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South Carolina and the Hogg Edition

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James Hogg Society, Dumfries, July 1993

SOUTH CAROLINA AND THE HOGG EDITION

Patrick Scott and Jep Jonson (University of South Carolina)

In 1992, at the invitation of Dr. Mack and the Advisory Board, the University of South Carolina became involved with the Stirling Edition of James Hogg, as the US center for research support. Prof. Roy was already on the edition's advisory board, and was responsible for the original connection. South Carolina committed funding for phase one of the edition, for the three years 1992-94, to provide summer graduate research assistants to do back-up collation and proof-reading for Dr. Mack and the volume editors. In 1992, the RAs worked on Tales of the Wars of Montrose, Three Perils of Women, and other items. This year, one RA has completed a proof/collation-check on Hogg's Lay Sermons; I [Jep Jonson] am the other RA and have been working in the National Library of Scotland on [add topic]:

.....

South Carolina is a good center for this work, because of the very strong library holdings in Scottish literature, especially the G. Ross Roy Collection, now being catalogued with support from the federal Department of Education.

As a spin-off from research for the edition, we have compiled several checklists of Hogg material, issued under the series title South Carolina Working Papers in Scottish Bibliography. The first, compiled by Karl Terryberry, is essentially a local list of USC's Hogg holdings, including a fair number of uncatalogued items and analytical entries for Hogg poems or stories from literary annuals in the collections. The second working paper, compiled by Patrick Scott, is a checklist of Hogg secondary scholarship

since 1960; what emerges is just how patchy the usual annual serial bibliographies like MLA have been in covering Hogg scholarship--Hogg specialists will know much of the material in Prof. Scott's checklist, but it lists more than four times the items MLA included for the same time-period.

The first two working papers were issued in late summer 1992. The third one, issued this spring, is probably that of most general bibliographical significance. Bibliographical scholarship is in a period of transition from printed reference books to electronic on-line databases. To track US research library holdings currently involves the use of multiple databases using differing location codes and cataloguing conventions. One of our joint-degree graduate student in library science and English at USC, Stephanie Anderson-Currie, has compiled a unified census of early Hogg editions in North American research libraries. By early editions, we mean those published up to 1840. The list standardizes the location-codes and is much more up-to-date and comprehensive than any other single source; until we get a new Hogg bibliography, these North American library holdings provide a pretty good working checklist of the various early editions. The working papers are available to interested scholars for the reproduction cost, and anyone interested should let me have their name and address.

A second spin-off is in prospect. In addition to its record in Scottish literature, the South Carolina English Department also has a longstanding interest in textual and editorial studies. Preliminary plans have been made for a three-day research colloquium at USC in June 1994 on "Editing Scottish Romantic Writers." The colloquium won't be numerically as big as the major international conference on early Scottish literature we hosted in 1990, but it should provide a good meeting-ground for those

involved or interested in the Hogg edition or the other major Scottish editions now under way. The old editorial orthodoxies have very much broken down in recent years, and our idea is not so much for a regular conference as for a discussion-forum where people with different research-experience can talk through the editorial frameworks of the new editions and consider the important editorial issues raised by Scottish material of the early nineteenth-century. We have an application in with the National Endowment for the Humanities for conference funding--indeed, the conference can't effectively be held without this. We should get word about funding in September, and anyone wanting further details should tell me or write to Prof. Scott.

Of course, the Hogg project is only one of South Carolina's activities in Scottish literature. The major commitment continues to be Studies in Scottish Literature, edited by Prof. Roy, and he continues to teach graduate seminars on Scottish topics even in what he calls retirement. Each summer, the Ormiston Roy Memorial Fellowship brings to South Carolina a distinguished visiting researcher. Our library has mounted a number of Scottish-related exhibits, including a MacDiarmid centenary exhibit this past year, with some fine letters and inscribed copies. We hope to follow the 1994 Scottish Romantics colloquium with a 1995 Carlyle conference, drawing on the recent acquisition of the Tarr Carlyle collection, and Prof. Roy also has great plans for the Burns bicentenary in 1996.

But South Carolina's involvement with Stirling and the Hogg project has carried some particular and very positive benefits for us. It has meant not just financial support, but meaningful research experience in Scottish literature for some of our advanced graduate students. There is nothing like textual and bibliographical research for bringing one face to face with the raw materials of literature. The Hogg research, too, has alerted

South Carolina to the richness of our library holdings on Scottish authors other than Burns, though Burnsiana forms the core of the Roy collection, and it has focussed our awareness of the need for early completion of an adequate catalogue of all these collections. We are pleased to have joined with Dr. Mack and the Stirling team in work towards this important scholarly edition.