

Books Noticed

COMPILED BY ALEXANDER FENTON

Patrick J. Ashmore, *Neolithic and Bronze Age Scotland* (Historic Scotland), London, 1996. 128 pp. £15.99. [This volume covers the period from the emergence of the first farmers up to the Iron Age, from 4000 to 750 BC. They transformed much of the countryside, and left imposing monuments. Patrick Ashmore seeks to interpret their growth and decline, and throws much fresh light on their identity, daily life, contacts and regional differences.]

Benedek Baráthosi Balogh, *Távoli Utakon* [on distant ways], selected and introduced by Mihály Hoppál, Budapest, 1996. 126 pp. [Balogh was a linguist and ethnographer who travelled extensively in Central and East Asia, especially amongst the Ural-Altai peoples, in his quest for data on the origins of the Hungarian people. His voluminous notes and drawings are preserved in the Ethnological Archives of the Budapest Ethnographic Museum, and his photographs mark the beginnings of 'ethnophotography' in Hungary.]

Gábor Barna, ed., *A tállyai Fáklyás Társulat dokumentumai. Documents of the Candle-bearers' Confraternity* [in Tállya] (*Devotio Hungarorum 3, Fontes Religionis Popularis Hungaricae*), Szeged, 1996. 234 pp. [This is a presentation of the surviving written documents of the Candle-bearers' Confraternity, as well as of its iconography. The religious group originated in the eighteenth century, and the aim of this collection is to show how such a group operates in modern times. The results of interviews with members are added to the documentary sources. The candle- or torch-bearers took part in religious or funeral processions, liturgical festivities, and the like. In Hungarian, with a chapter in English.]

Gillian Bickley, *The Golden Needle. The Biography of Frederick Stewart (1836-1889)*. (Aberdeen & North East Scotland Family History Society), David C. Lam Institute for East-West Studies, Hong Kong Baptist University, n.d. (1997). xi + 308 pp. £13.50. [The story of a Buchan lad o' pairts who went to Hong Kong and became the 'founder of Hong Kong Government education'. He was first headmaster of Central School (now Queen's College), and became Registrar General, then Colonial Secretary. He acted as Governor of Hong Kong on several occasions. An interesting study of relations between East and West.]

Stephen Boardman, *The Early Stewart Kings: Robert II and Robert III 1371-1406* (The Stewart Dynasty in Scotland series), East Linton, 1996. xvii + 348 pp. £14.99. [This is the first biography of the two kings who established the Stewart royal dynasty. It does not make little of them, as many other historians have done, but prefers to look clearly at the nature of their kingship in the light of current circumstances. Inter alia, this involved crown-magnate relations in which power was to a great extent decentralised and delegated to a network of great regional families. More masterful forms of kingship followed with these kings' heirs.]

David J. Breeze, *Roman Scotland. Frontier Country* (Historic Scotland), London, 1996. 128 pp. £15.99. [The three Roman attempts to conquer Scotland, none of which succeeded, left a substantial mark on the landscape and in terms of archaeology. David Breeze examines the three periods of occupation to assess the strength of the invading force and of the opposition, to see what it was like to live at these times and to consider the relationships between the Romans and the northern tribes.]

Charles C. Burnett & Mark D. Dennis, *Scotland's Heraldic Heritage. The Lion Rejoicing*. (Discovering Historic Scotland), Historic Scotland, Edinburgh 1977. 104 pp. £12.99. [The Introduction looks at the origins of armory and of heraldry in Scotland, and the following chapters deal with the technicalities and history of the 'gentle science', at both royal and personal levels. Heraldic devices symbolically mark the individual from the cradle to the grave.]

Susan Butterworth with Graham Butterworth, *Chips off the Auld Rock. Shetlanders in New Zealand* (Shetland Society of Wellington), Wellington 1997. 251 pp. \$NZ39.95. [Written by two free-lance professional historians, this book tells the story of Shetland settlement in New Zealand, and looks at some of the arts and crafts brought from Shetland – knitting, music, stonemasonry and boatbuilding. It adds to the history of emigration from Scotland, here mainly in the nineteenth century, and tells much about the efforts made in New Zealand to preserve a sense of Shetland identity.]

Malcolm Cant, *Villages of Edinburgh, An Illustrated Guide, Vol. I*, Edinburgh, 1997. xiv + 185 pp. £9.95. [An informative and attractively presented guide to the past history and present state of the villages of North Edinburgh – Corstorphine, Cramond, Davidson's Mains, Dean, Duddingston, Newhaven, Restalrig and Stockbridge.]

