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## Books Noted and Received

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## Books Noted and Received

### Cover Page Footnote

Patrick Scott and John Knox, "Books Noted and Received," *Studies in Scottish Literature*, 40 (2014): 241-250.

## BOOKS NOTED AND RECEIVED

This list covers books received or noted since publication of *SSL* 39 in September 2013. Inclusion in this list need not preclude possible fuller discussion of a book in a subsequent review or review essay.

Brown, Ian and Alan Riach, eds. *Lion's Milk / Aslan Sütü: Turkish Poems by Scottish Poets*. Translated by Gürlu White. Kilkerran: Kennedy & Boyd, 2012. Reprinted 2013. Pp. 75. Paper. ISBN 978-1-84921-118-5.

—Perhaps improbably, usage statistics show Turkish readers making significant use of the digital *SSL*. This modest pamphlet presents poems about Turkey by ten Scots writers from William Lithgow and Lord Byron, through Edwin Morgan and Liz Lochhead, to John Purser, Bashabi Fraser, and the two editors, together with translations into Turkish, mostly printed on facing pages; in the case of Donald MacAulay's poem in Gaelic, there are also two English translations, by Derrick McClure and Alan Riach. The brief biographical notes on each poet and the short introduction, explaining the origin of the project for an international conference in Istanbul, are also given in both languages.

Buelmann, Tanja, Andrew Hinson, and Graeme Morton, eds. *The Scottish Diaspora*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2013. Pp. 298. Paper, £24.99. ISBN 978-0-7486-4892-4.

—This collaborative book analyses a variety of data on the phenomenon of Scots' dispersal overseas from the 18<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, presenting both statistical and more conventional documentary setting ethno-cultural factors in emigrant identity alongside the economic and political factors in emigration, and concluding with a model "Immortal Memory," neatly introduced as "not the essential, but the essentialist diasporan

experience.” While shorter and less comprehensive than Tom Devine’s recent *To the Ends of the Earth: Scotland’s Global Diaspora, 1750-2010* (2011), this book includes a valuable comparative discussion of social-scientific models for studying diaspora, and of objections to use of the term for the Scottish overseas experience, with implications for those studying Scottish literary influence in particular emigrant communities.

Burnett, John and Kate Mackay. *John Buchan and The Thirty-Nine Steps: An Exploration*. Edinburgh: NMS Enterprises Limited, 2014. Pp. 109. Paper, £8.99. ISBN 978-1-905267-87-3.

—While there has long been a core of serious Buchan commentary, Buchan’s popular success and his prodigious output in many other genres make it easy to underestimate his achievements as a novelist. This book, a modestly-presented but detailed look at the first and best-known of his Richard Hannay thrillers, includes a brief biography, interesting studies on such aspects as the geography, literary, and South African background to the novel, brief summaries of all Buchan’s novels, and a selective survey of Buchan scholarship.

Campbell, Mungo et al. *Allan Ramsay: Portraits of the Enlightenment*. Munich, London, & New York: Prestel, 2013. Pp. 128. Hardcover, \$60. ISBN 978-3-7913-4878-0.

—No, not *that* Allan Ramsay (or not mostly). This handsomely-illustrated, large-format book accompanied a major exhibition at the University of Glasgow’s Hunterian Museum to mark the tercentenary of the Scots painter Allan Ramsay, junior (1713-1784). Unlike most art exhibitions, however, this one explored, alongside Ramsay’s paintings, his background and context, and the second substantial chapter is a helpful essay by Melanie Buntin and Rhona Brown on the relation between the younger Ramsay and his father, the poet and editor. The whole volume should be of interest to students of eighteenth-century Scottish culture, for its essays on the women Ramsay painted and on his sense of classical heritage, as well for stunning full-colour reproductions from Ramsay’s portraits of a Scottish aristocracy that was intellectual as well as social.

Crawford, Robert. *Bannockburns: Scottish Independence and Literary Imagination, 1314-2014*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2014. Pp. viii + 280. Hardcover, £75; ISBN 978-0-7486-8583-7; paper, £19.99; ISBN 978-0-7486-8584-4.

