RECENT ACQISITIONS

EDITORS' NOTE: The Collection of Scottish Documents at the University of Guelph has been recognized as the foremost collection of such documents in the world, outside of Scotland. To aid in research in Scottish Studies, "Recent Acquisitions" to the collection are reported in Scottish Tradition. The following selection represents a small sample of material being acquired for the Universities Scottish Collection.

1. *Strange News From Scotland, or Scotch Presbyterian Piety Evidently Prov'd by the Regard They Shew to Consecrated Churches, the Bodies of the Dead, & C.* Published by J. Morphew near Stationers hall. London: 1712. 15 pages.


   The second work is a record of the trial of Miss Madeline H. Smith for the murder of M. L'Angelier at Glasgow. Miss Smith was accused of poisoning L'Angelier but was later acquitted. The case attracted attention from throughout Britain.


An anonymous address warning the people of Stirlingshire of the dangers of France and the war with Napoleon. The author argues it is likely that an invasion force will land in Scotland and goes on to outline what he believes would be their logical route of conquest and how the Stirlingshire natives can prepare.


General report to the governors of the Dick Bequest for the period 1890-1904. The Dick Bequest was first established in 1833 for the purpose of elevating the character and position of the parochial schools and schoolmasters of Scotland.


A series of documents about the seizure of the Scots Colleges of Douai and Paris by the French Government and the claim for restitution.


The journal covers the period from 4th April, 1841 until 24th March, 1844. The most substantial portion of the manuscript describes the military duties and social gatherings the author experienced in the West Indies. From here he moved on to Plymouth, London, Scotland and Canada, where he arrived in Quebec City and later moving with his regiment to Hamilton.


Scott A. McLean
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NEWS FROM HISTORIC SCOTLAND:

A WALK ON THE WILD SIDE

Historic Scotland’s sites are home to varied forms of wildlife. A three-year ecological survey of all 330 sites has identified unusual plants, birds, insects and animals, and management practices are being developed to ensure that they are protected.

The most significant finding to emerge from the study is the importance of some of the monuments for bats. The castles of Doune, Crichton and Huntingtower all contain large bat colonies and a number of smaller roosts have been found at Rothesay Castle, Seton Collegiate Church and Smailholm Tower. The bats are a protected species, and recommendations for their conservation include measures such as leaving the roost exit holes unblocked during masonry repairs and working at times of the year when the bats are unlikely to be present.

Other interesting guests at the sites are Barn Owls and Common and Natterjack toads. Plant species discovered include Wild Celery, Green Alkanet, Periwinkle, Mallow, Red Valerian and Sand Leek which may originally have been grown for medicinal and culinary purposes.

A number of Historic Scotland’s sites lie within Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), where visitors can enjoy the sights of wildlife beyond the monument boundaries. The boat trip across to Loch Leven Castle can afford the spectacle of hundreds of wildfowl, for which the loch is designated a National Nature Reserve. Wildfowl are also important at Linlithgow Loch SSSI, which is managed by Historic Scotland and has an attractive lochside walk.

FOLLOWING IN THE VIKINGS’ WAKE

Historic Scotland’s Viking expert Olwyn Owen took part last summer in the launch of the Council of Europe’s Viking Cultural Routes project. The aims of the Cultural Routes Project are to make Europe’s cultural identity more apparent and better appreciated as well as safeguarding and enhancing a common
European cultural heritage. A Working Group of Viking specialists was set up in late 1992 to produce a guidebook concentrating on 50 major Viking sites, each set in their regional context. Five Scottish highlights have been included in this European-wide Viking heritage list, four of them sites in the care of Historic Scotland: the Brough of Birsay, Maes Howe (runic inscriptions), and Kolbein Hruga’s Castle, Wyre, (all in Orkney); Jarlshof, Shetland; and the Royal Museum’s Viking Collections. The guidebook, to be called *Follow the Vikings-Highlights of the Viking World*, is due for publication in 1994.

**Revelations at Ratho**

Before the new M8 extension from Newbridge to the Edinburgh City Bypass commenced, Historic Scotland was asked to investigate the proposed new route to ensure that no archaeological sites would be damaged. What they found was a 3,500 year-old burial place on the top of a hill to the west of Ratho, Midlothian. John Terry and his archaeological team from Glasgow University found two pottery burial urns, an incense cup, and a possible stone coffin, all of which were surrounded by a ring-ditch. Excavations led to another exciting discovery of the base of a small building, measuring about 5 metres by 4.2 metres. It is believed to be a house or a weaving shed built by the Anglian people of the area.

**The Miller’s Tale**

New Abbey Corn Mill, or ‘Monk’s Mill’, to give it its colloquial name, is a typical country grain mill, except for the unusual feature that the mill, kiln and miller’s house are built as one unit. The present building dates from the late eighteenth century and was substantially upgraded in the nineteenth. It almost certainly stands on or near the site of a mill built by the Cistercian monks of Sweetheart Abbey, which had been founded by Lady Devorgilla Balliol in 1273.

From the thirteenth century until just shortly after the Second World War the mill was in use processing oats, barley and pease. The machinery of the present mill is spread over three floors and, during the summer months, visitors to New Abbey can see custodian Trevor Wood in action, performing those highly-prized, but rapidly vanishing, skills of the miller.
SCOTTISH BOOK COLLECTOR consists of several elements pertaining to Scottish books old and new:

- Features on collecting Scottish books by writers such as Stevenson, Buchan and Conan Doyle; about particular areas of Scotland; history; limited editions and fine printings; Scottish children's books, etc.

- Bibliographical studies and history of publishing in Scotland: for instance, a series of articles by Warren McDougall, who is an authority on the eighteenth century publishers in Hamilton, Balfour and Neill.
THE FRANK WATSON PRIZE IN SCOTTISH HISTORY

In the Spring of 1994 the first Frank Watson Prize In Scottish History was awarded for the best book, monograph, dissertation or edited set of papers on Scottish Studies published since January 1, 1991. This year's recipient was Dr. David Allan, Lancaster University, for his publication Virtue, Learning and the Scottish Enlightenment. (Edinburgh University Press).

Preference will be given to original works on early Scottish History which has been largely unexplored. Submissions received after December 1, 1993 will qualify for the second award. Deadline for submissions and final judgement date to be determined.

Material for consideration must be submitted by authors, publishers or any other sponsors to:

The Chair of Scottish Studies,
University of Guelph,
Department of History,
Guelph, Ontario,
Canada
N1G 2W1.

The recipient is expected to receive the prize in person and to present a lecture and a seminar while visiting the University of Guelph.