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50 Institutes of Moral Philosophy; For the Use of Students in the College of Edinburgh (2nd ed., Edinburgh, 1773) and Principles of Moral and Political Science; Being Chiefly a Retrospect of Lectures delivered in the College of Edinburgh (2 vols., Edinburgh, 1792), hereafter abbreviated as Institutes and Principles.
51 Principles, II, 502.
52 Ibid., I, 177.
53 Institutes, 268.
54 Principles, I, 16.
55 Scott refers to Ferguson's piece in his affectionate account of the efforts of the Poker Club. (Miscellaneous Prose, XIX, pp. 336), He may also have paid Ferguson the tribute of imitation in a satirical piece concerning affairs in Spain, the "Letter from John Bull to the Editor of the Edinburgh Weekly Journal," published in the issue of May 7, 1823. The piece is entertaining, particularly in its references to the Holy Alliance as the "Bible Society." While Arbuthnot obviously deserves the ultimate credit, Scott's reference to Scotland as "civil, decent, neighbourly" clearly recalls Ferguson's description of Sister Peg as "a quiet easy-tempered, good-conditioned body..." (Proceedings, 86.) There is no parallel to this in Arbuthnot.
56 Institutes, p. 62.
57 Proceedings, 17-18.
58 Ibid., 155.
59 Ibid., 182-83.
60 Ibid., 35.
61 Ibid., 26.
63 Proceedings, 109.
64 The Telegraph, Ch. 27.
65 Ibid., Ch. 27.
66 Letters, II, 495.

The 'Walter Scott' Letters in the Ewen-Graham Collection at the University of Guelph

A.H. BRODIE

In the spring of 1976 the Interdepartmental Committee for Scottish Studies and the University of Guelph were fortunate to acquire the Ewen-Graham collection of Scottish business letters and documents. This acquisition was made possible through the generosity of the MacDonald-Stewart Foundation under Mr. David Stewart to whom our most sincere thanks.

The collection comprises several thousand items, being the records of John Ewen of Aberdeen, merchant, and his successors, and covers a period of commercial development from the mid-eighteenth century onwards till well into the nineteenth century. Its value as social record for the study of the commerce of the period and the parallel urban development of Aberdeen is therefore immense as it will provide research material for historical scholarships for many a year. Indeed, our first graduate student is already cutting her scholarly teeth on this collection.

The acquisition of this material by a Canadian university caused apparently quite a stir in the Old Country, notwithstanding the fact that learned institutions in Scotland had had the chance to acquire the collection and had blissfully ignored it.

The chief reason for the clamour was the fact that the collection contained a bundle of letters which bore the name of Walter Scott. The loss of documents bearing the second holy name of, and in, Scotland was apparently considered a national disaster equal to the debacle of 1745.

Yet a moment's reflection would have shown that literary gems could hardly be expected to emerge from a correspondence conducted with a
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57 Ibid., 155.
58 Ibid., 182-83.
59 Ibid., 35.
60 Ibid., 26.
61 E.J. Hobbawn, Bandits (London, 1969), 61-62. The words are those of a bush poet.
63 The Talisman, Ch. 27.
64 Ibid., Ch. 27.
65 Letters, II, 495.

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THE WALTER SCOTT LETTERS

supplier of merchandise as diverse as hardware, patent medicines, foodstuffs or even wines and spirits, though undoubtedly new light might have been shed on the domestic habits of a great man. Hence I'd decided, like a latter-day Jack Horner, to pick out the literary plums of the pudding in the hope to dive out on the results for at least two years at the expense of various Scottish societies on the North American continent. Alas, as you will hear, it was not to be, so that today's performance will probably be the only occasion on which I am able to bask in the dimly reflected halo of a great name. Let us briefly look at the salient facts of the life of Walter Scott, poet and novelist, during the years 1792 to 1806.

He was born in Edinburgh in 1771 a son of Walter Scott, writer to the Signet. He was a sickly child from birth, his right leg became paralysed during early childhood, so that he was lame throughout his life. He received his education in Edinburgh, was indentured to his father in 1786, studied law from 1789 to 1792 and was called to the bar in that year. He married Margaret Carpenter in 1797.

Walter Scott's military experience was confined to the Quarter Membership of the Edinburgh Light Horse, a body of volunteer cavalry which he was instrument in raising in the year 1797. In 1799 he obtained the appointment of Sheriff-deputy of Selkirkshire, published the first two volumes of the Scottish Border in 1802, and the Lady of the Lake in 1803.

Any absence from Edinburgh during those years was purely temporary. Furthermore, Lockhart, who examined Scott's family history most thoroughly indicates no family connections elsewhere. However unlikely, it might have been possible for a citizen of Edinburgh to order his domestic supplies from an Aberdeen source. An examination of the documents was therefore called for. The 'Walter Scott' part of the John Ewen collection of business material comprises 44 items, 42 of these bear the signatures Walter Scott, W. Scott or simple W.S. There is also one copy of an official document of February 1793, one letter from John Scott, brother, in London, and one letter written on Scott's behalf by his physician Dr Duncan Campbell. All letters are addressed to John Ewen of Aberdeen and give either 'Scotshall' or Lerwick as place of origin.

