

PROCEEDINGS  
of the  
Society of Antiquaries  
of Scotland



Volume 119  
(1989)

Royal Museum of Scotland  
Queen Street, Edinburgh

**Editor: Ian A G Shepherd, MA, FSA, FSAScot, MIFA**  
assisted by: Fionna Ashmore, BA, FSAScot  
George Dagleish, MA, FSAScot

ISSN 0081-1564

Printed by Precise Printing Company Ltd, Reigate, Surrey 1990

# Table of Contents

*Note:* 'f' appended to a page number indicates that part of the report is on microfiche in the envelope at the back of the volume.

<i>Page</i>	
vii	EDITORIAL
	REVIEW ARTICLE
1	A review of the Scottish Mesolithic: a plea for normality! <b>Peter C Woodman</b>
	ARTICLES AND REPORTS
33f	New evidence for Mesolithic settlement on Colonsay <b>Steven J Mithen</b>
43	Corse Law, Carnwath, Lanarkshire: a lithic scatter <b>Ann Clarke</b>
55	Isbister, an Orkney Islands Council guardianship monument <b>Beverley Smith</b>
59	The cultivation remains beneath the North Mains, Strathallan, barrow <b>Gordon J Barclay</b>
63	Excavation of a beaker cist at Dornoch Nursery, Sutherland <b>P J Ashmore</b>
73f	A beaker cist at Chapelden, Tore of Troup, Aberdour, Banff and Buchan District, with a note on the orientation of beaker burials in north-east Scotland <b>Moirra K Greig, Colvin Greig, Alexandra N Shepherd and Ian A G Shepherd</b>
83	Excavations at Dundee High Technology Park, Tayside <b>Annemarie Gibson and N Tavener</b>
91f	Two Iron-Age cists from Galson, Isle of Lewis <b>Margaret R Ponting</b>
101f	Excavations at Warebeth (Stromness Cemetery) Broch, Orkney <b>Bernard Bell and Camilla Dickson</b>
133	The flag of Legion II Augusta on the Bridgeness distance slab <b>David J Breeze</b>

143	Some excavation along the line of the Antonine Wall, 1981–85 <b>L J F Keppie and J J Walker</b>
161	The tribes of North Britain revisited <b>G W S Barrow</b>
165	Roman and medieval coins found in Scotland, to 1987 <b>J D Bateson</b>
189f	Reconnaissance excavations on Early Historic fortifications and other royal sites in Scotland, 3: Dundurn <b>Leslie Alcock, Elizabeth A Alcock and Stephen T Driscoll</b>
227	Five Insular enamelled ornaments <b>Cormac Bourke and Joanna Close-Brooks</b>
239	The Celtic brooch from Westness, Orkney, and hinged pins <b>Robert B K Stevenson</b>
271	The hall and motte at Courthill, Dalry, Ayrshire <b>J G Scott</b>
279f	Remains of a 12th-century structure and other medieval features on the Knoll of Castle Point, Troup (Cullykhan), Banff and Buchan <b>Moir K Greig and Colvin Greig</b>
297	St Peter's Kirk, Thurso, Caithness c 1150–1832 <b>H Gordon Slade and George Watson</b>
327	New light on old coin hoards from the Aberdeen area <b>D H Evans and Stewart Thain</b>
345f	A grain storage pit of the pre-improvement period at Inchkeil, Duffus, Moray <b>Ian A G Shepherd and Alexandra N Shepherd</b>
353	Arthur's O'on again: newly discovered drawings by John Adair, and their context <b>Iain G Brown and Peter G Vasey</b>
361	The excavation of an 18th-century salt-pan at St Monance, Fife <b>John Lewis</b>
371	'John H Buchanan's newly-invented polyterpic table' <b>Elizabeth F Wright</b>
377	LECTURE SUMMARIES
381	MEETINGS OF THE SOCIETY, 1988–89
389	INDEX

