

ANNIVERSARY MEETING

Minutes of the Anniversary Meeting of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland held on 1 December 2003 in the Lecture Theatre, Royal Museum of Scotland. Miss Lisbeth Thoms, President, in the Chair. The President welcomed Fellows to the meeting. The Minutes of the meeting of 10 November 2003 were read and approved. Mr Ian Shepherd, Mrs Lesley Ferguson and Mr Andrew Dunwell having been appointed as scrutineers, the Ballots were closed.

The Director, Mrs Fionna Ashmore, read the following

DIRECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT 2002–3

This Annual report inevitably can only be a résumé of the Society's activities and the plain unspun account of events and listing of achievements might seem, in this era of hyperbole, to minimize the amount of work and effort that lies behind each event, meeting and achievement. We hope that every Fellow involved with the Society will appreciate the scholarly work carried on in their names, on their behalf and often with their deep involvement.

MEMBERSHIP

The Fellowship of the Society now stands at 3414 . In the past year 162 Fellows have taken up election, or been reinstated; 209 names have been removed from the Roll due to death, lapse of subscription or resignation. There are, at present, 21 Honorary Fellows.

MEETINGS & EVENTS

The Society remains committed, as one of the most significant aspects of its work, to the public presentation of scholarly work; to Fellows through our usual Lecture meetings; to experts and scholars through specialist seminars and academic conferences; and to the wider public through our open events. There continue to be special events for Fellows, who also enjoy preferential rates for open events.

It is perhaps worth reminding Fellows that we state in our literature that ‘the Society today is concerned with every aspect of the human past in Scotland’ and the proof of this is reflected across the spectrum of our activities from the Research awards through publications and is most publicly demonstrated in our conferences, seminars and meetings. The Society is receiving increased recognition for its role in conference and seminar organization, and we have hosted and borne the brunt of the organization of various conferences jointly with other bodies including the Neolithic Studies Group, Historic Scotland’s Ancient Monuments and Technical, Conservation, Research & Education Divisions, the Prehistoric Society, and the National Trust for Scotland.

The Society has held a full programme of activities this session. Nine Lecture meetings were held between December 2002 and November 2003. As well these ‘ordinary’ lecture meetings for Fellows only, the session included lectures jointly with the Friends of the National Museums of Scotland and the Historical Association, and the Lindsay Fischer Lecture. The Society also grant-aided a Buchan lecture on Scottish–Irish connections held in Kilmarnock.

Conferences

This was a highly charged session as far as conferences were concerned. A three day international conference *Scotland in Ancient Europe: the Neolithic and Early Bronze Age of Scotland in their European Context*, took place on 14–16 March 2003. This was a significant and scholarly event which continued the successful pattern established by the Mesolithic conference of 1999, during which an important segment of Scottish prehistory was examined from a perspective that was firmly western European in origin. Papers were solicited from scholars selected by a panel appointed by the Society to develop the conference, and were cross-cutting, drawing on relevant material from Ireland, Great Britain and western Europe. The event also provided an opportunity for British Archaeology to salute the work of the late Stuart Piggott whose *Ancient Europe* and *Neolithic Cultures of the British Isles* remain seminal publications. The papers delivered both at this conference and the Mesolithic conference of 1999 are in an advanced state of preparation and will be published early in the forthcoming session.

The annual *Archaeological Research in Progress* conference – this year organized by the Society – took place in May under the overarching theme of the archaeology of buildings, from burial houses to boathouses. Examples ranged chronologically from the Mesolithic to the 19th century, and geographically from Orkney in the north to Lanarkshire and East Lothian in the south, and from west to east coast, and covered a large spectrum in terms of use and social status.

In September the Society was delighted to celebrate, jointly with the National Trust for Scotland, the tenth anniversary of the appointment of the first archaeologist to the Trust’s staff by holding the joint conference *Ten Years of Archaeology in the National Trust for Scotland*.

In November we held another celebratory conference, jointly with Historic Scotland in the Carnegie Hall, Dunfermline: *Royal Dunfermline 1093–1603*. We were delighted that this was opened by the Minister for Tourism Culture, and Sport, Frank McAveety MSP and honoured that delegates were welcomed to the event by the Lord Lieutenant for Fife. The Society was most grateful for the enthusiastic support from the local community and heritage bodies, especially the Dunfermline Heritage Trust. This was the second in a series outside Edinburgh (the first having been *The Declaration of Arbroath* conference in 2001) intended to involve local participants and we hope that funds will allow us, as was the case with the Arbroath conference, to publish the proceedings.

Rhind Lectures

The Rhind Lectures for 2003, delivered by Professor Tim Ingold, continued the pattern of recent years of attracting a large and committed audience. As with Professor Renfrew’s and Professor Cunliffe’s lectures in previous years the audience contained a large proportion of non-Fellows and members of the general public from all over Britain. Professor Ingold, a renowned and distinguished anthropologist, produced an extremely intellectually challenging set of Rhinds; we are delighted that he has agreed to publish these with us, foregoing royalties, rather than through one of his usual publishers. Quite apart from the academic

prestige that reflects favourably on the Society, the value of public lectures of this calibre in promoting the Society to the public cannot be overestimated.

Recent acquisitions meeting, Granton

This event, specifically for Fellows, was a sell-out success and Fellows enjoyed an eye-opening afternoon 'behind the scenes' at Granton. These 'recent acquisitions' meetings re-emphasize and strengthen the links between the Society and the Museum and we are always most grateful to the curators involved for giving up a Saturday afternoon; in this case we must record our special thanks to the Granton staff for providing excellent refreshments.