It is therefore evident that the assumption that the letters were those of Walter Scott, novelist, was erroneous. Graphological evidence confirmed that conclusion. Who was this Walter Scott of Scotshall? It is possible to build up the following picture: In December 1793, the date of our first letter, he must have been a man of about fifty years, he had been married to Isabella, who had died in September 1786, aged 40. He was the father of several children, two of them daughters, one died in 1794 and the other in childbirth in August 1803. His son was aged 13 in 1794 and badly in need of a schoolmaster, that Ewen was to supply. Scott himself, apart from being a gentleman, was a retired naval lieutenant on half-pay, badly desiring some form of active service and subsequent promotion to commander's rank which he never attained. His disposition appears to have been amiable with concern for the underdog, but also given to irritability, he suffered from rheumatism, for which he ordered copious supplies of Essence of Mustard, and he suffered from a rupture. Towards the end of the correspondence he seems to have been beset by money worries, had trouble with some unspecified members of his family for which he was subpoenaed as witness before the King's Bench. As a widower, he seems to have had a little affaire de coeur with a servant girl called Kitty, whose death in 1798 affected him greatly.

It is therefore evident from his letters to John Ewen, that the relationship between the two men was not just one based on business interests, but developed over ten years into a friendship, Ewen became to a large extent the recipient of Scott's confidences, especially as towards the close of the correspondence Scott seems to have acted as Ewen's general agent in the Shetlands, whilst Ewen on Scott's behalf was willing to solicit political patronage for his friend, however in vain his endeavours.

So far then the material has been of little more than local social interest. There is however some material of great interest to the Scottish historian of the period.

In the above-mentioned solitary document of February 1793, the inhabitants of the Lordship and Island of Shetland humbly inform the King's most excellent Majesty that, in order to maintain and support the happy constitution in the hour of danger and to testify to their attachment to His Majesty's person, they had requested Lieut. Walter Scott of the Royal Navy to raise one hundred of their bold and hardy countrymen for the purpose of serving in His Majesty's Fleet at, let it besaid, a suitable bounty for their encouragement.

The cause for this action was, in the words of document,

inflammatory papers and pamphlets which have of late been circulate (sic) by disaffected and disappointed malignants, some of which have found their way even to this remote corner of your Majesty's Dominions . . . .

There were however distinct disadvantages to the responsibility
thus entrusted to Lt. Walter Scott. He was, in September, 1794, in command of two ships of war, but payment and equipment of his volunteers came out of his own pocket. He repeatedly unburdened himself to Ewen that more than one-half of his half pay was expended without any expectation of recompense from the Admiralty. Indeed, the financial burden must have been a heavy one, for in 1798 he wrote to Ewen that, having been appointed Sheriff and Regulating Officer, he had now a contingent of 600 men with whom he had kept the county in peace and order. His attitude was unusual in that he saw his appointment as sheriff also as a mission to protect the lower classes from the oppression of the higher.

Nevertheless, reward for his labours remained outstanding. In October 1798 he re-iterates his complaint that he had spent over one-half of his half pay and had already petitioned the King to this effect in vain. He believed that his labours entitled him to the rank of Commander and transfer to a regular class station. Nevertheless he confessed himself to be powerless to stop smuggling and the 'exportation of cash' to Holland and advocates "the stationing of a sloop or frigate at Lerwick under the command of an experienced officer'.

The highlight of his career, the taking charge of a re-captured English brig brought into Lerwick harbour in September 1799, complete with captured French prize crew, brought him nothing but trouble. As Regulator and officer-in-charge it was his duty to transfer vessel and prisoners to Aberdeen at considerable outlay to himself, monies he found difficult to obtain from the Aberdeen merchants concerned. One hope that his good friend Ewen was able to use his kind offices to bring that matter to a satisfactory conclusion.

There is a gap of some two years in the correspondence. When it was resumed in March 1807 the old tone of cordiality appears to be missing and is only gradually restored, Scott now seems to act as an agent for Ewen; he informs him of the price of cattle, orders provisions in greater quantity than his house consumption warrants, unless of course these were still meant for his contingent, and above all seems to be suffering from continuous and severe bouts of the rheumatic for which Essence of Mustard apparently serves as panacea. The aforementioned family troubles too cause him much concern, there are regular referenced to 'poor Keith' who appears to be in some sort of trouble and on whom Ewen is to keep a benevolent eye.

There are also complaints about suspected underhand dealings in foodstuffs and the monopoly of certain items by mysterious characters in

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Lerwick. It appears that both, his illness and his money worries, are on the increase when the correspondence ceases in June 1806 with a letter written by an obviously very sick man.

