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A Bibliography of the Scottish Ballad Manuscripts 1730-1825: Part VI

William Montgomerie
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Part VI

Mrs. Brown's Manuscripts

Mrs. Brown of Falkland

Mrs. Anne (Anna) Brown, born on 24th August 1747, was the youngest surviving daughter of Thomas Gordon, Professor of Humanity at King's College, Aberdeen, and his wife, Lillias, daughter of William Forbes of Disblair.

She married the Rev. Andrew Brown (D.D., Aberdeen, 1793), who was licensed in 1775, went to the church of Falkland in 1783, and to Tranent in April 6, 1802, where he died on April 25, 1805. Mrs. Brown died on July 11, 1810. There were no children.

Her father told Alexander Fraser Tytler in a letter (19th Jan. 1793) that Anne learned her songs from her aunt, Mrs. Farquharson (the sister of Professor Gordon's wife) married to the proprietor of a small estate, Allan a quoch, near the sources of the Dee in the Cairngorms. Like all the best of the folk singers, Mrs. Farquharson had a tenacious memory, and Anne Gordon whose memory was as good as her aunt's learned almost the whole store of her songs before she was twelve years old. Mrs. Brown added, in a letter to Mr. Fraser Tytler (April 21st, 1800) that, as a child, she heard some of her songs from her mother, and from an old maid-servant that had been long in the family.

Dr. Robert Anderson told Bishop Percy (Sept. 14, 1800) that Sir Walter Scott and he (knowing the ballads only from MS) were suspicious of modern manufacture—probably because Mrs. Brown was fond of ballad poetry, wrote verses, and read everything in the marvellous way—but that her character placed her above the suspicion of literary imposture.

[60]
Sources


Professor Thomas Gordon. Letter to Alexander Fraser Tytler (19th Jan. 1793) at the beginning of MS WT-B.


Note: Full use has been made of a manuscript of notes "hastily drawn up" by Professor G. L. Kittredge, "to save trouble and confusion in the future." Cambridge Dec. 1920. It is now in Harvard College Library.

Manuscripts containing Ballads from Mrs. Brown

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<td>WT-B</td>
<td>WILLIAM TYTLER’S BROWN MS, written down by Robert Eden Scott, with Airs (1783). Sent to William Tytler. Wm. Fraser Tytler’s Copy of two Ballads from WT-B.</td>
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AFT-B(RA) Dr. Robert Anderson’s *List* (1800) of Ballads from AFT-B, with first stanza.

Ballads recited to Robert Jamieson (1800) for *Popular Ballads and Songs*. Extant only in PBS (1806).

Ballads offered to Alexander Fraser Tytler by Mrs. Brown. Probably never sent.

*Robert Jamieson*

Robert Jamieson was a native of Morayshire, where he was born in 1780 (7) He became classical assistant in the School of Macclesfield in Cheshire.1 While still there, he renewed his early interest in popular ballads and songs, “such as are sung by the rustic maiden at her spinning-wheel, or may be purchased of a pedling pamphlet-seller for a penny.” 2

In March 1799,3 he told the Rev. Dr. Gerrard, Professor of Theology in King’s College, Aberdeen, of his design to collect ballads and songs that had escaped the researches of former compilers. Professor Scott4 gave Dr. Gerrard a ballad MS5 written by him in 1783 from the recitation of his aunt, Mrs. Brown of Falkland. This was given to Robert Jamieson, and is now called the Jamieson-Brown MS (J-B).

In the summer of 18006 Jamieson, on his way to the north of Scotland, stopped at Edinburgh, and learned that Sir Walter Scott was engaged on a similar collection, had made about the same progress, and had much the same material.7

Robert Jamieson wrote to Sir Walter Scott, who wrote to Dr. Robert Anderson from Lasswade Cottage: 8

