PROCEEDINGS of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland



Volume 138 (2008)

Society of Antiquaries of Scotland National Museums Scotland Chambers Street, Edinburgh This volume has been printed on acid-free paper.

Requests for permission to reproduce material from the *Proceedings* should be sent to the Managing Editor (publications@socantscot.org), as well as to the author, illustrator, photographer or other copyright holder.

Copyright in the *Proceedings* rests with the Society and the individual authors. It is permitted, without the need for specific authorization or payment of a fee, to photocopy:

- i. single copies of individual papers or sections of the *Proceedings* for the private use of an individual;
- ii. single copies of individual papers or sections of the *Proceedings* for library reserve or short-term loan use;
- iii. multiple copies of individual papers or sections of the *Proceedings* for teaching use, provided that such copies are taken for a non-profit-making institution for educational use within that institution only.

The consent does not extend to copying for general distribution, advertising or promotional purposes, the creation of new collective works or resale.

Where indicated, maps have been based on Ordnance Survey maps by permission, © Crown Copyright.

The Society of Antiquaries of Scotland is a registered Scottish charity No. SC 010440

ISSN 0081-1564

Typeset by Waverley Typesetters, Fakenham Manufactured in Slovenia

Published October 2009

Contents

v LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

vii	EDITORIAL BOARD
ix	COUNCIL
xi	PATRON AND HONORARY FELLOWS
xiii	LAWS OF THE SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES OF SCOTLAND
	OBITUARY
1	Sir Howard Colvin Ian Campbell
	ARTICLES AND REPORTS
5	An Irish provenance for the Monzie Estate gold John Ó Néill
13	The later prehistory of 'black holes': regionality and the south-west Scottish Iron Age Graeme Cavers
27	Excavation of an Iron Age, Early Historic and medieval settlement and metalworking site a Eilean Olabhat, North Uist Ian Armit, Ewan Campbell and Andrew Dunwell
105	New aspects of rotary querns in Scotland Dawn McLaren and Fraser Hunter
129	Excavations at Garnhall on the line of the Antonine Wall David J Woolliscroft
177	A Shetland Viking comb in Copenhagen Steffen Stummann Hansen
185	A fragment of a Pictish symbol-bearing slab with carving in relief from Mail, Cunningsburgh Shetland Anna Ritchie
193	Viking Age and Late Norse gold and silver from Scotland: an update James Graham-Campbell
205	Early stone emplacement in three Scottish ecclesiastical national monuments John F Potter

1V	TABLE OF CONTENTS
223	Burgage plot patterns and dimensions in four Scottish burghs Robin Tait
239	Excavation of medieval graves at St Thomas' Kirk, Hall of Rendall, Orkney Ronan Toolis
267	Brotchie's Steading, Dunnet, Caithness: a 19th-century croft house and earlier settlement mound Timothy Holden
293	Scottish external funerary metal plates George Thompson
309	ANNUAL REPORT
331	NOTES AND CONDITIONS FOR CONTRIBUTORS
339	INDEX

List of abbreviations commonly used in the *Proceedings*

ADS Archaeology Data Service

AIA Association for Industrial Archaeology

ALGAO Association of Local Government Archaeology Officers

BAR British Archaeology Reports

CBA Council for British Archaeology

CSA Council for Scottish Archaeology (now Archaeology Scotland)

DES Discovery and Excavation in Scotland

DSR Data Structure Report

HMSO Her Majesty's Stationery Office

IFA Institute for Archaeologists

NMR National Monuments Record

NMS National Museums Scotland

NMRS National Monuments Record Scotland

OS Ordnance Survey

OSA Old Statistical Account 1791–99

RCAHMS Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland

SAIR Scottish Archaeological Internet Reports

SMR Sites and Monuments Record

A full list of archaeological acronyms and abbreviations is available online from the British Archaeological Jobs Resource (http://www.bajr.org/documents/acronyms.pdf).

