SURVEYING SCOTTISH STUDIES IN CANADA

Elizabeth L. Ewan and Heather Parker*

With 2009 the Year of Homecoming in Scotland, it seems appropriate to take stock of the state of Scottish Studies in one part of the New World. What follows is a snapshot of teaching and research in post-secondary institutions across Canada, showing a diverse and robust group of researchers. A survey was sent out in Spring of this year, and the discussion here is largely based on the results of the thirty-seven responses we received to the survey, although we have also supplemented it with some additional information, identifying fifty people in all who work primarily or partly in Scottish Studies. We may have missed some researchers, but we hope this article will give some idea of the types of Scottish humanities research being carried out in Canada. Those with Scottish interests are to be found across the country, in almost every province. A cross-country survey, province by province, will be found below.

One very positive result of the survey is the number of people with Scottish research interests who have joined Canadian universities since 2000. Sixteen of the respondents began their current position in the last decade, and the actual number may be higher when those who did not respond are taken into account. Graduates of Scottish Studies are now widely dispersed; we know of several who have gone on to

* Elizabeth L. Ewan is a University Research Chair in History and Scottish Studies at the University of Guelph. Her recent publications are *The Biographical Dictionary of Scottish Women*, eds. E. Ewan, S. Innes, S. Reynolds and R. Pipes (Edinburgh University Press, 2006, 2007) and *Finding the Family in Medieval and Early Modern Scotland*, eds. E. Ewan and J. Nugent (Ashgate Press, 2008).

Heather Parker is a PhD Candidate in Scottish Studies at the University of Guelph.

take academic positions outside Canada, in the United States, Australia and Scotland.

History and Literature dominate the disciplines in which Scottish research is found, although it is a mark of the richness of the field that many researchers cross disciplinary boundaries, especially those in Celtic Studies. Scottish work is also found in Musicology, Art History, Book History, Land Resource Science and Philosophy. All periods of the past are represented, with research being carried out from the twelfth to the twentieth centuries. Particular concentrations of scholars are found working on late medieval literature, seventeenth-century Scotland, the Enlightenment (history, literature and philosophy), and Scottish culture in Canada. Topics of particular interest include the witch-hunt, Hume, Scott, women writers and women's history, national identity, and Gaelic society, language and culture.

Two Canadian journals have recently featured special Scottish issues. Renaissance and Reformation/Renaissance et Réforme produced a special issue on Transformative Disorder: Scotland 1550-1650 edited by Sarah Dunnigan and Elizabeth Ewan that was published last summer. Florilegium, the journal of the Canadian Society of Medievalists, will have a special issue on Scotland in 2009, edited by Christa Canitz. The International Review of Scottish Studies has also become an openaccess journal, now freely available online.

Another recent development, which has been of particular benefit to medievalists and early modernists has been the establishment of TannerRitchie Press in Burlington by two Scottish medieval historians, Roland Tanner and Pamela Ritchie.² TannerRitchie has digitized many of the most important printed sources for early Scottish and English history and this has allowed researchers and libraries that did not previously have access to these materials (especially the difficult-to-find Scottish materials) to acquire them.³ Other Scottish sources are also appearing in greater and greater numbers on the Internet. The University of Toronto libraries and the University of Guelph libraries have begun to digitize portions of their Scottish material for the Internet Archive's Open-Access Text Archive.⁴ This proliferation of digitized sources is making it increasingly viable to do Scottish research at post-secondary institutions that do not hold extensive Scottish material.