2 RJ:PBS, I, ii.
3 RJ:PBS, I, iv.
4 Robert Eden Scott (1769-1811) Professor of Moral Philosophy at King’s College, Aberdeen.
5 From “Rose the red & White Lilly” (J-B f. 12) to the end of J-B.
6 Letter from Mrs. Brown to Alexander Fraser Tytler, 23rd Dec. 1800. (Aldourie Castle [Copy in Harvard, Ch. MSS, X, 85]).
7 WT-B and AFT-B.
I this day received a letter from Mr. Jamieson a friend of yours & the intended publisher of a collection of Scottish Ballads. As he proposes being in Edinr. this week I hope the inclosed which I have taken the liberty of addressing to your care will find him there. I have taken the liberty of asking him to spend a day with me here to talk over the proposed publications & as far as possible prevent the possibility of interference. . . . Sir Walter Scott invited Dr. Anderson to accompany Robert Jamieson to Lasswade, and the latter describes how his apprehension of being crushed in his first literary attempt by so powerful a rival, soon gave place to the satisfaction he felt, at seeing these pieces, for which, from regarding them in some measure as his own, he had contracted a degree of affection, fall into the hands of one, who, both from his superior abilities, and local situation, was likely to do them much more justice as an editor.

Sir Walter Scott’s intention was to confine his collecting to Border Ballads, a definition which he applied very laxly.

In 1800 Robert Jamieson, on his unexpected visit to Mrs. Brown at Dysart, where she had gone for her health, wrote down from her singing or recitation about a dozen items more. Others were sent to him later by Mrs. Brown and her husband.

Robert Jamieson’s *Popular Ballads and Songs* was published in 1806, while the editor was in Riga. Sir Walter Scott wrote him there, to inform him that his ballads had been well received by the public and, at the same time, offering him the post of assistant to the depute-clerk-register in the General Register House, Edinburgh. Robert Jamieson held the post for thirty-six years, and assisted Henry Weber and Sir Walter Scott in their *Illustrations of Northern Antiquities* (Edinburgh, 1814). Jamieson died on 24th September, 1844.

Robert Jamieson’s Brown MS (J-B)

Introduction

The Jamieson-Brown MS is a small quarto. The original MS written by Mrs. Brown’s nephew, Robert Scott, begins at f. 10, and concludes

*RJ:PBS, I, vi (Advertisement).*

*10 All that can now be traced are:
  a. "Willie and May Margaret" (RJ:PBS, I, 133)
  b. "Hugh of Lincoln" (RJ:PBS, I, 139)
  c. "The Birth of Robin Hood" (RJ:PBS, II, 44)
  d. "Bonny Baby Livingston" (RJ:PBS, II, 135)

*11 Letters of Sir Walter Scott, I, 340.*
at f. 46, and still retains the original pagination (pp. 1-42). This original MS has been interleaved—probably by Robert Jamieson—for notes and additions by Robert Jamieson. The first part of the present MS (ff. 2-9b) consists of letters with enclosed songs and ballads, and all written after the original MS. These letters are not bound in chronological order, and are referred to by William Macmath and Professor F. J. Child as an Appendix.

J-B, the larger part of which was written by Robert Scott in 1783, was given to Robert Jamieson in 1799.

The MS was acquired at Pitcairn’s sale (19th December 1855) by Adam Sim, whose bookplate is inside the front cover, and at his sale (1869) by David Laing for £3.15.14

On the back of the page giving this information is written: "A. Laing" with the date 1869 and, below, the following statement:

A faithful transcript of Popular Ballads, written from the recitation of his Aunt Mrs. Brown of Falkland for his own amusement, by Mr R. Scott, Professor of Greek in King’s College, Aberdeen, and procured, and transmitted to me by Dr. Gilbert Gerrard, Professor of Theology there.

July 29, 1799.

Robert Jamieson.

The original MS is now in Edinburgh University Library.15

Bibliography

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<tr>
<td>(old pagination in brackets)</td>
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<tr>
<td>(in letter from Professor Scott, Aberdeen, to Robert Jamieson, 2 Kingston, Surrey. 9th June 1805.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Out it spake Lizzie Linzee . . .</td>
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<tr>
<td>. . . they neither milk goats nor kie.</td>
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<tr>
<td>7aa</td>
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<tr>
<td>(10 sts.)</td>
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<tr>
<td>R:PBS (1806), II, 149 (20 sts.) (az)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ch. 226Aa</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lizzie Lindsay</td>
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<td>(in same letter)</td>
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13 E.g., list of sources before Ch. 222.
15 Shelf Mark La. III, 473.
SCOTTISH BALLAD MANUSCRIPTS