Sean J. Connolly, ed., *Kingdoms United? Great Britain and Ireland since 1500. Integration and Diversity*, Dublin, 1999. 252 pp. Hardback £39.50, paperback £17.50. [A collection of 17 contributions grouped under the headings 'political relationships', 'culture and identity', 'economic development' and 'law and administration'. This discussion of the contrasts and parallels between Ireland, Scotland, England and Wales lays emphasis on

economy, language, culture and the law rather than on matters political and constitutional.]

Nicolae Constantinescu, *Romanian Traditional Culture. An Introduction* (Scripta Ethnologica Aboensia 42), Turku, 1996. 122 pp. [The author, who is Professor of Ethnology and Folklore at the University of Bucharest, is a folklorist. Beliefs and customs are discussed throughout the book in relation to the historical stages through which the Romanian people have passed over a two thousand year period, and the geographical siting of the country. Its cultural contacts are discussed as well as the processes of assimilation or rejection of aspects of neighbouring cultures.]

Michael Donnelly, *Scotland's Stained Glass. Making the Colours Sing.* (Discovering Historic Scotland), Historic Scotland, Edinburgh 1997. 112 pp. £12.99. [With illustrations in colour, this volume tells the story of stained glass from earliest times in Scotland up to the present, taking present-day artists into account also. The technicalities of stained-glass production are dealt with in the Introduction, and Glasgow figures prominently in the subsequent discussion.]

John Dwyer, *The Age of the Passions. An Interpretation of Adam Smith and Scottish Enlightenment Culture*, East Linton, 1998. xi + 205 pp. £20.00. [This book argues that the eighteenth century should not only be considered as the age of reason, but also as the age of the passions. Exploration of self-interest, sociability and love brought the individual into focus in a way that had a revolutionary effect on western culture. The figures in Scotland who played a considerable role in this changing viewpoint were Allan Ramsay, James Fordyce and James Macpherson (of Ossian fame), as well as thinkers like Adam Smith and John Millar.]

Richard Fawcett, *Stirling Castle* (Historic Scotland), London, 1995. 128 pp. £15.99. [The last siege of a castle in the British Mainland – in this case by Bonnie Prince Charlie 250 years ago – took place at Stirling Castle. It was one of the main power centres of Scotland, a royal castle from the 12th century, to which was added a 16th century royal residence. It became a major fortress in the 17th and 18th centuries. It encapsulates much of the history of the country.]

James Fenton, *The Hamely Tongue. A personal record of Ulster-Scots in County Antrim* (The Ulster-Scots Language Society), Newtonards, 1995. xiii + 198 pp. [The author, a native of Co. Antrim and a dialect speaker, has compiled an important list of words in actual use within this limited zone, in which 'Braid Scots' has been remarkably well preserved. It is 'an authentic, comprehensive record of a living language: its vocabulary, idiom, characteristic turns of phrase and modes of expression, its aphorisms and its humour'. It is in two parts: a dictionary that takes up the bulk of the book, and lists of

words, proper names and some place names that differ from their Standard English equivalents.]

Sally M. Foster, *Picts, Gaels and Scots. Early Historic Scotland* (Historic Scotland), London, 1996. 128 pp. £15.99. [The period covered is from the 5th to the 10th century AD, when diverse peoples were competing for land and supremacy. Sally Foster explains the background and helps the reader to understand how the mixture became a stable society under one monarchy by the 11th century. The economic basis to the development of kingship, allied with the role of religion, are keys in demonstrating how the Picts and Gaels became Scots.]

Sally M. Foster, ed., *The St Andrews Sarcophagus. A Pictish Masterpiece and its International Connections* (Historic Scotland), Dublin, 1998. 287 pp. Hardback £45.00, paperback £14.95. [Ten authors combine to examine and contextualise the sarcophagus, which is one of the most important medieval sculptures in Europe. Interpreted as a Pictish royal shrine, it is a fascinating example of pre-Romanesque art. The volume gathers together the papers presented at a conference held jointly by the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland and Historic Scotland, and though the sarcophagus was the primary focus, the whole question of Scottish culture and cultural connections in the 7th to 9th centuries is examined.]

John D. Grainger, *Cromwell Against the Scots. The Last Anglo-Scottish War, 1650-1652*, East Linton, 1997. v + 202 pp. £14.99. [The author tells the military and political story of what he considers to have been the last Anglo-Scottish war, which happened in spite of the fact that England and Scotland had been sharing a monarchy since 1603. This is the first full account of the war.]

Historic Scotland [Pat Gibbons], *Preparation and Use of Lime Mortars. An Introduction to the Principles of using Lime Mortars* (Technical Advice Note 1, drafted by the Scottish Lime Centre for Historic Scotland). Edinburgh, 1995. 60 pp. £5.00. [For anyone concerned with the history of buildings in Scotland and with their conservation, this is an invaluable aid. It draws together existing knowledge of traditional lime mortars, and discusses the technical issues.]

