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Notes and Documents: Stevenson's Treasure Island and the Bible; Fifth international Conference on early Scottish Language and Literature

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Notes and Documents



RLS and "the man in the Bible"

Patricia Whaley Hardesty, William H. Hardesty, III, and David Mann in their article entitled "Doctoring the Doctor: How Stevenson Altered the Second Narrator of *Treasure Island*" (*SSL*, 21 [1986]) cite Stevenson (p. 3) for a Biblical allusion, "the precise nature of which we have been unable to trace," and mention (p. 20, n. 5) two suggestions. They admit, however, "Neither passage seems to have direct relevance to the confrontation between Livesey and Bones."

"The man in the Bible," thus casually referred to, is-- as RLS would well have known--Judas. His defection and unpleasant death (Acts 1:18) required the eleven to vote for a successor, "That he may take part of this ministry and apostleship, from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place" (Acts 1:25).

It is not inconceivable that the good doctor is hinting at a similarly unpleasant end for Billy Bones.

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Conference on Scottish Language and Literature

The Fifth International Conference on Scottish Language and Literature (Mediaeval and Renaissance) was held in King's College, University of Aberdeen from 3-8 August, 1987. About fifty papers were presented in parallel sessions and stimulated lively discussion. These will be published in volume form by Aberdeen University Press. Participants and visitors included scholars from Australia, Canada, Denmark, England, Finland, Holland, Hungary, Japan, Qatar, South Africa, Wales, and West Germany (and from the host country, Scotland).

Entertainments grave and gay ranged from concerts of mediaeval and Gaelic song, visits to nearby places of interest, a coach tour to Crathes and Kildrummy Castles and a malt whisky tasting. The organisers of this highly successful and inspiring conference are to be complimented on their academic and domestic arrangements, which were much appreciated by all who attended as resident or non-resident visitors.

N.B. At the concluding business meeting the venue of the next (1990) meeting was determined. The host of this Sixth International Conference will be the University of South Carolina. All those registered for the Aberdeen conference have been sent preliminary invitations to the University of South Carolina by the Dean of the College of Humanities at Columbia, S.C.

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