Editorial Board for the *Proceedings* vol 138

Editor

ERIN OSBORNE-MARTIN

Editorial Board

PROFESSOR RICHARD BRADLEY, MA FSA FI Dr hc FBA MIFA

PROFESSOR DAVID BREEZE, BA PhD Hon DLitt FSA FRSE Hon FSA Scot Hon IFA

PROFESSOR MARTIN CARVER, BSc DipArchae FSA MIFA

PROFESSOR JOHN COLLIS, MA PhD FSA MIFA

PROFESSOR GORDON COOK, BA PhD

PROFESSOR STEVE DRISCOLL, BA MSc PhD FSA

PROFESSOR KEVIN EDWARDS, MA PhD FRGS CGeog FSA FRSE

PROFESSOR WILLIAM GILLIES, BA MA

PROFESSOR DENNIS HARDING, MA DPhil FRSE

ISABEL HENDERSON, OBE MA PhD Hon FSA Scot

JOHN HUME, BSc ARCST PhD

PROFESSOR TIM INGOLD, PhD FBA FRSE

PROFESSOR MICHAEL LYNCH, MA PhD FRHistS FRSE

PROFESSOR RICHARD ORAM, MA PhD FSA Scot FSA

PROFESSOR IAN RALSTON, MA PhD FSA FRSE MIFA

ANNA RITCHIE, OBE BA PhD FSA

ALAN SAVILLE, BA FSA MIFA

ALISON SHERIDAN, BA MA PhD FSA AIFA

JIM TATE, BSc PhD MinstP

Indexer

ANNE McCarthy

Publications Production Managers

LAWRIE LAW

ALISON RAE

Administrator

JACQUI CLABBY

Society of Antiquaries of Scotland Council from 30 November 2007

President

ROGER MERCER, OBE MA FSA FRSE HONMIFA

Vice-Presidents

Jane Geddes, BA MA PhD

ALISON SHERIDAN, BA MA PhD FSA AIFA

IAN RALSTON, MA PhD FSA FRSE MIFA

Treasurer

BRENDAN O'CONNOR, BA DPhil FSA

Councillors

IAIN BANKS, MA PhD FSA Scot MIFA
STEVEN BIRCH, MA PIFA
ALAN BRABY, FSA SCOT
KENNETH BROPHY, BSC PhD
ANNETTE CARRUTHERS, BA AMA
SHANNON FRASER, MA DipPostEx PhD FSA SCOT MIFA
SARAH GOVAN, MA MSC
GEORGE HAGGARTY
MARK HALL, BA AMA MIFA FSA
RICHARD TIPPING, BSC PhD
RONAN TOOLIS, MA FSA SCOT MIFA

Ex Officio Members of Council

ALEX WOOLF, BA MPhil

Chairman of the North East Section Convener of the Publications Committee Convener of the Research Committee Representative of the National Museums of Scotland KEVIN J EDWARDS, MA PhD FRGS CGeog FSA FRSE DAVID P BOWLER, BA MPhil MIFA IAN A G SHEPHERD, MA FSA MIFA

FRASER HUNTER, BSc PhD FSA

Director

SIMON GILMOUR, MA(Hons) PhD FSA MIFA

Patron and Honorary Fellows of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland

Patron

HM THE QUEEN

Honorary Fellows

HRH THE DUKE OF ROTHESAY

DR ROBERT GEOFFREY WILLIAM ANDERSON, BSC MA DPhil FSA FRSE FRSChem

PROFESSOR GEOFFREY W S BARROW, MA BLitt DLitt FSA FBA FRSE

PROFESSOR RICHARD BRADLEY, MA FSA Fl Dr hc FBA MIFA

PROFESSOR DAVID BREEZE, OBE BA PhD Hon DLitt FSA FRSE Hon FSA Scot Hon IFA

AUBREY BURL, MA DLitt PhD FSA

ARKITEKT HAKON CHRISTIE

PROFESSOR JOHN COLES, MA PhD ScD FSA FBA FlDhc FRSA HonMIFA HonMRIA

EMERITUS PROFESSOR ROSEMARY CRAMP, CBE MA BLitt FSA FBA

JOHN GREENWELL DUNBAR, OBE MA FSA HONFRIAS

Professor George Eogan, BA PhD DLitt LittD FSA MRIA

EMERITUS PROFESSOR ALEXANDER FENTON, CBE MA BA DLitt HonDLitt FSA FRSE HRSA

ISABEL HENDERSON, OBE MA PhD Hon FSA Scot

MISS AUDREY SHORE HENSHALL, OBE MA FSA

PROFESSOR DR LEENDERT P LOUWE KOOIJMANS

PROFESSOR KRISTIAN KRISTIANSEN

PROFESSOR KLAVS RANDSBORG

PROFESSOR COLIN RENFREW (Lord Renfrew of Kaimsthorn), ScD FSA FBA

DR ANNA RITCHIE, OBE BA PhD FSA

PROFESSOR CHARLES THOMAS, CBE DL DLitt HonDLitt FSA FBA HonMRIA

PROFESSOR J D VAN DER WAALS

PROFESSOR DR WILLY GROENMAN-VAN WAATERINGE

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 two Fellows. Admission shall be by ballot. In the case of candidates not able to obtain two sponsor Fellows, it shall be open to the Council after consideration of the circumstances and credentials of the candidate concerned, to waive the necessity for two sponsors from among the Fellowship.
- 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 President 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 various Committees appointed by Council as provided for in Law 15, if not already elected members, and the Society representative of the National Museums Scotland (NMS) who is already a Fellow of the Society (nominated by the NMS 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 individual 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, 30th 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.