect, text type and author. Rissanen's worked example suggests that the survival of *aught* was supported by the high frequency of the negative form *not/naught*.

8. Veronica Smart, 'Die-Cutting and Diatopic Variation', presents evidence about local and centralised die-cutting which dramatically affects how the linguistic

evidence from coins should be viewed. She examines the <LIOF-> variant as a Kentish feature which has spread beyond its usually accepted area of use in its occurrence on the late Anglo-Saxon coinage.

9. Anthony R. Warner, 'Elliptical and Impersonal Constructions: Evidence for Auxiliaries in Old English', redefines the label 'auxiliary' with respect to OE as 'a grouping of "less verbal" verbs . . . with some strictly syntactic properties'. He gives evidence to support this categorisation from elliptical and impersonal constructions.

10. W. van der Wurff, 'Another Old English Impersonal: Some Data', focuses on the combination adjective plus infinitive in OE and presents data from a fresh corpus study to illustrate the constraints operating on certain sub-types.

In spite of some unevenness in format, font size and system of reference, this is a nicely produced book with a good range of material and variety of approach. As a time when the study of Old English in university departments is increasingly threatened, it is encouraging to see that those who do still teach it are continuing to reassess the rigour of their research methods and to reaffirm with new discoveries the vitality of their subject.

MARGARET LAING

# Books Noticed

Books included here may also be reviewed in a later issue of *Scottish Studies*.

They are grouped as far as possible according to the subject categories of the International Ethnological Bibliography (edited by Dr Rainer Alsheimer, University of Bremen, FB 10 (Kulturwissenschaft), Postfach 330 440, D-2800 Bremen 33, Germany).

## 01 *Ethnology as a Science.*

### Bibliography.

Jaap Kerkhoven en Paul Post, *Volkskunde en museum: een Literatuurwijzer* (Publikaties van het P. J. Meertens-Instituut, Deel 14, Amsterdam 1992. [A review of books and articles from several countries on current and recent thinking about open-air museum and cultural historical museum activities.]

### Sources.

M. Cox, *Exploring Scottish History. A Directory of Resource Centres for Scottish Local and National History in Scotland* (Scottish Library Association and Scottish Local History Forum 1992), 161 pp. £6.95. [An indispensable guide to sources and resources for amateur or experienced researchers. If the book is not readily available in bookshops, purchasers should contact Elaine Finnie, Secretary, S.L.H.F., c/o Huntly House Museum, 142 Canongate, Edinburgh EH8 8DD.]

### History, Theory and Methods.

Simon J. Bronner, *Creativity and Tradition in Folklore. New Directions*. Utah State University Press, Logan, Utah 1992. [A volume of essays in honour of Professor W. F. H. Nicolaisen, grouped under the headings Ballad and Song, Narrative, Language and Cultural Knowledge, Community and Identity.]

## 02 *Regional Ethnology: Celtic Language Area.*

Alexander Carmichael, *Carmina Gadelica. Hymns and Incantations*, presented by John MacInnes, Floris Books, Edinburgh 1992. 684 pp. £11.99. [This one-volume English

edition of what was formerly available only in bilingual volumes, is very welcome. Carmichael's gathering of oral traditions is an irreplaceable record of religious texts with a strange blend of pagan and Christian imagery. MacInnes's Preface puts them in the context of the life and folklore of the Gaelic community.]

Derick S. Thomson, ed., *The Macdiarmid MS Anthology. Poems and Songs* mainly anonymous from the collection dated 1700 (Scottish Gaelic Texts Society), Scottish Academic Press 1992. 340 pp. £15.00.

### 03 *Ethnicity, Identity, Living Styles*

#### General.

Malcolm Chapman, *The Celts. The Construction of a Myth*. St Martin's Press 1992. 342 pp. £45.00.

Geoffrey W. S. Barrow, *Scotland and its Neighbours in the Middle Ages*, The Hambledon Press, London and Rio Grande 1992. 255 pp. £35.00. [A collection of eleven important articles that have appeared in scattered sources between 1969 and 1985.]

