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Preface to SSL 46.1

Patrick Scott
University of South Carolina - Columbia

Tony Jarrells
University of South Carolina

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PREFACE TO *SSL* 46:1

This issue follows *SSL*'s established format for regular issues, with a symposium of shorter essays, full-length articles, short notes, and a review section. The symposium on Insurrections, introduced separately by Tony Jarrells, has an afterword by the distinguished Scottish historian Christopher Whatley. The range of writers discussed in full-length articles runs from the mid-seventeenth to the late twentieth century; two are on poetry, in Latin and Gaelic, and two on short fiction. This is the second issue to be produced since our university and library closed, with limits on last-minute checking of references, and inevitable lacunae; we are grateful to our contributors for their extra efforts in their proof correction and in answering editorial queries.

Because *SSL* 46.2 is planned as a special issue on Allan Ramsay, guest-edited by Murray Pittock and Craig Lamont, the next regular issue will be *SSL* 47.1, in late spring 2021, which is already filling up. Beyond that, to maintain opportunity for a variety of articles and notes, we are scheduling one or more regular issues between further special-topic issues. We welcome research-based articles and shorter notes or documentary items on all periods of Scottish literature, and on comparative or interdisciplinary topics where a significant focus and one of the disciplines is Scottish literature. For contact information, preferred length, and other guidelines, see links from the journal's home page.¹

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We are very conscious that we are editing the journal at a time of transitions in Scottish literary studies. The preface to *SSL* 45.2 recorded the deaths of three longtime contributors to the journal and promised for this issue a brief tribute to Alasdair Gray. Many of the generation that helped

¹ See "Aims and Scope": <https://scholarcommons.sc.edu/ssl/aimsandscope.html>; and "Rights," etc. : https://scholarcommons.sc.edu/ssl/rights_permissions.html.

Ross Roy establish *SSL* in the 1960s had already passed away when we took over, but this summer brought notice that three more colleagues had died, from the next generation, those who first made careers in Scottish literature in Scottish universities. Colin Manlove (1942-2020), who taught at Edinburgh, retiring as Reader in 1993, became well known on both sides of the Atlantic for his pioneering books on fantasy literature, on Tolkien and C.S. Lewis, but more notably, for *SSL* readers, on George MacDonald. He contributed to *SSL* first in 1970 and most recently in 2016; his article on *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* (*SSL* 23, 1988) has now been downloaded over 3000 times. Aileen Christianson (1945-2020) had a different career path, working for many years at the University of Edinburgh on the Carlyle Letters project before getting regular academic rank; she seems never to have published in *SSL*, but she regularly published elsewhere, essays on Willa Muir, Nan Shepherd, Jane Welsh Carlyle, and other writers, two co-edited volumes, on *Scottish Women's Fiction, 1920s to 1960s* (2000) and *Contemporary Scottish Women Writers* (also 2000), and a monograph on Muir (2007). Her contribution to Scottish literature was recognized by a Saltire Society Fletcher of Saltoun Award in 2019. Douglas Gifford (1942-2020), FRSE, taught at Strathclyde and then at Glasgow, where he became Professor of Scottish Literature. A dauntingly encyclopaedic scholar, chiefly on fiction, he started his career with a landmark edition of Hogg's *Three Perils of Man*, he published books on Hogg, Gunn, and Gibbon, and he was editor or coeditor of several major collaborative projects. He also contributed a series of important articles to *SSL* from 1978-1983, surveying recent Scottish fiction, and providing one of the first academic appreciations of Alasdair Gray's *Lanark* (*SSL* 18, 1983). His essay in Ross Roy's final volume, "Sham Bards of a Sham Nation?" (*SSL* 35-36, 2007), revisiting Edwin Muir's case against Walter Scott, is now nearing 2000 downloads.

It is sobering, and one hopes inspiring, to realize that topics such as Scottish fantasy, modern women writers, and the Scottish Victorians, which had been, for the most part, ignored or marginalized by the preceding generation, became accepted in Scottish literary studies because of the work done by individuals, these colleagues and others like them. One continuing aim of *SSL* is to encourage the ongoing expansion and redefinition of the discipline by new generations of scholars.

Patrick Scott
Tony Jarrells