—Crawford's book, an exploration of the relation of poetry to national politics, charts across seven centuries how "authors from Scotland and beyond," both major and minor, have constructed "a resilient and adaptable 'political imaginary,' ... articulating the link between Scottish independence and the literary imagination." While earlier writers (Barbour, Blind Hary, Douglas) get briefer treatment, Burns gets a full-length chapter, Scott and Jane Porter get summarized, MacDiarmid gets extended coverage, and more recent writers (including Morgan, Gray, Lochhead, Kelman, Patterson) also get considered, alongside such influential Bannockburn legacies as the Corries' "Flower o' Scotland," Mel Gibson's *Braveheart*, and occasional references in Alex Salmond speeches. As in Crawford's earlier and more comprehensive *Scotland's Books*, the individual page-by-page readings are often subtle, cautious, or even cagey, and readers across the Scottish political spectrum will find it a book worth their attention.

Duncan, Lesley and Alan Riach, eds. *The Smeddum Test: 21<sup>st</sup>-Century Poems in Scots. The McCash Anthology 2003-2012*. Kilkerran: Kennedy & Boyd, 2013 (repr. 2014). Pp. 129. Paper. ISBN 978-1-84921-124-6.

—This anthology collects 101 of the best entries, roughly ten poems a year, from the annual McCash competition for short poems in Scots, run jointly since 2003 by the University of Glasgow and the Glasgow *Herald*. While *SSL* does not regularly review new writing, this anthology seems worth note both as a largely-extramural counterpoint to campus-based creative writing and because the collection includes poems by Rab Wilson, Alan MacGillivray, and Aonghas MacNeacail.

Dunnigan, Sarah and Suzanne Gilbert, eds. *The Edinburgh Companion to Scottish Traditional Literatures*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2013. Pp. 216. Paper, £24.99. ISBN 978-0-7486-4539-8.

—This useful collection differs from most others in its series, in bringing together introductory essays that cover a very wide time-span and that bridge the often-separate worlds of Gaelic and Scots literature, and of folk lore, oral tradition, song studies, and published literature. Contributors include folklore scholars such as Margaret Bennett and Lizanne Henderson, the ballad scholar Emily Lyle, literary historians such as Sarah Dunnigan on the early modern period, Valentina Bold on the 18<sup>th</sup> century, and Suzanne Gilbert on the romantic period, Katherine Campbell and Kirsteen McCue on lowland song, and Corey Gibson on the modern folk revival.

Gray, Alasdair. *Of Me and Others*. Glasgow: Cargo Publishing, 2014. Pp. iv + 472. Hardback (in plastic case), £29.99. ISBN 978-190-888-5401.

—This compulsively-readable collection of autobiography, memoirs, essays, prefaces, interviews, and tributes to Gray's friends or collaborators is important because it is Gray's account of his own (writing) career. It also constitutes an informal, and surprisingly wide-ranging survey of the past fifty years of Scottish literary and cultural history. While much of the material is previously published, it is reprinted here with sidenotes giving Gray's explanation of each item. Researchers should note that occasionally (as in the tribute to Philip Hobsbaum) additional material has been inserted in a reprinted text.

Irvine, Robert P., ed. *Selected Poems and Songs*, by Robert Burns. Oxford: Oxford University Press. Pp. xxxvi + 451. Hardback, \$24.95: ISBN 978-0-19-960392-3; paper, \$17.95: ISBN 9780199682324.

—This new Burns selection, offering a broad range of material in the texts and sequence of its first publication, will be welcomed by Burnsians for its sensible introduction and detailed, up-to-date annotation. The songs from Johnson and Thomson are accompanied by (reengraved) music, "Tam o' Shanter" is paired with the Alloway Kirk engraving from Grose's *Antiquities*, "The Jolly Beggars" is given complete, together with three songs from the *Merry Muses*, and the small print and thin paper also allow inclusion of Burns's letter to John Moore, and Mackenzie's review from the *Lounger*. While some teachers will prefer a complete Burns, this selection provides a plausible rival for class use to Carol McGuirk's well-established and still valuable Penguin selection.

Kirk, John M. and Iseabail Macleod, eds. *Scots: Studies in its Literature and Language*. SCROLL, vol. 21. Amsterdam & New York: Rodopi, 2013. Pp. 308. Paper. 978-90420-3739-7.

—This volume, a festschrift honouring J. Derrick McClure, contains an appreciation and bibliography of McClure's distinctive role in Scots language studies, with some thirteen substantive essays that, in the range of their contributors and topics, are in themselves evidence of his wide influence. In addition to essays on Scots dictionaries, Scots usage in literary texts (notably in Stevenson), and Scots language influence overseas (in North Carolina and Australia), the volume includes three essays on translation into and from Scots by Gavin Douglas and others (another of McClure's continuing interests), a contribution from James Robertson on contemporary Scots-language publishing, and a concluding

essay by John Kirk on a Northern Ireland civil service response to the 1992 European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages.