It is evident from the correspondence that our friend must have been a man of some substance and standing in the community. Further investigations have shown that, although the actual situation of 'Scotshall' has not been traced, the family seat was not at Lerwick but at the neighbouring Scalloway, a small settlement some six miles WSW of Lerwick and connected with it by the only road the islands could then boast. Samuel Kibbert, who visited the Shetlands in 1821/22, records the following:

Before leaving this vicinity [of Scalloway], I was favoured by Mr. Scott, the laird of the place, from whom I received many civilities, with a sight that was in this country a rarity; opening the door of a high garden wall, a plantation of trees burst upon my view — I had not seen a twig before in Shetland.

[A Description of the Shetland Isles Edin. 1822 (republ. Edin. & Lerwick 1891 and 1931) p. 114/5.]

The name of 'Scott' was however not rare in the Scalloway-Tingwall-Lerwick area, even considering that the population figures in 1801 were 1863 for Tingwall district, 1706 for Lerwick. The first mention of the name I came across was that of David Sanderson Scott of 1576. In 1602 a certain Osie Scott appears in Court Records accused of 'unauthorised meddling with the King's wreck' i.e. of plundering ship wrecks, and was convicted of concealing, amongst other things, 'a piece of iron'. He may have been a man of temper for in the same year he brought a suit against his hired servant, Erasmus Davidson, for leaving his service after eight days. The Court ordered Erasmus, under pain of imprisonment, to return and serve till All-hallows. The most interesting of the Scotts however was undoubtedly Osie's kinsman John who, in 1604, appeared repeatedly before the courts in connection with several charges, namely with the illegal brewing of ale, for unlawfully detaining a plaid for 'bleeding Magnus Donaldson above the end upoun the heid'. In that particular case

tried at Sumburgh in 1604, the court had to solve a nice problem in assigning guilt. John had bled Magnus on the head with a whinger, but it was argued that Magnus, who had used an exceedingly coarse expression to John, had "the bluid wyt" or responsibility for the crime, so it was decided that the pay-
ment of a fine of 40s. should be shared equally between them and that John should not be liable for the expenses incurred in the medical attention required by Magnus — "frie of the expensiss of the heling of him".

After that, the complaint by John’s wife that she had been called a ‘harlot’ by fellow townsfolk appears insignificant.

All information about the 17th Scotts has been taken from Gordon Donaldson Shetland Life under Earl Patrick, Edin. 1958. pp. 57/8, 87, 102, 105, 107, 115 respectively.

I have pursued my investigations as far as the resources immediately at my disposal would allow me to. At no time did I come across a family connection with the Scotts of Edinburgh, though such a connection may have existed among Sir Walter Scott’s ancestors. Recognised genealogical reference books do not throw any light whatever on possible connections.

No doubt more information on Lt. Walter Scott could be brought to light by examining relevant records in Edinburgh, Aberdeen and Lerwick. Is such activity however worth the while? I doubt it, unless some local historian desires to gather information on the history of the Shetlands. In that case the material I have collected will be put at his disposal or indeed on history and reaction of Scotland — during the Napoleonic wars.

Scottish Academic Press Publications

Georgian Edinburgh
By IAN. G. LINDSAY

The New Town of Edinburgh is the largest area of Georgian planning and architecture in any city and has come down to us almost intact. Georgian Edinburgh sets out to give a concise account of the city between 1714 and 1830, some indication of the architects who created it, and a short note on each church, public building and planning scheme within the period. Ian Lindsay began work on a second edition of this book — originally written in 1948 — shortly before he died in 1966. David Walker has completed the work, revising the first four chapters along the lines Lindsay intended, and adding new material to the last chapter to bring it up to date.

'... the book to recommend.' The Architect.

Ancient and Modern Scottish Songs, Heroic Ballads, etc.
Edited by DAVID HERD

'The first classical collection of Scottish Songs and Ballads', as Sir Walter Scott called it, was originally published in 1776. This handsomely produced reissue of David Herd’s pioneering work is a reprint of the edition of 1869, which contains in an Appendix all the pieces substituted in the edition of 1791 for those in the 1776 edition which had been omitted.

The work in two volumes, is divided into three parts as follows: Part One, Heroic Ballads and Fragments; Part Two, Sentimental and Love Songs; Part Three, Comic and Humorous Songs.

'It is a delightful book to dip into, representing what was being recited and above all sung in the Scotland of Herd’s time.' Times Literary Supplement.

A Forgotten Heritage: Original Folk Tales of Lowland Scotland
Edited by HANNAH AITKEN

It might be said that the nation which no longer knows its folklore no longer quite knows itself. Traditional tales may not conform to history, are astir with the ups and downs of that daily life over which the events of history marched.

This book, the first of its kind to appear in modern times, aims at preserving the largely forgotten heritage of the pre-industrial Lowlands of Scotland. The forty-eight tales in the collection have many lively and spontaneous side-glimpses of the past, set forth in all the purity and vigour of the old Scots tongue. Some of the tales are highly dramatic, some charmingly inconsequent and unpretentious, yet even the handful drawn from common folk memory, like Cinderella and Rumplestiltskin, have been virtually re-created in the Scottish idiom.