

UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH JOURNAL



Volume 49, Number Four

Winter 2020

Special Arrangements for AGM

In order to continue the governance of UEGA, and to preserve the safety of our membership, we have taken the decision to conduct the AGM 2021 via the Zoom video calling platform.

If you would like to attend the AGM 2021, please contact the Assistant Secretary, Mrs Joan Meikle, via e-mail at:

gradassoc.admin@ed.ac.uk

We will send full details for access to the meeting ahead of the scheduled date.

Members can find a short guide on how to use Zoom on page 250 along with the AGM Invitation and Agenda.

Future UEGA Events

Given the current global situation, and the restrictions placed on organisations such as ours, we have taken the decision not to hold any in-person events for the Spring season.

We hope to bring our members a selection of online events in the near future, including lectures and discussions. We will post information on these events as it becomes available on our website at :

www.uega.co.uk/events

And on our Facebook page at:

www.facebook.com/uegradassoc

Members' E-mail Addresses

Given ongoing COVID-19 restrictions, it is becoming increasingly important that our Administration team holds a valid e-mail address for our members

If you have not already done so, please contact us with your e-mail address at:

gradassoc.admin@ed.ac.uk

You can view our Data Protection regulations on our website for more information on how we will use your e-mail address.

We will always use your data with care.

University of Edinburgh Journal

Volume 49: Number Four

Winter 2020

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The *University of Edinburgh Journal* is published twice a year in Summer and Winter, and is sent to all members of the University of Edinburgh Graduates' Association. Tel. +44 (0) 131 650 4292 (Monday - Friday, 9.00-12.30); Website: www.uega.co.uk; E-mail: gradassoc@ed.ac.uk. Full payment details can be found on page 320.

Journal Subscription Preference

We would like to remind members that, at the AGM 2019, it was discussed and agreed by vote that members who wish to continue to receive a paper copy of the *Journal* would be required to pay **£15.00 pa in addition to their subscription rate** towards the increasing costs of printing and posting paper copies.

Members who elect to receive a PDF copy of the *Journal* will not be required to pay any additional fees above their subscription rate.

It was agreed that this cost would **apply to all membership categories**, including annual, ten year, and life membership.

UEGA's Administration Team has been in the process of contacting our membership to request confirmation of *Journal* preference, but we have yet to hear from a number of members.

If we have not heard from a member regarding their preference of paper or PDF by the publication of the Summer 2021 issue of the *Journal*, **we will default that member to receive a PDF issue**, which will be sent to the e-mail address we have on file.

If we have not heard from a member, and we do not have a valid e-mail address on file, **we will be unable to despatch a paper copy** until we confirm that member's preference.

If you have not confirmed your *Journal* preference, or have not provided UEGA with a valid e-mail address, please do so at the earliest opportunity by e-mailing our Administration Team at:

gradassoc.admin@ed.ac.uk

From the Editor

Saving the University's Heritage

The University community was greeted at the beginning of the present session by the news that the University had decided that the David Hume Tower should be renamed, as an interim measure, 40 George Square. This was in response to a petition signed by over 1,700 students and staff who had rediscovered that the letters of the philosopher David Hume had, in the 1760s, included remarks that encouraged the ownership of slaves, and accepted slavery as an institution. This has been bound up with the Black Lives Matter movements which, along with the controversy over the retention of the monument to Henry Dundas, Lord Melville, in St Andrew Square, has shone more light on the emerging awareness of the City of Edinburgh's legacy of the slave trade.



It is to be sincerely hoped that the name of David Hume can be returned to the building at an appropriate time since, not to do so, is already damaging an important part of the University's heritage and history as an Enlightenment university and institution. In the development of George Square as a University campus, three new buildings erected in the south-east corner were named after the moral philosopher David Hume, the historian William Robertson, and the political and social philosopher Adam Ferguson. Erected during the heady days of the new Enlightenment of the 1960s, three important new University Buildings were named for three of the leaders of the earlier Enlightenment of two hundred years before. They were the University's proud commemoration of its enlightened past and heritage which continued then, as it still does, to attract more great minds to study here in Edinburgh. Not until the 1980s did the University readily put up plaques to commemorate its notable alumni and teachers; but it did name buildings for them; and the David Hume Tower, housing languages, literatures, and philosophy; the William Robertson Building, housing history and politics; and the Adam Ferguson Building, housing economic and social sciences, were collectively the University's monument to the Enlightenment of the eighteenth century. The three buildings are still there, but their names have gone or, in one case, have been moved to another. Today's students and visitors to the city will no longer hear of and ask about David Hume, William Robertson, and Adam Ferguson, the Titans of the Scottish Enlightenment.

The University's disregard of a large part of its heritage is greatly to be regretted. It can be revived, and so it should be.

Peter B Freshwater

University and Alumni Notes

Coronavirus Pandemic

From the very beginning, back in the autumn of 2019, the University has been in the forefront of the struggle with the Coronavirus pandemic and the spread and containment of the virus itself, COVID-19. Senior academic staff were among the teams which identified the virus in the earliest days and issued early warnings of a coming pandemic. Others have been acting as scientific advisers to the UK and Scottish Governments and have regularly appeared on official and social media to explain the rationales behind necessary political, social, and economic actions. Many graduands in medicine and nursing studies were given special dispensations for volunteering for frontline participation in hospitals, clinics, and other emergency services. Many leading journalists are also our alumni and are reporting from the frontlines on the effects of the pandemic. And the whole University has had to reorganise how it operates, for the beginning of the new session, within Governmental guidelines and legal requirements, often confusing, delayed, poorly thought through, and without the availability of an adequate test and trace system which would have enabled University life and work to proceed in a reasonable way. One of our graduates, Dr Raphaela Kitson-Pantano, has offered an article which appears in this *Journal* on the need for better national and international communication at times of pandemic crisis.

Renaming the David Hume Tower

In the middle of September, the news broke that, in response to a petition signed by over 1,700 people as part of the Black Lives Matter movement, the University had decided, as an interim measure, to discard the name of the David Hume Tower and to refer to the building as 40 George Square. For the coming session, much of the building is to be used for student study space, and it also out-houses New College Library which is undergoing extensive refurbishment to its building on The Mound. The petitioners and others believe that students would feel uncomfortable having to work in a building named after a scholar whose writings include racist remarks. These were discovered by Dr Felix Waldmann and appear in his book *Further Letters of David Hume* (2014), and have reappeared in more recent articles by him and others.

The decision to rename the DHT was taken by the University's Equality and Diversity Committee, and the change of name is temporary, pending the outcome of a full review of the University's slavery and racism legacy. It is challenged by many members of the University, alumni, members of the public, and the media, who would prefer that Hume's name should be retained for the DHT and that, as with the City's monument to Lord Melville in St Andrew Square, an exploratory and explanatory plaque be displayed at its entrance.

Several alumni who are also members of the Graduates' Association have written letters of protest at the change of name to the Association, and these have been forwarded to the Principal, Professor Peter Mathieson. The Executive Committee of the Associations also regrets the change of name and has communicated this to the Principal. At least one member has felt so strongly that she has, regrettably, cancelled her membership. We do not yet know when the review is expected to complete its work. Alumni and others who still wish to write to the Principal are encouraged to do so, by e-mail, to principal@ed.ac.uk, or in writing to him at Old College, South Bridge, Edinburgh EH8 9YL.

The Edinburgh Culture Conversations

Occasioned by the news that most of the summer Festivals in Edinburgh had been cancelled, the University of Edinburgh Culture Conversations provided an online ten-week series of events which brought together members of the public, artists, academics, and cultural leaders to debate how the arts and creative sectors can help society recover from the effects of COVID-19, and the future shape and purpose of the culture sector. People from around the world took part. Janet Archer, the University of Edinburgh's Director of Festivals, Cultural, and City Events, chaired the weekly conversations which debate the value of creativity, not only to the arts, but also to society and the wider economy.

The ten online debates began on Monday 13th July and ended on Monday 14th September and covered a wide range of cultural topics which were explored and debated by an eclectic array of contributors. Distinguished guests included: singer-songwriter Karine Polwart; the Edinburgh International Festival's Director Fergus Linehan; Scots Makar Jackie Kay; Jackie Wylie, Artistic Director and Chief Executive of the National Theatre of Scotland; David Greig, Artistic Director and Joint Chief Executive, Edinburgh's Royal Lyceum Theatre; Professor Susan Deacon, Chair of the Edinburgh Festivals Forum; and many others. Members of the public were encouraged to submit questions during the debates, which were streamed live.

The Conversations were staged in conjunction with the University of Edinburgh's new centre for interdisciplinary learning and research, the Edinburgh Futures Institute, which will be housed in the city's former Royal Infirmary building and will promote the University's expertise in the humanities, social sciences, and arts, alongside its sector-leading work in data science. The University, its students, and staff play a key role in the Edinburgh festivals each year.

Video recordings of the Conversations can be seen on the University's website at:

**[https://www.ed.ac.uk/events/Festivals/cultural-andcity-events/
edinburgh-culture-conversations](https://www.ed.ac.uk/events/Festivals/cultural-andcity-events/edinburgh-culture-conversations)**

Roll of Honour 1939-1945: Update

The University's World War II *Roll of Honour* was issued by the Graduates' Association as a printed supplement to the Winter 2014 issue of the *Journal*. Copies are still available from the Association office, and it may be viewed on line on the Association's website at www.uega.co.uk/archive. The *Roll* is being kept up to date on a database in the Association's office and is soon to be transferred to the University Archives so that an official master list can be maintained and accessed online by the University.

We have recently been advised that one of the names on that list, who is also included on the University's War Memorial in the Old Quadrangle, belongs to an RAF medical officer who was actually taken prisoner in Malaya in 1942. **Flight Lieutenant Duncan Alderson Duthie** (MBChB 1936) was originally reported as having been killed in action but survived the war and continued a successful career as a consultant physician in North Staffordshire. He eventually died in 1995 and was then given a brief obituary in the *Journal* without any reference to his having previously been listed as a war casualty. There was no reason for the editorial team of the day to make that connection, which was only recently discovered by a member of Dr Duthie's family researching the family history who alerted the University Archivist.

At least one other survivor of the War is known to have been listed erroneously in the original Roll of Honour in the pages of the Autumn 1946 *Journal*. **Major John Moore Officer** (MBChB 1930) was listed as 'missing, presumed dead' in the Far East. His listing was corrected when he came home during the War, and the Association published an apology to him in the personal column of *The Scotsman* in 1943. We have not included him in the recent printed *Roll of Honour* but note in the databases that he is listed in the Medical Directory until 1949 as 'RAMC'. His name does not appear on the Old College War Memorial.

From a 1949 *Journal*, one more name emerging for inclusion in the master list of the *Roll of Honour* is that of **Julien Jacques Champenois** (MA 1908 and BLitt Oxon) who received the *Croix de Guerre* 1914–1918 and was a *Chevalier de la Legion d'Honneur*. He was a Paris bookseller and had been a representative in the USA of the Ministry of Education; he was arrested by the Germans in 1943, deported to Buchenwald, and sent eastwards with other prisoners on the approach of USA forces in spring 1945; he is believed to have died from exhaustion on the march in Bohemia.

Remembrance Sunday 2020

Like other University events during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Edinburgh Universities' Remembrance Sunday was a virtual event, conducted by the city's four Universities, their respective principals, and others. They laid wreaths on their own memorials and took part in a short film made on Sunday 1st November and broadcast on their websites the following

weekend, including Remembrance Sunday itself, 8th November. Because of the COVID-19 limitations on crossing boundaries, David Gilmour, President of the Graduates' Association, was able to lay the Association's wreath, but at a different time. The film can be seen via the University website at:

<https://www.ed.ac.uk/news/2020/special-film-marks-remembrance-sunday>

The Opening of the Wigtown Book Festival: *Ninians' Gift*

This year's Wigtown Book Festival, like most others, had to go digital to continue, and did so very successfully. It opened with the world premiere performance of a new, delightful pocket opera by two Edinburgh University graduates, who are now much admired for the series of musical events on which they have collaborated, inspired by byways of Scottish history. Of *Ninian's Gift*, Alexander McCall Smith wrote the words, Tom Cunningham set them to music. A quartet of professional singers who trained at Edinburgh Napier University School of Music performed the work under the direction of Michael Harris. As well as St Ninian, the work also touches upon St Columba and St Margaret, St Mungo, The Holy Cat, and The Saint on the Machair. The performance can be visited at:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1ms43Sd6aGY&feature=emb_logo

Other Edinburgh graduates appearing at the Festival included Kirsty Wark, Sally Magnusson, and Professor Emeritus Edward J Cowan. They and the Festival remind us of the historic links between the University and Galloway.

The Great British Bake Off Winner

UEGA and the *Journal* join the rest of the University in extending our congratulations to Peter Sawkins, undergraduate in accounting and finance, on winning *The Great British Bake Off* for 2020.

News of Members

Readers are encouraged to send information about themselves and/or other graduates to the Editor for inclusion in the 'News' section of the Journal.

Mr Edward George Campbell BVMS MRCVS reports that he commenced work with David Laird, Fort James, Drumahoe on 22 July 1960 and is still employed by the same practice over 60 years later.

Lady Lucinda L Mackay MA Hons has donated a number of her papers and artworks to the archives of the National Library of Scotland.

Mr David Withington BSc (Napier) FRSSA FSA Scot reports that he was elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland on 30 November 2019.

Birthday Honours List

Order of St Michael and St George

Knight Grand Cross

**Sir David Frederick Attenborough
GCMG CBE**

Hon DVMandS 1994

Broadcaster and Natural Historian

Order of the British Empire

Commanders

Miss Caroline Jane Alexander CBE

BSc 1987

Chief Nurse, Barts Health NHS Trust

Prof Chris van der Kuyl CBE

Drhc 2016

Chair and Co-Founder, 4J Studios

Prof David John Webb CBE

Hon DSc 2000

Christian Professor of Therapeutics and
Clinical Pharmacology

Officers

Dr Sarah Elizabeth McDonald OBE

BSc (Hons) 2003 PhD 2008

Biobank Manager, Medical Research
Council, University of Glasgow Centre
for Virus Research

Mrs Mary Louise Contini OBE

BSc 1976

For services to the Scottish Food
Industry and Scottish-Italian Relations

Dr John Ronald Walker OBE

MA 1982 PhD 1987

Lately Head, Arms Control &
Disarmament Research, Foreign and
Commonwealth Office

Prof Andrew Harrison OBE

Hon DSc 2017

CEO, Diamond Light Source Ltd

Prof Lorna Margaret Woods OBE

LLM 1994

For services to Internet Safety Policy

Prof Cathie Sudlow OBE

Staff

Director of BHF Data Science Centre,
Health Data Research UK

Dr Sarah Nelson OBE

MA 1971

Research Associate, Centre for Research
on Families and Relationships

Members

Dr Craig Norman McLeod Smith MBE

BSc 1980 PhD 1983

Technical Expert, Complex Weapons,
MBDA UK Ltd

Dr Julie Ruth McIlwaine MBE

MBChB 1994

For services to healthcare in the
Cairngorms during COVID-19

Mr Gavin Gilbert Price MBE

BCom (Hons) 1995

For services to the community in
Aberfeldy during COVID-19

Dr Michelle Cooper MBE

PhD 1995

CEO, County Durham Community
Foundation

Dr Ian Graham Fotheringham MBE

Staff

Managing Director, Ingenza

Prof Janette Webb MBE

Staff

Prof of Sociology of Organisations

New Members in 2020

We are delighted to welcome the undernoted new members and invite them to send us news of themselves or other graduates from time to time. Members are also encouraged to invite friends and colleagues to join the Association.

Dr Kevin Anderson	BSc 1994
Mr David Bruce	MA 1962
Mr Thomas L Cunningham	BSc 1968
Dr John A T Duncan	MBChB 1964
Miss Candice E P Donnelly	LLB 2005
Mr David S Ireland	MA 1981 LLB 1984
Mrs Lynda McGrath	
Ms Jennifer S Parker	

Donations in 2020

The undernoted members have responded to our appeals for voluntary contributions and we wish to thank them most warmly for their generosity. Several anonymous contributions have also been received.

Mr Peter J Adams, Cumbria	Mr Thomas V James, Bermuda
Dr David Boyd, Edinburgh	Mr David A Lamb, Edinburgh
Prof David W Brown, Fife	Lady Lucinda L Mackay, Edinburgh
Mr Edward G Campbell, Northern Ireland	Dr Catriona & Mr David Maisels, Edinburgh
Dr David J Clarke, Lincoln	Mr Jack McLaren, Edinburgh
Dame Mary Corsar, Edinburgh	Mr John F M MacLeod, Inverness
Mrs Ruth Donner, Finland	Mrs Jennifer M Munro, Edinburgh
Dr Morven Duncan, Fife	Dr Hamish O Nicholson, Pitlochry
Mr Peter B Freshwater, Edinburgh	Mr Robert G Preece, Inverness
Mr I Alasdair N Geater, Brussels	Mrs Christine Reid, Edinburgh
Mr David R Gilmour, Edinburgh	Dr Adam A Robertson, Edinburgh
Mrs Heather Gray, Bermuda	Miss Joan A Ross, Dundee
Mrs Oonagh Gray, Edinburgh	Mr Neil F Simpson, Hertford
Mr Richard J Greenwood, Derbyshire	Dr Gerard Slavin, Derbyshire
Dr Jaqueline J Horsburgh, West Lothian	Mrs Elizabeth M Thom, East Lothian
Mr Andrew J Hunter, USA	Mr David Withington, Edinburgh
Dr George R Inglis, Dundee	

The University of Edinburgh Graduates' Association

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Members are invited to the Annual General Meeting to be held
via the Zoom video calling platform
on **Thursday 11th February 2021 at 12.00 noon.**

Members who wish to attend the AGM via Zoom must contact the
Assistant Secretary, Mrs Joan Meikle, at gradassoc.admin@ed.ac.uk
no later than **Friday 5th February** to receive meeting details.

Mr David A Lamb SSC,
Honorary Secretary

A G E N D A

1. **Minutes** (Pages 251–255 of *Journal* Vol 49, No 4) and matters arising
2. **Finance:** Presentation of Accounts by Hon Treasurer
3. **Editorial Committee Report**
4. **President's Report**
5. **Election of Hon Office-bearers:** President, Vice-President, Hon Secretary, and Hon Treasurer
6. **Appointment of Hon Accounts Examiner**
7. **Executive Committee Elections:** all nominations, duly proposed and seconded and with the consent of the nominee, should be in the hands of the Hon Secretary, in writing, by 29th January 2021
8. **AOCB**

Using Zoom for Video Calling

Since the implementation of lockdown measures early in 2020, using video calling to attend meetings and catch up with loved ones has become the new *status quo*. We recognise that using an unfamiliar technology can be intimidating for many. Thankfully, Zoom has a very useful, step-by-step installation and use guide on its website, which can be found at the following link:

<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362033-Getting-Started-on-Windows-and-Mac>

We would encourage any member still encountering problems with Zoom to view the Frequently Asked Questions page on Zoom's website, or to contact us at gradassoc@ed.ac.uk for more information.

Annual General Meeting 2020

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held in the Raeburn Room, Old College, Edinburgh on Thursday 13 February 2020 at 12 noon.

Present: Mrs Oonagh Gray, President in the Chair; Mr David Lamb, Hon. Secretary; Mr Finlay Marshall, Hon. Treasurer; Mrs Joan Meikle, Assistant Secretary; Mr John R Sutherland, *Journal* Assistant Editor, and 13 others who signed the register.

The President welcomed members to the meeting.

Apologies for absence had been received from: Mrs Shiela Denham, Mr Peter Freshwater (*Journal* Editor), Mrs Winifred Gordon, Miss Dorothy Kilgour, Mr Michael Langdon, Dr Robert Nelson, Mrs Jenny Scott, and Miss Helena Shanks.

1. Minute: the Minute of the 2019 Annual General Meeting were published in the Winter 2019 issue of the *Journal*. They were approved as a correct record and were signed by the Chair.

2. Finance: Mr Marshall referred to the Accounts for the year to 30 September 2019, which had been tabled. He began by drawing attention to the sum received from Annual Subscriptions (£12,005) and paid out in Wages and Salaries (£17,196). When he began his role as Treasurer, three years ago, the income from Annual Subscriptions was sufficient to meet the cost of Wages and Salaries but this was not now the case. In 2018 the figure for Wages and Salaries was lower than usual at £14,203 due to the office being without a member of staff for four months due to Mrs Meikle's temporary absence. With this anomaly accounted for, there was little change in the cost. Donations, at £4,903, were substantially less than last year, despite the bequest of £3,705 (US\$ 5,000) from Mr Carey Singleton, which was included in this figure.

The sum of £3,705 had been transferred to a Centenary Reserve Fund in advance of the centenary of the Association in 2024 and the *Journal* in 2025. The balance of the General Fund is now at -£12,726 and must indicate the question of the continued viability of the Association. The category of Life Membership was not now actively offered. The figure for Annual Functions consisted of payment for events tickets in advance of the occasion. While no calendar had been produced for this year, the sum for Calendar Printing Expenses was for final payments to the calendar designer and the photographer for their work on the 2018 calendar.

Mr Marshall emphasised that the figures for 2019 did not read well. It was apparent that the Association relied on donations from its members to survive. Donations received to finance the production of the 2018 calendar covered the costs but the take-up by members was disappointingly low, for what was an excellent item that had been well-worth purchasing. This had highlighted the fact that we have a large number of inactive members and the need for less lethargy in the membership was to be urged. Increased

attendance at our events would be a step in the right direction, since low attendances is very dispiriting for the organisers.

Mr Marshall referred to our world-wide membership but accepted that only those living in or near Edinburgh were able to engage with our activities and events.