There liv'd a laird down into Fife . . .
. . . But well sall I lay to my ain weathers skin.
4ab (ref.) ad (ref.)
RJ: PBS, I, 320 (4 sts.) a (z); I, 321 (16 sts.) (az);
I, 319 (1 st.) (a); I, 327 (3 sts.) az
Ch. 277D The Wife Wraps in Wether's Skin

Another
(in same letter)

In Brechin did a Webster dwell . . .
. . . cam a' unto this feast.
7aa (28 lines, fragmentary)

Letter from Anna Brown, Tranent, to RJ, Macclesfield School,
Cheshire. December 2, 1809.

The Baron of Braikly
(copied by Mr. Brown. Enclosed in Mrs. B's letter from
Falkland. June 18, 1801)

O Inverey came down Deeside whistling and playing . . .
. . . But the Baron of Brackley is dead and awa.
4aa (21 sts.)
RJ: PBS, I, 105 (25 sts.) az
Ch. 203Ca The Baron of Brackley

Allan O Maut
(in same letter)

Now Allan o maut was ance ca'd Bear . . .
. . . And they have carried him into their Barns.
4aabb (10 lines)
RJ: PBS, II, 233 (12 sts.) (az) [from Bannatyne MS];
II, 237 (11 sts.) a (z); II, 240 (13 sts.) (az);
II, 244 (16 sts.) (az); II, 251 (34 sts.) (az);
II, 258 (8 sts.) (az)

Letter from Anna Brown, Falkland, to RJ, Macclesfield.
June 18, 1801.

Old Song—Bonny Baby Livingston
(in letter from Falkland Palace. Sept. 15, 1800)

O bonny Baby Livingston . . .
. . . For a your armed men.
4a3b4c3b (41 sts.)
RJ: PBS, II, 135 (38 sts.) az
Ch. 222Aa Bonny Baby Livingston

Rose the red & White Lilly

O Rose the red and White Lilly . . .
. . . Gin she this sight did see.
7aa (59 sts.)

Cb. 103A Rose the Red and White Lily

Jack the little Scot

O Johny was as brave a knight . . .
. . . whose love has cost her dear.
7aa (34 sts.)

Cb. 99A Johnie Scot

Willie o Douglas dale

O Willy was as brave a lord . . .
. . . Himself the Lord within.
4a3b4c3b (written in 2-line sts.) (32 sts.)

Cb. 101A Willie o Douglas Dale

Young Bekie

Young Bekie was as brave a knight . . .
. . . An send her back at even.
4a3b4c3b (in two lines) (36 sts.)
R.J.:PBS, II, 127 (36 sts.)
Cb. 53C Young Beicham

Young Beicham

In London city was Beicham born . . .
. . . And he's cald her his bonny love.
4abc (in two lines) (25 sts.)
R.J.:PBS, II, 117 (44 sts.)
Cb. 53A Young Beicham

The gay goss hawk

Notes 16a & 18b
Notes 20b
O wells me o my gay goss hawk . . .
. . . Your sister's play'd you scorn.
4a3b4c3b (in 2-line sts.) (28 sts.)
Ch. 96A

Brown Adam

The Gay Goshawk

O wha woud wish the win' to blaw . . .
. . . Four fingers o his right han.
4a3b4c3b (in 2-line sts.) (16 sts.)
Ch. 98A

Brown Adam

Lady Elspat

How brents your brow my lady Elspat . . .
. . . As hell ride about in a summers day.
4abcb (12 sts.)
RJ: PBS, II, 191 (13 sts.) az
Ch. 247a (13 sts.) az
Lady Elspat

How brents your brow my lady Elspat . . .
. . . As hell ride about in a summers day.
4abcb (12 sts.)
RJ: PBS, II, 191 (13 sts.) az
Ch. 247a (13 sts.) az
Lady Elspat

O wha will bake my bridal bread . . .
. . . For tocher she gat nane.
4a3b4c3b (in 2-line sts.) (20 sts.)
RJ: PBS, II, 73 (44 sts.) (az); II, 371 (20sts.) az
Ch. 62E