David McCrone, *Understanding Scotland. The Sociology of a Stateless Nation*. (International Library of Sociology), Routledge, London and New York 1992. 238 pp. £12.99 paperback, £40.00 hardback. [The first sociological analysis of Scotland's individual identity, in social, political and economic terms, and through its myths, legends and culture.]

William Warrell Fee, I: *Robert Humphrey and West Alexander, Pennsylvania. A Revolutionary War Soldier and His Town*. 1989.

II: *The Fee Family and the Daily Notes of Canonsburg, Pennsylvania. The Evolution of a Family, its Newspaper, and its Community*. 1990.

III: *Character(s). Dwight Humphrey Fee and Lucille Brockman Fee of Pittsburg, Pennsylvania*. 1900. [This three-volume study of the Ulster-Scot ethos as it developed in West Pennsylvania is available through the author at 3330 N. Leisure World Blvd., No. 174, Silver Spring, Maryland 2096, USA.]

Stephen J. Hornsby, *Nineteenth Century Cape Breton. A Historical Geography*, McGill-Queen's University Press, Montreal and Kingston, London, Buffalo. xxvi + 274 pp. £33.95. [A detailed examination of the patterns of economy, settlement and society, focusing on the impact of Scottish immigration, agricultural development, cod fishing and coal mining.]

J. I. Little, *Crofters and Habitants: Settler Society, Economy and Culture in a Quebec Township: 1848-1881*. McGill-Queen's University Press, Montreal and Kingston; London; Buffalo: 1991. 368 pp. including maps, tables and photographs (N.P.) [Study of Winslow Township, settled by Gaelic-speaking Highlanders from Lewis, and French-speaking colonists from the St Lawrence Seigneuries.]

Marianne MacLean, *The People of Glengarry: Highlanders in Transition, 1745-1820*. McGill-Queen's Studies in Ethnic History, McGill-Queen's University Press, Montreal and Kingston, London, Buffalo, 1991. [A study of Glengarry County, Ontario, and the process of Trans-Atlantic migration, strongly based on Scottish archive material.]

#### 04 *Age, Family, Group.*

##### Women.

Lindy Moore, *Bajanellas and Semilinas. Aberdeen University and the Education of Women 1860-1920*. Quincentennial Studies in the History of the University of Aberdeen. Published for the University by Aberdeen University Press 1991. 164 pp. including illustrations, tables, figures. £8.95.

##### Children, Adolescence.

L. Jamieson and C. Toynbee, *Country Bairns. Growing Up 1900-1930*, Edinburgh University Press 1992. 245 pp, illustrations. £14.95. [A sociological study of individuals who were the children of 45 farm-servants, crofters and farmers, and whose stories have been tape recorded, analysed and presented.]

#### 05 *Economy, World of Work, Occupations.*

##### Forestry.

William C. Wonders, *The 'Sawdust Fusiliers'. The Canadian Forestry Corps in the Scottish Highlands in World War Two*. Canadian Pulp and Paper Association, Montreal 1992. 130 pp, including 50 illustrations, and maps and figures. \$13.00 (Canada). [Based on War Diaries of the C.F.C. Companies in the National Archives of Canada, historical sources in the National Library of Scotland, and field investigation and interviews conducted in the Scottish Highlands.]

## Handicrafts.

Carolyn Murray-Wooley and Karl Raitz, *Rock Fences of the Bluegrass* (Perspectives on Kentucky's Past, Architecture, Archaeology, and Landscape), The University Press of Kentucky 1992. x + 220 pp. \$35.00. [Discusses geology and sources of stone, dyke construction, the predominantly Scotch-Irish origins of the dykers, a case study of a farming estate, and the contemporary situation. One of the best books on stonewalling that has so far appeared.]

## Agricultural Workers.

David G. Adams, *Bothy Nights and Days: Farm Bothy Life in Angus and the Mearns*, John Donald 1991. 90 pp. £9.50.

## Seasonal Workers.

Anne O'Dowd, *Spalpeens and Tattie Hokers: History and Folklore of the Irish Migratory Worker in Ireland and Britain*. Irish Academic Press, Dublin 1991. 441 pp. £35.00.