Excursions

The 2003 Excursions to the Antonine Wall took place in June, on successive weekends; the itineraries were mirror images of each other (although this cannot be said of the two leaders, Professor Breeze –who led the excursion on 7 June from Edinburgh and Professor Keppie the following weekend starting from Glasgow). These two leaders both provided an inspirational day for Fellows and their guests, and opened the eyes of many, whom although Central Belt residents, had never explored the Antonine Wall. The Society and the Museum have historic links with research on the Wall and it was entirely appropriate that the enthusiasm of Fellows should be rekindled by these two leading authorities. The excellent weather and the immortalization of the trips by a German film crew added to the atmosphere. The Anniversary meeting lecture this year will also tie in with the Antonine Wall theme.

EDUCATION

The Society fully recognizes the importance of the role of education in archaeology and to that end we continue to grant-aid the work of the CSA's Young Archaeologists' Clubs. Our Heritage Assistant, Ruth, who has now left for the north, will continue to act as the leader of the YAC, Heriot branch until the end of 2003.

THE NORTH-EAST SECTION ANNUAL REPORT (OCTOBER 2002–SEPTEMBER 2003)

As in previous years the lecture programme followed that in Edinburgh, including the Lindsay-Fischer lecture in November by Gisle Jakhell. Until December lectures were held in Marischal Museum, University of Aberdeen, after which they transferred to the Regent Building because of potential building works around the museum. The lecture programme was followed by three excursions during the summer. These were a walk along the old Deeside railway line led by Anne Taylor, a follow-up visit to last year's visit to Pictish stones in Angus, this time led by Jane Geddes, and a visit to the excavations of the Seaton pottery in Aberdeen, being undertaken by the City of Aberdeen archaeological unit.

Membership of the Section stands at 322. The committee elected in May 2003 was:

Peter Murray (Chairman); Kevin Edwards (Vice-Chairman); Neil Curtis (Secretary); Paul Pillath (Treasurer); Frank Donnelly; Jane Geddes; Robert Gray; Bill Nicolaisen; Ian Shepherd; Judith Stones; and Anne Taylor.

SOCIETY RESEARCH GRANTS AWARDED FOR 2003

The grant-aiding of research remains one of the most important areas of the Society's activities in accordance with Law 1, 'The purpose of the Society shall be the Study of the Antiquities and History of Scotland, more particularly by means of archaeological research'.

Reports on the work carried out are supplied by recipients at the end of the year and are held in the Society's office, or placed in the NMS Library, as appropriate. It is a condition of grant that there is full

compliance with current Scottish Treasure Trove legislation and that reports on fieldwork and related projects are presented for publication in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* published annually by the Council for Scottish Archaeology. The Society also invites recipients of grants, when appropriate, to publicize the results of their work at the Archaeological Research in Progress Conference.

A Young Fellow's bursary was awarded to Dr K Forsyth to allow her to attend and deliver a paper at the 12th International Celtic Conference.

The following awards were made for 2003; these include awards split between the George MacDonald Bequest, the Gunning Jubilee Gift, the Angus Graham Bequest, and the general research funds (which includes monies from the Dorothy Marshall Bequest): Dr J H Barrett for the Zooarchaeology of Sand Project; Professor A Fleming, for the St Kilda Project: manuport and stone artefact survey; Dr A M Gibson for his study on the miniature vessels of the Bronze Age in Scotland; Mr G Haggarty, for his work on French Pottery in Scotland 1150–1650; Professor C C Haselgrove for the Traprain Law Environs project Phase 2; Mr H M D Jones of the EAFS for the Harken Burn Castlehill Survey; Dr R E Jones for high-precision chemical analysis of steatite from Shetland and Norway; Mr B Knox and the Peebleshire Archaeological Society for the Eddleston Parish Survey; Dr M MacLeod for the Severe Terrain Archaeological Campaign (STAC); Dr P F Martin for the Sound of Mull survey: a maritime landscape: Phase 2 – Fish Traps; Miss T Poller for the Wigtownshire Iron Age Landscape Project; Dr J Rendall for her study, 'The reputation of William Cullen (1710–90): gender politics and medicine c 1780–1860'; Dr J A Sheridan for the Dating Cremated Bones project; Mr R Toolis, for the Carghidown Promontary Fort Evaluation; Dr D J Woolliscroft for excavation at East Coldoch.

Information and a downloadable application form relevant to Research and other Grants are available on our website. Detailed conditions appear on the application forms. All valid applications are considered fully by the Research Committee.

PUBLICATIONS

Fellows will have been fully updated on the publications activities in the September 2003 Newsletter and this is therefore a brief report.

Proceedings

Volume 132, the second volume under the editorship of Dr Gordon Barclay, was published in September; we congratulate him on the new double column format and production values, and of course also all the authors whose work fills the volume. The Society reiterates the statement that we hope one of the commonest and most frustrating misperceptions about the *Proceedings* – that it is dedicated primarily, if not exclusively, to the publication of archaeological excavation reports – will be dispelled by volume 132, which contains a wide range of material. As ever we urge historians to offer us material.

Monographs

Four monographs were published during the session. Three were produced under the auspices of Alexandra Shepherd, the retiring Monograph Series Editor: *Excavations at Roman Cramond; Kings and Warriors, Craftsmen and Priests; Stone of Destiny: artefact and icon*, the last two of these being sumptuously produced volumes. We are most grateful to the following for generous grant-aid: the Strathmartine Trust; the Russell Trust; The Hunter Trust; the City of Edinburgh Council; the Friends of Edinburgh City Art Centre and Museums; and, of course, Historic Scotland, whose generosity allowed us to keep the price of the Stone of Destiny volume to an accessible level. We paid tribute to Mrs Shepherd at the last Anniversary meeting and these last volumes will stand as a memorial to her dedicated work. A fourth monograph, *Abbotsford and Sir Walter Scott: the Image and the Influence*, was published under the management of Alison Rae, our new publications production manager and we are delighted that this, the first of her volumes, has proved to be a strong seller, attracting interest and purchasers from outside our normal range.

