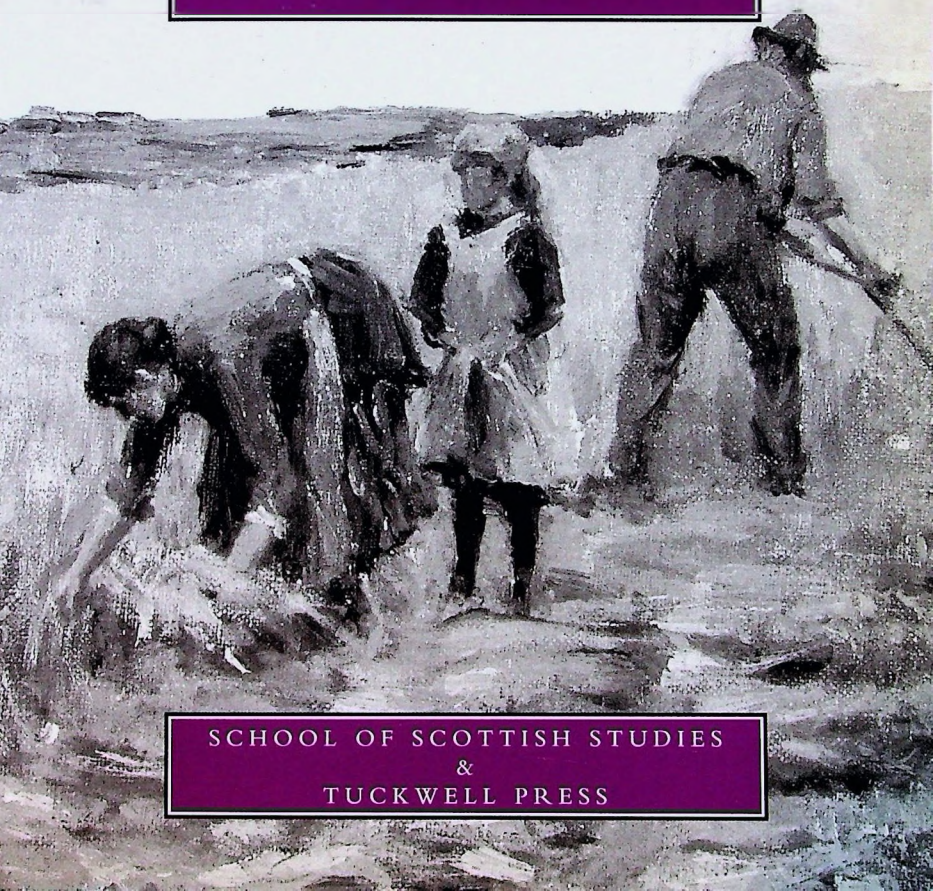


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Editorial

The last issue of *Scottish Studies* to appear was Volume 31 in 1993. As a result of various problems, there has been a gap since then, for which we apologise to our readers and subscribers. Arrangements have now been made with a new firm, Tuckwell Press Ltd, which will see to the publication of future volumes. The distribution and sales of the Journal will, however, remain the responsibility of the School of Scottish Studies, where a database has been set up to facilitate procedures.

It is intended that the next two issues, volumes 33 and 34, will appear in quick succession, in order to try to catch up on the backlog. We look forward to the future smooth running of the Journal, with regular annual issues.

The initial editing of the material in this volume dedicated to Eric Cregeen was carried out by Daphne Hamilton, who subsequently retired from the School. We are grateful to her for her input. Alexander Fenton, who took over the editing of *Scottish Studies* with the help of Ian Fraser as a temporary measure, also retired in September 1994 from his post as Professor of Scottish Ethnology and Director of the School of Scottish Studies. Following the completion of this present volume, a new Editor will be appointed from amongst the staff of the School. The Director of the School since October 1994 has been Dr Margaret Mackay, who in earlier years worked very closely with Eric Cregeen. Her tribute to him appears in the following pages.

This volume has an international range, with contributors from Denmark and Norway. It also features the last article that Eric Cregeen wrote, 'Oral Tradition and History in a Hebridean Island', itself a tribute to his depth of scholarship and his range of interests, including the exemplary way in which he could combine oral traditions with their background of history.

We have felt it appropriate to include a note about Eric's late sister, Sheila, who shared so many of his interests, and who also played a role in promulgating the culture of Scotland.

One of the contributors, and fellow member of the School's staff, is Dr Alan James Bruford. It is with great sorrow that we record his unexpected death on 8 May 1995. He was the School's Archivist. Nationally and internationally, he made a great contribution to folklore scholarship. His most recent work, edited jointly with Donald Archie MacDonald, was *Scottish Traditional Tales* (Polygon 1995), which appeared shortly before his death. His article on 'Flitting Peats in North Yell' marks his ability to work in the realm of material culture as well as folklore, and shows the detail he could attain in his field recording activities, as a result of gaining the sympathy and interest of his informants. A future issue of *Scottish Studies* will be dedicated to his memory and will contain a full Bibliography.

Duncan MacGregor Whyte (1866-1953)

Duncan MacGregor Whyte, whose painting 'Neill Eachainn MacDonald and Family' provides the cover illustration of this volume of *Scottish Studies*, was devoted to Argyll and to Tiree in particular, where he had strong family connections and where he and his wife Mary Barnard (1870-1946), an equally accomplished artist, found much of their inspiration.

His grandfather, the Reverend Archibald Farquharson, from Strathardle in Perthshire, came to Tiree in the early 1830s as Congregational or Independent minister, settling in the township of Cornaigbeg. When his wife died leaving two young daughters, her sister Christian came to act as his housekeeper and married into a family of Macleans with a long pedigree in the island and Archibald himself lived the rest of his days in Tiree.

MacGregor Whyte was born in Oban and studied in Glasgow and Antwerp and thereafter at the École Delecluse, where he met his wife. His work as a portrait painter took him to Canada and to Australia for a period of years but from 1921 he made his base at Bealach an Ruighe in Oban and summered in Tiree. The sea, the shore, landscapes and studies of individuals and groups at work came to characterise his output. He was adept at handling small craft and would set his lug-sail so that he could sketch on the water. And while Cornaigbeg remained the family centre it was the township of Balephuill, in the west end of Tiree, where he had a studio overlooking strand and sea and where Eric Cregeen was to concentrate so much of his research, that provided a major focus. There the older folk remembered MacGregor Whyte, wearing the kilt and always speaking Gaelic.

Eric Cregeen valued greatly his friendship with MacGregor's son Tearlach MacGregor Whyte, a civil engineer in Argyll, and his wife Ena, who herself had Tiree roots. They maintained both the old home in Oban and the studio in Balephuill and it was through their generosity that nineteen paintings by Duncan MacGregor Whyte, Mary Barnard and their son John were gifted to the School of Scottish Studies, oils and watercolours depicting aspects of life in Tiree earlier this century.

It is fitting that they all should be remembered with gratitude in this volume.

M.A.M.

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