McCracken-Flesher, Caroline, ed. *Approaches to Teaching the Works of Robert Louis Stevenson* [Approaches to Teaching World Literature, vol. 124]. New York: Modern Language Association, 2013. Pp. xiv + 238. Paper, \$19.95. ISSN 1059-1133.

—“Stevenson in the classroom,” one thinks: well, nowadays, that pretty much means *Jekyll and Hyde*. This jam-packed volume includes several essays on that now-iconic text, but it is both more varied than one might expect and probably more useful than many in its series. While the editor’s helpful opening survey of Stevenson scholarship is puckishly headed with his advice “There is but one art, to omit,” the volume that follows is wide-ranging. There are indeed contributions on *Jekyll and Hyde*, on Stevenson and theory, on gender, and on film adaptations, as one might expect, but also on the Scottish adventures, the essays, *Treasure Island*, short stories, poetry, *A Child’s Garden*, travel writing, and writing from and about the Pacific. Among the thirty contributors are Jenni Calder, Ian Duncan, Penny Fielding, Matthew Wickman, Oliver Buckton, J. Derrick McClure, Scott Hames, Roderick Watson, Alan Riach, H. Aram Veesser, and Thomas Richardson.

MacIntyre, Duncan Ban. *Praise of Ben Doran*. Translated by Alan Riach. Newtyle: Kettillonia, 2013. Pp. 44. Paper, £5.99. ISBN 9781902944302.

—Duncan Ban MacIntyre (1724-1812) is one of the best-known (and most widely available) of eighteenth-century Gaelic poets. Previous translators of this poem include J.S. Blackie, Hugh MacDiarmid, and Ian Crichton Smith, as well as by several modern Gaelic scholars. Alan Riach’s new translation is here paired with a brief introduction and biographical notes, several small illustrations by Sandy Moffat, the musical setting by Anne Lorne Gillies, and an unsourced reprint of the Gaelic text.

Pittock, Murray. *Material Culture and Sedition, 1688-1760: Treacherous Objects, Secret Places*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2013. Pp. 226. Hardcover, \$95. ISBN 978-1-137-27808-1.

—Pittock’s new study is both a specific study (of Jacobite relics, objects and iconography, examined as evidence for ‘seditious memorialization’), and an exemplary or methodological study, encouraging literary and historical scholars to interpret material objects with the kind of cultural

complexity traditionally applied to written or published texts. In the nature of things, it can be difficult to know whether the particular items that survive for modern discussion are representative of a much wider material culture that was hidden or suppressed, and at which point such memorialization morphed from being seditious (as with some of the earliest relics or medals) to eccentric or even sentimental (as perhaps with the post-1766 teapot illustrated on p. 147 and as plate 8), but Pittock's deep sense of context provides persuasive readings of a wide variety of evidence, and his brief conclusion tackles the question of distinguishing the "treacherous" objects that are his focus from contemporary non-seditious Hanoverian memorabilia and later Jacobite kitsch. The book concludes with a formidable bibliography of recent Jacobite scholarship and a very useful glossary of Jacobite mottoes, terminology and in-group cant.

Preuss, Stefanie. *A Scottish National Canon? Processes of Canon Formation in Scotland*. Heidelberg: Universitätsverlag Winter, 2012. Pp. 381. Hardcover, \$99. ISBN 978-3-8253-6013-9.

—This fascinating and substantial study surveys a variety of documentary or empirical evidence on the late 20<sup>th</sup>-century canon of Scottish literature, as shown in e.g. anthologies, literary histories, publishing and reprint series such as the Canongate Classics, bestseller lists, university prospectuses and syllabuses, government reports, and set texts at the secondary level, in an attempt to disentangle ideological or essentialist (ethnocentric and nationalist) canon-formation from a more descriptive state-based or geographical canon. The preliminary survey of earlier scholarship on the canon sometimes seems to dismiss or misread previous writers, but the study includes acute observation on e.g. the dominance of 20<sup>th</sup> century writing in the secondary classroom, and the relatively thin and traditional canon of earlier Scottish literature at university level. Whether or not Preuss's more general argument commands general assent, the wealth of material assembled and surveyed here makes this an essential book for any future discussion of the topic.

Raffe, Alasdair. *The Culture of Controversy: Religious Arguments in Scotland, 1660-1714*. Studies in Modern British Religious History, vol. 28. Woodbridge: Boydell, 2012. Pp. xvi + 289. Hardbound, \$99. ISBN 978-1-84383-729-9.

