

1978

## Front Matter

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### Recommended Citation

(1978) "Front Matter," *Studies in Scottish Literature*: Vol. 13: Iss. 1.

Available at: <https://scholarcommons.sc.edu/ssl/vol13/iss1/2>

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VOLUME XIII

Studies  
in Scottish  
Literature



Edited by G. ROSS ROY

UNIVERSITY OF  
SOUTH CAROLINA PRESS



*Columbia, South Carolina*

Copyright © University of South Carolina 1978  
Published in Columbia, South Carolina,  
by the University of South Carolina Press, 1978

FIRST EDITION  
ISBN 0-87249-368-7

Manufactured in the United States of America

Editorial correspondence  
should be addressed to;  
EDITOR, STUDIES IN SCOTTISH LITERATURE  
Department of English  
University of South Carolina  
Columbia SC 29208 (USA)

Orders for current and back issues  
should be addressed to:  
UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA PRESS  
Columbia SC 29208 (USA)

## PREFACE

Like my publisher, I regret the fact that, with this volume, the articles in *Studies in Scottish Literature* are no longer set in type on that sturdy old wonderful warhorse of North American publishing, the Linotype machine. The unobtrusive handsomeness and justified margins of traditional typesetting have become too expensive for such a specialized publication. I hope that readers will rejoice with me that a thrifty combination of the typewriter and the camera at least makes it possible for *SSL* to continue to convey the kind of information and comment it has been its business to convey for fifteen years, and to do so at a price that is not outlandish. *SSL* has never made a profit for its publishers, but the new format is expected to make it possible to keep the loss within tolerable limits. Scientists have long been accustomed to reading the more specialized monographs of their colleagues in the form of replicated typescripts, but we "Humanists" (in this context, I find the quotation marks irresistible) have been slower to accept such a shirt-sleeves-rolled-up expedient. We can, of course, lament the high prices and low budgets that are now driving Historians, Literary Critics, and Philosophers to the economies of Engineers and Chemists, but we might be wiser to be glad that people who set type for a living are no longer underpaid.

The first twelve volumes of *SSL* were issued as a quarterly journal. It now becomes a hardcover book more suitable for the shelves of reference libraries and printed on paper that, in the opinion of Chemists, will last for hundreds of years. Let us hope the Chemists are right.

G. Ross Roy  
Columbia, S. C.  
January 1, 1978

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