Initiatives by the University's Development & Alumni Department (D&A) to set up more clubs could be attractive to those who live outwith Edinburgh, as graduates would be more able to actively participate in more local activities. A higher attendance at our events would be beneficial but a higher rate of subscription was also required and in these circumstances, Mr Marshall proposed: (1) that the subscription rate for an Annual membership should increase by £5 to £40 from October 2020, and (2) that any member who preferred to receive a paper copy of the *Journal* (as opposed to an on-line PDF version, distributed by email) should be asked to pay £15 per annum towards the cost. Postage costs to a Life Member overseas is high. These two proposals were approved with one dissention.

Mr Alistair Kerr asked how much support was received from D&A for recruitment. Unfortunately, D&A were not very co-operative. On a previous occasion they had sent out emails on our behalf, which contained what we wanted, but it had not been very successful with regard to responses. The new rules imposed by the introduction of General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) made recruitment very difficult. D&A appeared to prefer to concentrate on setting up local and overseas clubs, which could perhaps result in a reallocation of our membership, so we might become more local and Edinburgh-based.

Mr Ritchie Walker asked if D&A had access to the names and addresses of our members and was advised that information is shared between D&A and ourselves on a computer system called ThankQ.

There were no other questions and Mr Marshall was thanked for his report.

3. Editorial Committee Report: In the absence of Mr Peter Freshwater, Journal Editor, the Journal Assistant Editor, Mr John Sutherland, presented the Report.

Mr Sutherland reported that the Editorial Committee had met twice during the year, in February and September 2019 and would meet again in March 2020. Members of the Editorial Committee joined the Executive Committee in September for a meeting about the future of the Association.

Two issues of the *Journal*, classified as Summer and Winter 2019, were published on time and within budget at a cost of **£4,165.16** for Summer and **£4,179.08** for Winter and were distributed to members and to other recipients. They had been well received.

Our printing consultant, Mr Steven Hansen-Just, had advised that our overall production costs had fallen by about 2%. It had been decided to revert to the original practice of naming *Journal* issues according to seasons Winter and Summer, to allow, if required, a degree of latitude in publication and distribution. The Summer issue was an International University Issue

and had been produced in time to be displayed, along with some free promotional copies to be taken away, at the General Council's June Half-Yearly Meeting and event on *The University and Africa: Past, Present and Future*. The Winter 2019 issue resumed an early practice by publishing an edited version of an inaugural lecture, this time by Celeste-Marie Bernier, Professor of Atlantic and United States Studies. The greater prominence given to forthcoming Association events and the application form for tickets had been appreciated.

The Editorial Team was grateful for assiduous proof reading by several members of the Editorial Committee.

The present cover design was being retained for the current Volume. The Committee was keeping under review possible redesigned layouts and colours. Depending on the outcome of discussions on the Association's future, together with the approaching Centenaries of the Association in 2024 and the *Journal* in 2025, the *Journal* would probably need a complete review and overhaul. Members would have the opportunity to contribute to the discussions.

No calendar was produced for either 2019 or 2020 but the idea of a future calendar is being borne in mind pending the Association's current discussions with the University.

An independent website for the Association had been set up at www.uega.co.uk. The additional file space that this provided had enabled the mounting, for public access, Volumes 11 to 18 of the *Journal*, covering the years 1941 to 1957. They had been added to the archive at <https://www.uega.co.uk/archive> and could be fully searched by keywords such as names, subjects, titles etc. and would be a great asset to researchers on the history of the University and its alumni. Volume 19 (1958) and onwards would follow shortly. It complemented the Association's Facebook page, which the Editor endeavoured to keep supplied with news from other parts of the University. All members were urged to visit and use these pages as often as they could and also to add more and different contributions. The more frequent the usage the higher the priority the search engines would give to the online addresses.

The report concluded with an expression of the Editor's gratitude to Mr Sutherland, Journal Assistant Editor, Professor Ian Campbell, Convener, and to members of the Editorial Committee for their support and commitment over the year.

The President thanked Mr Sutherland for presenting the Editorial Report and invited questions from the floor. Mr Buchan commented that a number of errors had appeared in the Winter 2019 edition of the *Journal*. These were acknowledged with regret and were apologised for.

Professor Stephen Hillier said that there would be new opportunities for the *Journal* in future, which should give it a higher profile. Members of the General Council were becoming more aware of the existence of the Association. He added that he felt that the University did not know about the function and importance of the EU clubs.

4. President's Report: The President gave a resume of the social events held in 2019, which began in March with the Annual Reception & Buffet Supper at which the after-dinner speaker was the University Rector, Ann Henderson. In April we welcomed Major General Michael Riddell-Webster to a Members' Lunch at which he spoke about his role as Her Majesty's Governor of Edinburgh Castle. A visit was arranged to the History of Education Centre and a small number of members experienced what it was like to be a pupil at a Victorian school. In June, we visited the National Library's Map Collection and had an excellent guide in Chris Fleet, the Library's Map Curator.

A visit to the School of Engineering at Kings Buildings was arranged for September and the group was fortunate to experience the Flo-Wave Tank in operation and also to visit the Radacsi Lab where Professor Robert Radacsi explained about his pioneering bioengineering work in 3-D printing. A St Andrew's Night Dinner was held on 30 November and the entertainment provided by Elinor Evans, clarsach, Fergus Gillies, a poetry recitation, and Scott McKenna, the after-dinner speaker, was of an extremely high standard and was very much enjoyed. In December, a traditional Christmas Lunch was arranged at the request of one of our members and this was very successful.

The President had had the privilege of laying a wreath on behalf of the Association at the annual Remembrance Service in November, in the Old College Quadrangle.

The Programme of Events for Spring 2020 was circulated to members in the December issue of the *Journal*, and were namely the Annual Reception & Buffet Supper in the Playfair Library Hall on 11 March, a Members' Lunch in April with a guest speaker, a visit to the refurbished Law School premises, and an outing to the home of Sir Walter Scott at Abbotsford House, Melrose.

The monthly Coffee Mornings at the National Museum of Scotland in Chambers Street continued successfully, meeting at 10.30am on the first Saturday of the month.

Membership of the Association, as at 30 September 2019, stood at 1,041. No new-membership campaign was carried out in 2019 due to the restrictions of GDPR but new members were urgently required.

The President reiterated that Annual Subscriptions would require to be increased by £5 to £40 from October 2020, in the main to cover the costs of the *Journal*. From October, any member who would prefer to receive a paper version of the *Journal* would be required to pay £15 per annum for the Winter and Summer issues. This would help greatly with our finances.

5. Future of the UEGA: Mr Lamb explained that in January 2019 he had written to the University's Secretary to request an increase in the Grant, which is paid to us by the University. In his letter he set out details of the publishing and distribution costs of the *Journal* and compared these costs with the amount (£4,500), which we currently receive in funding. Regrettably, no reply was received. Funding at the existing amount was received following the start of negotiations with Chris Cox of D&A and our office-bearers.

D&A plan to re-launch approved Clubs in e.g. the UK and North America. D&A are uncomfortable with our title, which includes the word 'Graduate', and appear to have difficulty in understanding how our structure is at odds with the structure of other Clubs which are run by volunteers. In addition, the structure within the Association enabled us to produce the *Journal* and organise social events. A further meeting with D&A was planned for Friday 21 February to examine our finances.

Discussions with D&A had made some progress but D&A would prefer that volunteers ran the Association, whereas we view our paid staff as of considerable value to us.

Mr Ritchie Walker indicated that he was fully supportive of the efforts of the Officers of the Association, in seeking a suitable arrangement with support of D & A in order to secure the future of the Association in the long term.

6. Election of Office Bearers: President – Mrs Gray said that she had fulfilled her term in office and that the Executive Committee had nominated the current Vice President, Mr David Gilmour, to be her successor. The President expressed her sincere thanks to all for the help and support she had received during her two-year term in office; **Vice President** – The Executive Committee had nominated Professor Stephen Hillier; **Honorary Secretary** – the Executive Committee had nominated Mr David Lamb to continue in post; **Honorary Treasurer** – the Executive Committee had nominated Mr Finlay Marshall to continue in post.

The above were elected without dissent.

7. Appointment of Honorary Accounts Examiner: Mr Eric Brown holds this position and had indicated that he is willing to continue in this post. This was agreed unanimously.

8. Executive Committee Elections: Sheriff Andrew Bell and Lady Lucinda Mackay had completed their terms of office and the President thanked them both for their interest and commitment to the Association during the past five years.

The Executive Committee had not received nominations from anyone willing to serve and would use its power to co-opt, as appropriate, during the coming year.

9. AOCB: Mr Walker said how much the attendance of the President at the half-yearly General Council meetings in February and June had been appreciated. Her willingness to distribute copies of the *Journal* at the meetings and to chat to those attending had been a fine example of a good President.

10. Date of the Next Meeting: The next Annual General Meeting would be held on Thursday 11 February 2021 at 12 noon in the Raeburn Room, Old College, Edinburgh.

The meeting closed at 1pm with a vote of thanks to the Chair from Mr Lamb and was accompanied by the presentation of a gift of flowers to the outgoing President.

New Picture Feelings

We are pleased to include the following poem by the artist Lady Lucinda L Mackay with this issue of the Journal. The Editor would like to encourage more such submissions for consideration in a future issue.

A tympany whimper
In Klemperers tempera
Tangles the mindweed
Of painterly foresight,
Above the vanishing point
Of varnishing sentiment
Countering testament
The canvas anoints
In dimpling rivulets
Drops of dew dribblets.
Resolve lush connectives
So far to the skyline
Conducting a high time
That oil and beeswax
Can form the trump climax
And focus on crocus
Well stemmed hocus pocus;
Conniving at dawn flower
With magical brush power
Far from sham hogweed
Able sable with podspeed,
Delighting in sprouting
Impasto with shouting.

Lady Lucinda L Mackay

Submissions to the *University of Edinburgh Journal*

The Editor of the *University of Edinburgh Journal* welcomes any contributions from students, alumni, staff, or those interested in the University of Edinburgh and its heritage.

Scholarly, serious, and creative contributions are all welcome; the *University of Edinburgh Journal* publishes a wide range of work from all disciplines, including articles, reviews, prose, and poetry.

Copy deadlines are **30th March** for the Summer issue, and **30th September** for the Winter issue.

Contributions should follow the MHRA Style Guide. Further notes for contributors and editorial advice can be found on the OBC, at:

www.uega.co.uk/editorial-guidelines

or by e-mail at: **gradassoc@ed.ac.uk**

UEGA: The Way Forward

Editorial Note: As a consequence of the COVID-19 lockdown, discussions on the future of UEGA with the University have been suspended, but members are invited to continue thinking about the future, and should find the following text helpful. It has been prepared for a promotional brochure that may be distributed when discussions resume. Please send your thoughts to us at gradassoc@ed.ac.uk

Objectives

The University of Edinburgh Graduates' Association, established in 1924, is the last survivor of the alumni associations set up by the Ancient Scottish Universities during the early twentieth century, and its *Journal*, published continuously since 1925, is the last survivor of the Ancient Scottish university alumni journals. Both are, therefore, now unique.¹

UEGA comprises two ruling councils, Executive and Editorial, as well as essential staff members who ensure the smooth and cost-effective operation of the organisation as a whole. The Association's name and its objectives, stated in the governing constitution,² are as follows:

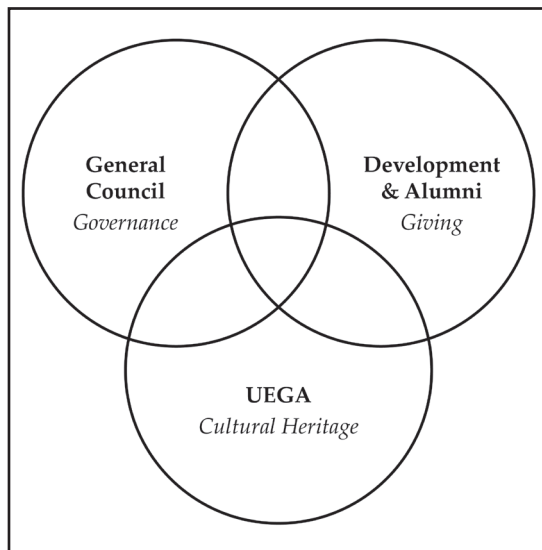
- To keep the graduates and other alumni of the University in touch with the University and with each other
- To publish the *University of Edinburgh Journal*
- To help in promoting the welfare of the University and of its students

These objectives indicate the commitment to the University, including all its Colleges, Schools, and Departments, in the breadth of its diversity, internationality, and heritage.

The Association does not appeal to its subscribers for funding for the University. UEGA and the *Journal* together offer alumni a feeling of University-wide collegiality and hospitality, which so often is lost in today's huge and scattered organisation.

We provide a service to alumni that is not available elsewhere. Through fostering a feeling of scholastic warmth and welcome between the University and present and future alumni, subscribers are encouraged to support UEGA and thereby engage with the wider University community.

UEGA's role in this process complements the two other essential strands of alumni input to University affairs provided via the General Council and Development & Alumni.



Challenges

UEGA has dedicated ninety-five years of service to the University of Edinburgh, the alumni community, and to its subscribers and wider readership. From 1924, through World War II and on to the University's 400th Anniversary in 1983, the turn of the millennium, the ramifications of Brexit, and the arrival of the COVID-19 pandemic. All along, we have been here providing our services, publishing our *Journal*, and fanning the flames of collegiate warmth in Scotland's capital and across the globe.

No organisation, regardless of its heritage or provenance, can resist the demands of an ever-evolving world; we recognise the need for continual change to meet the complex challenges that lie ahead for both our organisation and the University of Edinburgh at large. We would like to step forward into the next decade in partnership with the University, confident that we are supporting mutual goals and targets.

With the University of Edinburgh's support, we are well set to contribute to, enhance, and complement the Strategy 2030's³ ultimate objective of solving tomorrow's greatest challenges – especially in the key areas of **people** and **social & civic responsibility**.

What follows is a description of our strategy moving into the next decade. Our strategy is designed to ensure our historic organisation's impact, guaranteeing that we continue to engender a community that Edinburgh's alumni can be proud to join, that we continue publishing a well-respected scholarly *Journal*, and that our events bring joy for many years to come.

Fellowship

Resources and funding are essential to the continued existence of any organisation. The University of Edinburgh receives significant support from its alumni community. In a similar way, our subscribers support UEGA with their subscriptions, donations, and attendance at our regular social events. We feel that it is crucial to encourage carefully the support of our alumni community — they should never feel pressured or obligated to contribute.

UEGA provides an environment of warmth and friendliness for our subscribers. Through their interaction with us and each other, we foster a spirit of **collegiality** and **respect**. We believe it is that spirit that motivates our subscribers to support UEGA and the *University of Edinburgh Journal*.

Our ruling committees and essential staff are made up of Edinburgh graduates. Their loyalty to the University, and to UEGA, is what has enabled us to offer our services for nearly a century.

With support from the University, we will share this spirit of **collegiality**, **loyalty**, and **fellowship** with the wider alumni community, thereby encouraging similar support for our *alma mater*.

More than this, we will continue to offer graduates the opportunity to contribute to the University with more than just money. Alumni who deliver lectures at our regular events, participate in our governance, and publish with our *Journal* will enrich the very fabric of the University of Edinburgh.

Communication

The future of UEGA is intrinsically linked to the future of the *University of Edinburgh Journal*. As our primary means of communication with our subscribers and the wider alumni community, safeguarding the *Journal* will ensure that we are able to continue the work of UEGA and support the University's philanthropic activities moving forward into the next decade.

The first step is to evaluate and streamline the costs incurred by production of the *Journal*. Our dedicated Editorial staff, in consultation with our long-serving printing consultant Mr Steven Hansen-Just, continually negotiate the best possible costs for production of the *Journal* at Cambrian Printing Ltd's Aberystwyth facility.

Design and Editorial work remain in-house, where we employ knowledgeable and experienced professional graduates to ensure a high-quality, refined publication. Our staff continually search for ways in which our methods can be made more eco-friendly, including introduction of eco-fonts to the pages of the *Journal* to reduce our ink consumption by up to 20%. Potato starch packaging and recycled paper are also resources that we hope to incorporate more over the course of the next volume of *Journals*.

We are sensitive to the needs and schedules of our cousin publications — *Edit*, *the Billet*, *EnlightenEd*, and *the Bulletin* — and plan to adjust our publication schedule from Summer and Winter to Spring and Autumn so as to complement the timing of these equally essential communications, particularly *Edit*. Further, by offering electronic subscription at a reduced cost, we hope to take greater steps towards becoming a paperless organisation.

But the *Journal* contributes in more than just these tangible ways. By offering alumni, staff, and students the opportunity to publish in a distinguished, scholarly journal, we are helping to develop the essential skills of the future. Through publishing articles, transcripts, reviews, and obituaries, we are laying the foundation stones of future research. And by maintaining a point of view outside the main body of the University, we provide an impartial — yet affectionate — view of one of the UK's most respected universities.

Sustainability & Safety

UEGA has taken great strides towards becoming a more sustainable organisation; yet further change is coming. In a world more concerned with the effects of climate change than ever before, it is essential that we set an example for our alumni community by reducing waste and providing a safe social and working environment.

Since our founding in 1924, UEGA and the University have both weathered many storms. With Brexit consuming virtually all political discussion, and COVID-19 fundamentally changing the way our community works, studies, and lives, we cannot ignore the need for reflection and positive change.

Our Editorial and Administrative staff have placed greater emphasis on paperless communication, offering subscription to UEGA in electronic

form only at a discounted rate. Our future programme of electronic events will ensure that we continue to provide a safe yet social environment for our subscribers to interact, learn, and enjoy their time with us. Further experiments with sustainable and cost-effective printing and packaging, and streamed events with full subtitles guarantee that UEGA and our *Journal* are constantly endeavoring to reduce waste without sacrificing our quality.

Safety is of paramount importance to UEGA's ruling committee. Immediately implementing flexible working arrangements for our dedicated staff at the announcement of COVID-19 lockdown meant that we were able to ensure a safe working environment and publish the Summer 2020 and Winter 2020 issues of the *Journal* on schedule. Not only that, but regular online and telephone meetings have allowed the governance of UEGA to continue with little or no delay.

With support from the University, UEGA can become even more environmentally friendly, leading other alumni organisations across the globe into a more sustainable future.

Next Steps

In short, UEGA can summarise our objectives as the following: we request that we are accepted and listed as one of the clubs and associations recognised by D&A; we will seek to raise our revenue by increasing annual subscriptions, especially those who wish to continue to receive the *Journal* in printed form, and by seeking increased subsidies from the University for producing a recognised University asset; we will alter the name of UEGA to more clearly define its role and purpose, and will do so subject to input from a general meeting and of our subscribers; we will continue to publish, and to develop, the *Journal* as a recognised asset to the University; we will invite greater involvement by students as guest speakers to UEGA events and as contributors for publication in the *Journal*; we will seek assistance from the University to spread information through the University and alumni communities about our services and the *Journal*; we will extend our subscribers to include University of Edinburgh students and interested non-members of the University and its alumni; we will seek to provide a service of collegiality to alumni and others from all Colleges, Schools, and Faculties of the University and beyond; we will arrange events for our subscribers as appropriate in the post-COVID-19 environment; we will continue to assemble a digital archive of journals, inserts, supplements, minutes, and correspondence.

Notes:

1. For a short history of UEGA and its *Journal*, see Ronald H Girdwood's article 'The University of Edinburgh Graduates' Association - Its Development Over Seventy-five Years.' *University of Edinburgh Journal*, 39(2), December 1999, 82–86.
2. Readers can view UEGA's Constitution in full at <<https://www.uega.co.uk/constitution>> [accessed November 2020]
3. For more information on the University of Edinburgh's Strategy 2030, see <<https://www.ed.ac.uk/about/strategy-2030/>> [accessed November 2020]

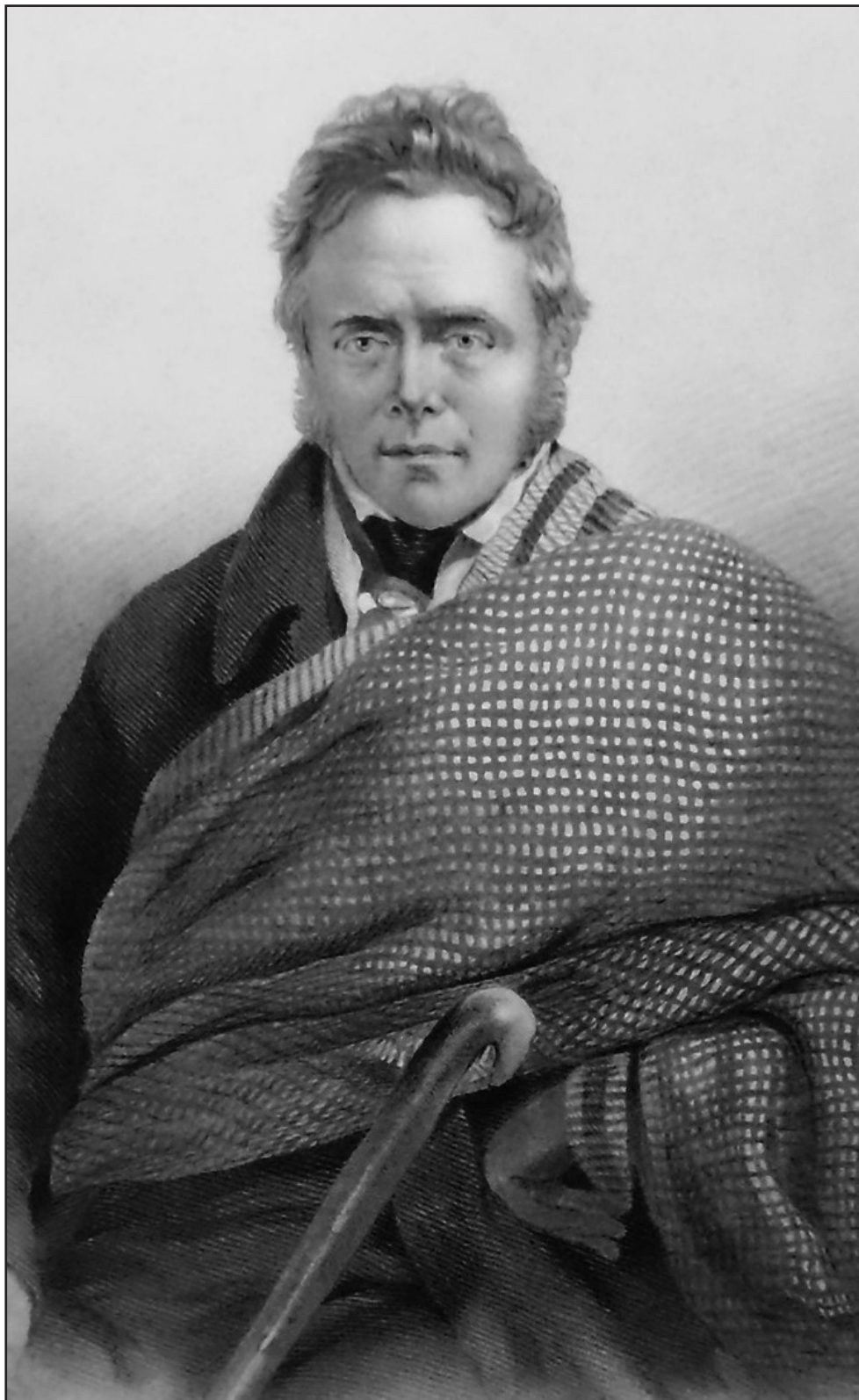
A James Hogg Anniversary and the University of Edinburgh

by Dr Gillian Hughes

Gillian Hughes was awarded a PhD degree from the University of Edinburgh in 1982, her thesis title being James Hogg's fiction and the periodicals and her supervisor, Professor Ian Campbell. She has subsequently edited various works by Hogg, including his letters, and has published a biography, James Hogg: A Life (2007).