Scottish Archaeological Internet Reports (SAIR)

As promised, six reports in the pilot project have now been published. As Fellows will know this new series, initiated and funded by Historic Scotland, (<http://www.sair.org.uk> or via our own website) is intended in the first instance to be a vehicle for publishing final reports on archaeological excavation and fieldwork funded by Historic Scotland, with the objective of making the results available more widely, more rapidly, and less expensively than has often been the case with conventional printing. We congratulate both Colin Wallace, the SAIR managing editor for his dedication, and Historic Scotland for their vision.

As previously indicated, Fellows are encouraged to view the reports on screen as well as the outline, 'About the SAIR Pilot'. Responses on any aspect will be warmly welcomed. As indicated in SAIR 1 these should be submitted direct by e-mail to feedback@sair.org.uk

The Newsletter

Two issues of the Newsletter were produced and circulated in February and September 2003, both 12 pages in length. We were delighted to have included fascinating contributions by various Fellows.

Proceedings Scanning Project

Dr Barclay gave a report on this innovative project in the September Newsletter; since then the *Proceedings* have come online and there has been almost ecstatic feedback. We look forward to the next stage – that of making the complete run of the *Proceedings* available on a set of CDs.

As far as we are aware the Society is the first archaeological or antiquarian society to make its entire back-run of journals (from 1782 in our case) available, at no cost to scholars, in electronic format. This is something of which the Society can be justifiably proud and we are indebted to Dr Gordon Barclay for his vision, enthusiasm, focus and expertise in seeing this project through in such a short period.

OTHER WORK OF THE SOCIETY

The Committees: as well as the obvious public activities of the Society – publication of the *Proceedings*, the Monographs, the Lecture Programme and the various Day Conferences and other events – the Society continues to do considerable work through its five committees: Finance & Administration; Programme; Publications, Research & Heritage, all of which have been active both behind the scenes and in some cases in the public gaze.

The Publications Committee and Editorial Board, under the Convenership of Alan Saville, has dealt with and considered matters relating to publications (other than the Newsletter) and with both Editors consider all submissions for publication with the Society in the *Proceedings* and Monograph Series. The workload of the Committee has been heavy this year.

The Research Committee under the Convenership of Ian Shepherd, as well as considering and allocating the Society Research Grants, is also responsible for a series of international conferences in which an important segment of Scottish prehistory is examined from a perspective that is firmly western European in origin. A most successful conference, *Scotland In Ancient Europe: the Neolithic and Early Bronze Age of Scotland in their European Context*, took place in March..

The Heritage Committee, convened by the Director, advised the Council on, and members represented the Society at, a large number of events as well as being involved with the activities of other bodies or link groups. Through this Committee the Society responds to relevant government and other initiatives and this year dedicated time and resources to commenting on the Historic Environment Advisory Council for Scotland (HEACS), the successor body to the Ancient Monuments Board and the Historic Buildings Council. The President has already commented, directly to the Minister, on the extraordinary fact that there was not a single appointee to the Council with archaeological expertise. Nonetheless, the Society wishes HEACS well and an informal meeting between the President and the Chair has taken place.

The Society has also responded to the Scottish Executive's 'quinquennial' review of Historic Scotland and was interviewed by the outside consultants conducting it.

Thanks must be recorded to our representatives on various bodies; especially our representative on the Ancient Monuments Board, Jill Harden who retired in May; Dr Jane Murray, our representative on the National Trust for Scotland, and Robin Turner, our representative on the Scottish Environment Link and depute representative on the Built Environment Forum for Scotland.

The Society has withdrawn from its membership of Scottish Environment Link (although we will continue to be represented via membership of CSA and we are contributing 25% of the cost of CSA's membership of SELink).

THE WEBSITE <http://www.socantscot.org>

Last year it was hoped that 'this will increasingly become the first port of call for Fellows and members of the public. Research grant application forms can now be downloaded; new monographs and publications are publicized and events highlighted'. This hope seem to have been fulfilled as was shown by the number of phone-calls received when the site was down for a weekend. We hope Fellows will continue to check out the site on a regular basis – events and new publications will sometimes be announced on the web before notices are posted to Fellows. We are working on having a secure Fellows' area.

ADMINISTRATION

The future of the Society

During the Session, Council have been considering the future of the Society and have looked into the workings of the Society. A number of decisions were taken, although it is worth stressing that it was (reassuringly) not thought necessary to suggest any radical changes of direction – rather to play to our strengths and improve on the services and activities we already provide. We hope, however, to be able to devote more time to dealing with Fellowship matters, as well as improving the IT which will make some aspects of administration less time-consuming. Council have also made the decision that my successor as Director may be formally appointed on a full-time basis, which will allow for an increase in this and perhaps other aspects of the Society's activities. Our publications have also moved up another gear and again, although some initial investment is required, we will soon be moving onto a sound self-sustaining footing with the welcome assistance and support of relevant grant-giving bodies.

