

# Studies in Scottish Literature

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## Preface

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## Preface

### ***Studies in Scottish Literature,* new series: print and digital**

As Professor Roy explains in his Note, this volume marks a transition for *Studies in Scottish Literature*. Since he founded the journal in 1963, he has been its only editor. Many people had expressed concern when, following his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday, he announced that the special double-volume of invited papers, vol. 35-36 (2008), would be *SSL*'s final appearance, except for a general index. When he subsequently suggested it could be continued as a new series, under our editorship, the prospect was daunting. In many ways, the reputation and quality of the journal have rested on Professor Roy's own reputation and expertise. We have been much encouraged, both by Prof. Roy's own interest in plans for the re-launch, and by the willingness of established scholars in the field who agreed to advise, to referee submissions, and indeed to contribute as the journal starts its new phase.

As this initial volume indicates, we plan to continue the format of an annual volume that Professor Roy has used for many years. We hope to be offered, and include in each issue, scholarly contributions on all periods and genres of Scottish literature, from the medieval to the contemporary. We want to include, when they are offered, contributions that explore the interrelations between Scottish literature and other literatures and between traditionally literary approaches and research undertaken from other disciplinary perspectives. As a journal of record in its field, we hope that *SSL* will also continue to attract research-based shorter articles making available significant manuscripts or documents (and we are grateful to Professor Roy for starting us off with the newly-discovered manuscript of Burns's "The Poet's Welcome"). While it has not been possible to restart the *SSL* reviewing tradition for this volume, we have been able to include a record of books recently received. Future plans include more substantial review essays by relevant scholars on small groups of books that exemplify changes in a specific area of interest.

Along with continuity, we are trying out some new initiatives for the new series. This volume presents the first in what we plan to be a series of annual symposia, each offering a cluster of short articles and responses on a special issue or topic. This year's symposium, on the state of Scottish literary studies, debates how the field has changed in the fifty years since *SSL* was founded; the next symposium (for volume 39) will explore recent developments and issues in the scholarly editing of Scottish texts, under the provisional title "Divergent Authenticities."

More radically, beginning with this volume, *SSL* is being published both in print and digital form, dramatically expanding access for students and researchers, and earlier volumes are also being made freely available. While we are continuing the annual printed volume for libraries and other subscribers, each volume will now first be born digital and made accessible through the *SSL* site hosted by the University of South Carolina Libraries (<http://scholarcommons.sc.edu/ssl/>). Professor Roy had already been exploring possibilities for digitizing the earlier volumes; this past summer, twenty-two earlier volumes (volumes 13-34, 1977-2004) were made available as a free, searchable digital archive.

As in the past, the continuing success of the journal rests on the range and quality of the contributions that are submitted. There is now an extraordinary wealth of research being carried out on Scottish literary topics. We hope that in future, as so often in the past, some of the very best of that research will be offered to *Studies in Scottish Literature*.

Patrick Scott & Tony Jarrells