# Office-Bearers and Representatives of the Society, 1988–89

## *President*

D J BREEZE, BA, PHD, FSA

## *Vice-Presidents*

T F WATKINS, BA, PHD, FSA

D V CLARKE, BA, PHD, FSA

R J MERCER, MA, FSA, MIFA

## *Councillors*

P DIXON, BA, PHD, MIFA

PROFESSOR E C FERNIE, BA, FSA

A D FOXON, MA

R B GOURLAY, MA, MIFA

G J BARCLAY, MA, FSA, MIFA

MISS J HARDEN, BSC, MIFA

I KEILLAR, AH-WC, CENG, MIEE

MISS R K MARSHALL, MA, DIPED, PHD, FRSL

MRS B E CRAWFORD, MA, PHD

D F DEVEREUX, MA, MIFA

P E HOLDSWORTH, FSA, MIFA

R NOBLE, MA

## *Secretary*

MISS C R WICKHAM-JONES, MA, MIFA

## *Treasurer*

J B STEVENSON, BA, FSA, MIFA

## *Ex-Officio Members of Council*

I A G SHEPHERD, MA, FSA, MIFA (Editor)

M T WILLIAMS, BE (Convener of the Finance and Administration Committee)

R D CRAMOND, MA, MBIM (Representative of the Trustees of the National Museums of Scotland)

## *Assessors*

R G W ANDERSON, BSC, MA, DPHIL, FRSC (Director of the National Museums of Scotland)

MISS D IDIENS, BA (Keeper of History and Applied Arts, National Museums of Scotland)

J HOGARTH, MA (Representative of the Friends of the National Museums of Scotland)

PROFESSOR G JOBEY, DSO, MA, FSA (Representative on the Ancient Monuments Board for Scotland)

# Patron and Honorary Fellows of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland, 1988–89

## *Patron*

HM THE QUEEN

## *Honorary Fellows*

HRH THE DUKE OF ROTHESAY

PROFESSOR BERTIL ALMOREN

DR J-B COLBERT DE BEAULIEU

PROFESSOR ERIC BIRLEY, MBE, MA, DRPHIL, DLITT, FSA, FBA

MISS MARION CAMPBELL OF KILBERRY, FSA

RONALD GORDON CANT, MA, DLITT, FRHISTS

(ARKITEKT) HAKON CHRISTIE

HOWARD COLVIN, CVO, CBE, FSA, FBA

PROFESSOR PIERRE-ROLAND GIOT

MISS AUDREY SHORE HENSHALL, MA, FSA

ARNE HOFF, PHD

PROFESSOR GEORGE JOBEY, DSO, MA, FSA

PROFESSOR S J DE LAET

MISS DOROTHY NAIRN MARSHALL, MBE, FSA

PROFESSOR STUART PIGGOTT, CBE, BLITT, DLITTHUM, FSA, FBA

DR ANTONIE PLĂMĂDEALĂ

PROFESSOR DR HANS SCHÖNBERGER

PROFESSOR AXEL STEENSBERG

DR WILLIAM E TAYLOR

DR BENGT THORDEMAN

PROFESSOR J D VAN DER WAALS

## Editorial

### A ‘Journal of Record’

Observant readers will note that the opportunity was taken to reprint in the last volume, 118, the *Laws of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland*. Law 1 states that ‘The purpose of the Society shall be the study of the ANTIQUITIES AND HISTORY OF SCOTLAND, more especially by means of Archaeological Research’. The *Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland* has, throughout its 138-year history, been the principal, but not of course the sole, means by which the Society has discharged this commitment. Since 1851 the *Proceedings* has presented an enduring record of the study of the history and antiquities of Scotland. It has published lectures delivered to the Society, speculative papers, factual reports and a record of objects and books donated to the National Museum. It has also kept track of the business of the Society by printing the lists of newly elected or recently deceased Fellows and the minutes of the Anniversary Meetings.

This Editorial aims to draw the attention of Fellows to certain features of the *Proceedings* which continue such traditions and to reflect briefly on the nature of the journal at the end of the 1980s.

The last seven years have seen a series of changes in the *Proceedings*, beginning with the adoption of a policy on the publication of two-level reports of excavation and other projects, which was announced, coincidentally, in the last volume (113 for 1983) to be produced by hot metal. Since that volume, several approaches to the use of microfiche in two-level and other reports have appeared while the impact of the policy was digested by contributors and readers. These approaches have ranged from full two-level reports as originally envisaged (eg Murray/Gallowgate, volume 114: Alcock *et al*/early historic fortifications, 116, 117, 119) to a variety of interesting adaptations of the format (eg Morris/Deerness, 116; Ritchie/Kentraw, 117; Thomas/Inveresk, 118; Tabraham/Smailholm, 118). It is hoped that the 1990s will see a consolidation of this policy, with reports on all excavations begun since 1 January 1985 prepared in the two-level format from the outset. There is still scope for other forms of report, such as architectural papers, to utilize microfiche.

