The Conference on Scottish Studies

In June 1969, during the meetings of the Learned Societies at York University, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, a group of people interested in Scottish history and the study of Scottish influence in North America met and organized The Conference on Scottish Studies. A steering committee was appointed and authorized to prepare a constitution and call for election of officers. These responsibilities the steering committee carried out, and at the same time arranged for a meeting to be held in Winnipeg in June 1970 during the gathering of the Learned Societies in that city. At that time, the two papers presented in this journal were read. Since the meeting of June 1969 an executive and council have been elected and membership has increased to nearly 100 drawn from all over the North American continent and from Scotland.

The reason for such an organization is that Scots have played an important part in the development of many different countries around the world, and nowhere more than in Canada and the United States. Consequently many, particularly those of Scottish origin, feel that a knowledge of Scottish history and of the Scottish influence outside Scotland would give them a better understanding of themselves and of much of their own history. To facilitate and advance such studies the Conference was brought into existence, with the opportunity being offered to all those interested, including various Clan societies and similar bodies, to join.
The constitution of the organization, along with the by-laws, is printed in this issue. At the present time the executive has been concentrating on setting up the one general meeting of the year, but it hopes that the members of the council in the various areas will take it upon themselves to organize local branches that will promote the work of the Conference by holding regional conferences. In this way interest might be stimulated and those who have collections of documents or other items concerning the history of the Scots of the area encouraged to preserve them, in order to provide a better understanding and knowledge of the history not only of the immediate region but also of the whole country.

The present journal, which the Conference now presents in its first number, should be of interest and assistance to those who wish to forward the work of the Organization. While this issue contains but two articles and three book reviews, it is the hope of the editorial committee that articles will be submitted for consideration, and that suggestions for books to be reviewed will be put forward. News items concerning conferences dealing with Scottish matters will also be gladly received. Added to all of this, a co-operative work on The Scottish Tradition in Canada is being prepared and should be ready for publication during 1972. If this is a successful venture, other works may follow to form a series.

On June 1st a joint meeting with the Canadian Historical Association will be held in St. John's, Newfoundland, at Memorial University (3:30 p.m., Room C136), at which two papers will be presented, one by Professor A.G. MacPherson of Memorial University on the Scot in Newfoundland, and the other by Dr. Ian Campbell of Edinburgh University on "Fiction and Experience in the Novels of Sir Walter Scott." It is hoped that there will be a good attendance. The executive would urge any members of the Conference who are in St. John's at the time to attend and to invite others whom they know would be interested.

To make the Conference a success we must all work together.

W. Stanford Reid
President
Constitution of the Conference on Scottish Studies

1. NAME: This Conference shall be known as The Conference on Scottish Studies.

2. OBJECTS OF THE CONFERENCE: The objects of the Conference shall be:
   (a) To encourage research, both inside and outside the universities, in Scottish culture – history, literature, religion, art, law – and its transfer to other parts of the world.
   (b) To assist in the study of Scottish migrations to North America and their impact upon North American development.
   (c) To promote the preservation of historic sites and buildings, documents, relics and other significant remains of Scottish settlement in North America.
   (d) To publish historical studies and documents related to Scottish history and migrations as circumstances may permit.

3. MEMBERSHIP: There shall be five classes of membership:
   (a) Life members
   (b) Benefactors
   (c) Annual members
   (d) Students
   (e) Affiliated societies.
4. **DUES:** The dues of the several classes of membership shall be determined by a general meeting of members as circumstances may require.

5. **OFFICERS:**
   (a) The officers of the Conference shall be:
   1. A president, a vice-president, a recording secretary, a corresponding secretary, and a treasurer.
   2. Such other officers as the president with the advice of the Council shall appoint.
   (b) The officers in Section 5 (a) 1. shall be chosen as follows:
   1. The president, who shall serve in that office for one year, shall be the person elected as the vice-president in the preceding year.
   2. The vice-president, who shall serve in that office for one year, shall be elected as in Section 7 (b) below.
   3. The recording secretary, the corresponding secretary, and the treasurer shall be nominated by the president on the advice of the Council and their names shall be presented to the general meeting for approval.

6. **COUNCIL:** There shall be a Council of the Conference, composed of:
   (a) The president, the vice-president, the recording secretary, the corresponding secretary, and the treasurer.
   (b) Twelve councillors, elected in the manner provided in Section 7 (b) below, each serving for a term of three years, four to be elected each year.
   (c) The immediate past president.

7. **ELECTIONS:**
   (a) Elective offices in the Conference shall be filled by a ballot conducted by a nominating committee. The committee shall be composed of four members, each elected for a term of two years, two to be elected each year. The chairman of the committee, who shall be named by the president on the advice of the Council, shall be one of the two members entering his second year of office.
   (b) The vice-president, the twelve councillors and the members of the nominating committee shall be elected as follows:
   1. The nominating committee shall invite each member of the conference to suggest nominees and with these suggestions in
mind shall draw up a ballot of nominations which it shall send to each member of the Conference.

2. The name of any member nominated for any elective office by a petition bearing the signatures of ten members or more — representative of more than one institution, organization or agency — must be placed on the ballot.

3. The nominating committee shall allow not less than three weeks between inviting suggestions or petitions and drawing up the ballot.

4. The nominating committee shall report the results of the ballot at the general meeting.

(c) No retiring member of the Council or of the nominating committee shall be eligible for re-election in the year in which his term expires.

(d) Should a vacancy occur in the vice-presidency, or among the elected councillors or the members of the nominating committee, it shall be filled by the president on the advice of the council.

8. MEETINGS:

(a) A general meeting of the Conference shall be held annually at a time and place to be determined by the Council of the Conference.

(b) Other general and regional meetings may be held if and as required.

(c) Meetings of the Council shall be held as required. The quorum for a meeting of Council shall be six members.

9. AMENDMENTS OF THE CONSTITUTION:

(a) This constitution may be amended only by a vote of two-thirds of the members responding by mail, followed by a confirming vote of two-thirds of the members present at the annual general meeting of the Conference.

(b) Proposed amendments may be initiated either by the Council or by any five members of the Conference, provided that in the latter case notice of the proposed amendment must reach the corresponding secretary at least six weeks before the annual general meeting of the Conference.

(c) Notice of proposed amendments and the ballot on the amendments shall be forwarded to all members of the Conference at least one month before the annual general meeting.