James Hogg (1770–1835) was born towards the end of November 1770 in Ettrick, Selkirkshire, in the Scottish Borders. 2020 marks the 250th anniversary of the birth of the author of the narrative poem *The Queen's Wake* (1813) and the novel *The Private Memoirs and Confessions of a Justified Sinner* (1824), both works with an important Edinburgh as well as a Borders setting. Brought up in very humble circumstances, he became a shepherd in his late teens and largely educated himself for a change of career in middle age to that of professional writer. Hogg took his *nom de plume* of the Ettrick Shepherd from his original occupation and wore his shepherd's checked plaid proudly when feted as a literary celebrity on his one-and-only visit to London towards the end of his life in 1832. His formal education was limited to just a few months at the parish school, and though friends later in life urged him to learn Latin and classical Greek, Hogg never did so. This may seem surprising in an age when acquaintance with classical literature was both the mark of a gentleman and part of the initial general degree that formed part of the preparation for entry to specialised professional study of subjects like law or divinity at Edinburgh. Paradoxically, Hogg would almost certainly have reduced his contemporary standing as an original genius, a peasant poet in the line of Robert Burns, had he extended his formal education.

A well-known Latin proverb has it that poets are born not made, and Milton had contrasted Shakespeare's native 'wood notes wild' with the learning of Ben Jonson in his *L'Allegro*, a motto which was adopted by the 'Ploughman poet' Robert Burns and formed part of the seal he designed for his own use. Hogg positioned himself as the natural successor to Burns, even coming to believe, mistakenly, that they shared a birthday of 25th January.¹ His authority as a natural or original genius was reinforced by the adoption of German Romantic theory by a leading figure in the early days of *Blackwood's Edinburgh Magazine*. John Gibson Lockhart's translation of Friedrich Schlegel's *Lectures on the History of Literature, Ancient and Modern*, was published by William Blackwood in two volumes in April 1818, and expounded a theory of cultural nationalism, holding that literature at its best embodied the character of the nation in which it was produced. It united the people, men of letters, and polite society, and was intrinsically antithetic to the universalising rationalism and scepticism of Hume, Rousseau, and Voltaire (and, in Lockhart's eyes, that of their literary heirs,



James Hogg

the chief contributors to the rival Whig periodical, the *Edinburgh Review*). Hogg consequently held a unique position in the Romantic periodical culture of *Blackwood's* as a representative man of the people who was also a distinguished poet, but it was a position largely dependent on the literary *persona* exemplified in his pen-name of the Ettrick Shepherd. Dr William Brunton, Rector of Paisley Grammar School, reminiscing about his early encounters with Hogg, recorded a remark by him to the effect that 'if he had got such an education as he [Dr Brunton] had got, he would have been one of the greatest of men!'. Brunton was acute enough to realise, however, that 'if the poet had received the education of which he felt the want he would have ceased to be the Ettrick Shepherd, and he would thereby have lost the advantage of the position which made him the wonder of the age and contributed to his popularity as a poet'.²

The *persona* of the Ettrick Shepherd still tends to obscure Hogg's long-lasting, vital connection with Edinburgh, the centre of the print culture that allowed him to become a nationally-recognised man of letters, the place from which many of his books were issued, and from whence emanated the periodicals in which much of his work was initially published. Hogg either lived or made prolonged stays in Edinburgh during a large part of his writing career; yet there is no Edinburgh memorial to him to match his statue overlooking St Mary's Loch in Yarrow, or the monument marking his birthplace in Ettrick. As an eager young English postgraduate student at the University of Edinburgh in the late 1970s, I climbed the staircase leading to the reading-rooms of the National Library of Scotland, passing Burns, Scott, and Carlyle along the way, but saw no bust or figure of James Hogg, nor did a monument to him grace Princes Street Gardens like the one to his friend and fellow contributor to *Blackwood's*, John Wilson. Yet it was possible to feel very close to Hogg and his writings in Edinburgh. Arthur's Seat is the setting of one of the most eerie scenes of spectral appearance in Hogg's *Confessions*, and Holyroodhouse is, among many other things, the scene of Hogg's imagined poetic contest marking the return of the young and lovely Mary, Queen of Scots, to her native kingdom in 1561 in *The Queen's Wake*. Edinburgh's Cowgate is where Hogg drank whisky and ate rolls with the printers of his early weekly periodical paper *The Spy* (1810), and the old-fashioned hostelry where Hogg entertained his friends was close by in Candlemaker Row. Hogg walked in Castle Street, where Walter Scott lived, many times but twice most memorably: once on his way to hear some stanzas of *Marmion* read by the author in advance of publication, and again when, after leaving a dinner at which Scott had suddenly been taken ill with excruciating stomach pain, he threatened to fling John Ballantyne to the pavement for betraying fears that Scott's illness was serious.³

Despite Hogg's lack of formal affiliation to the University of Edinburgh, he had local associations with what is now its city-centre campus too. When his friend John Wilson was appointed Professor of Moral Philosophy in 1820, Hogg threatened a descent upon the College 'with a squad of men and plaids to hear Wilson's first lectures'.⁴ The gay Cherry Elliott of *The*

Three Perils of Woman calls in at 'the shop of Maclachlan and Stewart, in College-Street' where she purchases 'Larent's German Grammar' and hopes to meet her student cousin Joseph after one of his classes.⁵ MacLachlan and Stewart's was the university bookshop, the James Thin's (now Blackwell's) of its day. And it was at 4 Buccleuch Place that Hogg met the young lady who subsequently became his wife, Margaret Phillips. She often made extended stays there in the family of her brother-in-law, Hogg's firm friend, James Gray of the Edinburgh High School. In one of his letters to her in Dumfriesshire Hogg wrote: 'I am going to Buccleuch-place tonight. Ah if I knew you were sitting at the window reading a book as I have often found you how delightfull [sic] would my visit be' (*Letters*, I, 112). Hogg's very extensive Edinburgh acquaintance inevitably included notable members of the University, such as John Wilson and his naturalist brother James, or the medical professor Andrew Duncan the younger, but his own relationship with the institution remained peripheral.

In the early nineteenth century, of course, the University did not admit women. Although low fees and residence outside the College made it possible for exceptionally talented lower-class boys to attend university in Edinburgh — as they never could have done in aristocratic Oxford and Cambridge — they often did so as a result of severe financial sacrifice on the part of their parents and studied in circumstances of genuine privation. In addition, the large classes, then customary, hardly fostered an enriching student experience. Hogg also noted in his *Lay Sermons* that:

[...] the professors are too fond of rank, and keep at too great a distance from their scholars, ever to find out the genius or particular turn of mind of any one of them, so as to discover what business will suit him, and what books he should read. And, moreover, the youths are obliged to attend far too many classes at once. I have known hundreds who attended five classes every day, and on expostulating with some of them on the absurdity of it, they said they could not help it without being obliged to remain some years longer at college.⁶

Supplementary private tuition and/or a prolonged course of study would not be practical possibilities for students from less affluent families. In addition, poor students would often find that their university education had not enhanced their career prospects as much as was hoped.

Robert Hogg, son of Hogg's eldest brother William, also a shepherd, is an interesting case. He was educated at the University of Edinburgh because his family hoped to see him become a minister of the Church of Scotland, and was a successful student, winning a prize for Latin poetry during 1817–18 and another prize in the Advanced Humanity class the following session. He then refused, however, to proceed from the general degree to the subsequent divinity course, Hogg reporting that Robert had 'no objections to teach or do any thing we please provided we will not force him to mount the rostrum'.⁷ Like his famous uncle, Robert Hogg had literary ambitions, and contributed poetry and prose to various Edinburgh magazines, including translations from German and Latin, but he never succeeded in establishing himself as

a professional literary man. However, from the age of eighteen he did make gainful use of his modern and classical languages as a corrector of the press, being employed for most of the remainder of his short life in the printing-house of James Ballantyne.

As an outsider himself, James Hogg was openly critical of the curriculum of the general degree of Scottish universities like Edinburgh, writing of the study of Moral Philosophy:

I am certain, that if the time some, nay, many young men spend at the university so absurdly, in hearing crabbed questions and metaphysical jargon, were spent in the study of ancient and modern history, astronomy, and geography, they would be much better accomplished, and appear so in the judgment of every one with whom they conversed.

He also remarked tartly that, despite his ignorance of ancient languages, 'I have often corrected the English of some of the best Greek and Latin scholars in Scotland'. It should be noted that his placement of himself as an original genius, without benefit of formal education, did not essentially signify humility in that it indicated that his work was non-derivative and thus comparable with that of the great figures of antiquity. Listing Homer, Hesiod, and Pindar alongside Moses, David, and Isaiah, Hogg advised 'young men of imagination' to 'step back to an early age' for literary models since they would then 'imbibe the force of genius from its original source' (*Lay Sermons*, pp. 78, 106, 103).

However, though Hogg's emphasis on his status as uneducated peasant poet allowed him to claim a special literary prestige in Edinburgh, it simultaneously left him open to attacks on his ignorance and, on occasion, to behaviour expressive of crude social condescension. As he expressed it himself:

There is no doubt that as an adventurer in the world of literature I have exposed myself to the rod of every one who thinks it worth his while to apply it. Every smart puppy, and old malevolent, starched, erudite gentleman [...] may belabour and bedaub me as long as they like (*Letters*, I, 367).

A group of English students arriving at Hogg's Yarrow home of Altrive think themselves 'exceedingly great men' who honour him by calling, dining and drinking there, rudely riding straight to the stable, and supervising the feeding and dressing of their horses 'though it were an hour, without ever calling on the master or mistress of the house'.⁸ Hogg's advertised want of a classical education, however, meant that he could sometimes employ Latin as a disguise. Wishing to publish an article anonymously in Constable's *Edinburgh Magazine*, he gleefully told the publisher's business partner, Robert Cadell, 'No man will ever suspect me on account of the numerous classical quotations and allusions' (*Letters*, II, 145).

Despite his understandable defensiveness, Hogg's overall valuation of formal education was undoubtedly higher than his published pronouncements may suggest. He took care, for instance, that his children should receive a good education. He died when his eldest child, James, was only fourteen and before he had begun to attend the University. But,

for many years, Hogg boarded a teacher in his own household in Yarrow, reporting to a London acquaintance, 'our master teaches in the house Greek Latin French and all the Sciences'; nor were his daughters excluded from these lessons since he noted in another letter that his second child, Jessie, 'beats her brother hollow even at the latin'. Thanking Prime Minister Robert Peel in the last year of his life for a government grant, Hogg stated 'I have a fine family whom I dearly love and am straining every nerve to give them a proper education' (*Letters*, III, 223, 73, 263).

The Ettrick Shepherd might not seem an obvious figure for the alumni of the University of Edinburgh to salute in the 250th anniversary year of his birth, given that his connection to their *alma mater* was so slight. However, graduates of the 'Tounis College', no doubt with fond memories of their own time in Edinburgh, may well choose to raise a glass to one of the most interesting of the city's many acclaimed nineteenth-century writers.

Notes:

1. Hogg's baptism is recorded in the Ettrick parish register for 9 December 1770, his parents living close to the church. Hogg himself declared that he was born on 25 January 1772: see his 'Memoir of the Author's Life', in *Altrive Tales*, ed. by Gillian Hughes (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2003), p. 12.
2. 'Reminiscences of the Ettrick Shepherd', *Glasgow Herald*, 16 January 1873. I am grateful to John Ballantyne for this reference.
3. James Hogg, 'Anecdotes of Sir W. Scott', in *Anecdotes of Scott*, ed. by Jill Rubenstein (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 1999), pp. 24-25; Edgar Johnson, *Sir Walter Scott: The Great Unknown*, 2 vols (London: Hamish Hamilton, 1970), I, 565.
4. *The Collected Letters of James Hogg*, ed. by Gillian Hughes and others, 3 vols (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2004-08), II, 48 (hereafter referred to as *Letters*).
5. James Hogg, *The Three Perils of Woman*, ed. by David Groves, Antony Hasler, and Douglas Mack (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 1995), p. 29.
6. James Hogg, *Lay Sermons*, ed. by Gillian Hughes with Douglas S. Mack (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 1997), p. 79 (hereafter referred to as *Lay Sermons*).
7. Robert Hogg is listed as a university prize-winner in the *Edinburgh Evening Courant* of 20 April 1818 and 24 April 1819. For a brief account of his life and works see Gillian Hughes, 'The Ettrick Shepherd's Nephew', *Studies in Hogg and his World*, 16 (2005), 20-35. See also Hogg's letter to William Blackwood of 27 October [1820], in *Letters*, II, 56.
8. James Hogg, 'A Very Ridiculous Sermon', *Fraser's Magazine*, 11 (February 1835), pp. 226-31 (p. 231).

Images:

Page 262: Engraving of the Watson Gordon portrait of Hogg, the man of letters and shepherd, from James Grant Wilson, *The Poets and Poetry of Scotland*. 2 vols. London: Blackie & Son, 1876.

COVID-19: Could Better Communication Have Changed the Outcome?

by Dr Raphaëla Kitson-Pantano

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A true European, Dr Raphaëla Kitson-Pantano is an Anglo-Italian born in France. A Genetics PhD Graduate from the University of Edinburgh and holder of a Masters in European Politics and Administration from the College of Europe, Raphaëla was for several years the Executive Director of the European Association for the Promotion of Science and Technology. She then joined the L'Oréal Foundation where she was in charge of Scientific Programmes including the L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science Awards. The Global Insurance Company AXA recruited her in 2014 as the AXA Research Fund Life & Health Risks Research Officer and she later became Head of International Health Relations at AXA Global Life. Before moving to Washington in 2018, Raphaëla was Senior Policy Advisor to the AXA France CEO on the topic of Brexit. She is an International Senior Consultant in the Health, Political, and Science sectors.

On 30th January 2020, the World Health Organisation declared the COVID-19 outbreak a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (WHO, 2020). This resulted in a communication cacophony. Social media were inundated with posts, comments, pictures, and videos all linked to COVID-19 and worldwide leaders responded in haste. 'The Coronavirus is very much under control in the USA' wrote the USA President Trump on Twitter. Communication is important but sending out the wrong messages is dangerous. Looking back at these past months, it is relevant to question to what



Dr Raphaëla Kitson-Pantano

extent the messages that were communicated were credible, accurate, referenced, and used effective communication techniques. Had this been the case, could it have changed the evolution of the crisis?

Effective Communication Requires Skill and Strategy

Prior to drafting any communication message, whether written or spoken, the legitimacy of the messenger should be questioned, the accuracy of the message verified, and, when relevant, the content should

be referenced. The COVID-19 crisis resulted in a major breach of trust due to poor communication and the assertion of false messages. Several public speakers worldwide claimed that COVID-19 was 'a form of flu, a little more pronounced than the flu, but it's still a viral disease like we have every year' (R L, 2020). Early in February 2020, Trump said: 'The virus that we're talking about, a lot of people think that it will go away in April as the heat comes in.' (Rieder, 2020) and Brazil's President Jair Bolsonaro claimed that COVID-19 was 'just a little cold' (McCoy and Traiano, 2020). Elected rulers have political legitimacy and, when they communicate, we are a committed audience — we listen, and to a greater extent than we like to admit, we trust. Both leaders superimposed a scientific legitimacy on top of their political one thereby usurping it with disastrous consequences. This lack of trust was compounded by the inaccuracy of their messages.

The first rule of communication is to know your audience in order to tailor your message appropriately. When on 3rd March 2020, UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson released the COVID-19 action plan and exclaimed: 'I'm shaking hands continuously. I was at a hospital the other night where I think there were actually a few coronavirus patients and I shook hands with everybody, you'll be pleased to know.' (Guardian Staff, 2020), the tone of his message was inappropriate, it lacked clarity, and created confusion. Promoting the shaking of hands whilst unravelling a national action plan to tackle a 'COVID-19 crisis' is incoherent and dangerous. The sanitary consequences of such an assertion were awkwardly recognised by Johnson himself as he later said that Britain was facing the 'worst public health crisis for a generation' (Sparrow, 2020). Speaking to your audience, clearly and appropriately, is the key to good communication.

Developing a strategy is one of the basics of communication, and this is even more crucial in times of crisis. The objectives that the strategy seeks to achieve, and the timeline and the impacts of the different messages, are key. The French government failed to plan its communication strategy regarding the mask shortage, thereby damaging its own credibility amidst a historical and unprecedented crisis. Very early on, it realised that there was going to be a significant shortage in the supply of masks for the population and especially for the healthcare practitioners. When the COVID-19 epidemic hit, instead of openly admitting their mistake, government officials used alternative communication strategies that all backfired several weeks later. On 23rd February 2020, the Minister of Health, Olivier Veran, claimed that 'wearing a mask is perfectly useless' (L'Obs, 2020) and a month later the Government Spokesperson Sibeth Ndiaye exclaimed 'I don't know how to use a mask' (L'Obs, 2020) which was not only false but, more importantly, made her the laughing stock of the government. It was not until 3rd April 2020, that the Director General of Health, Jerome Salomon, recognised for the first time that a widespread wearing of a mask could help minimise the crisis (Monin, 2020). This lack of clarity led to a complete loss of credibility, a widespread confusion, and social unrest. It created a precedent for the subsequent communication messages from the government; these were

disregarded by the people and today there are anti-mask protests all over France. Further, our collective memory is supported by social media. Variation of messages without explanation damages the credibility of the messenger and can eventually lead to the breakdown of the overall structure.

Explaining the rationale and the limits of the strategy is, therefore, of the utmost importance. As the epidemic progressed, many countries implemented varying restrictive stay-at-home orders. Whilst Italy imposed very restrictive conditions, Bolsonaro argued that COVID-19 lockdowns should be abandoned (Phillips, 2020). Similarly, Johnson, until very late in the spread of the disease in his country, said: 'I want to stress that for the vast majority of the people of this country, we should be going about our business as usual' (Guardian Staff, 2020). It was not until 23rd March 2020 that Johnson appeared on television to announce that the country would go into lockdown (Perrigo, 2020). By comparison, Italy had been in lockdown already for fifteen days and France for eight. Worldwide, countries did not adopt the same strategy and, while we all live in one country, we are also aware of what other countries are doing and, therefore, we challenge the decisions made by those who govern us. Whether the message only applies until more information becomes available, or whether the course of action that is taken is the best according to the current available knowledge, needs to be openly explained. It gives transparency to the message and helps foster trust amongst the audience.

Communication is not just about speaking or writing; it requires skill and strategy. Unfortunately, most public speakers who are gifted with eloquence and charm believe that it is enough. It is not. Messages need to be clear and accurate in order not to be misconstrued. They need to be tailored to the audience to ensure appropriateness and maintain credibility. Above all, communicating unreferenced and false information in haste and without strategy can have long-term consequences.

Poor Communication has Long-Term Impacts

Had the world realised sooner that COVID-19 was not *just* a stronger seasonal flu, would this have made a difference in the spread of the disease? Would governments have reacted and locked down the population earlier? Would a more effective communication have successfully conveyed the urgency of the situation and the severity of the disease? Who can tell? Nevertheless, in the UK, epidemiologists and former public health officials say: 'the UK's strategy for combating COVID-19 was muddled [...] and that likely allowed the virus to spread fast and undetected' (Perrigo, 2020).

The trust that the people held in their elected representatives was severely damaged and impacted on their behaviour in not respecting the lockdown measures early. Countries had to impose fines for people breaching established lockdown measures. In France, within the first ten days of the lockdown, 225,000 fines were drawn up (Garoscio, 2020) and in Italy, within seven days of the imposed lockdown, 830,000 Italians went

out without rightful cause and were fined (Marchand, 2020). Had the government's messages been more trustworthy, would this have impacted the implementation of the stay at home order? To what extent could that, in turn, have minimised the number of deaths? One can only speculate. This damaged trust will take decades to repair, as exemplified by the Chernobyl crisis: over 30 years later, the French still believe that the government lied about the impact of the Chernobyl explosion on the French population, and blame the government for minimising the impacts of the nuclear cloud over the territory (Beunaiche, 2019).