Fair Annie

Burd Ellen

I warn ye all ye gay ladies . . .
. . . Sal baith be in ae day.
4a3b4c3b (in 2 lines) (36 sts.)
RJ: PBS, I, 114 (12 sts.) (az); I, 117 (42 sts.) (az)
Ch. 63B
Child Waters
[three additional sts. by RJ (interl.)] f. 30

Lady Mair'sy

The young lords o the north country . . .
. . . Mysel' I will cast in.
4a3b4c3b (31 sts. of 2 lines)
RJ: PBS, I, 73
Ch. 65A

Lady Mair'sy

[30b alternative st. 9 in RJ's hand. (Interl.)]


Fair Anny

(27)

(The various readings in Fair Anny were taken from Mr. Scott's copy, dictated also by Mrs. Brown, at a distance of near twenty years, when it was much less fresh in her Memory than when she dictated mine. Mine is much superior to Mr. Scott's original Copy.) (interl. f. 52b)

O wha will shoe my fu fair foot . . .

... An his soul to heaven has flown.
4a3b4c3b (in 2-line st.) (32 st.)
RJ:PBS, I, 37 (34 st.) az

Cb. 76D

The Lass of Roch Royal

Kempion

Come here come here you freely feed . . .

... Till St. Mungo come o'er the sea.
4abcb (in 2-line st.) (18 st.)

Cb. 34B

Kemp Owyne

[Pencil note (interl.)] 35a

King Henry

(29)

Lat never a man a wooing wend . . .

... That ga me a my will.
4a3b4c3b (in 2-line st.) (19 st.)
RJ:PBS, II, 194 (34 st.) ax(z)

Cb. 32a (20 st.)

King Henry

[RJ's additions & notes (interl.)] 37a, b

Sweet Willy

36

Sweet Willy's taen him o'er the fame . . .

... An latten his lady lighter be.
4aabb (in 2-line st.) (19 st.)
RJ:PBS, II, 367 (10 stts. of 8 lines) az; II, 179 (31 stts.) az

Cb. 6Ab

Willie's Lady

Gil Brenton

38b

Gil Brenton has sent o'er the fame . . .

... Gil Brenton is my fathers name.
4aabb (in 2-line st.) (37 stts.)

Cb. 5A (74 stts. of 2 lines)

[ pencil notes. ] 39a
SCOTTISH BALLAD MANUSCRIPTS

Brown Robin

The king but an his nobles a . . .
. . . Her auld father to see.
4a3b (bis) 4c3b (21 stsr.)
Cb. 97A

Brown Robin

[Note (interl.)] 42b

The Twa Sisters

There was twa sisters in a bowr . . .
. . . Was "wae to my sister fair Ellen."
4ab (ref.) a2c (ref.) 4aac (ref.) (lines 3 & 5 rep. 1) (28 stsr.)
RJ: PBS, I, 50 (38 stsr.) a(z)
Cb. 10Ba

The Twa Sisters

Allison Gross

O Allison gross that lives in yon towr . . .
. . . An I nae mair maun toddle about the tree.
4abc (13 stsr.)
RJ: PBS, II, 187
Cb. 35

Allison Gross

[Notes (interl.)] 44a, b

Lord Randall wickt The bonny birdy

There was a knight in a summer night . . .
. . . That treats an honest man sae.
4a3b 4c3b (in 2 lines, ending with 'diddle', and chorus,
2dd4d3d, with 'diddle' at end of lines 5, 6, & 8) (13 stsr.)
RJ: PBS, I, 163 (28 stsr.) a(z)
Cb. 82 (15 stsr.) a(z)

The Bonny Birdy
[End of MS]

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* * *
William Tytler's Brown MS (WT-B)

Introduction

The Jamieson-Brown MS was not sent to William Tytler, for whom it had been written; Mrs. Brown had heard that he wanted tunes as well as words. She and her nephew, Robert Eden Scott, fourteen years of age at the time, found the noting of the music so difficult that they prepared a smaller collection (WT-B) of 15 ballads (14 the same as J-B, but corrected)1 with airs. This MS was sent to William Tytler.