After the series of hefty tomes which appeared during the early and mid 1980s, the 1990s will see the size of the *Proceedings* stabilize at between 350 and 400 pages per issue (plus several sheets of microfiche), in the manner of this volume. By settling at this size Council hopes to be able to bear the cost of the volume more readily as well as achieve more regular publication. The Editors and the Publications Committee, through rigorous selection of papers (normally after a referee’s assessment), will also strive to produce a volume which caters for as wide a range of Fellows’ interests as possible.

Another major innovation of recent years was the review article, which began in volume 112. The Publications Committee has sought contributors with a detached perspective who will, it is hoped, stimulate discussion and provoke reflection. The series may be judged to be a success, if readers’ comments are anything to go by. In broadening the range of topics to be covered, we will continue to rely heavily on the goodwill of the authors solicited. This year we are particularly grateful to Professor Peter Woodman for a valuable contribution on the Mesolithic in Scotland.

Summaries of lectures delivered to the Society were introduced in volume 113, and have now been augmented by summaries of lectures given by young scholars in receipt of a bursary from the Society to enable them to address conferences of international standing. In addition, it was a pleasure to be able to print rapidly a synopsis of Professor Leslie Alcock's Rhind lectures in the last volume. Efforts are also made to secure for publication suitable papers delivered at the Society's annual conference.

Other aspects of the *Proceedings* are under regular review. For example, Council considered the possibility of printing the list of Fellows in the *Proceedings*, but has been deterred by the high cost of production and the ephemeral nature of a substantial proportion of the information. Now that the administration of the Society is computerized, Fellows may inspect the printout of the Fellowship on application to the Secretary.

Publication of lists of Donations to and Purchases for the Museum was suspended after volume 115, following the demise of the National Museum of Antiquities of Scotland. Discussions were held with the new National Museums of Scotland to determine the best method of adapting to their changed procedures. As part of these discussions a review article has been commissioned from the Museums' Documentation Officer, Mr John Burnett, which will appear in the next volume. This will be a welcome statement which, by detailing the powerful computerized system of accession and cataloguing which is currently being installed, should point to a machined-based alternative to the old lists. It remains to be determined if the *Proceedings* should be a part of this process.

Turning to the lists of Donations to and Purchases for the Library, it has been decided that, in view of administrative considerations within the Museum, the demands on space within the shorter volumes and the high cost of printing, it will not be possible to revive their publication. Fellows wishing to keep new accessions under review may, on application to the Librarian, see the regular printout produced by the Museum of its book acquisitions. Those who used the list as a means of keeping up to date with their research interests are referred to the bibliographies published six-monthly in *British Archaeological Abstracts* and annually in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* and the *Scottish Historical Review*.

Some of these issues relating to publication are perennial: in 1783, our founder, the Earl of Buchan, opposed the printing in the *Transactions* of ephemeral or minor papers delivered at meetings. He referred to 'the pompous circulation of the papers . . . among the censors' and advised that 'it would be much better to publish on a smaller scale and to give only select papers such as may augment the reputation of the Society' (quoted by our former President Dr R G Cant in Bell, A S (ed), 1981, *The Scottish Antiquarian Tradition*, Edinburgh, 19).

Some readers or authors may wish to discern an echo of this approach in our two-level publication policy and careful selection of papers by the Publications Committee. Certainly, the entirely necessary urge to ensure that any piece of work, particularly if it involved 'recording through destruction', ie excavation, should be properly recorded can sometimes obscure in the mind of the author the value of the results as history or prehistory. (The professionalism of the on-site recording and post-excavation processing is, of course, assumed.) Rather, it is necessary to state that the mere fact that certain operations or investigations occurred is not a sufficient justification for publication in these *Proceedings*. In order for the *Proceedings* to continue as a 'Journal of Record', as Council firmly intends, it is necessary for authors to understand that the primary reason their reports are accepted for publication is not to communicate the fact that the work took place but because the results are perceived to make a contribution to the 'study of the ANTIQUITIES AND HISTORY OF SCOTLAND'.

*Ian A G Shepherd*  
*Aberdeen, October 1989*