Historic Scotland [Christopher Brereton, edited by John Knight], *The Repair of Historic Buildings in Scotland. Advice on Principles and Methods*. Edinburgh, 1995. 76 pp. £9.00. [Designed to complement Historic Scotland's *Memorandum of Guidance on Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas*, this booklet has a strong technical content, with much relevance for students of traditional forms of building and their conservation.]

Andrew Hook and Richard B. Sher, eds., *The Glasgow Enlightenment*, East Linton, 1995. xi + 252 pp. [The twelve chapters of this book constitute the proceedings of a

conference in Glasgow by the Eighteenth Century Scottish Studies Society. The bulk of the chapters examine the work of a range of academic and intellectual figures – not only Adam Smith – at a time when the economy was booming, and Glasgow men of science and letters were making a mark on the world. This volume puts the Glasgow of the period into balance with Edinburgh.]

Ian Hustwick, *The Peggy & Isabella. The story of an eighteenth century Orkney sloop*, Aberdeen, 1996. 87 pp. £9.50. [This book records the 31 year life and activity of an Orkney sloop, trading from there to mainland Britain and the Baltic with cargoes of mainly kelp, coal and timber. The detailed disbursement records of her Master, William Hewison, tell much about the day-to-day running of a small ship at the period.]

Edward D. Ives, *The Bonny Earl of Murray. The Man, the Murder, the Ballad*, East Linton, 1997. xvii + 182 pp. £14.99. [Sandy Ives gives a detailed history of the murder of the Second Earl of Moray by the Sixth Earl of Huntly in 1592, as a prelude to tracing the origins and survival over four centuries of the two extant ballads on the murder. The book throws light on the way in which the people's anger can be kept alive by balladry. The ballads were further stimulated by the folksong revival of the 1960s.]

Robin Jackson and Sidney Wood, *Images of Scotland* (The Journal of Scottish Education, Occasional Paper, Number One), Dundee, 1997. 62 pp. £6.50. [This booklet brings together the five principal papers delivered at a conference on 'The Scottish Dimension to the School History Curriculum', held at the Northern College of Education, Dundee. They look at major aspects and periods of Scottish history – the wars of Independence, Scots as Europeans, the Union of 1707, questions of heritage, identity and ethnicity, and the role of the media.]

Richard Lomas, *County of Conflict. Northumberland from Conquest to Civil War*, East Linton, 1996. xi + 211 pp. £14.99. [Northumberland is an area that the kings of Scotland long refused to accept as being English. It was even occupied by a Scottish army after the Union of the Crowns in 1603. Besides throwing much light on medieval life, the book provides data about border conflicts, which seem to be so much part of everyday life now, and their eventual resolution.]

J. Derrick McClure, *Scots and its Literature*, Amsterdam/Philadelphia 1995. 218 pp. [A volume in the important series, Varieties of English Around the World, consisting in this case of a collection of articles and studies written by the author between 1979 and 1988, and updated and revised where necessary. All are concerned with the sociolinguistic status of Lowland Scots and its use in literature. They include discussion of the concept of Standard Scots, of the debate on Scots orthography, what Scots owes to Gaelic, and on the 'synthesisers' of Scots.]

Colin MacDonald, *Highland Life and Love. Part One, Croft and Ceilidh, Part Two, Highland Memories*, Edinburgh 1997. vii + 322 pp. £10.99. [This is a re-issue in the Mercat Classics series of two books that first appeared in 1947 and 1949 respectively. They give a vivid and often humorous but always insightful picture of crofting life, told by one who was himself a crofter, who became a senior Land Officer with the Department of Agriculture for Scotland, and later a Gaelic-speaking member of the Land Court.]

R. Andrew McDonald, *The Kingdom of the Isles. Scotland's Western Seaboard, c. 1100-c. 1336* (Scottish Historical Review Monographs Series No. 4), East Linton, 1997. xv + 280 pp. [This study covers the period from the time of Somerled to that of his descendant, John MacDonald, the first Lord of the Isles. It looks at the kingdom and its rulers, and at the complex interrelationships with Scotland, Norway and England. Though dealing primarily with political matters, it is conscious of social change throughout, and takes into account the surviving cultural heritage also.]

