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Preface to SSL 42:1

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PREFACE TO SSL 42:1

For near forty years, since volume 13 (1978), *Studies in Scottish Literature* has been published as a single annual volume. Before that, however, it had appeared as a quarterly, though sometimes with double-numbers. Four years ago, in 2012, when we took over editing the journal, we took production digital, but kept to the annual publication schedule. We think the time has now come to experiment once again with more frequent publication, and this issue, *SSL* 42: 1 (Spring 2016), is the first on the new trial pattern of issuing two shorter numbers a year.

The primary reason for the change is to reduce the length of time between acceptance of an article and its publication; migration from print to digital is changing the tolerance of both authors and readers for the glacial pace of annual production. A second reason is that it will allow us more editorial flexibility, as, for instance, in allowing an occasional special-topic issue, or a cluster of articles on a single topic or period, without pushing back other contributions for a full year or more. The third reason is that there is now an increasing number of active researchers in Scottish literary studies, and we want to be free to accept good work on its merits; we need a framework that will allow us, if it seems justified, to publish more articles. It may well be that, as both the possibilities and the norms for journal publication develop, we make further changes in future.

We are very pleased to use this new editorial flexibility to publish Murray Pittock's W. Ormiston Roy Memorial Lecture, "Who wrote the *Scots Musical Museum*? Challenging Editorial Practice in the Presence of Authorial Absence." The lecture discusses a number of fundamental issues of wide relevance to ideas of Scottish authorship and the editing of Scottish literary texts, and we are grateful to Professor Pittock for his

agreement to its inclusion. W. Ormiston Roy (1874-1958), for whom the lecture-series is named, was Ross Roy's grand-father, a noted Burns collector, and a major influence in Ross's own love for Burns.¹ Over the twenty-five years since Ross and Lucie Roy established the Ormiston Roy visiting fellowships, they have brought many distinguished Scottish literary researchers to Columbia, and the more recent establishment of the Ormiston Roy lectureships has allowed us to host a number of senior visitors, including Ian Duncan, Edward J. Cowan, Robert Crawford, and Nigel Leask. This is, however, the first Ormiston Roy lecture to be published in the journal Ross Roy founded.

The other full-length articles represent something of the range of scholars that *Studies in Scottish Literature* now serves—two by recent PhDs, two by established scholars; two by Scottish-born scholars, two by scholars coming to the field from elsewhere; two by women scholars, two by men. The issue is rounded out by the usual notes and documents, reviews, and short notices of books received. The opening symposium that has been a widely-appreciated feature of the past four volumes will return in future issues.

There is one down-side to publishing *Studies in Scottish Literature* in shorter separate issues: no single issue is likely represent the breadth of historical periods or scholarly approaches that the journal aims to include. The articles in this issue are bunched in the romantic and modern periods. For the record: we continue to welcome scholarly articles on all periods of Scottish literature, from medieval to contemporary, and we welcome also comparative or interdisciplinary articles involving Scottish literature and literary studies.

Patrick Scott
Tony Jarrells

¹ See G. Ross Roy, "W. Ormiston Roy as Remembered by his Grandson," *Robert Burns Lives!*, ed. Frank R. Shaw, no. 174 (May 2013), reprinted *Burns Chronicle for 2014*, ed. Bill Dawson (November 2013), 11-17. On the first twenty years of the Roy fellowships, see the contributors' notes in the Roy festschrift, *Robert Burns & Friends*, ed. Patrick Scott and Kenneth Simpson (2012; reissued as *Studies in Scottish Literature*, 37, 2013): 181-185.