William Tytler (1711-92) was laird of Woodhouselee, son of a Writer to the Signet in Edinburgh, and himself a Writer to the Signet. His chief publication was An Enquiry, Historical and Critical, into the Evidence against Mary Queen of Scots (2 vols., Edinburgh, 1759). It was a defence of the Queen against the charges of the historians Hume and Robertson. He also wrote "A Dissertation on the Scottish Musick," appended to Hugo Arnot's History of Edinburgh (1779).2

Two ballads were later copied by William Fraser Tytler,3 out of WT-B into another MS volume, with a note saying that they are copied from an old MS in the possession of Lord Woodhouselee.4

Copies of William Tytler's Brown MS

1. Joseph Ritson's Copy

[WT-B (JR)]

Joseph Ritson made a copy of WT-B.5 He had corresponded with William Tytler (d. 1792) and on 20th December 1792 wrote6 to his son, Alexander Fraser Tytler, asking for "Scotish Songs" for his proposed book of that name (published in 1794). With Professor Thomas

1 See accompanying table of Mrs. Brown's Ballads, Column 2. The new ballad is WT-B, p. 5, "Clark Colven." [To be published in a subsequent issue.—Ed.]

2 I wish to thank Mrs. Christian Helen Fraser-Tytler, C.B.E., for the considerable trouble she took to find, and let me examine, the long-lost ballads of Mrs. Brown recorded in the MSS of Alexander Fraser Tytler and William Tytler. As they could not be traced by Professor Child, it was a great honour to be among the first people to see these two MSS since Sir Walter Scott examined them.

3 1777-1853. Son of Lord Woodhouselee (Alexander Fraser Tytler).

4 Letter from Mary Fraser Tytler to Professor Child, 5th June, 1881 (Child MSS, X, 58).

5 Harvard MS No. 25241.37.5*

Gordon's permission,7 MS WT-B went to Joseph Ritson, and was returned on 17th July 1794 to Alexander Fraser Tytler. In the accompanying letter, returning the MS, Ritson wrote: "From the introduction to my recently published collection of "Scottish Songs" . . . you will perceive that I do not consider the publication of these pieces tending to enhance the reputation of your lyric poetry."8

Joseph Ritson's copy of WT-B is complete and accurate, and contains the airs. The order of items is the same as the original order of the MS as first written.

Mary Fraser Tytler found this MS volume in 1881 at Aldourie Castle, and copied the two ballads for Professor F. J. Child. She identified the handwriting as that of her grandfather, William Fraser Tytler.9 The two ballads are Willie's Lady and Clark Colven.10 William Fraser Tytler's transcript of Willie's Lady varies from WT-B in small particulars in nearly every stanza. He has made bigger changes in Clark Colven (pudoris causa). Professor Child accepted Mary Fraser Tytler's copy of the two ballads as identical with the originals in WT-B (which he never saw) and was misled therefore about Scott's copy of Clark Colven.11

Some of the ballads in WT-B were copied by Sir Walter Scott into his Abbotsford volume of "Scottish Songs" (MS, WS, II) with changes.

The original MS is in the possession of the Fraser-Tytler family.

2. Sir Walter Scott's Transcript

Sir Walter Scott had a loan of William Tytler's Brown MS (WT-B) from Alexander Fraser Tytler in 1795. Scott's MS quarto "Scottish Songs" (WS II), in Abbotsford Library,12 has seven ballads copied from WT-B with changes. Eight pieces are missing, torn out or not copied, and the folio numbers refer to the leaves that still exist.

That the seven ballads copied were taken from WT-B is confirmed by the accompanying airs. There is no music in J-B, which belonged to Robert Jamieson in any case. Also, AFT-B was not written till 1800, and has none of the ballads copied by Scott in "Scottish Songs." In Willie

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8 Letter in Aldourie Castle (Child MSS, X, 81).
9 Her grandfather's transcript is in Aldourie Castle, and her copy at the end of her first transcript of AFT-B (Harvard College Library 23241-39).
10 WT-B, pp. 1 & 5.
11 WS, II, f. 3. See Table of Mrs. Brown's Ballads, col. 5.
12 Abbotsford Library N 3.
of *Douglasdale* (WS, II, 16) lines have been ruled for music, but no music has been copied. In *Lady Maiserie* (WS II 34b), the leaf with music has been torn out. In the case of *Lady Elspat* (WS, II, 30), Scott copied by mistake the air of *King Henry* the next ballad in WT-B.