Sharon Macdonald, *Reimagining Culture: Histories, Identities and the Gaelic Renaissance*, Oxford, New York, 1997. xix + 297 pp. Hardback £34.99, paperback £14.99. [This book questions the meaning of 'cultural identity', in relation to policies that have developed since the 1960s about the revival of minority cultures and languages. It analyses the responses to such policies in a Hebridean community, taking into account local views, and providing new insights that can amend conventional thinking about ethnic and national identity.]

Allan I. MacInnes, *Clanship, Commerce and the House of Stuart, 1603-1788*, East Linton, 1996. xv + 288 pp. £16.99. [Clanship is looked at from its heyday till its eventual demise at the time of the Clearances. The author's view is that the throwing over of personal obligations by the clan elite is what led to the fall of the system, rather than legislation or central government repression. The change was from feudalism to capitalism. Estate papers, letters, financial compacts, social bonds and oral tradition have been used in support of the thesis, which provides a different slant from the more biased government papers and reports.]

Angus Edward MacInnes, *Eriskay Where I Was Born*, Edinburgh, 1997. 208 pp. £12.99. [The writer, born in 1925, gives an account of life in Eriskay, and of his own upbringing there. He served as a radio officer in the Merchant Navy during the Second World War, and thereafter was a fisherman, before the final stage of his career as a captain on the Caledonian MacBrayne ferries on the Clyde.]

Iain MacIvor, *Edinburgh Castle* (Historic Scotland), London, 1993. 143 pp. Hardback £25.00, paperback £14.99. [Though evidence for prehistoric use has been found, the

Castle Rock is first referred to about AD 600. The author tells its complex history from its volcanic origins to its role as a royal fortress and palace, its rebuilding as a military garrison, and its present importance as a major tourist attraction.]

Howard Wight Marshall, *Paradise Valley, Nevada. The People and Buildings of an American Place*, Tucson and London, 1995. xiv + 152 pp. \$55.00. [The story of the people and their buildings in Paradise Valley from the time of the first settlers in the 1860s-70s. This frontier community made the most of what natural resources there were and has left a rich legacy of vernacular buildings. A group of Italian settlers, skilled stonemasons, have left an enduring mark on the architecture, but the author does not forget the adobe bricks and wooden framed buildings either.]

Ingval Maxwell, *Building Materials of the Scottish Farmstead* (Scottish Vernacular Buildings Working Group, Regional and Thematic Studies no. 3), Edinburgh 1996. 74 pp. [A survey by the Director of Technical Education, Research and Education of Historic Scotland, of walling and roofing materials, past and present, in Scottish farms.]

Roger Mercer et al, *Kirkpatrick Fleming Dumfriesshire. An Anatomy of a Parish in South West Scotland* (Dumfriesshire and Galloway Natural History and Antiquarian Society), Dumfries, 1997. viii + 248 pp. £25.00. [A magnificently produced volume that sets new standards in the writing of parish histories. The various authors examine the landscape, the archaeology, settlement patterns and place-names, communications, extractive industries and buildings of all kinds and classes. Much of the data is based on original survey activity.]

Michael Michie, *An Enlightenment Tory in Victorian Scotland. The Career of Sir Archibald Alison*, East Linton, 1997. x + 228 pp. £20.00. [The political and intellectual biography of Sir Archibald Alison (1792-1867), sheriff of Lanarkshire. He was a historian, social critic and criminal lawyer, whose activities and prolific writings show links between the Scottish Enlightenment and Victorian conservatism.]

Patrick Mileham, ed., *Clearly My Duty. The Letters of Sir John Gilmour from the Boer War, 1900-1901*, East Linton, 1996. xx + 200 pp. £15.99. [The author of the letters commanded the Fife Light Horse Company of the Imperial Yeomanry in the Boer War. He later became first Secretary of State for Scotland, then Home Secretary. The letters not only give a first hand account of British military performance against the Boers, but also tell much of the social history of the period.]

Richard Oram, *Scotland's Kings and Queens. Royalty and the Realm*. (Discovering Historic Scotland), Historic Scotland, Edinburgh 1997. 108 pp. 312.99. [The story runs from

the times of the kings of the Picts to James VI and the union with England. Nation building and independence, administration and religion are looked at, as well as royal travel and royal pastimes such as the chase and tennis.]

D. D. R. Owen, *William the Lion 1143-1214. Kingship and Culture*, East Linton 1997, xii + 218 pp. £25.00. [This first biography of William the Lion looks at his reign in the context of the country's cultural and international history, at the 'high point of feudal chivalry and crusading endeavour'. French influence was strong, though Scotland was marking out her place in Europe at the period. Interpretation of a body of literary texts set in Scotland, a skit on the Grail legend, demonstrates a cultural flowering.]