The breaching of trust is compounded by the lack of transparency. All too often it is only once a crisis is over that historical documentaries reveal the knowledge that was left unnoticed at the bottom of the social ladder and could have changed the outcome of the story. In the USA, 'None of the agencies' directors conveyed the urgency required to spur a no-holds-barred defense. By early March [...] it was too late.' (Shear et al., 2020). Because communication channels are fraught with administrative hurdles, people are resorting to whistleblowing techniques. However, this lack of transparency is the open door to alternative communication channels such as social media which are unreferenced, mostly inaccurate, and, importantly, not curated. Criticism of social media predates the COVID-19 pandemic but in times of crisis, the worthiness of truth pales with that of sought reassurance. Deceived by governments, journalists, and even scientists, people turned to social media where false messages of hope and information on how the virus spread and killed were relayed. A French study revealed that the start of the lockdown went hand-in-hand with the most important peak of activity on social networks (de Voogd and Guinaudeau, 2020). Whether social media is the resort for freedom of speech in a time when physical freedom is limited, or whether it is an attempt to find information, communicate, or generally feel better, what is undeniable is that social media is a misinformation highway.

As thousands of Americans took to the streets in several states to protest against the COVID-19 'lockdowns' or stay-at-home rules issued by their governors (Mudde, 2020), it is relevant to question to what extent this misinformation will further impact the population in its long-term behavior and in its electoral choices. When the crisis is over, governments will still be accountable. Long-term impacts can be seen with the Chernobyl crisis. A CIA declassified report states that: 'Chernobyl also had an adverse impact on the regime's credibility. More than a year after the accident, Soviet citizens continue to criticise top officials for initially concealing the Chernobyl accident' (CIA Report, 2012). To what extent will the post COVID-19 crisis fuel rebellions and protests of unemployed and financially distraught citizens who fail to understand the lockdown measures and feel vengeful in the face of governmental mismanagement of the crisis?

One immediate consequence was the surge of racism. A study from the Network Contagion Research Institute demonstrated that 'with the spread of coronavirus came a surge in Sinophobic, or anti-Chinese, sentiments

especially online' (Asmelash, 2020). 'Outbreaks of hate and disinformation serve to attack public trust and undermine democratic institutions at a key moment of global vulnerability', said Alex Goldenberg, an analyst at the Institute and one of the authors of the study (Asmelash, 2020). He added: 'We are seeing instances where this Asian conspiracy is seeping into the mainstream, and an outgrowth of that could very well be violence' (Asmelash, 2020). Such racism, at the root of future social unrest, could have been prevented or, at the very least, limited had communication been more effective.

Lockdowns slow the epidemic. By spreading the contamination, the congestion of hospitals can be mitigated, patients can be treated in better conditions, and the number of fatal cases can be limited (Dahyot et al., 2020). Lockdowns do not protect individuals; they protect a whole population. This was poorly communicated and consequently misunderstood as exemplified when discussion of post-lockdown measures started. The communication messages were perceived as a Catch 22: 'lockdown is the solution to not become infected, but in order to lift the lockdown, we need to be immunised which you can only achieve if you are infected, which in turn can only be achieved if the lockdown is lifted' (Vander and Vander, 2020). As the end of 2020 approaches, the several months of mismanaged communication about the pandemic, the lockdown, and the lifting of lockdown, will likely have long-term consequences on individuals and on society as a whole.

COVID-19 is historic. Not only is it global, but the consequences of the interconnected world in which we currently live makes it unprecedented. There is not, therefore, a counter example of a successful communication strategy having been applied to a previous pandemic of this scale. Nevertheless, it is believed that a more effective communication strategy could have changed the outcome, fostered greater trust among the population, helped mitigate the spread, and limited social unrest. Unexpected crises are a recurrent challenge and tackling them appropriately is not just a matter of doing the right thing. Sending out the wrong messages is dangerous and public speakers at all levels of society have a duty to the population to accurately inform and communicate referenced, clear, and true information. As the COVID-19 pandemic continues to unravel, one hopes that the communicators learn from their mistakes and address their audience more effectively.

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Page 267: Image of Dr Raphaela Kitson-Pantano. Copyright © Jim Doyle, <www.doyleimage.net>

Edinburgh University Singers: the ‘Wee Choir’ with Big Aspirations

by Alexandra Elvidge

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Originally from Ripon, North Yorkshire, Alexandra sang in Ripon Cathedral Choir under Andrew Bryden until her move to Edinburgh in 2016. She was also a member of the National Youth Choir of Great Britain. Alexandra studied History MA (Hons) at the University and has just graduated with a First-Class Degree. Her dissertation was entitled Uncovering the ‘Indian’ Everywoman: Pageant Queens as symbols and social agents in the United States, 1953-1990. She is President of Edinburgh University Singers 2019/20.

Editorial Note: *The Journal and the author would be glad to hear from other alumni who have memories of singing with, or hearing concerts by, the Edinburgh University Singers.*

The Edinburgh University Singers is one of the three auditioned University of Edinburgh choirs which performs sacred and secular music. It is generally stated that the choir was founded in 1945, but numerous old programmes written within the first 20 years of establishment correct this and show that the ‘wee choir’ began performing a year earlier. In 2020, the choir, its friends, and alumni celebrated its 75th Anniversary which may, indeed, have been its 76th! However, our society relishes any excuse to have a get-together. Sir James Dunbar-Nasmith, the oldest known alumnus, explains:



Alexandra Elvidge

The origin of the choir was something called the “Wee Choir” that had been created under the auspices of the Professor of Music, Sidney Newman, who conducted the Edinburgh University Choral Union. They were doing a work that required a small choir and he invited Ian Pitt-Watson, then a student at New College, to form one and, I suspect, they must have done other concerts as well. I arrived the year in which Ian qualified [1952] and left Edinburgh; and the residue of his “Wee Choir”, many of whom sang in the St Giles’ Choir anyway, invited Herrick Bunney, the St Giles’ Organist, to take over and he remained the Conductor all the time that I sang with the choir.

John Kitchen, conductor 1988–2018, notes that (unlike the other old Scottish universities), Edinburgh did not have a university chapel and so had no chapel choir, and, therefore, required a smaller choir than the Music Society chorus for smaller events.

The *very* 'wee' choir was conducted by Ian Pitt-Watson, who was only 21 when the choir was formed. There is little information on the first eight years of the choir; its first conductor sadly died a short time before he was due to travel to the 50th anniversary dinner and concert in 1995. Unfortunately, John Kitchen, conductor for 30 years and the informal choir historian, was unable to meet him. What is clear is that Herrick Bunney, the second conductor, was associated with the choir from the time of his arrival to Edinburgh in 1946, and ensured that the choir performed at the newly established Edinburgh International Festival.

In 1952, Pitt-Watson left Edinburgh to become Chaplain of Aberdeen University and the conductorship of the choir passed on to Herrick Bunney, Organist and Master of Music at St Giles' Cathedral. Under Herrick, arguably the most revered of all the conductors, the choir thrived. There are countless saved cuttings and letters, echoing positive reviews of concerts and experiences, collected by alumni and presented at the 50th anniversary dinner. One review from the *Scotsman* reads: 'The Edinburgh University Singers, under their new conductor, Herrick Bunney, spoilt us with the polished sensitivity of their performances'. Under Herrick, the choir reached new heights. Many attribute this to his vision, connections, and insight. After his appointment as conductor, he secured concerts for the Singers in the Wigmore Hall, and would often enlist his friend Peter Pears to perform with the choir, most notably as The Evangelist in the *St Matthew Passion* — this became a choir tradition and was performed every year. It is even rumoured that Pears' long-term partner, Benjamin Britten, wrote an alternative ending of his famous work, *Hymn to St Cecilia*, specifically for the society.¹ Composer, and Reid Professor, Kenneth Leighton, also became a close associate of the Singers with the choir premiering his *Mass for Double Choir* in 1965. The University Singers are a uniquely Edinburgh society, given their involvement in events such as the Festival and the ties that many of them held to St Giles', Edinburgh's High Kirk.

It is easy to see why this era has been regarded by the choir as the golden age of Edinburgh University Singers and why, upon the 50th anniversary of the choir in 1995, John Kitchen was presented with collections and albums filled with the exploits of Herrick and the choir from the 1960s to the 1980s. John Kitchen commented '[Herrick] was an incredible man: inscrutable (you never really knew what he was thinking) but a fine musician: organist, pianist and conductor'. He is truly a legend on the Edinburgh music scene and is still in the hearts and minds of many connected with both the University and Scotland's music community. In conversation, he frequently addressed one as 'old boy'.

John Grundy, Herrick's successor, had big shoes to fill. During his tenure from 1984 to 1988, he consolidated the choir as an Edinburgh, and indeed University, institution. He also extended the variety of music performed, as Herrick had enjoyed performing pieces yearly, most notably the *Matthew*, and sometimes the *John*, passions. Like Herrick, John Grundy was a busy and successful musician with ties to the Scottish Chamber Orchestra and



The Singers after their concert at the Sala Piatti in Bergamo, Northern Italy (June 2019)



Oldest living member, Sir James Dunbar-Nasmith talking to current member and Spanish and Russian student, Charlotte Martin, at the Edinburgh University Singers' 75th Anniversary Dinner and Ceilidh (January 2020)

Scottish Opera. He also held ties with Edinburgh International Festival, which continued the relationship between the choir and the Festival. A musician on the rise, John Grundy was unable to stay with the University Singers long-term, as he received an appointment as one of the musical directors at the Sydney Opera House. After a period in Australia, he returned to Scotland where he was appointed head of the Music Centre at St Andrews University and then Director of St Mary's Music School, Edinburgh. In 2004, John Grundy was made an Honorary Associate at the Royal Academy of Music.

On John Grundy's sudden departure to Australia, John Kitchen took over the choir and was its conductor for 30 years. Like Herrick, John Kitchen became an intrinsic figurehead for the choir which performed many of his own compositions, both new music and arrangements of existing melodies. Most memorable to me are the arrangements of countless Scottish folk songs such as *A Hundred Pipers*, *Willie's Gane to Melville Castle*, and *Flow Gently Sweet Afton*. These fun arrangements have been sung with great zeal by the choir and have been memorised by nearly all members from the past 30 years. John Kitchen's Scottish arrangements are also a graduation favourite, with songs such as *Auld Lang Syne* — to the original, not the well-known tune — making the ceremonies sentimental for many graduates. These pieces have also been popular with Principals Tim O'Shea and Peter Mathieson, who have generously given the choir spaces at University events, and have consolidated its position as that of the official university choir. The fact that Herrick Bunney and John Kitchen have also served as University Organists has also firmly associated the choir with Edinburgh University events. Furthermore, John maintains a strong connection with the Usher Hall where he performs regular concerts. Once a year, the Singers participate in a Christmas Concert where we sing traditional and modern carols and pieces, and where we are always happy to hear John's *Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer* medley. We also perform an annual free Christmas concert at the Scottish National Portrait Gallery which marks the beginning of the Christmas period for many of the Singers.

While we have continued to be an Edinburgh organisation, we have travelled farther afield under John Kitchen. In the early 1990s, the choir took its first trip abroad to Salzburg. As this was before the time of budget travel, the choir went by coach which took two days to travel each way — the choir only had three full days in Salzburg! Thankfully, touring has become a great deal easier as a result of more accessible airfares and accommodation, and the choir has had the privilege of singing in exciting concert halls and churches all over Europe. Our last tour with John Kitchen was to Paris where we sang in the churches of Les Invalides, La Madeleine, and Saint-Severin, and was truly delightful. Under John, the social life of the choir has greatly expanded with yearly parties at his house, which have continued since Calum Robertson took over the choir in 2018. At these parties, after a few glasses of wine, the Singers belt out Parry's *I was glad* and Handel's *Zadok the Priest* accompanied by John's in-house organ, no

doubt surprising the neighbours who have probably come to realise it is that time of year once more.

Despite our being a lively society, the high standard of singing and the brilliance of conductors has continued. John's services to music were recognised when he was awarded an MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List in 2016. The choir's reputation for being reliable, professional, and skilled has continued under Calum Robertson. Calum, a professional organist and clarinetist who is Assistant Director of Music at Old Saint Paul's Episcopal Church, has introduced the choir to more contemporary music. We have performed premiers such as *Absentia* by Alison Burns to commemorate the *Edinburgh Seven* — the first seven female matriculated students to study at a UK university. The *Edinburgh Seven* were awarded posthumous degrees by Edinburgh University last year. Calum has a desire to provide music as both a refuge from, and a remedy to, the troubling times we encounter and featured a concert entitled 'Music for Division and Healing' in which the choirs performed Britten's *Advance Democracy* and Howells' *A Grace for 10 Downing Street*. In 2019, we travelled through Northern Italy, singing in Bergamo, Salò, and Verona. Tours are truly special events for the choir who are able to spend time together outside of the weekly socials and rehearsals. We also get proudly to export Scottish music by composers such as MacMillan and Tom Cunningham to foreign audiences.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a devastating impact on the choir, with our spring concert and tour to Prague being cancelled as a result. Nevertheless, the choir has continued to be a supportive society and has held events via video calls — such as Pub Quizzes — and has even voted for a new committee virtually! Auditions will be difficult to carry out and it is unlikely the choir will be able to congregate in the Autumn Term. The choir looks forward to singing at the delayed graduation ceremonies for the 2020 graduates of the University which will be made the more special after the pandemic has died down. This 75th anniversary year has been full of challenges for the choir, but I am confident we will overcome them and thrive as we have done for the last three-quarters of a century. While the aspirations of the choir and its conductors have changed over the time, the choir's unofficial ethos of friendliness, excellence, and teamwork will continue. We will keep our alumni involved in what we do, and the community will grow each year.

I will leave you with the following letter written to the Edinburgh University Singers by Herrick Bunney, dated 2 March 1953. For more photographs, recordings, and upcoming events, please visit our website at <https://singers.eusa.ed.ac.uk/>:

My dear singers,

First, I want to thank you with all my heart for last week's concert. I am so happy – and I hope you are too — it has shown that we really can make music together, and now I can say to you with confidence that I believe there are exciting things ahead for the wee choir — and not

only in Edinburgh. It will mean hard and regular work — but I don't need to rub that in. None of this when we all meet [...]

Yours ever,

Herrick.

Notes:

1. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic restrictions on access to the University building, confirmation of this is awaited.

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Images:

Page 273: Image of Alexandra Elvidge, 2016.

Page 275, Upper: Image of the Singers after their concert at the Sala Piatti in Bergamo, Northern Italy, June 2019. Photography by Alexandra Elvidge.

Page 275, Lower: Image of Sir James Dunbar-Nasmith Charlotte Martin at the Edinburgh University Singers' 75th Anniversary Dinner and Ceilidh, January 2020. Photography by Andrew Perry, www.andrewperry.co.uk

James Finlayson of Penicuik, Founder of Tampere, Finland

by Brian Denoon

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Brian Denoon was born in Inverness in 1937. His childhood was spent first in Abriachan then in Fort Augustus. After graduating from Aberdeen University, he taught English in Inverness High School and later became the first principal teacher of English in Charleston Academy, Inverness. He has broadcast frequently on BBC Radio Highland, has undertaken historical research, and wrote the entry on James Finlayson of Tampere, Finland, in the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography. He has contributed regularly to The Scotsman, The Herald, Scotland on Sunday, and other titles.

I first encountered the name 'Finlayson' while on holiday in Tampere, Finland, in the summer of 1974. It was standing out in enormous Gothic script across the skyline on the roof of a massive factory building that completely dominated the city's central square.

The incongruity of this so-Scottish name in such a place struck me forcibly then and it was in subsequent visits to Finland that I first set about finding out more. Initially, there was no real problem. In one of the older histories, *Tampereen Historia* (4 volumes. [Tampere]: Tampereen kaupunki 1979–1992) the following appears:



Brian Denoon

The person himself was very mysterious. There is very little information about his earlier life, and even that information is very sporadic, but his deeds proved that he lived, and the rest is just guesswork.

Apart from the mystery surrounding his life before he went to Finland (it was suggested that he had been born in Glasgow in 1771), there was the intriguing fact that, after he left the country in 1837, his adopted land had nothing to record about him until the late 1960s.

The history of the Finlayson Company tells us that, when he left Scotland, James Finlayson first went to the St Petersburg of Tsar Alexander I, and there became a master machinist in the Kolpino Workshops. He was associated with the Society of Friends (Quakers), and he figures in the correspondence of Daniel Wheeler, one of the movement's most outstanding representatives in Russia at that time. According to Wheeler, Finlayson never actually became a member, although he did attend Quaker meetings. According to Finnish sources, he is regularly referred to as a Quaker.

Finlayson had connections with Tsar Alexander I (indeed, according again to some Finnish sources, they were actually friends) and, in fact, there was a link through the Quaker movement. Alexander employed the skill and

energies of these remarkable people to undertake great engineering works in Russia, including the draining of marshes around St Petersburg. Unlikely as it might seem that the conqueror of Napoleon could have dealings with a pacifist faith, there is evidence that Alexander did attend Quaker meetings.

Accompanied by a friend, John Paterson, chief agent in Russia for the British and Foreign Bible Society, Finlayson visited the Grand Duchy of Finland, then part of the Russian Empire, in 1820. It was at a place called Tammerfors (later Tampere) that Finlayson saw the fast-flowing waters of the Tammerkoski between Lakes Nasijarvi and Phylajarvi. He decided to set up a factory there, using the hydraulic power of the rapids in order to manufacture machinery. Though he was granted the Tsar's personal help, the enterprise initially failed. It was then that Finlayson turned to textiles. The imperial assistance for the venture is commemorated by a carved eagle that crouches over a brass plaque set into a rock overlooking the Tammerkoski, the elaborate Latin text of which marks that day on which Alexander I, Emperor of all the Russias, stood gazing over the foaming waves (*undae spumantes*). It goes on to entreat all who pass by to praise the great enterprise:



James Finlayson

ALEXANDER I ROSSIAE IMPERATOR FENNIAE MAGNUS DUX
STANS IN HAC RUPE D.X.M. SEPT A.P. CHR. N. MDCCXIX PRIMUS
JUSSIT ET UNDAE SPUMANTES HOMINIBUS SUCCURRANT.
QUAE NUNC DILIGENTER CONSTRUCTA VIDES, VIATOR,
HOMINUM PERMULTORUM IN USUM VIVA VOCE LAUDANT
MEMORIAM PATRIS PATRIE IN COELUM ERECTI.

[Alexander I, Emperor of Russia, Grand Duke of Finland, when standing here on the tenth day of the month of September AD 1719 was the first to command that the rushing waters should flow to help people. All that which you, traveller, now see as carefully constructed for the benefit of many, praise the memory of the Father of the Nation who has been raised to heaven.]

As Grand Duke of Finland, Alexander was able to describe himself as "Father of the Nation".

Wheeler and Finlayson continued to correspond after he (Finlayson) had left St Petersburg for the last time and, in another letter by Wheeler, we find the only physical description of him:

He is a solid man, between forty and fifty years of age. It would have been pleasant for us to have kept him here, but I hope he will be instrumental of much good where he has gone.

In his letters, Finlayson told of the various difficulties he encountered with the running of his factory and with the natural disasters that had beset

his adopted land — most notably famine. We find out how he and his wife gave succour to many who were reduced to begging. They were employed and given food, and his wife saw to others being employed on the land. (His wife Margaret played a significant role in these activities, and the latest research will acknowledge this in the planned celebrations of his life.) The Finlaysons also set up the first provision for orphans in Finland.

By 1835, Finlayson's health began to fail, and he was forced to sell his factory to two St Petersburg financiers, acting through William Wheeler, the son of his friend Daniel. The payments he received seem to be amazingly small, and would reflect the fact that in matters financial, James Finlayson would appear to be extremely naïve. In fact, his firm was heavily mortgaged even before he was forced to sell. He stayed on in Tammerfors in an advisory capacity for two years and then, in 1837, he left Finland to return to Scotland with his wife (they had no family). In doing so, he vanished completely from the scene as far as Finland was concerned.

In 1969, the firm of Finlayson enlisted the help of J & P Coats of Paisley to try to find out details of the life of their founder and what had happened to him after his return to Scotland. Register House proved fruitful, though some doubts remained. The 1851 Census revealed the following household in 8 Nicolson Square, Edinburgh:

JAMES FINLAYSON: Lodger; married; aged 80. Annuitant. Born Peebles Pennycuik; MARGARET FINLAYSON: Lodger; married; aged 77. Annuitant. Born Glasgow.

In the 1772 Old Parochial Registers of Births and Baptisms in Penicuik, the following appears:

FINLAYSON: JAMES TAYLOR in Pennycook and his spouse MARGARET MCLAIRIN had a child named (blank) born August and baptised September 20th.

This entry, with its strangely incomplete information, would appear to be the origin of the decision to choose 1772 as his date of birth. No name of the child or its gender is indicated.