No ballads are in both WS II and the *Minstrelsy*. Scott probably tore out of WS II the ballads he intended to print, for the MS is in a fragmentary state. *The Cruel Sister* in the *Minstrelsy* is largely a different version from that in WS, II, 21, which is from WT-B 78.

WS II and the *Minstrelsy* together give all the ballads in WT-B, with the exception of *Young Beokie* (WT-B p. 30).

Scott had WT-B again, in or about 1800, probably at the same time as AFT-B, which was written for his use at this time, and refers to both MSS in the Introduction to the *Minstrelsy*: "Two books of ballads, in MS., have also been communicated to me, by my learned and respected friend, Alexander Fraser Tytler, Esq." He devotes two pages of his Introduction to Mrs. Brown and her ballads.

On f. 11 of WS II, the upper part of which is torn away, there is a fragmentary note in Sir Walter’s hand:

> These Ballads are all in the Northern dialect, but I recollect several of them as recited in the South of Scotland divested of their *Norlandisms*, & also varying considerably in other respects. In a few instances where my memory served me I have adopted either additional verses or better readings than those in Mr. Tytler’s collection [WT-B]. Such variations can excite no reasonable surprise in any species of oral tradition only—The Music is copied as exactly as possible but as I do not know the value of a single note I am no judge of its merit, which however I suspect is not great. There appears in most cases to be no second part which I presume was supplied by . . .

The note breaks off here.

In WS II there are also two transcripts from H I, in Sir Walter’s hand, both of two stanzas beginning:

a. O its up in the Highlands along the sweet Tay . . .
   (WS, II, f. 68 from H, I, 20b)
   and

b. False Luve & hae ye played me this . . .
   (WS, II, f. 68 from H, I, 27)

The only ballad fragment which cannot be traced to an earlier MS is a four-line stanza, in Sir Walter’s hand, beginning:

> Young Bechin was in Scotland born . . . [Ch. 53 (IV. 462)]
Thus, as a ballad and song MS, WS II can be classified only as an imperfect transcript of WT-B, incomplete and inaccurate. Its importance is that it is one stage in the development of ballads from oral tradition sung by Mrs. Brown, to literary ballads without music as printed in the Minstrelsy. As a copy, bibliographical details about the ballads in it have been summarised in the notes to WT-B.

As Sir Walter Scott's own copy was not available for examination, William Macmack's bibliographical notes have been used. Although this MS, of which only the items from WT-B and H are copied in full, is a copy of a copy, its accuracy cannot be questioned.

3. Dr. Anderson's List of Ballads

Dr. Robert Anderson wrote to Bishop Percy on 14th September, 1800 enclosing a copy of Lord John and Proud Ellen for comparison with Child Waters in The Reliques. The ballad had been copied from AFT-B (sent by Mrs. Brown the previous April to Alexander Fraser Tyler) and lent by him to Dr. Anderson. WT-B was sent at the same time.

Dr. Anderson told Bishop Percy of Robert Jamieson's visit to Mrs. Brown, and stated that he "obtained from her recollection five or six ballads and a fragment", which is only half the number mentioned by Jamieson himself. If Bishop Percy is interested, Dr. Anderson will send him the titles of all the ballads [in WT-B and AFT-B], with the first stanza, and number of stanzas in each."

In a postscript he added:

Mr Jamieson is a native of one of the northern counties of Scotland, studied in Aberdeen, and has resided about eight years in England, is master of Macclesfield School, about 30 years of

14 In Broughton House, Kirkcudbright.
15 Dr. Robert Anderson, M.D., editor and biographer of the British poets, was born on 7th July 1750, in Carnwath, Lanarkshire. He was educated in the parish schools of Carnwath and Libberton, and in the grammar school of Lanark. He trained at Edinburgh University for the Ministry, but became a surgeon instead, and later an M.D. He settled in Edinburgh, and devoted himself to literature. In 1792-3 he published in 14 volumes, A Complete Edition of the Poets of Great Britain, with biographical and critical notices by the editor. He wrote a Life of Smollett, and was for a time editor of the Edinburgh Magazine. He died on 20th February 1830.
17 AFT-B 39.
18 RJ:PBS I, Advertisement p. viii.
age. He speaks the Gaelic language, and shows a strong propensity to settle all doubtful etymologies by referring to that language. Against this practice, so fallacious and unsatisfactory, I had many objections. I objected also to his plan of editing the old Ballads, with interpolated stanzas written by himself, whenever he conceives the narrative defective, or the transitions abrupt, obscure, &c. He is to mark his additions. In other respects he appears to have rightly estimated the duties of an editor.