For students interested in taking courses on Scotland or with Scottish content, there are a small but growing number of such courses being offered, many of which are listed below. Increasingly there are also courses offered in Distance Education format, for example from the University of Guelph and the University of Dundee, for those who do not have access to courses through their own universities. Opportunities for graduate work are more limited, with a number of Scottish specialists working in departments which do not have graduate programmes. However new programmes are being developed in some institutions. For example, Brock University, which includes two Scottish historians on staff, will be welcoming its first MA students this year. The Centre for Scottish Studies at Guelph, which accepts MA and PhD students through the Tri-University History Graduate Program, draws the largest number of graduate students at present, but increasingly there are opportunities for graduate work elsewhere, especially at Simon Fraser University, with its Scottish Studies Centre. A number of Scottish graduate theses have also been written at the University of Saskatchewan and the Centre for Medieval Studies at the University of Toronto. It will be the graduates of these programmes who will ensure the continuation of Scottish Studies in Canada.

From Coast to Coast

(Note that the publications mentioned below only represent a small part of each scholar's output and are intended just to give an indication of their work)

Starting our survey in the part of Canada closest to Scotland, there are two scholars with Scottish Studies interests at Memorial University and at Sir Wilfred Grenfell College. Don Nichol in English at Memorial teaches a course on Scottish literature. His research spans eighteenth- to twentieth-century Scotland. Among his many publications, he has recently edited the facsimile edition of the *New Foundling Hospital for Wit*, with its anti-Scottish satire and a number of essay collections.⁵ Further west, at Sir Wilfred Grenfell College of Memorial University, Olaf Jenzen in the Department of History has done substantial research on the early eighteenth-century trade between Scotland and Newfoundland.⁶

Nova Scotia, as might be expected, is home to a large

number of scholars with Scottish Studies interests, with particular concentrations of scholars in the field at Cape Breton University and St Francis Xavier University. At Cape Breton, the History Department is home to three scholars who teach and research in the Scottish area. This strength allows the Department to offer a wide range of Scottish courses, including Celtic History, Witch-hunting and Popular Culture in Early Modern Scotland, Sixteenth-Century Scotland and Modern Scotland. Mary MacLeod's interests lie mainly in modern Scotland, while early modern Scottish history is particularly well-served, with two historians working in this area. David Mullan is a leading authority on the religious culture of late sixteenth- and seventeenth-century Scotland, and author of many books in the field. Scott Moir works on seventeenth-century legal and social history; his most recent work examines the lives of those women accused of witchcraft in the period.⁸ Cape Breton also offers Scottish expertise in Ethnomusicology, with Heather Sparling researching the use of Gaelic language in Cape Breton music.⁹

At St Francis Xavier, Celtic Studies, unlike most Celtic Studies departments in North America which tend to have predominantly Irish interests, has a strong focus on Scottish Gaelic, both in Scotland and North America. The Department offers what is probably the most multi-disciplinary range of courses in Scottish Studies, including music, literature, language, folklore and history. Kenneth Nilsen, Chair of Celtic Studies, has published widely on the use of Scottish Gaelic in North America. Michael Newton is an authority of Gaelic Scotland, who draws together literature, history and music in his work. Michael Linkletter publishes on the Canadian Gaelic community; his research includes work on the Gaels of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island. Page 12.

Nova Scotia is also home to several other Scottish scholars in its various universities. At Dalhousie, Cynthia Neville, a leading authority on twelfth- to fourteenth-century Scotland and charter scholarship, offers courses on Scotland in both the early medieval and later medieval periods. ¹³ Also at Dalhousie is Fiona Black, Director of the School of Information Management, who has examined the influence of the Scots on book trade and culture in Canada in a series of chapters and articles. ¹⁴ At St Mary's, Michael Vance focuses on Scottish emigration to Canada, most recently editing the work of

Scottish clergyman Rev. William Wye Smith. ¹⁵ At Mount St Vincent, one of the interests of Chris Ferns in English is Walter Scott's literature. ¹⁶

In New Brunswick, Christa Canitz at the Fredericton campus of the University of New Brunswick has recently edited the special Scottish issue of *Florilegium*, referred to above. Her own work includes studies of a number of late medieval Scottish poets including Dunbar and Douglas, while she has also examined the portrayal of medieval history on screen.¹⁷ In Quebec, fifteenth-century Scottish literature, including the work of Robert Henryson, is one of the interests of medievalist Jamie Fumo in English at McGill.¹⁸