We have already taken the first step towards implementing some suggested changes and investing in the future of the Society by, as you will be aware from the Newsletter, upgrading our IT facilities; we have moved off the NMS network and e-mail systems, as requested by the Director of the NMS and now have our own independent network and e-mail system. We have also, as our part-time staff increase, upgraded more basic office equipment such as desks and chairs – in some cases to comply with health and safety requirements. There has been some cost, but it should be emphasized that this is an investment.

The office

There have been changes in the Office: Mrs Fionna Ashmore continues as Director; Mrs Maureen McLeod as Assistant Treasurer; Mrs Morvern Hardie as the Administrative Assistant; we welcomed Alison Rae as publications production manager in late 2002 and bade farewell in August to Ruth Lancaster, who has moved to Moray. Ruth's position is under review and will not be filled until a new Director is in place; we are grateful to Lorna Flynn, who is working for us on a temporary basis for one day per week. Dr Gordon Barclay continues as the *Proceedings* Editor, and Colin Wallace the managing Editor for SAIR also carries out his task from the office. As always we would remind Fellows that as all staff work part-time, Fellows, who are always welcome to visit us, are urged to ring ahead before visiting.

For mailings, we are always grateful for the voluntary help provided by our dedicated, group of envelope fillers, not all of whom are Fellows: Alastair and Dinah Adamson; Alan Calder; Maurice Carmichael;

Patrick and Mary Cave-Browne; Elizabeth Ferro; Joan Fleming; Audrey Henshall; Margaret Hilton; Davy Jones; Alan MacLean; Bob Marks; Gordon Maxwell; Rosemary Meldrum; John Merilees; Eva Mitchell; Dr Jean Munro; Jane Murray; Anna Ritchie; Tom Sharp; John Sherriff, Gordon Shiach; Mary Smallwood; and Twin Watkins.

THE SOCIETY AND THE MUSEUM

With the major upheavals in the administration of the National Museums and the frequent change in NMS personnel we took the opportunity, at the invitation of the new NMS Director, to discuss the parameters of the Society's relationship with the NMS; it is all too easy in the present climate for new administrators to overlook or be unaware of the historic links between our organizations. In discussion, we reached some very satisfactory conclusions; although [at the time of writing] these have yet to be formalized in writing by the NMS, it is likely that the Society's position is to be more prominently acknowledged in NMS day-to-day publicity, for instance events such as the Rhinds will be jointly 'badged' and the Society will in turn acknowledge the support of the NMS in its own publicity material. New charging structures for venues in the NMS gave us cause for concern but we have had reassurances that events such as our lecture meetings will be looked at as a special case. We much appreciate this but it is likely that we will have to pass on costs by increasing our charges for tickets for some other events.

We are delighted that the 'gentleman's agreement' over Society accommodation is to remain, and we much appreciate this benefit in kind. We would urge Fellows to increase their visits and use of the NMS Library facilities. I would suggest that Fellows use the comment sheets available at the entrances to the Museum to help in keeping the profile of their visits high.

Thanks are due, as ever, to the National Museums of Scotland and their staff for their help. As well as the Curatorial and Directorate staff we are grateful to those members of the Museum staff who help with arrangements behind the scenes, especially Carolyn Wildy, Kathleen Coultherd, and Ella Blyth and her assistants. The irreplaceable Ella Blyth, the mailroom *suprema*, left the NMS in August – we are grateful to her assistants who are carrying on in her footsteps. The Information Desk staff, the Housemen and Messengers who are unstinting in their help with the many deliveries to and from the Society and to the Visitor Service and Security staff who are involved in all our meetings. Special thanks are due to all members of the NMS Library staff for their patience and help both to the Society staff and to Fellows. As ever, very particular thanks are due to Grant MacRae and Chris Dawson whose services as projectionists at our meetings, seminars and conferences, contribute so enormously to the smooth running of events.

I would also like to extend the annual very sincere thanks to the members of staff of the Archaeology Department of the National Museums who, as ever, have all supported and assisted the Society this year.

DIRECTOR'S THANKS

A personal thanks must go to the dedicated Society staff: the Assistant Treasurer, Maureen McLeod; the Administrative Assistant, Morvern Hardie; the Society's *Proceedings* Editor, Gordon Barclay; Colin Wallace, the SAIR managing Editor; Alison Rae, publications production manager; and Ruth Lancaster, the Publication and Heritage Assistant who left in August.

In this, my last Annual Report, I would like to thank you, the Fellows, for your support of the Society; it has been a pleasure and a privilege to become involved with you as well as with the Council, office-bearers and staff over the last 11 years. To repeat my constant refrain: the Society owes an enormous debt of gratitude to all those who take on the burden of sitting on Council and the Committees and helping us with events. The dedicated voluntary contribution over the years by so many, one would have thought overburdened, individuals is extremely impressive and is perhaps one of the most outstanding features of this Society and I cannot sufficiently express my thanks, and I hope that of the Fellowship, to the President and the Treasurer, the Vice-Presidents and the Conveners of the Committees.

The Treasurer, Miss Naomi Tarrant, then read the following Treasurer's Report

TREASURER'S REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2003

REVIEW OF THE YEAR

The Society's Income and Expenditure Account showed a deficit [£7986] for the year under review. The increase in subscriptions also resulted in a similar increase in the taxation recoverable from Fellows subject to UK income tax who have kindly gift-aided the amounts which they pay. The *Proceedings General Index* covering volumes 106 to 126 for the years 1974–96 was published at a cost of £12,438 in the financial year. The Society had undertaken to publish this index several years ago.

At 30 June 2003 the value of the Unrestricted Funds, excluding the unrealized losses on investment valuation movements during the year, was £303,103, representing more than 1.8 times the annual expenditure of £165,290 (£177,728 less non recurrent item £12,438). The deficit in working capital has decreased from £69,486 to £48,232; however, it should be noted that no investments are included in the working capital figures.