An extract from the Register of Births and Deaths and Burials in Newington Cemetery for the Parish of St Cuthberts, Edinburgh, reveals that on 8th August 1852, a James Finlayson of 8 Nicolson Square was buried. The 1969 researchers concluded that this was the James Finlayson they were seeking and, in 1970, a headstone was erected on his unmarked grave (his wife had died shortly after him and they had no family). The upkeep of the grave was to be overseen by J & P Coats as a gesture of Scottish-Finnish friendship. My first two attempts to find the grave were unsuccessful, in spite of the clear photographs obtained from Tampere. It was only after I had contacted those who then managed the cemetery, and told them that a grave that was supposed to have been maintained was now untraceable, that I was sent a sketch map of its exact location. On my third visit, and not far from the main gate, I found myself walking up a newly cleared path. Brambles were folded back like coils of barbed wire to reveal the battered, but still impressive, granite headstone. Clearly someone had had an attack

of conscience, although Coats, it seems, were not responsible for the lapse. The inscription is as follows:

JAMES FINLAYSON
BORN PENICUIK
28TH AUGUST 1772
DIED EDINBURGH
18TH AUGUST 1852
THIS HEADSTONE WAS ERECTED BY
OY FINLAYSON – FORSSA AB
OF FINLAND
ON THE OCCASION OF
THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THEIR COMPANY IN 1970
IN GRATEFUL REMEMBRANCE
OF THEIR FOUNDER

Attempts to find traces of James Finlayson in any records of the Scotland of those days were fruitless, and it was only the thread of Quakerism running through his traceable life that was to bring success. Initially, when the records of the Society of Friends in London were consulted, no James Finlayson was found. It appeared that he did not die a member of the Quaker movement, but perhaps, since he had always shown an interest in the Society of Friends, he might just appear in the Minutes of the Society which are housed in Register House, Edinburgh. It was there that the following entry was found in the Minutes of a meeting held in Govan in May 1839 introducing “[...] one who has for some time attended Friends’ meetings in Glasgow, and who has ‘made profession’ with the Society for a good many years past, while residing in Russia and Finland.” Many more references to Finlayson occur; he was being vetted by a committee to ascertain his worthiness for membership. His financial difficulties seemed to be the only obstacle. Finlayson’s case was carried forward from each Two-Month Meeting to the next, until June 1841, when we read that he intended to leave for Ireland. Silence ensues until May 1846, when we read about James Finlayson ‘of Edinburgh’ proffering his resignation from the Society. His decision is accepted. The Minutes make it clear that this is the same Finlayson.

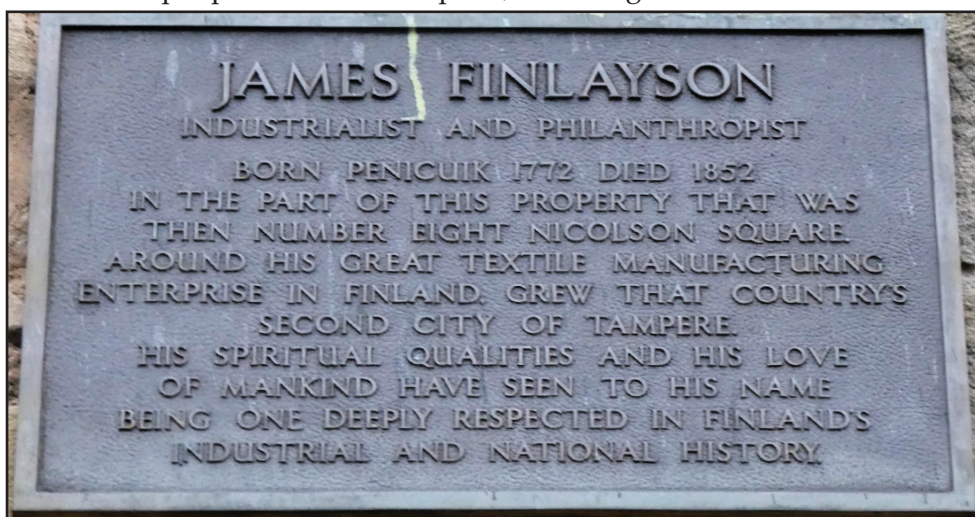
Finally, in April 1852, a long letter from James Finlayson himself is included. It is penned by a man ‘in extremis’ and near to death. He begs forgiveness for his behaviour at various of the Society’s meetings and acknowledges that “death is making hasty approaches [...]”

This letter gives us a clearer impression of the nature of this man. At one point, he begs forgiveness for “injuring the personal feelings of many among you by the frequent withdrawing when an accepted ministering Friend rose to address you, the minds of several may have been injured [...]” Quaker worship allows individual members to rise and address the meeting. The idea that one of their number is indicating disapproval — and on a regular basis — seems strange and suggests something at least rather odd about Finlayson’s character. James Finlayson was visited by a group of Friends, who later reported that the contact had been satisfactory. Then — silence. No further

reference to him appears in the Minutes. Since his name had been the one appearing most regularly over the period in question, this is rather curious.

The evidence of these documents would suggest that the headstone was erected over the correct lair in Newington Cemetery in 1970, and that Finlayson had come from Penicuik. The problem of how and when he actually became a member of Friends in order that he could resign has been impossible to trace. My efforts to find his name in the Irish records of Friends were unsuccessful. Although he yearned to be a part of this movement, something in his restless personality seemed to prevent it; particularly poignant is that, in the closing days of his long life, he appeared genuinely to have made his decision to die within its fellowship, but failed to do so.

In the 1980s, I had decided to mark the Scottish/Finnish link by placing a plaque where Finlayson had lived with his wife in Edinburgh and where he had died. The appropriate authorities in the City of Edinburgh were consulted and permission was given. The firm of Finlayson in Tampere agreed to finance the project, on condition that they could approve the wording on the plaque. On 8th October 1988, the Lord Provost of Edinburgh, in the presence of a group of distinguished Scottish/Finnish guests, unveiled a memorial plaque in Nicolson Square, Edinburgh. It states:



James Finlayson memorial plaque in Nicolson Square, Edinburgh

The city of Tampere set about commemorating their founder with various events to take place in Edinburgh and Tampere in October 2020. However, the COVID-19 crisis has meant that this has had to be postponed until a later date. Further research has been carried out in the meantime by the University of Tampere under the co-ordination of Dr Jarmo Peltola, Senior Research Fellow in the Faculty of Social Sciences (History). On the Scottish side, important research had been carried out by Angela and Tony Harris, working with Friends of Newington Cemetery. They discovered the correct date of James Finlayson's birth: it was not 1772 as the earlier researchers had suggested, but November 1770. This may have to be added to the existing memorials in Newington and Nicolson Square.

A book is to be published providing a definitive history of this extraordinary Scotsman, which will include contributions from historians in Scotland and Finland and will have all the recently discovered details of his life in Russia and Finland. The name of James Finlayson, already visible on the plaque on Nicolson Square, will then perhaps be better known in the country of his birth as well as in Finland, his adopted land in his most energetic and productive years.

Acknowledgements

Help in researching this subject came from Liisa Makinen of Oy Finlayson Ab of Tampere; from Tabitha Driver, Library of the Religious Society of Friends; the Archivist of Glasgow University; Ramsay MacWhirter, Department of Russian, Edinburgh University; the Department of History, Edinburgh University; Ian Campbell, Professor Emeritus at Edinburgh University and Convenor of the *Journal* Editorial Committee; the Mitchell Library Glasgow; *The Scotsman* newspaper; Maija-leena and Tuomo Kallela, Tampere; R C Brunton, John Arthur, and Crown Ground Ltd; Tony and Angela Harris of Friends of Newington Cemetery; and Dr Jarmo Peltola, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Tampere.

Images:

Page 279: Image of Brian Denoon, photography by Mrs Denoon.

Page 280: Photograph of the portrait of James Finlayson hanging in the Tampere factory. By Unknown author, public domain <<http://www.info.tampere.fi/~ypyvapri/Finlayson/jAMES.htm>>

Page 283: Photograph of plaque dedicated to James Finlayson in Nicolson Square, Edinburgh. Photography by Brian Denoon, c. 1988.

Invitations to New Reviewers and for Books for Review

The Editor and the Reviews Editor welcome offers from members to review new books for the *Journal*, even if they have not written reviews already, and will help anyone interested in doing so.

They also welcome suggestions from members for new books to review. The Editorial Team solicits review copies from publishers and passes them to reviewers, who keep the books they review.

If you are interested in becoming a reviewer or in suggesting a book for review. Please contact us at: gradassoc@ed.ac.uk

Or write to: The Editor, *University of Edinburgh Journal*
UEGA, 1fR 18 Buccleuch Place, Edinburgh EH8 9LN

Prof Ewart Farvis and the Secret Radio War

by Dr Bruce Taylor

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Dr Bruce Taylor is an Edinburgh University graduate who began his career with Ferranti Ltd before joining CERN (The European Organization for Nuclear Research) in Geneva for 34 years. Before retiring in 2003, he was the head of the international team that developed the timing, trigger, and control systems for the particle physics experiments at the Large Hadron Collider.

New Year's Day 2021 marks the 60th anniversary of the appointment of Professor Ewart Farvis to the first Chair of Electrical Engineering within the Faculty of Science of the University of Edinburgh. A Regius Chair of Engineering at the University had been founded within the Faculty of Arts by Queen Victoria in 1868, and Electrical Engineering had been taught since 1926. However, it was not until 1941 that the University introduced a degree specifically in Electrical Engineering, and 1948 before the subject was organised as a separate discipline within Engineering.

Farvis

That same year, 37-year old Farvis left his post in the Physics Department of University College Swansea to join Edinburgh University as Lecturer in Applied Electricity. In 1952, Farvis was promoted to Senior Lecturer, and, on 1 January 1961, he was appointed Head of the new Department of Electrical Engineering, a responsibility that he fulfilled with exceptional dynamism and distinction until his retirement in 1977.

Farvis was an inspiring lecturer of electromagnetic theory and, despite his heavy administrative load, he always found time personally to introduce students to the intellectual magic of Clerk Maxwell's equations. This was a significant milestone in their engineering education that was rendered all the more poignant by the fact that Clerk Maxwell himself had studied at Edinburgh University from 1847 to 1850. I knew that, in 1940, Farvis had joined the government's Telecommunications Research Establishment (TRE). I was intrigued by the examples that he chose to illustrate the challenges in high frequency antenna design, such as the reception of radio waves of various polarisations propagating by different paths over the sea. This suggested to me that he might have a particular experience of early warning defence radar, but for 30 years after WW2, he divulged no details of the work on which he had been engaged during the conflict.

Prof Farvis was not the only staff member who complied strictly with the terms of the Official Secrets Act. Dr Bernard Meltzer, a Reader in the Department of Electrical Engineering who joined the university from EMI Research Laboratories in 1955, had also been transferred on the outbreak of hostilities to secret work at the TRE, and, in 1941, he enlisted in the RAFVR.

In 1972, Meltzer was appointed to a personal chair in Computational Logic and, in 1974, he became Head of what later became the University's Department of Artificial Intelligence.

Chain Home Low (CHL)

The veil of secrecy over much British wartime work was eventually lifted in 1974 by the publication of Frederick Winterbotham's book *The Ultra Secret*, which disclosed part of the extraordinary code-breaking activity that had taken place at Bletchley Park. Having opened the floodgates, this book was followed by many more fascinating revelations about a vast range of British technical innovations during WW2, such as Colossus, the world's first programmable electronic digital computer. Colossus had begun working in December 1943, two years before ENIAC came online at the University of Pennsylvania, but it had remained secret for over 30 years.

Farvis at last felt free to speak about his wartime activities, and the experiences which he described were quite remarkable. To create a lasting record, he consented to a long filmed interview with Colin Davidson, who had done his PhD under Farvis in 1960 and lectured at Edinburgh University before moving on to Nuclear Enterprises and becoming Head of Department at Heriot-Watt. Then, in April 1995, Farvis made a public presentation of some of his secret wartime work during an Edinburgh International Science Festival lecture held in James Clerk Maxwell's birthplace in India Street.

It transpired that he had, indeed, worked on radar along with Robert Watson-Watt, the Scotsman who pioneered the British development of this pivotal invention for the radiolocation of aircraft. The first Chain Home (CH) radar stations for the defence of the UK could only detect planes flying at high altitude, a fact that was soon discovered and exploited by the Luftwaffe when they noticed that aircraft on low-flying minelaying missions were rarely intercepted. To counter this, Farvis developed special antennas for the higher frequency Chain Home Low (CHL) system, which could track aircraft flying as low as 500 ft. Over 100 CHL stations were successfully deployed around the south and east coast of Britain, as far north as the Shetland Islands, and they remained in service for over 10 years after the end of the war.



CHL radar installation at Hopton-on-Sea

Knickebein

On 16 October 1939, in the first air raid on Britain in WW2, a Heinkel He 111 medium bomber was shot down by a Spitfire of 603 (City of Edinburgh) Squadron over the Firth of Forth. When the plane's radio equipment was taken to RAE Farnborough for examination, the technicians were surprised to find that the Lorenz blind approach receiver from the aircraft was a 7-valve superheterodyne of much higher sensitivity than the 2-valve set that was adequate for normal service. Later, captured aircrew from another He 111 were overheard saying that no matter how diligently the British searched their plane they would never find their bombing navigation equipment, implying that it would be overlooked because it was right under their noses.

The blind approach system had been developed by the Lorenz Company in Berlin long before the outbreak of war, and it had been installed at many airfields throughout the world. The system used modulated radio beams from a transmitter located at the end of the runway, such that if an aircraft were to the right of the approach path it received a series of dashes, whereas if it were to the left it received dots. The dots and dashes were synchronised, so that directly on the correct flight path they merged in an equisignal zone to form a continuous tone. Messages decrypted by the Bletchley Park codebreakers suggested that the Luftwaffe might be using a modified version of this popular commercial system in reverse, in order to guide their bombers to targets in Britain. This was confirmed when exploratory flights by an interception group led by Farvis located two radio beams from Kleve and Stollberg that intersected over the Rolls-Royce factory at Derby, which made Merlin engines for Spitfires and Hurricanes.



Prof Ewart Farvis

TRE soon developed countermeasures for this radio navigation system, which was called *Knickebein* ('Crooked leg') because of the 165° angle of its dual-beam transmitter antenna. When British jamming eventually revealed that the system was well understood by the RAF, many German bomber pilots preferred to keep out of the beam since they feared (mistakenly) that night fighters might be waiting for them all along the route to their target. By the autumn of 1940, raiders no longer considered *Knickebein* usable enough for target identification, although it was several months before the young German pilots plucked up the courage to tell Göring that the system was useless. However, the enemy had other shrewd tactics waiting in the wings.

X-Gerät

On 6 November 1940, a raiding He 111 bomber that had suffered compass failure over England tried to return to its base in occupied France by

using a radio beacon at Saint-Malo. However, the beacon was being jammed by the RAF, so the crew became disorientated and instead of landing in Brittany the plane ran out of fuel and crash landed just offshore from the beach at West Bay in Dorset. British Army soldiers waded into the shallows and secured a rope around the fuselage, but then the Royal Navy arrived and claimed that because the plane was in the sea it was theirs to salvage. When the sailors towed it into deeper water to secure it to a ship, the rope parted, and the plane sank to the bottom!

In spite of this incident, the waterlogged radio equipment on board the aircraft was recovered and sent to RAE Farnborough, where it was found to include a new type of bombing radio navigation aid called *X-Gerät*. This system was considerably more sophisticated than *Knickerbein*, having both coarse and fine director beams and 20 operating frequencies in the higher frequency range 65–77 MHz. The 0.05° fine director beam was so narrow that, in calculating its bearing, 5-figure log tables had to be used to take account of the fact that the earth isn't a perfect sphere but is slightly flattened near the poles. The *X-Gerät* system also laid three very precise crossbeams across the director beam prior to the target, which allowed the aircraft's ground speed to be determined and the bomb release point to be computed by a special 'bombing-clock' mechanism on board the plane.

Since the *X-Gerät* system required special equipment and trained aircrew operators, it was fitted only to the bombers of an elite group of pathfinders called *Kampf Gruppe 100* (*KGr100*), whose task was to mark the target with hundreds of 1kg thermite incendiaries on which the main force would bomb visually. Fortunately *KGr100* was based at Vannes, far to the west of France and beyond the reach of secure German military landlines; so the unit had to use wireless for ground communications, allowing messages, including the operating frequencies, to be intercepted and decrypted at Bletchley Park before each raid.

Once the technical characteristics of *X-Gerät* were understood, TRE lost no time in deploying several 100 Watt jammer transmitters, but, due to an error in the measurement of the audio modulation frequency, they were ineffective during the devastating 10-hour raid on Coventry. The mistake was corrected before the raids on Birmingham five days later, when the *Luftwaffe* bombers were partially disrupted and dispersed. By April 1941, the RAF had enough jammers to disrupt all the *X-Gerät* director and crossbeam frequencies and no other inland British city was to suffer such highly concentrated damage. In spite of at least eight attacks on the Rolls-Royce works at Derby during WW2, only a single bomb actually hit a factory building.

Except on moonless or cloudy nights, no radio aids were required to find the sprawling metropolis of London. But specific industrial assets in the city could not be targeted accurately without the help of reliable radio beams and the enemy bomb loads were scattered over almost 100 boroughs. Although no longer used by raiding bombers, the *X-Gerät* transmitters were kept functioning as decoys until they were finally dismantled in November 1942.

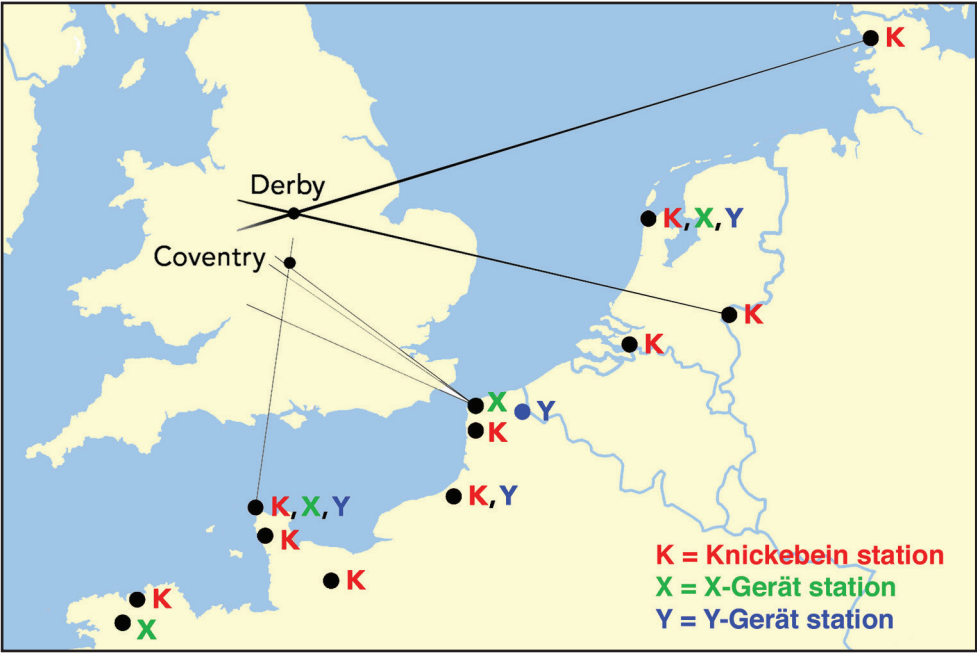
Y-Gerät

As early as mid-1940, when the existence of the *Knickebein* beams was confirmed, Enigma decrypts from Bletchley Park included mention of what appeared to be another system code-named 'Wotan'. Since this is the name of a Germanic God with only one eye, it was thought that it might refer to a new navigation aid that used only a single beam. It turned out that this reasoning was wrong, but the conclusion was perfectly correct. Monitoring stations began to report beam signals between 42.1 and 47.9 MHz that had different characteristics, with alternate right and left signals of equal duration transmitted at a high rate, for they were decoded in the aircraft electronically rather than aurally. The bearing analyser was coupled to the modified He 111 autopilot by an automatic flight control system that was much ahead of its time.

This more advanced 'Y-Gerät' system achieved very accurate slant ranging by transmitting a tone-modulated carrier to a transponder in the aircraft on one frequency, and comparing the phase with the return signal carrying the same modulation sent back from the aircraft on a different one. The range measurement was made by the ground controller, who used a version of the *X-Gerät* stop-clock to determine when to order the aircraft to release its bombs. Since the system was more complex and could only operate with five aircraft at a time, planes equipped with *Y-Gerät* were formed into a specialised pathfinder group (Group III of KG26) that led the main bomber stream.

Alexandra Palace

Group III/KG26 pilots made the error of practising using *Y-Gerät* for many weeks before trying it on a major bombing raid. So Farvis had time to analyse the signals and devise a subtle countermeasure that was ready for action on the very first night that the system was used for a large-scale attack on Britain. In the traditional British spirit of improvisation, he borrowed the powerful BBC TV transmitter at Alexandra Palace, which operated in the same frequency band and had been shut down at the outbreak of war lest it be used by the *Luftwaffe* to home on London. He set up an EMI TV receiver at the former outside broadcast relay station at Swains Lane in Highgate, with its bandwidth enlarged to accept both the ground control transmission on 42.5 MHz and the response from the pathfinder bomber on 46.9 MHz. From there, the modulation signal was sent by Post Office landline to Alexandra Palace, together with a subdivision of the carrier frequency that allowed the TV transmitter to zero beat with the ground transmission. At Swains Lane, Farvis sat listening to the German radio communications with his finger on a key that controlled Alexandra Palace remotely. At the critical moment, he sent the modulation back to the aircraft on 42.5 MHz, using a power that was sufficient to give a false range indication but not enough to arouse suspicion of jamming.



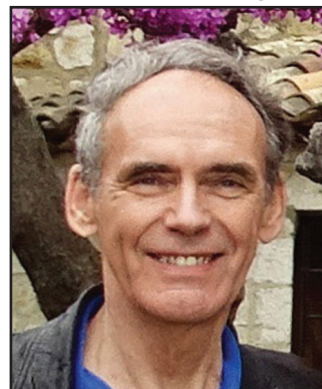
Locations of the radio beam transmitters in 1941



Alexandra Palace TV transmitter

Thirty years after the event, when Farvis finally felt free to reveal the ruse, he described the result as hilarious. Being fluent in German, he could follow the acrimonious radio dialogue between the bewildered young bomber aircrew and their ground controller as they argued about the cause of the perplexing behaviour of their instruments. The aircrew accused the ground station of sending bad signals, while the ground controller attributed the problems to airborne equipment failure, probably due to a loose wire. He even told the distraught operator to 'thump the box', which caused Farvis to remark that he was evidently a *real* radio man! The jamming was then repeated successfully with more pathfinders before the Luftwaffe abandoned the attack.

