The subject of Anglo-Scottish conflict during the period encapsulated by this work has been well-documented, as is evident from a simple glance at its bibliography. Upon closer inspection, however, it is also evident that with respect to recent scholarship, the pickings have been somewhat slim: only thirty percent of Paterson's secondary sources have been produced in the last twenty-five years. Anglo-Scottish military history would appear to be one of those areas of inquiry which has suffered as scholarly interest in matters other than 'high' history has grown; it is apparent that there is much work to be done in order to bring the subject up to date.

With respect to innovation or insight, however, *My Wound is Deep* has nothing to offer us, nor indeed does Paterson make any pretensions to the same. Instead, he has set before himself the task of condensing the substantial weight of aforementioned scholarship into a straightforward, coherent and readable narrative, and in
this Paterson succeeds. The book tells the story of Anglo-Scottish conflict from 1380 to 1560, including such key battles as those of Otterburn, Homildon Hill, and Flodden, but placing a greater emphasis upon the seemingly endless succession of minor encounters which plagued the Border throughout the period. Paterson’s particular skill lies in his ability to colour his narrative with relevant and interesting details while ensuring that it pushes steadily forward; he does not allow himself or his narrative to become bogged down by complexities. As a consequence, we hear almost exclusively about the key political and military figures involved in these struggles. To judge from the rear cover of the book, Paterson is particularly proud of his discussion of the Scottish forces that fought for fifteenth-century France, which includes an account of the battle of Verneuil. Throughout, My Wound is Deep makes for entertaining reading for those who are interested in the martial achievements and shortcomings of the Scots during this period.

Those who approach Paterson’s work from an academic point of view will find much to quibble with. His direct citations occur within the text and consist only of titles, while footnotes and endnotes are not employed; he is not the first writer (and will not be the last) to make use of a ‘select’ bibliography. The book contains little analysis and contributes little to the scholarship on its subject. More casual readers will still find diagrams of the battles of Otterburn, Homildon Hill, Verneuil, Flodden and Pinkie misplaced at the
front of the book - they would have been more usefully employed within the body of the narrative in the appropriate places. One particularly maddening aspect of Paterson’s work is its number of very noticeable and unfortunate errors in spelling (“Parliament passed many statues calling on men to master the longbow” [p. 73]) and grammar (“Close to the Admiral, possibly slightly to the rear, was the Border horsemen from Cumberland” [p.143]), yet another reminder that an electronic proof-reader is no substitute for the older-fashioned variety.

While *My Wound is Deep* is of limited use to the academic, Paterson has nevertheless produced a lively and descriptive overview of the Anglo-Scottish conflicts of the later middle ages. It also reminds us that its subject has been somewhat neglected of late, which may be Paterson’s greatest service to the historiographical tradition to which he owes such a great debt.

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