

8-31-2019

Preface to SSL 45.1

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Recommended Citation

Scott, Patrick and Jarrells, Tony (2019) "Preface to SSL 45.1," *Studies in Scottish Literature*: Vol. 45: Iss. 1, v–vii.

Available at: <https://scholarcommons.sc.edu/ssl/vol45/iss1/1>

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PREFACE TO *SSL* 45:1

This is the first regular issue of *Studies in Scottish Literature* since the oversized *SSL* 43.2 (Fall 2017). It brings four substantial and important articles that have been awaiting publication till we could get the two recent special issues into print. Nigel Leask discusses the Shandyan memoirs of two students who took a walking tour of the Highlands in 1801, disguised as American sailors. Penny Fielding writes of the conflicted legal background and contemporary political significance of Scott's ostensibly antiquarian project in the *Minstrelsy of the Scottish Border*. Gerard Carruthers reassesses the poetry and career of W.S. Graham, especially in its relation to Graham's Scottish background. Tomás Monterrey provides a full-scale critical discussion of Muriel Spark's Venice novel *Territorial Rights*. The last two of these items mark two prominent Scottish literary centenaries celebrated last year. These articles are followed by shorter notes, on Robert Burns and Janet Hamilton, and by three full-length reviews. As noted below, we plan to resume other regular features in subsequent issues.

Three events from the past year must be recorded here, each in a different way a landmark in the journal's history.

First, the journal must affirm its lasting gratitude to Lucie Roy, who died peacefully on October 30, 2018, after several years of declining health. For over forty years, from its founding in 1963 till Ross Roy's last volume in 2007, Lucie supported *Studies in Scottish Literature* as business manager and as a hawk-eyed associate editor. Born in 1925 in Alsace, France, so a teenager under German occupation, she worked after the war in the British consulate in Strasbourg, where Patrick's cousin Michael was a colleague, and where she met Ross, a Canadian ex-RAF officer studying French literature. She and Ross married in 1954, moving first to Montreal, and eventually, after shorter stays in Paris, Alabama, Montreal, and Texas,

settling in South Carolina in 1965. For nearly 60 years, Lucie played an important role in Ross's work on Burns and for the field of Scottish literature. She typed all Ross's earlier work, including his two doctoral dissertations, and in 1984 she was the scrupulous final proofreader for the Clarendon *Letters of Robert Burns* (1985), using months of annual leave that she had saved up from her full-time state job. In addition to her work with him on *SSL*, she supported Ross in building his Burns collection and in its transfer in 1989 to the University of South Carolina, when they also started funding the annual Ormiston Roy Visiting Fellowships. Their only child, Dr Madeleine Roy, died in 2002, and, under their joint wills, they established the G. Ross and Lucie Roy Scottish Literature Endowment, supporting the Roy Collection, the Roy lectures and fellowships, and continued Burns research at the University.

Second, Lucie Roy's death has one direct consequence for *SSL*, coming just as the journal was nearing a benchmark in planning its financial future. *Studies in Scottish Literature* now has its own dedicated endowment, held at the University of South Carolina's Educational Foundation. Since *SSL* restarted in 2012, all journal-related income—proceeds from print distribution, occasional royalties from other publications, reprint permission fees, gifts, and honoraria from speaking engagements—has accumulated as a separate fund. Gifts in 2017 from Lucie Roy and from Allen Young, to mark publication of *The Kilmarnock Burns*, and in 2018 from Dr. Richard Layman, to mark Brucoli Clark Layman's publication of *Robert Burns: A Documentary Volume*, had taken the fund up to the required threshold for an endowment. At the end of 2018, a significant gift, originating with a bequest from Lucie Roy's estate, more than doubled that initial amount. While endowment income will not fund editorial release time, it should allow future editors to employ help with data-entry, proofreading, and other direct expenses.

Third, the journal has also passed a milestone in the impact of its digital edition. In May 2018, the journal reached an accumulated total of over a quarter of a million full-text article downloads since the first digital volumes were released in August 2012, and since then the total has moved well above three hundred thousand.

The journal aims to publish articles across the full chronological range of Scottish literary history, and as editors we make special efforts to include a range of contributors. This can't always be done in a single issue. The articles in this issue are all concerned with literature since the late 18th century; most of the contributors are based in Scotland; and all four major

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articles are by full professors, three by chaired professors in Scottish universities—contributors of whom the journal can be proud, but also not the whole story of activity now in Scottish literature, or fully representative of those active in the field. These things balance out over time, and the next issue is expected to include two major articles on pre-1707 texts, with contributors from both sides of the Atlantic and at differing career stages.

For future issues, we welcome scholarly articles on all periods of Scottish literature, and from varied perspectives. *SSL* 45.2 and 46.1, both general issues, will restart the series of *SSL* symposia, on the topics of religion and insurrections in Scottish literature respectively, and we plan to restart the series of short notices of recent publications. *SSL* 45.2 is full, and *SSL* 46.1 is also filling up fast. *SSL* 46.2 is committed to a single-topic special issue on Allan Ramsay. At this point, with the U.K. REF deadline closing in fall 2020, contributors from Scotland and the U.K. submitting articles should contact us first about possible publication timelines.

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