INVESTMENTS

The Investments are managed by Bank of Scotland Portfolio Management Services, who provide a half-yearly review together with quarterly valuations. In addition the Investment Adviser attends half yearly meetings of the Finance & Administration Committee to provide an oral report and portfolio valuation, and also to answer questions. The objective is to have a balanced portfolio subject to a medium degree of risk. There are no specific investment restrictions or limitations applied to the portfolio. Recently there has been a tentative increase in corporate activity supporting a return of confidence to the markets. Gross income is expected to be around 4.58 per cent in the forthcoming year.

PUBLICATIONS

In September 2003 volume 132 of the *Proceedings*, relating to the Society's activities in the year ending 30 November 2003, was published. Full provision for its publication costs was made in the accounts for the year ended 30 June 2003. Portable Document Format (PDF) files for Proceedings published more than five years ago have been created and are available online.

Four new Monographs were produced during the year, and again the Society was fortunate to receive significant grants towards these publications. The net cost of marketing and publication was £8631. When Monograph sales exceed costs, 75 per cent of the surplus has been returned to the major grant-making body after making a deduction to cover a proportion of the sales administration costs.

RESEARCH

Research grants were very slightly lower in total, although 15 grants were awarded this year as opposed to 12 in the previous year. The Research Committee meets annually in March to consider all applications, with final approval being passed by Council. Full provision for all approved awards is made in the accounts.

WEBSITE

The Society's computer systems continue to be upgraded and I am pleased to report that the website is fully operational and is updated regularly. In September 2003 the Society acquired its own e-mail and network server.

RISK ASSESSMENT

The major risks to which the Society is exposed, in particular those relating to the operations and finances of the Society, have been identified and reviewed by Council. Council are satisfied that systems have been established to mitigate exposure to these risks.

APPRECIATION

I should like to express my thanks to: the Convener of the Finance & Administration Committee, Mr Humphrey Holmes; the Treasurer of the North-East Section, Mr Paul Pillath; Mr Graham Miller of Bank of Scotland Portfolio Management Services; and Mrs Maureen McLeod the Assistant Treasurer, for their assistance and guidance throughout the year. The Society's thanks must also be recorded to Historic Scotland and others for their generosity in the provision of grants towards publications and conferences.

COPIES OF THE ACCOUNTS

Copies of the full audited accounts of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland 2002–2003 are available to any Fellow or other interested party on application to the Society's office, at a cost of £2 each (in the UK and Europe; £4 elsewhere) to cover production and postage.

The Director's and the Treasurer's reports were formally approved by the Fellows.

PROCEEDINGS EDITOR'S REPORT

Dr Gordon Barclay, *Proceedings* Editor delivered the following Report

I hope you will all have seen volume 132 of the *Proceedings*, the first to be in double columns. So far I have had only positive reactions to the new format. The appearance of volume 132 in September confirms that the new production schedule, where the volume for the Society's year ending on a particular 30th of November comes out the following summer or autumn, is sustainable. Volume 133 is well in hand, with a good range of papers relating to archaeology, history, architectural history and studies of material culture; barring accidents, it should appear in September 2004.

Apart from the *Proceedings* volume the most satisfying achievement I have to report this year is the completion of the project to scan the entire back run of the *Proceedings*, the volumes of *Archaeologia Scotica* and our out-of-print monographs. All the individual articles and chapters are now available through a link on the publications page of the Society's website. The project was undertaken in partnership with the Archaeology Data Service, and generously funded by Historic Scotland, the ArchWay project and the Russell Trust. The Society has received much praise for making this rich resource freely available.

The *Proceedings* and *Archaeologia Scotica* articles are linked to the pre-existing ArchWay database of the contents of archaeological journals. This database is not perfect, and if an article is omitted from it, there is no way to access the actual article, even though it has been scanned and is on the ADS server. We have come across one such article already and I would ask Fellows to let me know if they spot any other flaws.

The final stage of the project is to create sets of CDs for sale, containing all the files. The production of the sets has been postponed to next year, to allow a thorough check of the files and the contents lists that allow access to them. I would rather we did this than have to send out correction disks as and when errors came to light.

The Society was represented at a recent meeting at the rooms of the London Antiquaries, to discuss electronic publication, by Colin Wallace, the SAIR editor, and myself. The Society's role in the SAIR consortium and its scanning project place us amongst the leaders in electronic archaeological publication. There are likely to be considerable developments in this area in the coming year.

Finally, I would like to express my thanks to the Director, the Convener of the Publications Committee, Alan Saville, and the President, as well as my colleagues in the Society's office, for their support throughout the year. My thanks also to the various referees of articles, whose unsung role is vital to the maintenance of the quality of the *Proceedings*.

THE R B K STEVENSON AWARD

The President reminded Fellows that the R B K Stevenson award is made in recognition of the paper in each year's *Proceedings* that best reflects R B K Stevenson's own scholarship and high standards. Robert

Stevenson was for many years in charge of the National Museum of Antiquities of Scotland and was President of this Society between 1975 and 1978.

The Award was then presented to Dr Virginia Glenn for her paper for her paper in Volume 132 of the *Proceedings*, ‘The late 13th-century chapter seals of Dunkeld and Oslo Cathedrals’.

THE BALLOT FOR OFFICE-BEARERS AND COUNCIL MEMBERS

The results of the ballot were announced.