This was a strange letter to send to Bishop Percy. Now that we can compare the Bishop's Folio MS with The Reliques, it is evident that Robert Jamieson's editorial faults are small compared with those of Bishop Percy, of which Dr. Anderson must have been at least partly aware. Joseph Ritson had begun pointing them out seventeen years before. At least part of the discussion mentioned in the above letter seems to have taken place in Scott's cottage at Lasswade and, though insufficient to bring Scott back to Ritson's editorial accuracy, was probably one of the influences restraining Scott in his recreation of ballads. And Robert Jamieson did put brackets round stanzas of his own creation.

In his further letter to Bishop Percy, Dr. Anderson enclosed the bibliographical details about the two MSS lent him for that purpose by Alexander Fraser Tytler, who had obtained from Mrs. Brown of Falkland, in February 1800, a second ballad MS (AFT-B).

Dr. Anderson's bibliographical work has a number of mistakes. He added to his letter the following note: "Mr. Jamieson, of Macclesfield, shewed me four or five more old ballads, or fragments, last autumn, which he had taken down from Mrs. Brown's recitation, but I do not recollect the titles."

Dr. Anderson returned the two MSS, with a letter to Alexander Fraser Tytler, on 22nd December 1800. In it he refers to "Yr MS collection Old Scotch Ballads which you very obligingly put into my hands to enable me to give an account of it to Bishop Percy."

Before the recovery of Joseph Ritson's copy of MS WT-B, Dr. Anderson's list was the best source of information about that MS. The recent rediscovery of WT-B proves that Joseph Ritson's copy is accurate, and numbered as in the original MS, whereas Dr. Anderson's details are both inaccurate in places and numbered differently.

His bibliographical notes are referred to in the following bibliography of WT-B. The sigla are WT-B(RA).

18 Remarks on Shakespeare (1783), p. 167.
19 Nichols' Illustrations, VII, 176-180.
20 In Aldourie Castle. There is a copy in Harvard among the Child MSS.
4. Matthew Gregory Lewis’s Use of WT-B

M. G. Lewis (1775-1818) obtained, probably from Sir Walter Scott, copies of Clark Colven, Willie’s Lady, and King Henry, which he made use of (in an altered state) in Tales of Wonder, 1801. The originals of Lewis’s versions are in WT-B. In addition, Lewis wrote to Scott on 29th May 1800: “A man who is going to publish a collection of old Ballads is very anxious that I should give him Brown Adam and the Gay Goss Hawk: But as you mentioned an intention of publishing some Border Ballads . . . I have delayed granting his request, till I shall have had your consent.” Both ballads were published, not in Tales of Wonder, but in the Minstrelsy.

When Lewis published The Laidley Worm of Spindleston Hengis, he noted: “I have seen another version of this story, with some variations, under the title of Kempson, the one, which I here insert, in my opinion, is by far the best of the two. It is taken from the 3d volume of ‘Evans’s Old Ballads.’”

In 1799, Sir Walter Scott edited An Apology for Tales of Terror, a variant title-page in one copy being Tales of Terror. The first edition of Lewis’s Tales of Wonder, 1801 (in two volumes) has two 56’s.

Broughty Ferry
Angus

― Tales of Wonder, II, 445, No. 56; II, 449, No. 56 (numbered thus by mistake); II, 453, No. 57.
― See accompanying table of Mrs. Brown’s Ballads, cols. 2 and 4.
― National Library of Scotland.
― Tales of Wonder No. 54. See Ch. I, 308.
― WT-B, 58. Table of Mrs. Brown’s Ballads, col. 2.