Bomber pilots eventually realised that *Y-Gerät* had been compromised from the first day that it was used, and they no longer put any faith in wireless navigation aids, making the accurate night bombing of inland targets very difficult. In one raid, the crews that thought they had bombed Nottingham dropped their weapons in open country 15 miles east of the city, killing two chickens with 230 high explosive bombs, one oil bomb, and five sticks of 36 incendiaries. In some raids, bombing was so scattered over the southern counties of England that it was impossible to deduce the intended target until it was revealed by the crews of downed bombers. Meanwhile, the tide of war began to turn. The experience of TRE proved invaluable when the Allies began to take the fight to the enemy, and, in the summer of 1942, the RAF used radio beams to bomb the Krupp arms factory in a precision night attack through ten-tenths cloud.



Dr Bruce Taylor

D-Day

At TRE, Farvis went on to analyse the signals of the German VHF IFF (Identification, Friend or Foe) system, allowing the team to develop the 'Perfectos' radio device that RAF night fighters used to trigger the transponders in enemy aircraft, to determine their positions without using radar. Following the deployment of Perfectos, many *Luftwaffe* crews flew with their IFF switched off and were shot down by their own flak.

In preparation for the D-Day landings, Farvis analysed the technical characteristics of the formidable menagerie of German radar systems that scanned the English Channel. This information allowed TRE to devise a sophisticated radar simulation of a huge armada of ships advancing towards the French coast at Cap d'Antifer, diverting the attention of the German forces away from the real force approaching the Normandy Coast. Prior to the operation, the spoof was tested by running a ghost 'fleet' towards captured German radars set up on cliffs overlooking the Firth of Forth. Just before the capitulation of Germany, Farvis was given the temporary rank of Squadron Leader (and a revolver) when he was flown to Munich to

interrogate German engineers and scientists, and he had a fruitful discussion with the designer of *X-Gerät* and *Y-Gerät*, Johannes Plendl.

There can be no doubt that the secret radio work of Farvis and his TRE and RAF colleagues significantly changed the course of WW2 and saved thousands of lives. Without effective electronic countermeasures, there would have been many more instances like the destruction of Coventry. Concentrated pin-point bombing might well have destroyed the British aero-engine and Spitfire factories, altering the outcome of the war. In a light-hearted tribute at the end of the conflict Churchill wrote, 'You certainly did pull the crooked leg'.

Among many honours, Farvis was elected to a Fellowship of the Royal Society of Edinburgh in 1958, and he was appointed OBE in 1972 and CBE in 1978. He died on 12 October 2005 at the age of 93. In his memory, the Ewart Farvis Prize is awarded annually to an outstanding final year student of the BEng Honours programme in Electrical Engineering at Edinburgh University.

Images:

Page 286: AMES Type 2 Chain Home Low radar installation at Hopton-on-Sea, 1945, Imperial War Museum Collection, (public domain)
<<https://www.iwm.org.uk/collections/item/object/205196698>>

Page 287: Prof Ewart Farvis, courtesy of the late Dr Colin Davidson.

Page 290, Upper: Locations of the Knickebein, X-Gerät and Y-Gerät beam transmitters in 1941, courtesy Bill Rankin <<http://www.afterthemap.info>>

Page 290, Lower: BBC transmitter antenna at Alexandra Palace, London, based on photo by Duncan Harris, (CC-BY-2.0) <https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Flickr_-_Duncan_-_Alexandra_Palace.jpg>

Page 291: Dr Bruce Taylor.

General Council Half-Yearly Meeting

The next General Council Half-Yearly Meeting will be held on

Saturday 6th February 2021 at 10.30am

The Principal, Professor Peter Mathieson, will present the Annual Report of the University. The meeting is open to all General Council members and will take place online via Microsoft Teams.

The format of the meeting will follow the usual timetable.
The agenda and papers are in the winter edition of Billet.

For further information please visit

<<https://www.general-council.ed.ac.uk/newsandevents/half-yearly-meeting-6-february-2021>>

Student Numbers at Edinburgh University, 1836–2019

by Dr John N T Martin

Author contact: johnntmartin73@hotmail.co.uk

John Martin grew up in Northern Ireland, becoming a student at Edinburgh University (1959-1965), starting as a vet, but ending up as a psychologist, with a lot of student theatre in between. After a PhD at Birkbeck, he moved to the MRC Applied Psychology Unit in Cambridge, and then to the Open University Systems Group, retiring in 2005.

Editorial Note: Readers can find the complete version of Dr Martin's study in the Centre for Research Collections at the University's Main Library — see Reference 5 for full catalogue details.

Preamble

While working on a history of student theatre in Edinburgh from the 1800s onwards, it became obvious that it was important to have a feel for the size of the student body at different periods; a university of 1,000 students is very different from one of 40,000. One might have hoped that somewhere in the University there would have been a chart of student numbers. This paper¹ is the result of the author's failure to find it.

Sources

Compiling student number figures over the last 180 years has involved half-a-dozen different sources, whose differing natures say quite a lot about the University's history.

The earliest are the 'State of Matriculation' sheets from 1836 to 1923. In the early 1800s, many students seem to have treated a year or two of university education as a sort of 'gap year' experience between school and adulthood, and had no real intention of completing their degree, so 'dropout' was high. Matriculation seems to have been treated in much the same spirit. It began at the start of November, but students signed up in dribs and drabs until Christmas or even later. So, the only way the administration had of guessing how many students they might end up with, was by comparing matriculations on the current day with those on the same day of the previous year to see whether overall numbers seemed to be going up or down. As an example, below are the opening lines from 1848. Each row records the students that matriculated on that day, in each academic 'year' of what were then the only three faculties: medical students, literary students, and law students. The two right-hand columns show the comparison to the same day on the previous year: they were up by 16 on day 1 (good news), but down by 24, 21, 25, and 46 on days 2, 3, 4, and 5 (not such good news). However, it was early days yet.

Universities that now carried uniform statistics across all of the fifty or so UK universities.

Sadly, this excellent arrangement came to an end in 1979. The arrangements get a bit hard to follow over the next decade or so, but luckily the author was able to access the main national database (the *Universities' Statistical Record*) that under-pinned student information for this period.

Then, in 1992, the government made it possible for many of the former polytechnics to turn into universities. So, suddenly, the old fifty or so universities became nearly 170, and collecting the statistics for this newly expanded Higher Education section became the job of the Higher Education Statistics Agency. HESA continues to this day, and has a very comprehensive, web-based, archive.



Dr John N T Martin

There is one further twist to the story. The University restarted the publication of its own student numbers, initially in its Annual Reviews, and then in a series of Factsheets starting from the figures for 2001/02. For reasons discussed below, the HESA and University series of figures began to diverge quite markedly, which is why the graph of student numbers below includes *both* series. The reason for listing all these different sources is that they often adopt slightly different practices. For instance:

- If a language student is required to spend a year abroad, or if a post-graduate student is writing up their thesis, are they to be treated as 'full-time' or 'absent'?
- Does a part-time student count as one person, or as part of a 'Full-time-equivalent'?
- How do we count a visiting foreign student who is only present for part of a year?
- What about students being taught 'at a distance'?
- How do we count a student who is seconded for a year to be an official in the Students' Association?
- Data may also be gathered at different times of year and so capture different groups.
- In the early days there was a 'winter session' and a 'summer session', but publication deadline issues resulted in figures for the winter session being combined with those for the summer session for the *previous* academic year.

And so on. In general, the graphs below aim to include 'everyone' — undergraduate and post-graduate, full-time, part-time, visiting, etc. Nevertheless, there are often misalignments between different sources and, indeed, there are even a couple of short gaps. Usually, these issues

have relatively small impacts and don't have too much of an effect on the bigger picture. But the differences mentioned above between the HESA and University figures for the period after 2000 are more obvious. As a note in the 2018/19 University Factsheet explains:

Readers familiar with statistics provided by HESA, the Higher Education Statistics Agency, should note that compared to our total of 43,380, the HESA 'Standard Registration Population' excludes some students, principally:

- 4,870 visiting students (incoming visiting)
- 1,995 postgraduates writing up
- 2,105 online learning students living abroad

That amounts to a very significant difference of over 20%!

This type of problem is certainly not new. The *University of Edinburgh Journal* also carried student matriculation numbers from 1930. In most years these are taken from the *University Calendar* numbers,² but for a few years they instead used the figures from the University Grants Commission (UGC), allowing them to compare the four Scottish Universities. The differences are striking; so, for 1930/31, the *Calendar* and UGC totals are 4,437 and 3,725 respectively (and 4,327 and 3,675 for 1931/32). These are differences of around 15%. Presumably the UGC figures, like the HESA figures, are lower because they use much more restrictive counting criteria, to allow meaningful comparisons between different institutions, and over significant periods of time.

The discussion below presents two separate analyses:

- *Total Number of Students — 1836–2018*
- *Growth Curves for Men and Women, Plotted Separately*

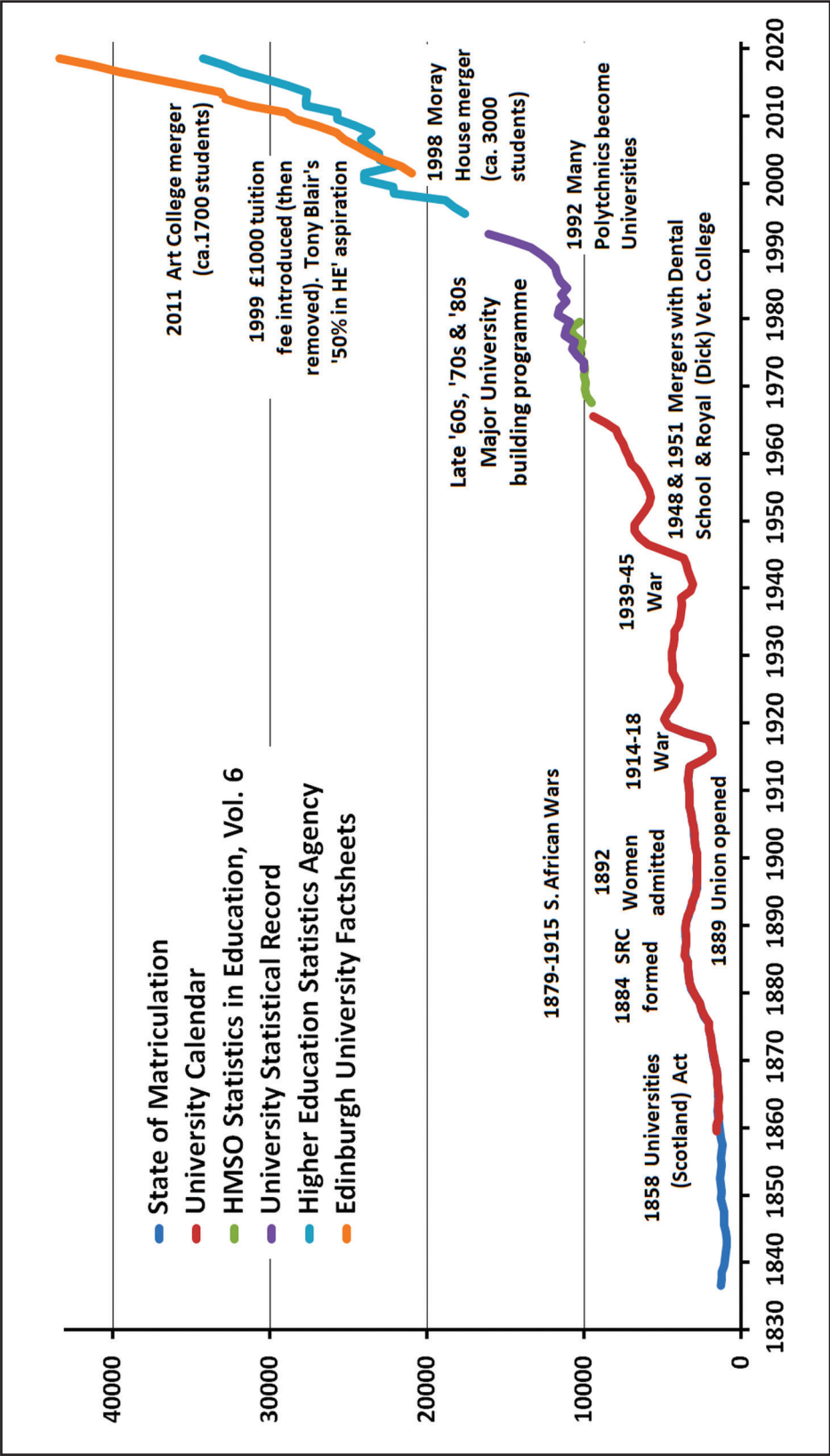
Total student population

The graph on page 298, '*Total Number of Students — 1836–2018*', presents the overall picture. You can see that growth is initially fairly gradual,³ from around 1,000 students in the 1830s to around 6,000 or so by the early 1960s, 130 years later.

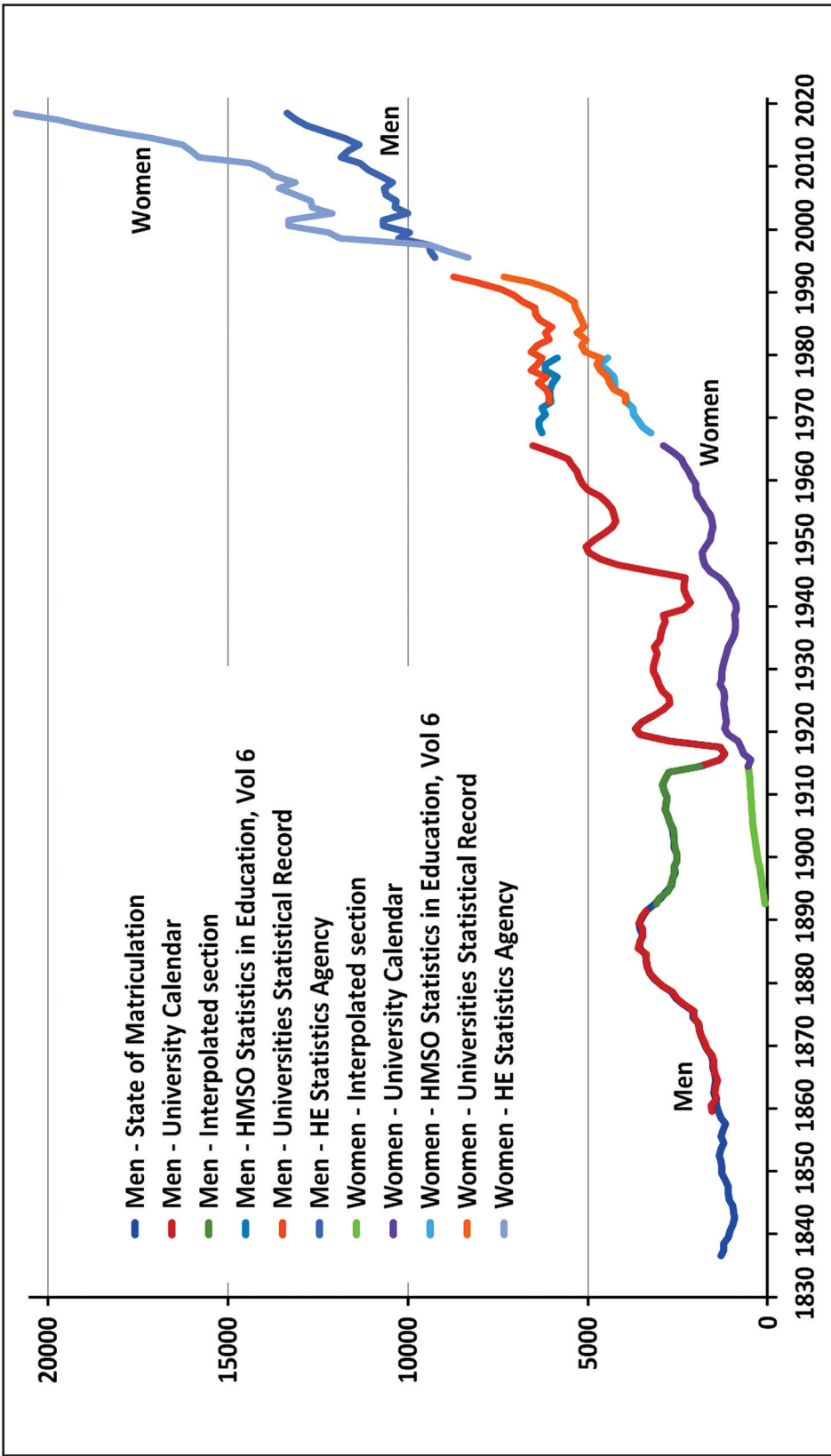
But over the subsequent 50 years, growth accelerates in an almost exponential way that shows no sign of slowing down in 2019. The current (2019) University is nearly seven times larger than it was in 1960, and nearly forty times larger than it was in the 1830s. Over the last ten years, the University has grown by around 10,000 students — each annual increase being comparable to the entire size of the early 1830s university. Some of the key historical events affecting the curve clearly include:

- The 1858 *Universities (Scotland) Act* which transferred responsibility for running the University from the Edinburgh Town Council to the University of Edinburgh itself, sowing the first seeds of the modern growth of the University.

- The events of the 1880s and early '90s that saw the creation of the Student Representative Council, the University Union, the *Student* magazine, and also the formal admission of women in 1892 (though steps towards that had been going on since the late 1860s).
- Wars are a recurrent theme. The long series of South African wars contributed to the shallow dip centred round the late 1900s. Much more obvious are the pronounced dips due to the 1914/1918 and 1939/1945 wars, each followed by brief peaks as students whose studies had been interrupted by military service returned to the University.
- Surprisingly, there is *no* obvious effect of the Spanish Flu pandemic of 1918/19. Writers such as Butler and Hogg (2007) have pointed out how little public information there was regarding Spanish Flu at the time. However, one might have expected it to show up in statistics such as these, but perhaps it is masked by the post-war peak of returning ex-soldiers.
- There were various mergers. In 1935, New College (which had taught clergy for the Free Church of Scotland) merged with the University's School of Divinity (which had taught clergy for the Church of Scotland), after the reunion of the two churches. The Dental and Veterinary Colleges joined the University in 1948 and 1951. Moray House joined in 1998 (creating a very clear rise in the curve), and the Art College joined in 2011. Of course, mergers such as these don't create 'new students' — their students, buildings, facilities, funding base, teaching, and administrative staff already exist. It is merely that they begin to appear on the university's register instead of being independent entities.
- The extraordinary growth after the 1960s reflects a general expansion of the whole of the UK HE sector. The Robbins Report in 1963 had argued for opening up the Higher Education sector to all levels of society. Beginning in the late 1960s, Edinburgh University embarked on a major building programme over several decades. In 1992, competition in the HE sector increased sharply as many polytechnics became universities. In 1999, Prime Minister Tony Blair set the aspiration for 50% of all school leavers to enter Higher Education (finally achieved nationally in 2017/18). But all of this created funding pressure and greater competition in the HE sector. One result was the introduction of tuition fees (initially £1000) in 1999. These new fees were presumably the cause of the sharp drop in numbers following the Moray House rise, though the Scottish Government — also formed in 1999 — soon reversed that decision for Scotland. Another result of the funding pressure was the need for universities to find other sources of income — e.g. from foreign students.



Total Number of Students — 1836 to 2018



Growth Curves for Men and Women, Plotted Separately

Gender comparisons

Concealed under the apparently simple ‘*Total Number of Students*’ curve above is a rather more complex situation, shown in the graph on page 299: ‘*Growth Curves for Men and Women, Plotted Separately*’.⁴ The difference between the ‘Men’ and ‘Women’ graphs is very clear, and you can see that this difference is not recent, but goes back at least as far as the 1960s, and possibly to the first admission of women back in 1892.

There are two separate elements to this difference:

- The women’s curve is steeper than the men’s curve, and this seems to be nothing to do with simply restoring a more equal balance between the sexes. The 50:50 point was reached in 1998, during the Moray House merger, but it didn’t result in any sign of the women’s curve slowing down.
- Apart from the Moray House/course fees peak, the women’s curve is relatively smooth. The various wars clearly had a much greater effect on the men’s curve, but other parts of the men’s curve seem also somewhat less stable.

In some parts of the university, women have outnumbered men for quite a long time. As early as 1914/15, women were often exceeding men in the (tiny) Music faculty. In the Arts faculty, women briefly out-numbered men as early as 1916/17, but then formed a permanent majority from 1963/64. This ‘take-over’ then spreads across the University. By 2018/19, women are 62% of the under-graduate population, and 64% of those taking taught higher degrees. Men still hold on to their majority in research-based postgraduate study — but only just — by less than 1%!

Conclusion

This study tracks student numbers for Edinburgh University from 1836 to 2019. Consistency between the various sources is not perfect, but, up to around 2000, it is good enough to provide a general background for historical studies that need a broad feel for the size of the University at different periods.

It is worth remembering that government figures collected centrally are often significantly (15-20%) lower than the University’s own figures, because the data-collection criteria for the central figures have to be much more restrictive in order to ensure comparability between institutions and over time. The graphs show this for the HESA figures, but there was also evidence of similarly large differences for UGC figures from much earlier, though these are not shown on the graphs.