## 09 Food

## General.

C. Anne Wilson, ed., *Traditional Food East and West of the Pennines* (Food and Society 3), Edinburgh University Press 1991. 220 pp. £25.00. [Contains seven chapters by different writers, each expert on a particular area of food research, ranging from changes in traditional forms of food to provincial taste and the impact of printed material, such as recipe books.]

C. Anne Wilson, ed., *Waste Not Want Not, Food preservation from early times to the present day*. (Food and Society 4), Edinburgh University Press 1991. 165 pp. £22.50. [A survey by six writers of aspects of food preservation, pottery, necessities and luxuries, and the impact of industrial processes.]

C. Anne Wilson, ed., *Liquid Nourishment. Potable Foods and Stimulating Drinks* (Food and Society 5), Edinburgh University Press 1993. 171 pp. £29.50. [Nine contributors examine different kinds of liquid nourishment, from potage and soup to sherbets and alcoholic drinks.]

10 *Settlement, Cultural Landscape*

Other (Place Names).

Gregory Toner and Micheál B. O. Mainnín, *Place-Names of Northern Ireland, Vol. 1, County Down I. Newry and South-West Down* (The Northern Ireland Place-Name Project, Department of Celtic, The Queen's University of Belfast), Belfast 1992. £8.50 paperback, £20.00 hardback (standing orders £14.00).

A. J. Hughes and R.J. Hannan, *Place-Names of Northern Ireland, Vol. 2, County Down II. The Ards* (The Northern Ireland Place-Name Project, Department of Celtic, The Queen's University of Belfast), Belfast 1992. £8.50 paperback, £20.00 hardback (standing orders £14).

11 *Architecture, Building, Dwelling*

Dwelling House and Ways of Living.

Ian Gow, *The Scottish Interior*, Edinburgh University Press 1992. 174 pp. £25.50. [This is a survey of Georgian and Victorian Decor in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, 'a visual anthology of the domestic room in Scotland culled principally from the collections of the National Monuments Record of Scotland', ranging across the social strata.]

13 *Custom, Festival, Game, Spare Time*

General.

Margaret Bennett, *Scottish Customs from the Cradle to the Grave*, Polygon, Edinburgh 1992. xxii + 298 pp. [An unusual source book, comprising extracts from published sources, transcripts of recorded interviews, and analytical commentary.]

14 *Religion, Piety*

General.

Callum G. Brown, *The People in the Pews, Religion and Society in Scotland since 1780*. (Studies in Scottish Economic and Social History No. 3), Dundee 1993. 52 pp.

Forms of Devotion.

Christopher Bamford, trs., *The Voice of the Eagle. The Heart of Celtic Christianity. Homily on the Prologue to the Gospel of St John*, by John Scotus Eringena. Lindisfarne Press, Hudson, New York; Floris Books, Edinburgh; 1991. 192 pp. £8.95.

#### Institutions, Communities.

Anne Gordon, *Candie for the Foundling*, The Pentland Press Ltd., Edinburgh, Cambridge, Durham 1992. 720 pp. £17.50. [A book concerned with the social impact the Kirk has made on the lives of the ordinary people of Scotland, during the period before many of the Church's functions were taken over by the State. It covers Kirk Sessions and the poor, sickness and sins, witchcraft, marriage, baptism and death, and Sabbath observance.]

#### 19 Song

#### Ballads and Epics.

Peter B. Freshwater, ed., *Sons of Scotia, Raise your Voice* (Friends of Edinburgh University Library), Edinburgh 1991. ix + 142 pp. £10.00. [This is No. 4 in The Drummond Book series. It is a selection of early nineteenth-century Scottish broadside ballads from a collection in Edinburgh University Library, with a very useful introduction.]

#### 21 Popular Prose and Reading Materials

#### Accounts of Everyday Life.

William Alexander, *Rural Life in Victorian Aberdeenshire*, edited and introduced by Ian Carter. The Mercat Press, Edinburgh 1992. 168 pp. £6.95. [A selection from the published and very readable work of William Alexander, one of the best nineteenth-century guides to the social history and agricultural development of the Aberdeenshire countryside.]