—This richly-detailed account of religious controversy in Scotland examines the modes and media of argument used by Presbyterians and



Episcopalians, especially in the period after 1689 leading up to the Act of Union. The persuasiveness of its general case (a counterargument to cultural-political theories of the “public sphere”) rests in juxtaposing more formal aspects of controversy, in print media, with the role in religious controversy of informal cultural performance, in preaching, oral exchange, manuscript, and print ephemera, as in satiric Episcopalian anecdotes on prominent Presbyterian clerics. Raffe, an historian, writes readably and knowledgeably, and his book will repay attention from literary scholars of the period.

Read, Dennis M. *R.H. Cromek, Engraver, Editor, and Entrepreneur*. Farnham: Ashgate, 2011. Pp. xii + 182. Hardcover, £65. ISBN 978-0754663997.

—Robert Hartley Cromek (1770-1812) has a dual significance in Scottish literary studies, first as editor of the *Reliques of Robert Burns* (1808), an important follow-up collection often found bound as a fifth volume to Currie’s *Works*, and then for his collection *Remains of Nithsdale and Galloway Song* (1810), in which he was damagingly dependent on Allan Cunningham. Read’s useful study is primarily focused on Cromek’s relations with William Blake and involvement in the contemporary engraving market, but devotes chapters to Cromek’s two Scottish projects.

Riach, Alan. *A Traveller’s Guide to Literary Scotland: 60 Places to Visit in Scotland associated with writers from Shetland to Ecclefechan*. [Edinburgh and Glasgow]: VisitScotland, ASLS, and Creative Scotland, n.d. [2013]. No price or ISBN given.

—This brief illustrated guide combines photographs and descriptive paragraphs on 60 literary sites, arranged by geographic region, with a fold-out map and very brief biographical notes on each of the writers mentioned.

Robinson, David. *In Cold Ink: on the Writers’ Tracks*. Edinburgh: Maclean Dubois, 2008. Pp. 177. Hardback, £9.99. ISBN 978-0-951440-5-5.

—This book reprints interviews, mostly from *The Scotsman*, with twenty-one writers, including A.L. Kennedy, Robin Jenkins, Janice Galloway, Zoe Wicomb, Jackie Kay and Edwin Morgan. Two essays report exploring the geographical settings of Alexander McCall Smith’s Botswana and Ian Rankin’s Edinburgh.

Rodner, William S., ed. *Scotia: Interdisciplinary Journal of Scottish Studies*. Volume XXXV. Norfolk: Old Dominion University, 2013. Pp. 51. Paper, \$10. ISSN 0273-0693.

—It is a pleasure to note the continuing publication of *Scotia*, which, while based in Old Dominion's history department, maintains its interdisciplinary focus, especially in book reviews. Articles in the current volume discuss Covenanter propaganda, 1637-1640, and David Hume's views of seventeenth-century literature.

Selle, Rosemary Anne. *The Parritch and the Partridge: The Reception of Robert Burns in Germany: A History*. Scottish Studies International, vol. 38. Frankfurt am Main: Peter Lang, 2013. Pp. 481. Hardcover, £65.00. ISBN 978-3-631-64176-7.

—The German-language reception of Burns has been of special importance in disentangling the nature of his extraordinary influence. Rosemary Selle's preface tells how this study, a long-unpublished 1981 Heidelberg PhD thesis, with English text but with most quotations in German, had "slumbered" in typescript for over thirty years before it was resurrected and brought to print by a group of Gottingen seminar students under Dr. Frauke Reitemeier. The body of the book (pp. 13-393) presents the original study unaltered, while a series of short sections by the book's rescuers (pp. 395-406) comment on Burns's German reception, 1980-2013. Selle's critical focus is on the practice and theory of translation, but she also comments on contextual and political issues as they affected attitudes to Burns; one intriguing section is the contrast in the inter-war years between the internationally-respected research of Hans Hecht, forced out of his Gottingen chair as a Jew, and that of his pro-Nazi contemporary Reinald Hoops, who in 1933 (when Hoops was teaching at Glasgow) published an essay in *Englische Studien* on the Scottish Renaissance and what it could learn from Germany about national renewal. Researchers should certainly check for more recent scholarship, but as a whole Selle's work holds up remarkably well, and this volume will be an indispensable resource for subsequent discussion of Burns's role in the development of European romantic nationalism.

