

PROCEEDINGS
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of Scotland



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LAWS OF THE SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES OF SCOTLAND, INSTITUTED
NOVEMBER 1780 AND INCORPORATED BY ROYAL CHARTER, 6 MAY 1783

- 1 The purpose of the Society shall be the study of the ANTIQUITIES AND HISTORY OF SCOTLAND, more especially by means of Archaeological Research.
- 2 The Society shall consist of Fellows and Honorary Fellows.
- 3 Candidates for admission as Fellows must sign the Form of Application prescribed by the Council, and must be sponsored by a Fellow. Admission shall be by ballot. In the case of candidates not resident in the United Kingdom, it shall be open to the Council after consideration of the circumstances to waive the necessity for a sponsor.
- 4 Council shall cause the names of the Candidates and their Sponsors to be circulated to all Fellows at least ten days before the date of the meeting at which a ballot is to be held. Fellows may vote against any candidate by striking out the name from the list and returning the list to the Society before the meeting or placing the list in the Ballot Box before the meeting commences. Candidates receiving ten or more adverse votes will be balloted for individually at the meeting, and any candidate then receiving less than two-thirds of the votes shall not be admitted.
- 5 Honorary Fellows shall consist of persons eminent in any branch of antiquarian study, who must be recommended by the Council and elected in the same way as Fellows; they shall not be liable for any fee for admission or annual subscription. The number of Honorary Fellows shall not exceed twenty-five.
- 6 Corresponding Members must be recommended by the Council and elected in the same way as Fellows. They shall not be liable for a fee for admission or annual subscription. This Law is now repealed.
- 7 Before the name of a newly elected candidate is added to the list of Fellows, he or she shall pay to the funds of the Society an entrance fee and the current year's subscription as provided for by Law 8.
- 8 Rates of entrance fee and annual subscription shall be determined by the Council as required from time to time subject to the approval of the Society given at a General Meeting. The annual subscription shall become due on 1st July in each year for that year then beginning; and if any Fellow who has not compounded shall fail to pay the subscription for one year, due application having been made for payment, the Treasurer shall report the same to Council, by whose authority the name of the defaulter may be erased from the List of Fellows. Fellows whose membership has lapsed, and who wish to rejoin the Society, may do so either (1) by payment of all arrears of subscription – in which case they shall receive the relative volumes of the Proceedings, if still available – or (2) on payment of the subscription for the current year and of the entrance fee.
- 9 Every Fellow not being in arrears of the annual subscription shall be entitled to receive the printed Proceedings of the Society from the date of election.
- 10 None but Fellows shall vote or hold any office in the Society.
- 11 Subject to the Laws and to the control of the Society in General Meetings, the affairs of the Society shall be managed by a Council elected and appointed as hereinafter set forth. Five members of the Council shall constitute a quorum, provided that number includes one Office-bearer and one elected member of Council.
- 12 The Office-bearers shall consist of a President, three Vice Presidents, and a Treasurer. The Presidents and the Vice Presidents shall be elected for a period of three years. One of the Vice

Presidents shall retire annually by rotation, and shall not be eligible for re-election to the same office until one year has elapsed. The Treasurer shall be elected for one year and shall be eligible for re-election. The elections shall be by ballot at the Annual General Meetings upon a list issued by the Council for that purpose to the Fellows at least fourteen days before the meeting.