James Porter, ed., *Folklore and Traditional Music in the Former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe*, Department of Ethnomusicology, UCLA, 1997. 100 pp. [This volume contains the papers presented at a conference held in 1994. In addition to ethnomusicological studies, there are papers on communism and folklore, and the whole amounts to a re-assessment of the subject under changing political situations.]

James Porter and Herschel Gower, *Jeannie Robertson. Emergent Singer, Transformative Voice*, East Linton, 1999 (first published Knoxville, 1995). xlvii + 357 pp. Paperback £20.00. [Jeannie Robertson was one of Scotland's most famous singers of traditional songs. Her repertoire is examined and analysed, as well as the story of her life as a 'traveller' and the importance of song in her family and community. The volume includes 80 of her songs, with musical notations.]

Anna Ritchie, *Viking Scotland* (Historic Scotland), London, 1993. 143 pp. Hardback £25.00, paperback £14.99. [The north and west of Scotland in particular retain the imprint of settlement from Scandinavia, through place-names, language and physical remains. The author looks at the sources from which the Vikings came, what they found when they arrived, how they integrated with the natives, and the long-term effects of their settlement.]

Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland, *Scottish Farm Buildings Survey, I East Central Scotland*, RCAHMS, NMS 1998. 24 pp. £3.00; *II Orkney*, RCAHMS, NMS 1998, 30 pp. £3.00. [The first two volumes in a planned series of 15, prepared by the RCAHMS (co-ordinator, Geoffrey Stell) in collaboration with the National Museums of Scotland (Dr John Shaw). A representative sample of farm buildings is surveyed in each case. Well illustrated with photographs and drawings. The survey material is deposited with the RCAHMS's National Monuments Record of Scotland.]

Kenneth Simpson, ed., *Love & Liberty. Robert Burns. A Bicentenary Celebration*, Tuckwell Press: East Linton 1997, x + 368 pp. £16.99. [The Proceedings of the International Bicentenary Burns Conference, held in January 1996 at the University of Strathclyde. Thirty-two contributions amply explore the multi-faceted nature of Burns as a man and as a writer, and consider the Burns cult as an aspect of Scottish identity.]

Dennis Smith et al., *Scotland*. (World Bibliographical Series, Volume 24, revised edition), Clio Press: Oxford 1998, xl + 434 pp. £80.00. [The volume concentrates on bibliographical entries of relatively recent date, and covers books on the physical and historical environment and setting, economy and culture, political and administrative organisation, literature and the arts, food and drink, sports and games, etc. Each entry is accompanied by a short elucidatory paragraph. This is a useful book, from which the reader can learn much through browsing.]

David Stevenson, *King or Covenant? Voices from Civil War*, East Linton, 1996. xvi + 212 pp. £14.99. [This book is a kind of oral history, for it looks at the biographies of thirteen individuals, all of a reasonable degree of social status, who lived through the mid-17th century wars in Scotland. Memoirs, diaries and letters are the sources on which their lives are reconstructed.]

Chris Tabraham and Doreen Grove, *Fortress Scotland and the Jacobites* (Historic Scotland), London, 1995. 128 pp. Paperback £14.99. [This covers the century between 1650 and 1750, from Cromwell's invasion to the defeat of Bonnie Prince Charlie at Culloden, after which the Stuart dynasty was replaced by the Hanoverian one. The long extended military activity left many remains in the form of adapted royal castles, new forts, barrack blocks and military roads, all of which have made an indelible imprint on the landscape as well as on the history of the country.]

Ríonach Uí Ogáin, *Immortal Dan. Daniel O'Connell in Irish Folk Tradition*, Dublin, n.d. (1995). 260 pp. [The story of how oral tradition has gathered around a historical figure who became a folk hero. His activities and his rhetoric are both remembered, and immortalised in song, lore and legend. The material on which the book is based is preserved in the archives of the Department of Irish Folklore, University College Dublin.]

Janet Hadley Williams, ed., *Stewart Style 1513-1542. Essays on the Court of James V*, East Linton, 1996. xvii + 323 pp. Paperback £25.00. [14 contributors look at a variety of facets of the court of King James V, and illuminate a complex and fascinating period, the 'style' of which they attempt to identify. Music, poetry and prose, architecture, manuscript compilation, administration, iconography and heraldry are amongst the topics examined.]

Peter Yeoman, *Medieval Scotland. An Archaeological Perspective* (Historic Scotland), London, 1995. 128 pp. £15.99. [A survey and interpretation of the evidence that can be gathered from excavation to illuminate a 500 year period of life in Scotland. Within the last 20 years there has been much archaeological activity, not only in the traditional sites such as ecclesiastical military establishments but also in the burghs, as a result of which an immense amount of new knowledge has been gained.]