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Prelims, Preface to SSL 39: G. Ross Roy and Susan Manning

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Edited by
Patrick Scott
Tony Jarrells

Founding Editor
G. Ross Roy

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PREFACE TO *SSL* 39: TWO FAREWELLS
G. Ross Roy (1924-2013)
Susan Manning (1953-2013)

This is the second volume of *Studies in Scottish Literature* to be issued in the new series, and the third in the new format. Like *SSL* 38, it opens with a symposium of invited contributions, this time on the topic of editing Scottish literary texts. While *SSL* 38 offered a good range of articles and contributors, *SSL* 39 demonstrates more clearly the journal's commitment to the full scope of Scottish literary studies. This year, the chronological range is wider: there are contributions on pre-1707 topics in the symposium, articles, and review section, and there are contributions on 20th/21st century topics in both the symposium and among the articles. *SSL* 38 included articles raising issues of gender and of race; this volume offers the first *SSL* article drawing on disability studies and interdisciplinary articles on post-Waterloo politics and contemporary vernacularities. In restarting the journal, inevitably most contributions came from scholars already known in the field; this volume includes contributions from graduate students and emeriti, as well as from scholars of all generations in between, with eight contributors from the U.S., eight from Scotland, two from elsewhere in the U.K., and one from Australia. As in *SSL* 38, the new format has allowed inclusion of relevant illustrations both in articles and in the section of Notes and Documents. And this second volume of the new series offers at least fifty per cent more material than last year.

When the journal was relaunched in September 2012, we added a free digital version alongside the traditional print volume. Support from the University of South Carolina Libraries allowed initial digitization of 22 back volumes (vols. 13-34, 1963-2008), in addition to the new volume. Volumes 35-37 have recently been added to the digital version, and the

remaining early volumes should be available later this year, funded by donations in memory of Ross Roy. In the first year of the digital *SSL*, the 500 items from the first release have had well over 40,000 full-text downloads. The distribution of interest was remarkably even across topics and volumes, with 150 different articles getting over 100 downloads each, and with *SSL* 38, which was featured on the journal's front page, drawing just under six per cent of the downloads. *SSL*'s top fifty downloads for the year included four articles each on Robert Burns, James Hogg, and Robert Louis Stevenson, three on Walter Scott, and two each on Alasdair Gray and Muriel Spark, but also single items on authors from Duns Scotus and Urquhart of Cromarty to Edwin Morgan, Tom Leonard and Kathleen Jamie.

This is the first regular volume to appear since the death of *SSL*'s founding editor, G. Ross Roy. Opening this volume is Carol McGuirk's appreciation of Professor Roy's editorial achievement. A personal tribute by Kenneth Simpson, summarizing his career, was included in the *Roy festschrift*, now available in this series as *SSL* 37, and other aspects of Ross Roy's career and accomplishments have been recorded in the several obituaries already in print. But one mark of his editorial achievement is surely in the statistics above, which document the continuing value and interest of the articles he saw to publication.

Susan Manning joined the *SSL* Advisory Board in 2011, as we began to plan for the editorial transition, but she first contributed to *SSL*, on Ossian and Scott, in volume 17 (1982). She had visited South Carolina just last year for the Eighteenth-Century Scottish Studies Society conference to give a paper on "Metaphors and Mediation in Scottish Rhetoric" and to host a roundtable discussion on her recent co-edited collection, *Character, Self and Sociability in the Scottish Enlightenment* (2011). Professor Manning's scholarly achievements have been celebrated in the many memorials published – in print and on the web – since her death in January of this year. Let us just add that her important contributions to both American and British literature and her field-defining work in Scottish and Transatlantic Studies made her the very model for *SSL*'s new series, which aims to promote, as Susan's work did, an expanded sense of the field and both a national and a global frame for considering Scottish literature.

Patrick Scott
Tony Jarrells

CONTENTS

Preface: Two Farewells—Ross Roy and Susan Manning Patrick Scott and Tony Jarrells	v
G. Ross Roy as Editor, a Tribute Carol McGuirk, <i>Florida Atlantic University</i>	xi
SYMPOSIUM: Divergent Authenticities: Editing Scottish Literary Texts	
Introduction: How Editorial Theories Have Changed Patrick Scott	3
Textual Messages: Scholarly Editions and Their Role in Literary Criticism Alison Lumsden, <i>University of Aberdeen</i>	15
A “quarrell sett out in metre”: Towards a New Edition of Scottish Reformation Satirical Literature Tricia A. McElroy, <i>University of Alabama</i>	22
Editing Letters Gillian Hughes, <i>University of Edinburgh</i>	31
Editing a Twentieth-Century Novelist: Getting Lewis Grassic Gibbon (Back) Into Print Ian Campbell, <i>University of Edinburgh</i>	38
The SSL Symposium on Editing: A Commentary Ian Duncan, <i>University of California, Berkeley</i>	47

ARTICLES

- The Renaissance Uses of a Medieval Seneca: Murder, Stoicism, and Gender in the Marginalia of Glasgow Hunter 297 55
 Theo van Heijnsbergen, *University of Glasgow*
- For “the PROSPERITY OF SCOTLAND”: Mediating National Improvement in the *Scots Magazine*, 1739-49. 82
 Alex Benchimol, *University of Glasgow*
- Wraiths, Rhetoric, and “The Sin of Rhyme”: The Shaping of the Burns of the Kilmarnock Edition 104
 Kenneth Simpson, *University of Strathclyde*
- The Modern Athenians: the *Edinburgh Review* in the Knowledge Economy of the Early Nineteenth Century 115
 William Christie, *University of Sydney*
- Deficiencies: Mental Disability and the Imagination in Scott’s Waverley Novels 139
 Colin Carman, *Colorado Mesa University*
- Preventing Revolution: Cato Street, Bonnymuir, and Cathkin 162
 John Gardner, *Anglia Ruskin University*
- “And the Roadside Fire”: Portrayals of Home through National Song in Stevenson’s Scottish Adventures 183
 Christy Danelle Di Frances, *Gordon College*
- On Vernacular Scottishness and its Limits: Devolution and the Spectacle of ‘Voice’ 203
 Scott Hames, *University of Stirling*

NOTES & DOCUMENTS

- The Missing Manuscript of Robert Burns’s “Patriarch” Letter 227
 Gerard Carruthers & Pauline Mackay, *University of Glasgow*

CONTENTS

ix

Sir Walter Scott and John Clare: An Unpublished Letter
Ian D. Kane, *Vanderbilt Children's Hospital* 233

Robert Burns, James Johnson, and the Manuscript of
"The German Lairdie"
Patrick Scott, *University of South Carolina* 239

REVIEWS & BOOKS RECEIVED

Review: *Court Poetry in Late Medieval England and Scotland*,
by Anthony Hasler 247
Holly Crocker, *University of South Carolina*

Books Received 252
John Knox and Patrick Scott, *University of South Carolina*

CONTRIBUTORS

260