

Journal of the Sydney Society for Scottish History



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Patron: Emeritus Professor Michael Lynch, University of Edinburgh

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INTRODUCTION

The Journal has now been in existence since 1993, so as we reach the eleventh issue some form of celebration seems in order, particularly since one of the long-term aims of the Society, promoting the appointment of a professor to the Chair in Celtic studies, should shortly be realised. The Geoffrey Farrow Prize continues to be awarded at the University of Sydney and Celtic language teaching there struggles on. Filling the chair should help here.

There have been many changes in society —and to our Society —in those nearly fifteen years. The Journal has now a modest reputation amongst Australian scholars and particularly amongst Scots in the community at large and it may now be time to consider ways of drawing it to the attention of the wider world in a period when revolutionary new technology is making hard copy less necessary. Increasingly, ‘Googling’ or otherwise accessing the Web produces the titles of articles available through one or another online system that archives academic journals, such as JSTOR, Project MUSE and Thomson Gale. Set up in the mid 1990s mainly in the USA, these companies are increasingly being used by libraries who buy packages that enable them to obtain online access to articles in leading journals without the problems of purchasing the hard copies and cataloguing them. The companies are selective about the journals they will accept and the Journal of the SSSH would be on the cusp of acceptability. The minimum requirements would be for us to establish that we are a well known and peer reviewed journal. But if the Royal Australian Historical Society Journal is acceptable, as it is, we could aspire to be the same. Otherwise the alternative may be for us to dwindle into a very local journal.

An alternative way of promoting our journal and our articles would be to establish a Sydney Society for Scottish History website and initially to make our publications known (and available) through this. All we need is a competent IT enthusiast to set it up. Updating it thereafter is I am assured a snip.

The articles in this volume are provided by well-known members of the Society, Val Smith, the long time secretary, Matthew Glozier, now happily returned from a spell in Canberra, John Coombs who continues to pursue his musical interests and Sybil Jack. It has a Highland theme that should appeal to the clans, particularly those of the West coast.

We express our gratitude to Dr Stella St Clair Kendall who kindly stepped in to assist with the editing when our editor was prevented for family reasons.

Malcolm Broun,

President

May 2007