Dorothy Hyslop Booth, *Echoes from the Border Hills*. The Pentland Press Ltd., Edinburgh, Cambridge, Durham 1992. 172 pp. £16.50. [This is a revised version, from the original manuscript, of Part iv of *Langholm As It Was*, by Robert Hyslop, 1912. It is an important account of the everyday life in the Borders over a century ago.]

M. L. Elder, *Ann Anderson 1833-1906. The Enduring Spirit. The Memoirs of a Country Lass from Aberdeenshire to Australia*, The Pentland Press Ltd., Edinburgh, Cambridge,

Durham 1992. 168 pp. £9.50. [An account compiled from detailed letters of an Aberdeenshire farmer's daughter who began as a kitchen lass in homes in North-east Scotland and in England and eventually became matron of Paramatta District Hospital in Australia. The 'below stairs' life of the Victorian servant and the harsh existence of a nurse, and the current state of medicine, are graphically presented in these pages.]

Elizabeth McGregor, *Before I was Ten*. Privately published, 1993. £5.00 (+ p. and p. £1 UK, £2.50 overseas surface). Available from Moira McGregor, 17 Charterhall Grove, Edinburgh EH9 3HU. [The early years of the 86-year-old author. Proceeds go to The Friends of Loch Lomond.]

Clodagh Brennan Harvey, *Contemporary Irish Traditional Narrative. The English Language Tradition* (Folklore and Mythology Studies, Vol. 35), University of California Press 1992. 138 pp. \$18.00.

#### Other Literature and Reading Materials.

Priscilla Bawcutt and Felicity Riddy, eds., *Selected Poems of Henryson and Dunbar* (The Scottish Classics Series), Scottish Academic Press 1992. xxi + 241 pp. £9.75.

Philip Flynn, *Enlightened Scotland. A Study and Selection of Scottish Philosophical Prose from the Eighteenth and Early Nineteenth Centuries*, Scottish Academic Press, Edinburgh 1992. xxii + 356 pp. £22.50. [Essays from a variety of writers, on the mind, on morals, on creativity and aesthetic taste, and on society, with a general introduction.]

R. James Goldstein, *The Matter of Scotland. Historical Narrative in Medieval Scotland*, University of Nebraska Press, Lincoln and London 1993. 386 pp. £38.00.

Robert L. Kindrick, *Henryson and the Medieval Arts of Rhetoric* (Garland Studies in Medieval Literature, Vol. 8). Garland Publishing, Inc., New York and London 1993. \$54.00. 359 pp.

Maurice Lindsay, ed., *The Youth and Manhood of Cyril Thornton*, by Thomas Hamilton. The Association for Scottish Literary Studies, Aberdeen 1990. xxii + 458 pp. (N.P.)

## 22 *Language*

### Range of Sources

Margaret Laing, *Catalogue of Sources for a Linguistic Atlas of Early Medieval English* (Institute for Historical Dialectology, School of Scottish Studies, University of Edinburgh), D. S. Brewer, Cambridge 1993. 186 pp. £29.50. [A comprehensive inventory of the source material in English available for the study of Early Middle English, mainly for the period 1150-1300. Over 500 entries, with information on dates, lands, manuscript associations and language. Of interest to students of the English language, medievalists, demographers, social historians, palaeographers, codicologists and historical geographers.]

William Morrice Wilson, *Speak o' the North-East*, NES Publications, Huddersfield 1993. 343 pp. £9.75. [A record of dialect phrases, grouped according to themes, and including bairns' rhymes, riddles and proverbs, from the Turriff area of North-east Scotland.]

## 23 *Theatre, Circus, Media*

### Popular Drama.

Brian Hayward, *Galoshins. The Scottish Folk Play*, Edinburgh University Press 1992. viii + 303 pp. £40.00. [A remarkably thorough assemblage of all known texts of the play, each localised and dated, with a commentary on the performance and its relationship to guising, and a discussion of the socio-cultural history.]