Smith, Mark Ryan. *The Literature of Shetland*. Lerwick: The Shetland Times, Ltd., 2014. Pp. 268. Paper, £22.99. ISBN 978-1-904746-88-1.

—This substantial and very readable study of Shetland writing, over two hundred years, discusses Scott's *The Pirate*, MacDiarmid's "To a Raised

Beach,” and poetry by Robert Alan Jamieson, but its strength is in the recovery of many writers, virtually unknown outside Shetland, who created their own literary community. The islands had two weekly newspapers, including the publisher of this volume, in addition to specialized periodicals such as *The Shetlander* (in the 1920s) and *The New Shetlander* (from 1947), and Smith makes a good case for the quality of what got written, and published locally, over several generations. Writers who seem of potential interest to the wider study of Scottish literature include three near-contemporaries of Scott, Margaret Chalmers, Dorothea Campbell, and Thomas Irvine; the Shetland poet and novelist J. Haldane Burgess (1862-1927); and John Peterson (1895-1972), Excise officer and lifelong communist, who wrote poetry and a novel about his trenches experience in the First World War. Based on what was clearly a very good PhD thesis, with significant archival research, this book unobtrusively relates Shetland writers to wider critical discussion of e.g. the Kailyard or the modern Scottish Renaissance, but it also constitutes an unanswerable argument for the value of studying regional literatures within Scotland, as in other national literatures.

Stapleton, Anne McKee. *Pointed Encounters: Dance in Post-Culloden Scottish Literature*. SCROLL, vol. 23. Amsterdam and New York: Rodopi, 2014. Pp. 219. Paper, \$66/€47. ISBN 978-90-420-3869-1.

—Unlike the study of song or folktale, the persistence (and mutations) of Scottish dancing have attracted relatively little attention from literary scholars, yet in many ways Scottish dancing diverged from the broad 19<sup>th</sup>-century shift that recentered dance from the community to the couple, from minuet to waltz. As Anne McKee Stapleton attests in her introduction, Scottish dancing also remains a distinctive part of many Scottish emigrant communities. This book focuses on literary depictions of dancing, with the longest chapter devoted to the novels of Walter Scott and Christina Johnstone, and a chapter to three post-Scott women novelists Amelia Beauclerc, Susan Ferrier, and “Rosalia St. Clair” (Agnes Scott Hall). Other chapters explore the dance’s social symbolism, as in the opening chapter on John Skinner, Neil Gow and “Tullochgorum,” and its role as national marker, in the discussion of Queen Victoria and Scottish dance and in the fascinating section on Scottish dancing by Highland regiments in the Boer War. Stapleton has more to say about the gender implications of dance history than its increasing entanglement with class (and fashion), but the book is in many ways a useful pioneer study providing a context for future study of other texts and issues.

White, Simon J. *Romanticism and the Rural Community*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2013. Pp. x + 223. Hardbound, \$90. ISBN 978-1-137-28178-4.

—This study is primarily concerned with English writers on rural life, but it includes a chapter (pp. 123-153) that compares agrarian reform and community in Burns, Bloomfield, and Clare and stresses the extent of social change underlying “The Cotter’s Saturday Night.”

Zachs, William. *‘Breathes There The Man’: Sir Walter Scott 200 Years Since Waverley*. Edinburgh: Blackie House, 2014. Pp. 71. Paper. ISBN 978-0-9927522-0-0.

—Researchers are sometimes surprised by how much important archival material is still privately owned, and so untraceable through the usual on-line resources, just as they are shocked by the quantity of material in institutional libraries that remains invisible on the Web or even uncatalogued. This beautifully-produced exhibition catalogue marked both the bicentenary of Scott’s *Waverley* and the formal opening of Dr. William Zachs’ research library in Edinburgh, looking out towards the Scott monument, which has holdings in depth not only on Scott but other Scottish writers of the long 18<sup>th</sup> century. The three dozen items selected for exhibit (and illustration) include manuscripts (John Ballantyne’s ledger for 1820-1821, an early transcript of Scott’s *Don Roderick*, the passage “Breathes there the man” in Scott’s hand, and letters real and forged), iconography (Fox Talbot photographs of Abbotsford and a version of the Raeburn portrait), and memorabilia (a lock of Scott’s hair, Mauchline Ware, a manuscript poem by Felicia Hemans), as well as first editions and inscribed books from the library’s much larger Scott holdings. Though this is a private library, material can be made available to researchers by appointment, and it is valuable to have these holdings on record.