The paper also looks at gender differences, and notes that, though women start at zero before 1892, their rate of growth soon exceeds that of men. From 1998, there are more women than men overall, and at the current time (2020) their rate of growth shows no sign of abating. There is also a suggestion that

the growth curve for women seems smoother and less erratic than for men; they have certainly been less affected by war.

This paper was written in spring 2020, and it was still unclear how the Covid-19 pandemic would affect student numbers in future years. But it is perhaps striking that the Spanish flu pandemic of 1918/19 had no easily identified effect on the student matriculation rate at the time.

Notes:

1. Full versions of this paper with all the academic trimmings are held in the Centre for Research Collections in the Edinburgh University Library — see References below.
2. There are some small differences between the sub-categories of the *Calendar* and *Journal* data, but these appear to reflect small data-collection differences. The author has not had access to the full series of UGC figures, so the graphs in this paper for 1930 to 1955 rely entirely on the *Calendar* figures. The UGC figures would presumably run some 15% lower.
3. This apparently gradual early growth may be misleading. The author has no systematic data before 1836, but the Edinburgh entry in the 1842 *Encyclopaedia Britannica* states that ‘The total number of students who matriculated in the session 1829–30 was 2,186’. However, the ‘State of Matriculation’ record for merely six years later (1836) shows only 1,302 matriculands — which would imply a drop of around 40%! This may seem implausible, but Alexander Morgan (1936) presents a graph of medical matriculands. After a steady growth from around 250 ca. 1765 to around 900 ca. 1830, his graph then shows a catastrophic drop to about 300 ca. 1845. Morgan speculates that this might have been due to the opening of other medical schools. No wonder they began compiling the ‘State of Matriculation’ sheets!
4. To make the gender graph less cluttered, the University Factsheet series for men and women (2001–2018) have been removed, leaving only the HESA series.

References:

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3. HE student enrolments by HE provider (2014/15–2018/19), *Where do HE students study?*, Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) <<https://www.hesa.ac.uk/data-and-analysis/students/where-study#provider>> [accessed May 2020]
4. HMSO *Statistics of Education* – Volume 6: Universities, 1966–1979. University Grants Committee. *Statistics of Education; Volume 6: Universities, 1966–1979*. London: HMSO, 1969–1982.
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6. Morgan, Alexander, 'Matriculates in the Faculty of Medicine Prior to 1858', *University of Edinburgh Journal*, 8(2) (1936), 124-5.
7. Universities' Statistical Record, 1972/73-1993/94: Undergraduate Records. [data collection]. UK Data Service. SN:3456 <<http://doi.org/10.5255/UKDA-SN-3456-1>> [Accessed May 2020]
8. Universities' Statistical Record, 1972/73-1993/94: Postgraduate Records. [data collection]. UK Data Service. SN:3457 <<http://doi.org/10.5255/UKDA-SN-3457-1>> [Accessed May 2020]
9. University of Edinburgh Annual Review 2003/04, Appendix 2: Student Numbers (2001/2, 2002/3, 2003/4) <<http://websiterepository.ed.ac.uk/annualreview/0304/appendix2.html>> [Accessed May 2020]
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11. University of Edinburgh Factsheets (2005/6–2017/18), *Factsheet Archive*, University of Edinburgh Wiki Service <<https://www.wiki.ed.ac.uk/display/govstratplan/Factsheet+Archive>> [accessed May 2020]
12. University of Edinburgh Factsheet of Student Figures, 2018/19 <http://www.docs.sasg.ed.ac.uk/gasp/factsheet/Student_Factsheet_31072019.pdf> [accessed May 2020]

Images:

Page 294, Upper: Opening section of the State of Matriculation Card for 1848.

Page 294, Lower: Excerpt from Edinburgh University Calendar, 1861–62, page 18.

Page 295: Image of Dr John N T Martin.

Page 298: Graph titled 'Total Number of Students - 1836 to 2018', produced by Dr John N T Martin.

Page 299: Graph titled 'Growth Curves for Men and Women, Plotted Separately', produced by Dr John N T Martin.

Edinburgh University Club of Toronto (EDUCT)

The *Journal* is planning to resume a regular section of news and information from other alumni organisations and would be glad to receive approaches from those whom we have not yet been able to contact. Please contact us at:

gradassoc@ed.ac.uk

The first response has been welcomed by the EDUCT whose newsletter can be visited by readers of the *Journal* at:

<https://toronto.dev.ed.ac.uk/news.html>

SUISS: Contributions to the *Journal*

The Scottish Universities' International Summer School (SUISS), based at the University of Edinburgh, is once again proud and privileged to showcase the work of our Creative Writing students in the *Journal*. As with so many organisations, 2020 has proved a difficult year for SUISS as we were obliged to cancel the School this year in the face of the pandemic — the first time the School hasn't run in its 73-year history. However, we were still able to celebrate the work of SUISS students via our anthology publication *Seven New Strawberries: A Multilingual Anthology*, featuring all-new translations of Edwin Morgan's classic poem 'Strawberries' into seven world languages, with accompanying translators' commentaries in English (the anthology is available to buy at www.tapsalteerie.co.uk). It shows that the SUISS spirit is still very much alive and kicking as we look ahead to a rosier future in 2021 in our planning of a COVID-proof Summer School. That spirit is very much in evidence in these contributions too, which we hope you enjoy.



Protest Time

The river flows, horizontally it would seem, but kills you only vertically. Depth is all about perspective. With the right perspective you won't die. Painfully at least. Here are fishes playing and talking in fishtalk. 'What is the language of fishes?' I wonder, 'aquish perhaps?' Summerstreams are wonderful and dangerous.

There is a left-side method to Approach. Approach is our protest against all things fascist, Nazi. How I hate the word. We are in protest. We are protesting everything that is undemocratic, that is opposed to human rights. But first we are Climate protesters. We are Approach.

Who are we? Me — Ralya and Namaste, Namaste Pande.

We are sitting by the river Mati and holding our placard – STOP WATER POLLUTION. There is no one here, no one seeing us. Still we are protesting. We could have formed a big band, a large group. But we are in love, we want to protest alone.

'Where are you going?' Mom asked in the morning.

'To the university,' I said. It has been 20 years since I left university.

'To do what?' Mom asked crinkling up her brows.

'I want to find out if they have any correspondence courses that are interesting.'

'Okay, Okay,' Amma said and left it at that. She is quieter these days.

Rabbit-tails is what Namaste calls me because of my old-fashioned, old-British hairstyle. I still brush my hair around 200 times every day with a long, round hairbrush, ever since I read about this nice hair technique in an Enid Blyton book.

I hadn't lied; after the River Protest, we are going to Bangalore University to enquire about correspondence courses in Quantum Physics.

By the river, there are children. Not very rich, not very poor. They are just children; you can't classify them in any manner. They are playing. Knots and Crosses or some such game. Their laughter reaches us. It is as if they are mocking us for protesting. I want to play Knots and Crosses too, but Namaste says we should be serious about the protest. So, we sit, silently holding up the banner.

Now over to the pollution we are protesting – it is what you will anticipate at a river site – flower waste in polythene bags (there is an Ashram nearby), torn black garbage bags, polythene bags of various shapes and sizes, and used paper. The trees are crying. Everything is so dusty.

Riverside blues, like a system of logic not yet discovered by Google. Today is the age of Google. Why think when you can Google everything? That is why we are protesting – Namaste and I – we want to protect ideas and thought. They are precious, priceless. Facebook time like a wastebasket time. I have found my voice but my throat is dying. Making sense of life in the age of Content Marketing. Like me. Dislike, no more. There is rioting like writing and writing like rioting. Facebook seems to me like a riot against reason. What I like about Namaste is that he doesn't mind my gloomy view on most things. I am the Founder of the Mythic. The Mythic is my contribution to life, universe, and everything. My start-up you can say. To run Mythic, I need to be on Facebook all the time. Except when I am doing protest work for Approach.

'Rabbit-tails, a real rabbit,' Namaste says. He is right. It is a real rabbit indeed. Brown and white. Like everything around here dusty. I want to pat it, but it hops away. I take out my notepad, hidden in my duffel bag and write this – 'Is there is God for Rabbits? A rabbit God?'

Dadi used to tell me that all living beings have their own god.

Once, when Dadi was ten, the snake god spoke to her. From an anthill. 'Build me a temple here,' the snake god said. Dadi was just ten, didn't know how to build temples. So, she became sad, very sad. She would cry every day at school and every day at home. Teachers punished her and friends consoled her. Finally, she revealed the cause to her mother – 'I don't know how to build the temple.'

If this had happened today, people would have chided Dadi and distracted her with toys. But it was those days. The village elders held a meeting. They decided that if the Naga Devta needed a temple, a temple would have to be built. Thus, in the Vagasidhha Village, we built our family temple to Shree Nagaraj. Until today Dadi believes that if all are well it is because of this Shree Nagaraj. And if we are ill, it is also because of Shree Nagaraj.

I look into the river hoping to see a snake. Hoping and fearing. The sky brightens – protest time is over. We leave for the university to find out if there are correspondence courses in Quantum Physics.

Swetha Prakash

Flutter bye

Skimming dip ping	pull away
down	from
wing tip	the
too close	rush
to the	of the
surface	weight
she is	of
water-logged	the water
un	& so
able	her
to	colours run
rise	spoiled.

Jaqs Whymark

eye want to nose you

looking into your eyes	
eye hear	nothing
under the surface can be	touched by
the sound of you	
eye follow the line from	your
cheek against window	
letting in limited	light
nose throwing shadows	
on a line pressed	
in between lips that	was
once mine	
eye know you never	left
but how did eyes	
become unfamiliar	
eyes unlearnt	
gaze	undone

Lara Hattingh

Authors:

Lara Hattingh is an actress, writer, and producer from Cape Town. This poem forms part of a collection 'the first five weeks of summer' written during her time in Edinburgh.

Swetha Parkash is an award-winning author whose children's book *Padma Goes to Space* (2011) is a critically acclaimed bestseller.

Jaqs Whymark a maker of many small moments of joy — ever restless to share her mind's eye, on a page, in a space — as a writer, mother, teacher, director & friend.

Reviews

Scotland and Arbroath 1320-2020: 700 Years of Fighting for Freedom, Sovereignty and Independence; edited by Klaus Peter Muller (Berlin: Peter Lang, 2020) (*Scottish Studies International*, Bd/Vol. 43). Pp. 577. ISBN 9783631818619. €93.00 or £77.00.

Twenty-six scholars from Scotland, England, Germany, France and the USA here produce useful essays ostensibly on the 1320 letter from the Abbey at Arbroath, drafted by clerics and signed by the Scottish Barons, to Pope John XXII rejecting English claims to rule Scotland, and affirming their fidelity to King Robert Bruce unless he should accept English overlordship, which would require repudiating him and adopting another ruler. It is probably history's first state declaration of nationalism to have survived. Much of the book is excellent, but the totality is not fully comprehensive. Omissions include the text of the Declaration; however, useful if repetitive are the citations of extracts. So, Edward J Cowan's 'For Freedom Alone' remains indispensable for text and its fuller context. Our book's emphasis on 'Fighting' is deplorable: the document seeks an end to the fighting forced on the Scots by Edward I, and the great lesson that Scottish nationalism teaches the world today is that it abominates fighting. Alexander Broadie (on Duns Scotus), Dauvit Broun (on contractual kingships), and Mark P Bruce (on the *Scotichronicon*) contribute dazzling performances on medieval origins of Scottish identity, but the Arbroath letter was conditioned by being intended for the Pope, whose court required an essay. Some scholars explore fruitfully beyond their fields: the sociologist David McCrone sings an enchanting tribute to Latin which (as some fellow-contributors seem to need being told) is the language of the letter (and perhaps the language in which its author thought), while Murray Pittock demonstrates a literature don's aesthetics in mastery of political theory.

Although the editor tells us that he supports Scottish independence, he and other contributors are haunted by Britishness, however anachronistic. His first essay celebrates Magna Carta as discussed by David Starkey which means we are neither here nor there; 400 pages later Aileen McHarg effectively shows the distance between the documents. We receive some conscientious reflections on the English North with Arbroath unmentioned. The editor spells Cowan 'Cowen' in his weak start, but correctly in his charming and exhilarating study of Milton (perhaps charitably ignoring Miltonic poetic reflections on Scotland). John Morrison punches hopelessly above his weight in trying to blame Walter Scott for belittlement of the Arbroath letter: he omits Scott's description of its 'strong sense', and tells us that in writing medieval historical fiction Scott bypassed Scotland, thus himself bypassing *The Fair Maid of Perth* (regardless of Bizet) and *Castle Dangerous*. The inevitable discussion of the Declaration of Arbroath as ancestor of the Declaration of Independence is appropriately sceptical (its great Scottish legalist signatory was James, not Thomas, Wilson) but this skirts a converse problem: Silke Stroh effectively contextualises the Arbroath letter as anti-colonial but errs

in trying to make it post-colonial, which the US Declaration certainly was: Scotland was the only country in our islands to remain unconquered.

Owen Dudley Edwards

Edwin Morgan, *In Touch with Language*; edited by John Coyle and James McGonigal (Glasgow: Association for Scottish Literary Studies, 2020). Pp xxiii, 399. ISBN 978190684140. For availability, write to ASLS at 7 University Gardens, Glasgow G12 8QH.

Anyone fortunate enough to have spent time with the late Edwin Morgan will recognise the personality behind this beguiling collection of essays, reviews, and compilations, remembering the quiet and very private intelligence which gave off flashes of extraordinary originality, a width of reference and knowledge never used to show off or intimidate, a willingness to expand the discussion beyond Scotland, beyond the UK, the English-speaking world – even (as in some of his most popular poems) beyond the planet we live on. The editors have produced what they call *A New Prose Collection 1950-2005*, an annual volume which is a reminder of the rewards of belonging to the Association for Scottish Literary Studies. It makes for rich reading.

Morgan was a prolific writer, and this collection acts as a reminder that his voluminous collected poems represent only part of his output. Order has been imposed by groupings into Local Journalism, Comparative Readings, Translating, Lecturing, Performing, Beginning and Ending, and (slippery concept) Being Himself. Yet this necessary arrangement fails to catch the sheer explosion of interest which Morgan brought to reading and to writing, and to the discussion of literature. Sharply interesting is his identification of ‘the most striking thing that emerges from any biography of Byron is his constant search for something that eludes him’ (8). Morgan’s long life seems to be a version of this search. He notes that MacDiarmid in exile in Shetland ‘[...] was poor, & ill, but writing extremely well. What he says is that despite the sombre colours of the island & the lack of stimulus from various & crowded scenes, even there, the world of nature is an overwhelming presence for the right person’ (225). Again and again in this anthology comes the search for the right moment, the right person, the right moment when language comes into full play. As he watched Glasgow change over the decades he lived and taught there, Morgan taught the world’s literatures in its University, wrote ceaselessly for newspapers and journals far from the UK, produced a lively body of translation which showed courage in delving into foreign language and foreign sensibility, seeking to establish ‘some sort of non-verbal interlinguistic existence in my mind’ (93).

Living through, and contributing to, the flowering of Scottish Literature in the last half-century, Morgan wrote about it extensively and this collection shows both his sensitivity to other people’s writing, and the value of a generous and even-handed critic in decades when Scotland’s writers were sometimes at war with one another. Listening to Morgan in his teaching mode was to recognise Morgan in the reviewing and critical mode of these pieces, well-informed, balanced but obviously engaged as one writer responding to

another. He spoke about writers with energy: 'I have always enjoyed the use of many different voices and personas, I like variety of verse technique [he writes warmly of Tom Leonard's playful experiments] from the most free and exploratory to the most strict and metrical, and I relish giving immediacy to distant or mythical events in place and time' (349). He could, and did, energise a roomful of listeners with his own poems as well as his ideas.

Open to other cultures and literatures (the challenge of Hungarian poetry did not faze him), generous with time, intensely private (the book has a wry section describing the life of an unacknowledged gay writer in Glasgow before his 70th birthday when he declared his sexuality and Scotland barely blinked) — Edwin Morgan lives on in these essays, in his enormous collected poems, in the books and papers he left for the Poetry Library in Edinburgh, for Glasgow University, for the Mitchell Library. His playful, enormously well-read but unpretentious writing in prose and poetry is a reminder of the loss to Scotland. This book is a pleasure to read.

Ian Campbell

The collected letters of Thomas and Jane Welsh Carlyle; First General Editor, Charles Richard Sanders. (Durham, North Carolina & London: Duke University Press, 1970–2022).

Looking back on his life (after the death of Jane Welsh Carlyle, which more or less put a stop to his writing career) Thomas Carlyle, in the bitterness of his lonely old age, wrote that 'Friends not a few I do at last begin to see that I have had all along; and these have all, or all but two or three, been decorously silent'. A curious thing to say of a life which has left us a priceless cache of letters, those of Thomas and Jane, surviving in their thousands along with a fortunate crowd of the replies which help make sense of the originals. Decorous silence was hardly the signature of his life, and to his last years people flocked to hear the old man talk, and (fortunately for us today) lost no time in writing down their memory of the blazing monologues which had drawn crowds to Chelsea to hear both Carlyles talk, and talk wonderfully.

But the letters remain, and it is perhaps time to report on the long project which has to date given us forty-seven volumes of this wonderful correspondence of Thomas and Jane, and (all being well) will complete the series in 2022 with volume 50, the *Duke-Edinburgh Edition* complete and its online derivative the *Carlyle Letters Online* almost complete too. Material is still coming to light: the printed volumes strive to catch up with new discoveries (and adjust what has already been printed) while, of course, online allows continuous updating, and is a wonderful facility of checking and finding which anyone who compiled one of the earlier pre-computer indexes can only envy.

The years since the early 1960s have made off with the earlier founding editors, Charles Richard Sanders of Duke and John Butt of Edinburgh, and subsequent names such as Kenneth J Fielding in Edinburgh have vanished from title pages of the annual volumes, even though the legacy of their work continues to illuminate the new editing. One big change has to be announced since the last *Journal*, the sad loss of Aileen Christianson who

had been with the edition since 1967 and who had meticulously been the last pair of hands through whom copy passed ensuring consistency and accuracy. Today's editorial team has agreed they will try to meet the deadline of 2022 despite the ravages of the coronavirus delays; the internet has made home working less daunting than it was before, though the absence of library access (and the various Carlyle houses and sites) is a real handicap. The Duke University Press has agreed to support the deadline, and to see the print project through to the end.

Many members of the University have been friends to the edition, and the Carlyle Society (which has not met during the pandemic and has no clear prospect of resuming its activities) has helped throughout. The editors are grateful to everyone who has helped with information, with access, and with material assistance. Edinburgh University is ideally placed — the Carlyle country nearby, the library and museum resources, the wonderful libraries of the city, the decades of editorial expertise — to have hosted the Duke–Edinburgh edition and volume 48, soon to appear, will bring it a little closer to a completion which would have seemed hardly possible to those who were present at the outset.

Ian Campbell

Bloody Scotland: [twelve crime stories inspired by iconic Scottish buildings; introduction by James Crawford] (Edinburgh: Historic Environment Scotland Enterprises, 2017). Pp 276. Hard cover, illustrated. ISBN 9781849172431. £12.99.

The crime-writing industry is expanding fast at present, in Scotland as in many other countries. 'Tartan Noir' is being spoken of, and studied, as one particular field alongside Scandic Noir and others, and the annual weekend festival of Bloody Scotland at the University of Stirling is now an important one in the international crime-writing calendar; but sadly, the 2020 Festival, like many other festivals, has had to be cancelled. Several recent Tartan Noir novels have already been reviewed in the pages of this *Journal*, and this collection now joins them.

The buildings selected to inspire these stories run the whole chronological range of HES sites. From Maeshowe and Mousa Broch, through Crookston Castle and Crossraguel Abbey, via Stanley Mills and the Forth Bridge to St Peter's Seminary, Cardross. Some stories are set in their buildings, others are simply inspired by them and by memories of them. The stories have grim outcomes, and some even have a ghostly feel to the experiences of the characters involved. Indeed, the line between crime writing, especially historical, and ghost stories is becoming very blurred. The authors range from the best-selling Ann Cleeves, Val McDermid, and Denise Mina to others still on their way to fame. Two of them, Lin Anderson and E S Thomson, and the editor James Crawford, are Edinburgh University graduates or staff, and join the expanding galaxy of Edinburgh University crime and thriller writers. All the stories demonstrate that the short story and the novella are often the most appropriate media for crime writing. This collection is worthy of a place in every crime-writing collection.

Peter B Freshwater

Richard Ovenden, *The Burning of the Books: A History of Knowledge Under Attack* (London: John Murray Publishers, 2020). Pp 308, illustrated. Hardback. ISBN 9781529378757. £20.00.

The title of Ovenden's book, combined with a clever cover design of burnished copper fountain pens arrayed in a fiery ring, certainly catches the eye; it's almost enough to make one pick it up with anger and indignation. However, it quickly becomes clear that this book is a well-written and stalwart defence of the care and preservation of knowledge. Ovenden begins with the argument that 'libraries are crucial for a healthy functioning society' (5), a declaration which is reinforced with his chilling appraisal of the state of public libraries in the UK and elsewhere; 'The preservation of knowledge is a critical struggle all over the world' (13). He explores some ancient examples of the preservation and loss of knowledge and runs quickly onto, perhaps, the most well-known case, the Library of Alexandria. Although it would be tempting to ride the coattails of this ready-made metaphor for the cause, instead Ovenden adopts the careful and level-headed approach of an academic and trained librarian, discussing faithfully what might have been lost (all we can do is estimate) while avoiding sensationalism. Nonetheless, his findings are no less powerful: 'Rather than highlighting the nature of barbaric ignorance triumphing over civilised truth, Alexandria is a cautionary tale of the danger of creeping decline, through the underfunding, low prioritisation and general disregard for the institutions that preserve and share knowledge' (36). Ovenden touches on major examples that mirror Alexandria: from monastic libraries lost through the turmoil of Henry VIII's Reformation, to the burning of the US Library of Congress, Nazi book burnings, and others, the reader is carefully guided through a history which both advocates the sacrosanct nature of knowledge, and acts as harbinger of coming attacks. Ovenden expertly describes the dangers of our world becoming ever more digitised; the potential for the loss of information, or perhaps worse, the corruption and misuse of information is unfathomable. Culprits including political gain, religious extremism, and the harsh truths of capitalism feature prominently. All is not lost: 'The return of knowledge can help societies to understand their own place in the world and to come to terms with the past [...]' (233). Librarians and archivists, like Ovenden, work to preserve diligently what knowledge they can, and see that it can be accessed freely without bias or censor. By reading this book, anyone can contribute to this vital calling.