Council for 2003–2004 is as follows:

President

Lisbeth M Thoms, BSc, Dip Arch

Vice Presidents

Doreen Grove, BA, FSA

Jean Munro, BA, PhD

Alan Saville, BA, FSA, MIFA

Naomi Tarrant, BA, AMA, FSA

David P Bowler, BA, MPhil

Ewan Campbell, BSc, PhD, MIFA

Jill Turnbull, CQSW, BA, PhD

Robin Turner, BA, FSA, MIFA

Andrew J Dunwell, BA, AIFA

Lesley Ferguson, MA

Fraser Hunter, BSc, FSA

Coralie Mills, BSc, MA, PhD, MIFA

Neil Curtis, MA, AMA

Frances Hood, RGN, SCM

Andrew Martin, MA, Dip Lib (2003)

Patricia Weeks, MA, PgDip Mus Stud, AMA

Treasurer

Councillors

Ex-Officio Members of Council

Chairman of the North-East Section

Peter J Murray, MA, PhD

Convener of the Finance Committee

Humphrey Holmes, CA

Convener of the Heritage Committee

Fionna M Ashmore, BA, FSA (to 31 May 2004)

Convener of the Publications Committee

Alan Saville, BA, FSA, MIFA

Convener of the Research Committee

Ian A G Shepherd, MA, FSA, MIFA

Representative of the National Museums of Scotland

David V Clarke, BA, PhD, FSA

ELECTION OF NEW FELLOWS

The result of the ballot was announced and the following were elected as ordinary Fellows:

DUNCAN AITKEN, 117 Camps Rigg, Livingston, West Lothian

CHARLES JOHN ALLAN, 28 Hawkhill Road, Kincardine, Alloa, Clackmannanshire

DR PIA KRISTINA ANDERSON, 7 Aziz Abaza Street, Zamalek, Cairo, Egypt

LYNN AVERILL, BEd, 22 Morley Drive, Shipley View, Ilkeston, Derbyshire

DR ARNOLD BAKER, Prior's Hold, Cresswell, Northumberland

YOREL HUTCHISON BARLOW, 789 Rossmore Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89110, USA

JAMES MANUEL BAYNE, AIA, BSAE, AHP, 16360 Bradford Road, Culpoper, VA 22701, USA

ALEXANDER SCOTT BELL, CBE, FFA, DLitt, 28 East Barnton Avenue, Edinburgh

GILLIAN RUTH BELLENIE, BSc, FRICS, Flat 1, 5 Sienna Gardens, Edinburgh

ROBERT ROSS BEST, OStJ, CEng, MIMechE, MCIBSE, 93 Roman Court, Roman Road, Bearsden,
Glasgow

ANDREW ROBERT BICKET, 8 Arbroath Road, Carnoustie, Angus

JOHN ALAN BIGGINS, TD, MA, MSc, Northumbria, Main Road, Dinnington, Newcastle
 SANDY BLAIR, MA, 1 Flat, 9 Gibson Terrace, Edinburgh
 LAUREN M BOYD, 6 Sylvia Circle, Novato, CA 94947–2025, USA
 DR ALASTAIR NIGEL BROWN, LLB, 49 Craigs Road, Edinburgh
 CLAUDE ASKEL BUCHANAN, Gartincaber, 429 Kiwitahi Road, Helensville RD2, Auckland, New Zealand
 WILLIAM HERBERT BUCHANAN, AME, BBA, 887 County Route 59, Cambridge, NY 12816 USA
 PETER ASHLEY THOMAS INSULL BURMAN, MBE, MA, FJA, c/o Wemyss House, 28 Charlotte Square, Edinburgh
 BRIAN LAURENCE BURTT, BSc, FRSE, FLS, 5 Bangholm Terrace, Edinburgh
 ANTONIA BUTLER, 3F1, 180 Bruntsfield Place, Edinburgh
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THE ROLL

The record of the deaths of the following Fellows intimated during the year 2002–2003 was not read at the meeting. Dates indicate year of election as Fellow.

James Seymour Adam, 2 Trewythen Park, Vicarage Lane, Gresford, Wrexham	1982
Allan Aitken, 11 Regent Terrace, Edinburgh	1949
Professor Sheila Bolton, 6 Waverley Road, Reading	1960
Cyril Gordon Booth, 8 Dalingross Gardens, Comrie, Perthshire	1975
Denis Coggins, Low Craig Farm, Lartington, Barnard Castle, Co Durham	1984
Alexandrina Stewart Cowper, 32 Balgreen Avenue, Edinburgh	1974
Patrick Crichton, Mundeville, Tinwald, Dumfries	2001
William Milne Donald, 173 Pinedale, Kitchener, Ontario, Canada	1989
G A Gordon, La Pepiniere, La Ruelle Vaucluse, Mt Cochon, St Helier, Jersey, Channel Islands	1960
Norman Pirie Gray, 4 Westview, Blackburn, Kinellar, Aberdeen	1993
William Hackett, 10A Lefroy Street, Coatbridge, Lanarkshire	1998
Catherine Maxwell Hajducka, 9 Northumberland Street, Edinburgh	1992
Sqn Ldr Iain Macmillan Macaulay, 9 Gnoc Glas, Drumbeg, Sutherland	1990
Kenneth R Mackenzie, 80 Dundas Street, Edinburgh	1996
Rev Canon Dougald Lachlan Maclean, 32–30 160th Street, Flushing, Long Island, NY 11358, USA	1984
Marion Blackburn MacRae, 9 Dun Berisay, Balmerino Drive, Stornoway, Western Isles	1983
John Patrick McGourty, 144 Hamilton Road, Motherwell, Strathclyde	1990
Robert Railton McKie, 164 Brookside Crescent, Kitchener, Ontario, Canada	1986
Dorothy J M Milne, 34 Albert Place, Stirling	1976
E Leslie Peter of Lee, Lee Castle, Lanark	1996
Christine A C Redmill, 27 Briarbank Terrace, Edinburgh	1989
Lt Col Robert Retherford, 5101 Balmoral Lane, Bloomington, MN 55437, USA	2001
Kirsty A Sabine, Moss-side Croft, Wartle, Inverurie, Aberdeenshire	1981
Donald James Henderson Sinclair, 38 Beach Drive, San Rafael, CA 94901, USA	1989
Hugh Stuart Stevenson, 8 Cumberland Avenue, Helensburgh, Dunbartonshire	1974
Joseph Sutherland, 15 South Avenue, Cults, Aberdeen	1997
D B Taylor, Delvine, Main Street, Longforgan, Dundee	1954
Ruby W Turberville, Learis, 15, Blakeley Brow, Raby Mers, Wirral, Merseyside	1992
Roderick Mackenzie Urquhart, 11 St Cross Court, Kingsgate Road, Winchester, Hants	1965
Nancy H Walker, 2 Muirpark Road, Kinross	1988
David Geoffrey Williamson, 7 Bonchurch Road, London	1982
John Irving Young, 4621 Roundhill Road, Ellicott City MD 21043, USA	2000

