

SCOTTISH STUDIES
Index to Volumes 1–40

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1957 – 2024

Virginia Blankenhorn

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About the journal

First published in 1957, *Scottish Studies* has striven to reflect the mission of the University of Edinburgh's School of Scottish Studies, founded in 1951 to preserve and explore Scotland's rich and diverse cultural and linguistic heritage. For over six decades, contributors to the journal have enriched our knowledge of Scotland and its peoples from Galloway to Shetland, from Stonehaven to St Kilda, and from Scotland to Gaelic Canada. Research topics have included archaeology and pre-history; demographics; ethnography and ethnology; history (especially the impact of significant events on ordinary people); land use and distribution; fishing and seafaring; material culture; onomastics; oral culture and traditions; and spiritual beliefs, customs and observances. Today, in addition to these topics, we welcome research centring on Scotland's evolving landscapes, physical and social, and the peoples who call Scotland home in the twenty-first century.

Publication

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Scottish Studies is published online at <https://open.journals.ed.ac.uk/ScottishStudies>.

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Submissions

Scottish Studies encourages submissions of original research, in English or Gaelic, from affiliated and independent scholars worldwide. Prior to submitting, researchers should contact the editor directly to request the Author Guidelines. Following initial editorial scrutiny, articles are subject to double-blind peer review.

Please note that all submissions and other communication should be sent by email directly to the editor, Virginia Blankenhorn, at virginia.blankenhorn@ed.ac.uk, using the subject-line 'Scottish Studies'.

Reviews

Reviews are normally commissioned, but we welcome readers' suggestions of works that they would like to see reviewed.

If you have published a work that you think should be reviewed in *Scottish Studies*, or if you would like to suggest a work suitable for review, please contact the Editor by email at virginia.blankenhorn@ed.ac.uk, using the subject-line 'Scottish Studies'.

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Introduction

Some years ago, an email enquiry circulated among members of staff of Celtic and Scottish Studies at the University of Edinburgh. The enquirer's question: did we know of anyone who had written an article about the production of charcoal from peat in the Highlands of Scotland?

Unfortunately, nobody did.

Since becoming *Scottish Studies*' latest editor two years ago, I determined that it was high time to get the entirety of the journal's output posted online. My predecessor, Dr John Shaw, had established a beachhead for this effort by publishing volume 34 online, as well as in print, in 2006. Subsequent volumes followed the same pattern until this year, when volume 40 was published online only. The straitened financial circumstances in which many journals – especially humanities journals – find themselves today have made print publishing a luxury we can no longer afford.

Financial exigencies have also meant that Dr Shaw never had the resources to get the first thirty-three volumes of the journal scanned, digitised, and posted online, much as he wished to do so. This task has, however, at last been accomplished. Thanks to the University of Edinburgh's having preserved a full set of the volumes of *Scottish Studies* and their willingness to lend them to me for a considerable period, all volumes now exist in digital form. While scanning them was unquestionably a tedious job, one consequence is that I now have a much more intimate knowledge of their contents, as well as a far better grasp of the journal's trajectory over its first sixty-seven years. I can now say that anyone wanting to know about peat-based charcoal, essential in the development of Scottish metallurgy, can read about it in Iain A. Crawford's article '*Gual Gàidhealach – Peat Charcoal*' in *Scottish Studies*, volume 8 (1964).

The challenge of indexing the contents of *Scottish Studies* has been attempted before. Indeed, each of the first thirty volumes contains its own index, and volume 10 contains a cumulative index of the first ten volumes. These indexes have not, however, provided a model for the present effort, because the sort of indexing required for a printed book is not needed for an online volume. Today, readers can access articles on any subject by using a search engine; and once a likely article has been identified, a word search of the text (assuming it's in a digitised format) can accomplish the rest. The internet age has, in effect, rendered the old-school index redundant.

So why produce an index at all?

The rationale for the present index is simple enough: to give readers and potential contributors an overview of the sort of material published in *Scottish Studies* in the past, and to make it easier to trace the development of particular research topics through its pages. When the journal was founded in 1957, there were far fewer outlets for research on many topics than there are today. Articles on Scottish geography and history, for example, were offered to *Scottish Studies* for this reason, their authors having been encouraged by editors who themselves had a background in those subjects. Similarly, articles on Scottish ethnography would have been unlikely to find a publisher in those early years – particularly a Scottish publisher – because the field itself was still in its infancy. We hope, therefore, that this index will enable those interested in a particular topic to gain a clearer picture not just of that topic, but also of how the editors of this journal have defined 'Scottish Studies' over the past six decades, and have thereby helped to define our discipline as a whole.

Finally, I would like to record my thanks to Dr Emily Lyle, whose capacious memory, warm encouragement, and wise counsel have been enormously helpful in bringing this project to a conclusion.

Virginia Blankenhorn
Editor, *Scottish Studies*