- 13 The Council shall consist of the Office-bearers, twelve Fellows elected by the Society, the Chairman of the North-East Section, the Conveners of the Programme, Publication, Research, Heritage and Finance and Administration Committees if not already elected members, the Society representative on the Ancient Monuments Board (nominated by the Secretary of State for Scotland) and a representative of the National Museums of Scotland who is already a Fellow of the Society (nominated by the Board of Trustees).
- 14 Four of the twelve elected members of Council shall retire annually by rotation, and shall not be eligible for re-election as ordinary members of Council until one year has elapsed. Vacancies among the elected members of Council and Office-bearers occurring by completion of term of office, by retirement on rotation, by resignation, death or otherwise, shall be filled by election at the Annual General Meeting, or, in the case of the Treasurer, at any earlier meeting of the Society as decided by the Council. The election shall be by ballot, as provided for by Law 12.
- 15 The Council may appoint committees or individuals to advise on or to take charge of particular departments of the Society's business. Individuals who are not Fellows and Fellows who are not members of the Council shall be eligible for these duties.
- 16 The Annual General Meeting of the Society shall take place on St Andrew's Day, 30 November, or on the following day if the 30th be a Sunday. The business of the Annual General Meeting shall be notified to Fellows at least fourteen days before the day of the meeting.
- 17 The Council shall have the power to call Extraordinary General Meetings when they see cause. At least fourteen days notice of an Extraordinary General Meeting shall be given to Fellows.
- 18 Meetings of the Society, termed Ordinary Meetings, shall be held on such dates and at such places as may be determined by the Council. A minimum of six meetings, in addition to the Annual General Meeting provided for in Law 16, shall be held in each year.
- 19 Every proposal for altering the Laws must be made through the Council, which shall cause intimation thereof to be made to all the Fellows at least thirty days before the General Meeting at which it is to be determined on.

Editorial

Volume 130 is the last in a series of double volumes of the *Proceedings* and brings to a close the record of the Society's work in the 1990s. This was an extraordinary decade for Scottish antiquarian studies, with unprecedented numbers of events, conferences, fieldwork projects and publications. It is an indication of the good health of our discipline that all sectors, amateur and professional alike, can boast a share in this work.

The Society continues to play a premier role in this diverse and busy theatre, maintaining at once a strong independence and continuing engagements with all players, through its committees, meetings, events and publications. The breadth of these engagements is seen not least in the pages of the *Proceedings*. The diversity of contributors, of period and of subject has been a strong feature of all recent volumes, where finely polished scholarly essays have come to print in company with reports on large and complex excavations. Indeed, it is no exaggeration to say that the six double volumes represent a kind of heroic passage for the Society, not only in the sheer quantity of new writing but also in its variety, extending from earliest prehistory to the material culture of the early modern period.

This new writing, however, has not all described new work. Though it would come to include much else, the double-volume series was initiated in collaboration with Historic Scotland to discharge a backlog of unpublished archaeological excavations largely of the 1970s and 80s, most of which had been sponsored by the State. This was more than a matter of good housekeeping. Many of these reports described large-scale excavations on sites of the first importance. The Society is grateful to Historic Scotland for the financial support made available for the series, but also to individual inspectors for their energy, pragmatism and commitment in re-animating old projects and enabling the results of these to be brought at last into public view.

The end of the double-volume series signals a change in the character of this rich mix. The results of excavations and other archaeological fieldwork will continue to be published, but some of these reports will appear as illustrated summaries rather than as fully detailed accounts. This change has been made possible by an important innovation — a digital publication series called *Scottish Archaeological Internet Reports (SAIR)*, available online at www.sair.org.uk. Again, in this project, the Society is a principal collaborator with Historic Scotland, joined this time by the Council for British Archaeology, the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland and the Archaeology Data Service.

SAIR was launched in the Spring of 2001 with a pilot report by Gordon Ewart, describing excavations in the south range of Dundrennan Abbey, Dumfries & Galloway. The mailing list for the *Proceedings* itself has always seen volumes arrive in far-flung places, across Europe and North America in particular, but, with the advent of *SAIR* on the World Wide Web, the Society may truly be said to have made its publications available to an international readership. In adapting to changing times and new media, and in continuing to publish monographs as well as its *Proceedings*, the Society retains a central role in the publication of Scottish archaeological and historical studies.

Finally, Volume 130 of the *Proceedings* also heralds a change in personnel and is the last to be produced by the present Editor. This has been a large honour as well as a large responsibility, for which the writer, as ever, is grateful to the Fellows and officers of the Society, and most especially to our former President and Editor, Dr Anna Ritchie, whose support was invaluable in bringing this final double volume to press.

Jerry O'Sullivan
September 2001