Miss Lisbeth Thoms then delivered the following Presidential Address:

THE PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

Change, it would seem, is one of the few things, perhaps the only one, to remain constant in our lives and in most organizations these days. It is of course nothing new, perhaps it is inevitable and consequently we should try our best to prepare for it, cope with it and manage it. Certainly it provides the underlying current in much of what I have to say this afternoon.

Assuming the office of President has inevitably brought about some change for me. Twelve months ago what I thought would be a comfortably lengthy three-year period of office stretched before me but if this last year is anything to go by then these are going to be the quickest and in many ways the most enjoyable three years of my life. Already it has led to an entire bookcase shelf taken up with Society files, over 400 e-mail messages and about three megabytes worth of Society material saved on my computer, and an over-familiarity with the vagaries of the rail timetable for journeys between Dundee and Edinburgh! More importantly it has also brought a breathtaking insight to the sheer quantity and variety of work carried out by the Society; no matter how I or those you have heard earlier express it, the Society has had another very busy and successful year.

A lot of the work is of course routine, and necessary, in order to keep the show on the road as it were, and to enable Council and the committees to function effectively. One of the first things Council undertook this year was an examination and review of our way forward and we considered whether or not the Society should change in any way. This was not, I may say, something introduced by me as a new-broom President but rather an issue that had rightly been initiated by my predecessor at the approach of the new millennium. After careful and thorough consideration it was felt that the Society should *not* change significantly but continue to do what it does well; that is play to its strengths by concentrating on our core activities of serving the Fellowship, of publicly presenting scholarly work through the lecture programme, conferences and seminars, of encouraging and funding research and of publishing, all of which of course reflect the tradition, standing and reputation of the Society within Scottish cultural life since its foundation.

I've heard it said that when you are in a leadership position you should brand what you are leading. In respect of the Society the brand is its tradition, its Royal Incorporation, the Fellowship, and its high standards of scholarship, research, and publication. Marketing people will tell you that when you have a successful brand you don't tinker with it and it is also unwise significantly to erode tradition. You only have to note the respective rows currently surrounding Cardhu whisky and the Bank of Scotland for proof of this.

So this year the Society has continued to do what it has always done and received considerable credit for it. No fewer than four conferences have been organized and in every case we benefited from working in partnership with other organizations. The *Scotland in Ancient Europe* weekend conference, organized through the Research Committee, had a wonderfully convivial atmosphere which many delegates commented upon and it was also memorable for the high standard of lectures and for the reminiscing that went on, all in tribute to Stuart Piggott, one of our much-respected past presidents

More recently the day conference, *Royal Dunfermline 1093–1603*, allowed us to mark the 400th anniversary of the Union of the Crowns, and to hold a Society event outside Edinburgh. The warmth and appreciation of this shown by the audience in Dunfermline was enormously gratifying. It is noteworthy also that we were fortunate enough to have the Minister for Tourism, Culture and Sport open that conference and make some very positive remarks about the importance of the built heritage.

While mentioning anniversaries it was very appropriate that we marked a significant anniversary for the Society this year, namely the centenary of the publishing of *Early Christian Monuments of Scotland* (ECMS), with a superb lecture by Professor Rosemary Cramp in what was altogether a splendid Monday evening lecture programme.

The Rhind Lectures, given by the eminent anthropologist Professor Tim Ingold, were challenging and thought-provoking. Significantly, too, they brought in new audiences for the Society. Indeed one of the many anthropologists present paid us what I hope, like me, you will take as a compliment when he said to me after the last lecture, that he was most impressed by what he had seen and heard of the Society, he thought we were very forward-looking and not the least bit antiquarian!

The Rhinds and the two conferences I have mentioned will be published as monographs in due course. This year however a most impressive total of five monographs appeared as well as volume 132 of the *Proceedings* and we now have ten SAIR reports. Everyone involved, in every way, in this magnificent publication achievement is to be congratulated.