J R Sutherland

Reviewers:

Ian Campbell is Professor Emeritus of Scottish and Victorian Literature at the University, and Reviews Editor of the *Journal*.

Owen Dudley Edwards is Reader Emeritus in American History and Honorary Fellow in the School of History

Peter B Freshwater is former Deputy Librarian at the University and Editor of the *Journal*.

J R Sutherland is Assistant Editor of the *Journal* and works as an illustrator for Aberdeen-based DS Design Studio.

Obituaries

The following deaths of members of the University have been intimated to the Association. Further details, in some cases, may be found in The Scotsman, The BMJ, The Veterinary Record and other newspapers and journals. If no date of death is recorded, no exact date has been passed to our Editorial Team.

The annual list of deceased graduates is issued by the General Council in the Annex to the Billet. This can be consulted online on the General Council's website at:

www.general-council.ed.ac.uk/publication/annex-billet

*Or by writing to the Secretary of the General Council, University of Edinburgh, Charles Stewart House, 9–16 Chambers Street, Edinburgh EH1 1HT. Various University obituaries can also be viewed at: **www.ed.ac.uk/news/staff/obituaries***

Ian Appleton PhD 1981 DArch DipCD RIBA FRIAS: 24 April 2020, aged 81.

Born on 18 March 1939 in London, he was educated at Kingston Grammar School before studying architecture at Kingston College of Art (now University). He went on to take a position with Chamberlin, Powell & Bon, working on the radical new Barbican development in London, and later joined Peter Moro and Partners to work on the Nottingham Playhouse. Appleton continued to work on theatre projects, including the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden and the Gulbenkian Theatre in Hull. In 1964, he travelled to Edinburgh to undertake the Civic Design course at the Department of Urban Studies and Regional Planning. In 1967, Appleton took up a lectureship at the University, where he also completed his PhD. He served as Director of Studies from 1982 to 1986 and was made an Honorary Fellow of the University. Appleton went on to become project architect in the office of Rowand Anderson, Kinninmonth & Paul for work on Brunton Hall, Musselburgh. He set up the Appleton Partnership in 1974 with his wife and, in 1985, the practice won the national competition for a new theatre in Leeds, which was opened in 1990 as the West Yorkshire Playhouse (now the Leeds Playhouse). The practice went on to work on other theatres, including the Macrobert Arts Centre at Stirling, and the design of facilities for the Scottish Opera in Glasgow. Appleton wrote for several academic journals, and published *Buildings for the Performing Arts: a Design and Development Guide* in 1996.

Robert David Darney Bertram WS LLB 1966: 13 August 2020, in Edinburgh.

Born in 1941 in Haslingden, Lancashire, he was a partner in the Edinburgh law firm Shepherd & Wedderburn and a member of the Speculative Society and of the Scottish Arts Club. For several years, he was a General Council Assessor on the University Court and a member of the General Council Business Committee. Bertram was a life member of UEGA.

Alison Mary Carmichael (née Brierly) MA 1971: 11 July 2020, in Rockbourne, Hampshire. Born on 23 October 1947 in Huddersfield, she was educated at St Hilda's School, Whitby. She joined the National Youth Theatre for a year before going on to study Art and History at the University, where she joined the newly created Television Society as a student presenter. After graduation,

she was taken on as a researcher and studio assistant at Granada Television, working on episodes of *Coronation Street* and *The Comedians*. After working at HTV in Cardiff, she married in 1974 and moved to Hampshire where she worked at BBC South reporting for *South Today*. In 1977, she moved on to Southern Television as the station's consumer affairs correspondent and presenter on *Look South*. In 1998, she spent a year travelling the world directing the successful series *Caprice's Travels*. Later in her career, she worked on charitable and marketing ventures, most recently at the Army Flying Museum in Middle Wallop.

Aileen Christianson MA (Aberdeen) 1966: 12 June 2020, in Edinburgh, aged 75. Born on 8 August 1944 in Rhos, Clwyd, she went on to study English and History at Aberdeen University. Christianson then moved to Edinburgh where she began work as a researcher on the Carlyle Letters. She continued to work on the joint Edinburgh–Duke University project until late in her life and assisted in the funding of her fellow researchers and editors. She became lecturer in English at the University in 1993 and senior lecturer in 1995, and was very active in the Edinburgh Women's Movement of the 1970s and 1980s. In 1978, Christianson joined the Edinburgh Rape Crisis Centre, which was originally set up as a voluntary women's collective. Her pioneering work on Jane Welsh Carlyle led to a Leverhulme Research Fellowship from 2006 to 2007, and the publication of *Jane Welsh Carlyle, Biography and Biographers* (2008). Christianson co-edited *Contemporary Scottish Woman Writers* (2000) and *Scottish Women's Fiction, 1920s to 1960s* (2000), and published *Moving in Circles* in 2007. Her body of feminist and academic work was recognised by the Saltire Society's Fletcher of Saltoun Award in 2019.

John Cook MBChB 1949 ChM 1963 FRCSEd 1955 FRSE 1970: 19 April 2020, in Dorstone, Herefordshire, aged 93. Born on 9 May 1926 in Calcutta, India, he was educated at Sandown, Bexhill, and Alton Burn, Nairn. He won a scholarship to Fettes College in Edinburgh and it was there that Cook developed his life-long love of piping. He went on to study Medicine at the University with friend, fellow Fettes alumnus, and later Honorary President of UEGA, Iain MacLaren. Cook joined the University OTC and became Pipe Major. In 1950, he joined the RAF and was posted to RAF Hillingdon before being sent off to RAF Tangmere to assist with an outbreak of smallpox. Cook attended the RAF School of Tropical Medicine at Halton and was posted to RAF Khormaskar, Aden, as MO. He returned to Edinburgh's Royal Infirmary before taking up the post of Research Assistant and Surgical Registrar at the Radcliffe Infirmary, Oxford. In 1955, Cook was made 1st Assistant in the Department of Surgery at Makerere University College, Uganda. In 1964, he returned to the UK and took up the post of Consultant Surgeon at the Eastern General Hospital, Edinburgh, which also carried the status of Honorary Senior Lecturer at the University. In 1969, Cook was elected Honorary Secretary to the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh and served on its General Medical Council from 1982 to 1986. He became Secretary of the International Federation of Surgical Colleges from 1973 to 1984 and was their consultant to the WHO. Cook retired from surgery in 1986, though he retained his membership of the Royal Scottish Pipers Society.

Colin William Davidson BSc (Hons) 1955 Dip PhD 1960 HonFIEE: 8 October 2020, in Ardfarn, Argyll, aged 86. Born on 18 September 1934, he was educated at George Heriot's School where he was awarded the Miller Prize in Applied Science. Davidson went on to study Electrical Engineering at the University and won medals in Mathematics and Electromagnetics. He was appointed as lecturer in Electrical Engineering and, in 1961, he moved to Nuclear Enterprises (GB) Ltd. After four years, he returned to academia, taking up a post at Heriot-Watt University, where he was twice appointed Head of Department of Electrical Engineering and twice served as Dean of the Engineering Faculty. Davidson was a member of the Institution of Electrical Engineers (IEE) for over sixty years, serving on and chairing many of its boards and committees. He served as secretary for a group of members who objected to the changes proposed by the Trustees in connection with the merger of the IEE and the Institution of Incorporated Engineers (IIE). Davidson was a liveryman of the Worshipful Company of Engineers, and a Freeman of the City of London. He served the wider community as an elected member of the Lothian Regional Council, as Chairman of Craignish Community Council, and as Company Secretary for the Argyll Community Housing Association. Davidson further served in various capacities at the Royal Highland Yacht Club and as Secretary & Treasurer for the West Highland Anchorages and Moorings Association.

Shirley Guthrie (née Gilheany) MA (Aberdeen) PhD 1992: 19 April 2020, in Edinburgh, aged 82. Born in 1937 in Edinburgh, she attended Broughton Secondary School. Guthrie was gifted with languages and moved to London in 1954 to work as a civil servant. She was married in 1959 and moved to Trinidad with her husband to raise a family. She later moved first to Bahrain, where she learned Arabic, then to Great Yarmouth, and finally to Aberdeen. In 1982, Guthrie enrolled at Aberdeen University where she studied Hebrew and Arabic, graduating in 1986. Despite moving south with her family, she pursued a PhD with the University, focussing on Islamic painting and highlighting the important role of women in the Arabic world of the Middle Ages. Guthrie went on to lecture on Eastern arts at SOAS, and introduced Islamic art to the syllabus at Birkbeck, both institutions attached to London University. Her research took her to many locations, including Paris, St Petersburg, Istanbul, and Yemen, and the work in these places led to several books, including *Al-Hairi's Maqamat* (2017). Guthrie was instrumental in establishing the Broughton Group of former classmates.

David Warden Hay MA 1980: 5 June 2020, aged 67. Born on 4 February 1953, he was educated at McLaren High School, Callander. In 1972, Hay moved to London to undertake management training with the publisher Hodder & Stoughton. During his editorial training, he worked at *The Lancet* and *Punch*. In 1976, he returned to Scotland to study English at the University. In the early 1980s, Hay trained as a librarian at Strathclyde University and later spent time working in Chicago and, later, at Wolverhampton College. As a result of complications arising from MS, Hay took early retirement in the 1990s. He moved to Glasgow and became a tenant of

the Margaret Blackwood Housing Association. Hay moved to Netherton, Lanarkshire, in the later 1990s, and was an active non-executive Director of the Association there, where he was also active in adult literacy projects.

John (Ian) Aitken Horne BSc 1953 MICE CEng: 31 May 2020, aged 88. Born on 1 January 1932 in Mayfield, Edinburgh, he was educated at Boroughmuir High School. Horne went on to study Civil Engineering at the University and embarked on his career with Richard Costain Ltd in London. Within a few weeks, he transferred to Nigeria to undertake various construction roles, including work on the Lagos to Benin highway. He married in 1955 and, following completion of his work in Nigeria, travelled to the Cameroons, where he contracted 'river blindness' and returned to Edinburgh to be treated by the Tropical Diseases unit. Following a year in Malta on a major water resources investigation, Horne took up various engineering roles throughout England, and returned to Scotland in 1960 to Costain Concrete Ltd's Motherwell design office. It was there he achieved membership of the ICE in 1961. From 1963 onwards, Horne held positions with Midlothian County Council constructing new sewage treatment works at East Calder and Newbridge, and with Blyth & Blyth Consulting Engineers. In 1970, he joined the government department which became the Property Services Agency. Here, Horne worked on many MOD and public works projects, including BUTEC at Kyle of Lochalsh, the air traffic control centre at Prestwick, and various works for the Royal Navy at Coulport, Faslane. Latterly, his career included the construction of the new Crombie Jetty at Rosyth and of the floating jetty to service Trident submarines built at Hunterston. He retired in 1992.

Gregory Peter Lubkin MA 1975 PhD (Berkeley) JD (Harvard): 10 August 2020, aged 68. Born 6 April 1952, Lubkin studied at the University and went on to earn a PhD in History from the University of Berkeley in 1982. He worked as a Professor of History with expertise in the Italian Renaissance, publishing numerous papers and a book entitled *A Renaissance Court* (1994). Lubkin received his Juris Doctorate from Harvard Law School in 1996, specialising in International Tax law, and subsequently worked as a Director at Price Waterhouse Coopers until his retirement in 2018. He served as President of the American Friends of the University of Edinburgh. Lubkin joined the community of Shambhala Buddhists in 1978, where he became a much beloved and admired teacher and mentor. He spent his latter years travelling and teaching meditation across the world.

Doris Margaret Mackay MA 1951 LLB 1954: 16 June 2018, aged 87. Born on 25 June 1930, she was educated at the Mary Erskine School. She started work as a solicitor in Edinburgh with Baillie & Gifford WS and then went on to Allan, Dawson, Simpson & Hampton WS. Mackay worked with the Secretary of State from 1961 to 1988, followed by a period at Ranken & Reid from July 1988 until May 1989. From October 1989 until October 1993, she was employed with Scottish Homes.

Runa Blyth Mackay MBChB 1944 MD 1952: 31 May 2020, in Edinburgh, aged 98. Born on 30 July 1921 in Hull, she was educated at Esdaile College, Edinburgh, before going on to study Medicine at the University. After

graduation, Mackay began her career in paediatrics by taking a post as house physician and surgeon at Edinburgh's Royal Hospital for Sick Children. She soon moved on to become an assistant GP in Chesterfield. Later, she worked as a professorial medical registrar at Manchester Children's Hospital and, in 1954, flew to Israel to take up a locum position in the Edinburgh Medical Missionary Society's (EMMS) Nazareth hospital. Mackay spent the next two decades there in obstetrics, and another decade with the Israeli Ministry of Health as a district medical officer in Galilee. There, she co-founded the Galilee Society, the National Arab Society for Health, Research and Services. After retiring in 1985, she returned to Edinburgh where she became a full member of the Iona Community. Mackay was the Scottish representative on an International Fellowship of Reconciliation delegation to the Middle East and was appointed secretary for the UN International Year of Peace Scottish Council in 1985. She spent 1987 working in refugee camps in Lebanon and visited North Yemen, Egypt, and Jordan in 1988 as guest of the Jordanian Medical Association. From 1992 to 1994, she lived and worked in Lebanon setting up clinics before returning to Scotland to found Scottish Medical Aid for Palestinians.

Colin Nicholas Manlove MA 1964 DLt 1990: 1 June 2020, aged 78. Born on 4 May 1942, he taught English and Scottish Literature at the University for more than 26 years, retiring as Reader in English in 1993. Manlove published sixteen books which demonstrate the vital contribution that fantasy has made to English and Scottish literary traditions. His books are amongst the first serious academic discussions on the value of fantasy and science fiction literature despite entrenched critical bias towards realism. Manlove's first book, *Modern Fantasy: Five Studies*, was published in 1975. He also published *Literature and Reality 1600-1800* (1978) and *The Gap in Shakespeare* (1981).

Anna Dorothy Gowans Miller MA 1969 MBA (Houston): 29 May 2020, aged 72. Born on 5 August 1947 in St Monans, Fife, she was educated at Waid Academy in Anstruther. She received a full scholarship to the University, where she studied English literature and Mandarin. Gowans Miller travelled extensively before returning to Edinburgh to undertake a postgraduate teaching qualification at Moray House. She was recruited by the headmaster of Iranzamin, Tehran International School, becoming the Chairman of the English Department. Gowans Miller went on to study at the University of Houston, Texas, where she earned an MBA in 1981. Beginning her accounting career with three years at Touche Ross, Houston, she went on to work for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting as senior auditor in 1985. She became an American citizen in 1988 and, in 1990, she became a Technical Manager for the AICPA, working independently as a technical writer thereafter. In 1995, Gowans Miller became a policy advisor for the US House of Representatives Committee on Government Reform and the Oversight Subcommittee on Government, Information, and Technology. In 1997, she was recruited by the Quality Management department of the Office of the Secretary of Defense, where she remained until 2003. She then became Director of Research at the Association of Government Accounts before retiring in 2011. Gowans Miller was a Life Member of UEGA.

Julie Mary Mulroy (née Whittle) MBChB 1960: 9 February 2020, aged 84.

She was a musician and worked as a community physician. Married to Ron Mulroy, she was profoundly loved by her family and the community which she served through music and medicine.

Agnes Main Pierce (née Dickson) MBChB 1952: 22 April 2020, aged 91. Born

on 9 April 1929, she was brought up in Prestonpans, near Edinburgh, and attended Preston Lodge High School before going on to study medicine at the University. After working as a junior doctor, she returned to Prestonpans as an assistant in general practice. She married in 1957 and moved south, working as a locum GP in Liverpool before taking up a part-time post in the School Health Service in 1965. In 1968, Pierce was appointed head of A&E at Alder Hey Children's Hospital, a post she maintained until 1977. She again took on locum sessions from 1978, returning to work full-time, combining sessions as a GP and various roles at Alder Hey. By this point in her career, Pierce was involved in child protection work, appearing as an expert witness in child protection hearings and criminal prosecutions. She also undertook some research and lectured on child abuse, publishing several papers with colleagues. Pierce was a member of the Liverpool Medical Institution, the Liverpool Medical-Legal Society, and was an active member of the Graduates' Association for many years. She retired as a GP in 1982, and from Alder Hey in 1991, but continued to work as a Forensic Medical Examiner for the Merseyside Police, retiring from this post in 1997.

Zhu Min Soh, Medical Undergraduate: 31 May 2017, in Edinburgh, aged

23, following a cycling accident at Edinburgh's West End. From Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, where she studied at the International Medical School, she came to Edinburgh in 2015 to continue and complete her medical education. She is remembered as a talented and thoughtful student, well-liked and respected by her peers, and always keen to help other people. She was described by one of her tutors as 'a bright star of the future'.

James Haldane Tait BL 1952: 9 April 2020, aged 89. Born on 8 January 1931

in Leith, he was educated at George Heriot's School before studying Law at the University. Tait underwent National Service from 1952 to 1954 as a Lieutenant in the Education Department of the RAF. While posted to Seaton Snook on Teesside, he became involved with the work of West Hartlepool Scouts. On returning to Edinburgh, he contributed to the work of the 7th Leith Scouts, going on to become Group Scout Leader and receipt of the prestigious award of the Silver Wolf. Tait commenced his solicitor's apprenticeship with Shepherd and Wedderburn and then moved on to apprentice at Gray Millar and Carmichael SSC. When qualified, he joined the family firm of GW Tait & Sons SSC, which had been founded by his great uncles. In 1985, Tait joined Kilgour McNeill and Sime, and then went on to Robson MacLean. While there, he also served as Temporary Sheriff and, from 1987 to 1991, along with David Lamb SSC, Honorary Secretary of UEGA, served as Joint Auditor of Edinburgh Sheriff Court. Tait was an enthusiastic member of the SSC

Society from 1967 and served as its Librarian from 1985 to 1990. He was a council member of the Law Society of Scotland and a member of its Legal Aid Central Committee. Tait served as Editor of the *Journal of the Law Society of Scotland* until 1991. After private practice, he became Auditor of the Court of Session from 1991 to 1998.

Thomas Anthony ('Tony') Wadrop MBChB 1967: August 2019, in Middlesbrough. Born in Middlesbrough in 1942, he attended St Mary's Marist College before coming to Edinburgh, where he sang with the University Glee Club. After graduation, he did house jobs at the Western General, Eastern General, and Leith Hospitals, and then in Middlesbrough General and Parkside Maternity Hospitals prior to moving into general practice in Normanby, Middlesbrough in 1970. From 1978 to 1984, Wadrop was a primary care physician in Saudi Arabia, looking after Saudi military forces and their families. He took his own family with him, enjoying camping trips to the Red Sea in his Toyota Land Cruiser and many other outdoor activities. He returned in July 1984, driving with his family through Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Syria, Turkey, Greece, Yugoslavia, Austria, Germany, Belgium, and back into the UK. Here he worked for a local GP's out-of-hours service while establishing a single-handed general practice in Coulby Newham, Middlesbrough. He was also a police surgeon and a RAF and Army recruitment medical officer, retiring in 2012.

Roland (Rolly) York BSc (Aberdeen) BEd (Aberdeen): 2 April 2020, in Edinburgh, aged 94. Born on 23 September 1925 in Hawarden, Flintshire, his family moved to Handbridge, Chester, where he was educated at the local Church of England primary school. Here, York won a scholarship to the King's School in Chester, after which he undertook officer training with the Royal Artillery. York was posted to India during the Suez Canal incident, was quickly promoted to Captain, and was seconded to the Indian Artillery. Demobbed in 1947, York enrolled at Aberdeen University, where he studied Geography and Education. While teaching at Powis Junior Secondary School, he auditioned for the Lyric Opera Company, going on to appear in several productions. In 1958, he was appointed Assistant Psychologist with the Education Department's Child Guidance Service in Merchiston Park. He joined the Edinburgh Graduate Theatre Group (EGTG), the Merry Widow theatre group, and performed in several shows for the Southern Light Opera Company. York was then offered the post as Senior Psychologist for the Child Guidance Service in the Borders, and joined both the Edinburgh University Savoy Opera Group (EUSOG) and, with Robert Heath, began the University Gilbert & Sullivan Society. He went on to become Deputy Principal Educational Psychologist for the Lothian Region Education Department, retiring in 1990 as Regional Psychologist. York continued to appear with a number of theatre companies, including EGTG, SLO, the Edinburgh Grand Opera Company, the Edinburgh Music Theatre, the Edinburgh Gilbert & Sullivan Society, and the Edinburgh Choir.

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Contributions are welcomed from members and from all University staff, students and alumni, as well as from external authors with an interest in the University, and should have a connection with the University. Articles should be 2,500 words in length, but shorter and longer ones may exceptionally be considered. Reviews (of books, journals, CDs, or DVDs associated with the University) should be 750 words, and notes for obituaries 150 words; items for review should be sent to the editorial address below. Copy deadlines are normally 31 March for Summer issues and 30 September for Winter issues; later ones will exceptionally be agreed in advance by the Editor.

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