You might think that by deciding to continue to do what we have always done we were maybe putting our heads in the sand and resisting change but nothing could be further from the truth. We recognize we are operating within an ever-changing environment and indeed many organizations with which we work *are* certainly changing so we have been open and receptive to suggestions for positive and purposeful change. As you have heard this afternoon, opportunities have been grasped in an active and proactive way. I need only take the example of our publishing activities where we recognize the traditional importance of our *Proceedings* and its publication on the printed page but we have also embraced the new technology as you have seen with the enormous success and achievement of the Scanning Project and SAIR. Discussions have also been initiated concerning a future electronic element to the *Proceedings*

I have alluded to external changes and as the Director has reported we are already aware that the National Museums of Scotland have initiated changes in procedures and some of these may have an effect

on the Society. Another significant change occurred at the end of May when, after a 90 year existence, the Ancient Monuments Board for Scotland (AMB) went up in smoke on the bonfire of the QUANGOs. The Society, as you know, had statutory representation on the Board and had argued, along with numerous other organizations during the consultation process, in favour of the Board's retention, or failing that, for the provision by some other means of independent built heritage advice to Ministers. Consequently there was optimism when it was announced that a new body, the Historic Environment Advisory Council for Scotland (HEACS) was to be set up to take on most of the previous responsibilities and role of both the AMB and the Historic Buildings Council for Scotland. This is a daunting task since the new body consists of only 12 people. It was not so much the size of the new body, however, but rather the lack of an archaeologist or early historian amongst its appointees, which has raised eyebrows and concerns. The Society has had some initial informal contact with HEACS and questioned how the body will obtain independent archaeological and historical advice but has received no clear answer. We hope that we shall be able to develop a good, formal working relationship with HEACS, and to be fair we must allow the new body to walk before it runs, but as yet our suggestion of a meeting has not been taken up.

In the not too distant future changes may well occur as a result of the reviews of Historic Scotland and of the Treasure Trove process. The Society has, and still is, contributing to the consultative process concerning these reviews. It is so important that the Society uses its independent voice in consultations such as these and I think we must be firm in a resolve to encourage positive change when and where it is needed but to argue against and resist such change as might inevitably lower standards of scholarship and professionalism.

In his St Andrews Day address yesterday the First Minister announced a forthcoming review of cultural policy and spending in Scotland to be undertaken by the Minister for Tourism, Culture and Sport. This should certainly provide the Society with yet another opportunity to argue the case for the important contribution the built heritage can make to our cultural life.

The ongoing success of any organization, however, whether in the midst of change or not, lies with its people and here I want to express some thanks of my own. I acknowledge and thank the office-bearers, Conveners, members of Council and of committees who all serve the Society with great generosity of time and spirit. It is the same with the staff, those who we employ either directly or indirectly. The Society is most fortunate in having a superb small staff team who show tremendous dedication, commitment and enthusiasm for what they do; it has been a pleasure and inspiration for me to work and associate with them all.

I must, however, mention two individuals particularly. Firstly Ruth Lancaster, because she left us in August after three years' part-time work assisting with Heritage Committee and marketing and mailing of publications. Much of this work she just got on with behind the scenes but we did on occasions see Ruth out of the office, having this year organized the most successful visit to the NMS conservation and storage centre at Granton, and the excursions. In addition Ruth has done a tremendous amount of work as leader of the Heriot branch (in the Borders) of the CSA's Young Archaeologists' Club and amazingly she is managing to fulfil her commitment to the branch until the end of the year despite now living in Moray. We wish her and her family well for the future.

We have decided not to fill Ruth's position until it can be reviewed in the light of the outcome, next year, of one of the biggest changes to affect the Society in recent years. This is because, as you are aware, the Director, Fionna Ashmore, will leave us at the end of May. There will of course be opportunities in the next six months for us all both formally and informally, to say farewell and pay tribute to Fionna so I am not going to start the farewells prematurely now! I do however want to say a few words here as this is her 12th and last Anniversary Meeting in terms of preparing the papers, annual report and so on. From now on she will be able to relax totally on these occasions! She has served the Society magnificently for over 11 years and through her, the position of Director has grown and developed and consequently so too has the profile and reputation of the Society. She is a wonderful example of what most 21st-century employers want, since in today's jargon she is multi-skilled, multi-tasking and she possesses enviable networking and organizing skills. Fionna and I were talking recently about the difference between being efficient and effective in the work place. You know the scenario of the efficient person sitting in an ultra-tidy office, not a sheet of paper misfiled and 99% of the desk surface visible, but absolutely nothing happening and therefore being quite

ineffective. Well I'm not going to describe the state of Fionna's office or desk but simply say that she is most efficient, but more importantly she is wonderfully effective. Whether we are President (she has worked with five), office-bearer, Convener, member of Council or committee, Fellow or colleague we are all indebted to her for her help and support. Her in-depth knowledge of the Society's procedures has kept many of us on the right track over the years, myself included. The Society owes her a great debt of gratitude.

Briefly, I want to inform you of progress concerning the recruitment of a new Director. Council has agreed that the post should become a full-time one. This is a reflection of the importance of the position and indeed the level of work Fionna has actually been doing. If everything goes according to plan next year, the post will be advertised in mid January, interviews will take place in mid March, the new Director take up the position on 1 June and be introduced to the Fellowship at the June lecture meeting.

Finally, can I thank you the Fellowship for supporting the Society and its work in the past year and for supporting me so warmly? I hope you are pleased with and proud of what the Society has done and achieved in the past year in maintaining its standards and tradition but being open to change and indeed initiating it.

As for the immediate future, well I think we should look to it with optimism and I can promise you next year will be full, eventful and with its fair share of change!

The following lecture was then delivered

'The Antonine Wall: a World Heritage Site?'

by Professor David Breeze, BA, PhD, FSA, FPSA Scot, FRSE.

Following the close of formal proceedings, a wine reception for Fellows took place in the European Art Gallery of the Royal Museum.