Ontario has a large number of Scottish specialists or those whose interests include Scottish Studies in its various universities. In English at Laurentian, Marilyn Orr's work on nineteenth-century British literature includes several studies of the writings of Walter Scott.¹⁹ Douglas Hayes in English at Nipissing works on early Scottish and English drama and rhetoric and is contributing editor in charge of a new section on fifteenth- and sixteenth-century Scottish poetry for the *Broadview Anthology of British Literature*. At Queen's, Janice Helland in Art History and Women's Studies publishes widely on Scottish women artists as well as on Highland home industries.²⁰

Toronto is home to a number of people with expertise in Scottish Studies. Celtic Studies, at St Michael's College, University of Toronto, includes courses on Scottish Gaelic, Celtic Cinema and Celtic Culture through the Ages. Director Mark McGowan is the editor of Garm Lu (SMC Celtic Studies Undergraduate Journal). Celtic Studies conferences and visiting speakers often feature Scottish topics. At the Centre for Medieval Studies, doctoral students occasionally work on Scottish topics. One of the graduates of the Centre, Mairi Cowan, has recently joined the faculty at University of Toronto Mississauga where she will include Scottish material in her medieval and early modern courses and hopes to propose some Scottish courses for future years. Her research examines the lay piety of late medieval/early modern Scotland.²¹ At Knox College in Toronto, Stuart Macdonald, Professor of Church and Society, includes substantial Scottish content in his courses on Christianity and on the Presbyterian Church in Canada. He has published widely on both the

Scottish witch-hunt and Scottish ethnicity in Canadian religion.²² At York, Ian Gentles, an expert on seventeenth-century British history, has included research on Scotland in his work²³, while Michael Michie at Atkinson College has examined the career of nineteenth-century Scot Archibald Alison.²⁴

Guelph is home to the Centre for Scottish Studies and benefits from four decades of dedicated work to build up its extensive Scottish Collection of books and manuscripts which provide a rich resource for faculty and students and helps support a substantial number of graduate students. Although Scottish Studies at Guelph is primarily a graduate programme, several undergraduate courses are offered which focus on Scotland. This year sees the launch of the Scottish Studies Certificate, a new programme which will make available a variety of courses on the history, literature and landscape of Scotland through distance education. The Centre also organizes two Scottish Studies Colloquia each year, one in the fall in Guelph and one in the spring in Toronto, and also produces The International Review of Scottish Studies. In 2004, following a long and dedicated fund-raising effort by the Scottish Studies Foundation, the university was able to establish the first Scottish Studies Chair in North America. Graeme Morton, Chair and Director of the Scottish Studies Centre, is an expert on Scottish national identity and has published widely on the topic.²⁵

The work of the Chair in teaching and supervising graduate students is complemented by that of three other faculty members in History, as well as faculty in other departments in the university. Kevin James's early research focused on the Ulster Scots and also Scottish labour history. His recent work examines nineteenth-century tourism.²⁶ Linda Mahood's early work examined Magdalene Asylums, sexuality and discipline in nineteenth-century Scotland.²⁷ Elizabeth Ewan's current research focuses on gender in medieval and early modern Scotland, and she is also constructing a website of resources for Scottish women's history.²⁸ Kris Inwood (Economics and History) co-ordinates the 'Scottish and Canadian 1871 Census Project,' which provides employment for many graduate students in the programme. The History graduate programme is part of the Tri-University History Program with Waterloo and Wilfrid Laurier, and this has enabled it to draw on expertise at the other universities, including that of Sarah Tolmie in

English at Waterloo whose research includes the examination of kingship and usurpation in medieval England and Scotland.²⁹

In the Guelph School of English and Theatre Studies, although cutbacks have meant the loss of an earlier position dedicated to Scottish literature, Daniel Fischlin has published on the work of James VI and I,30 Christine Bold frequently reviews Scottish books for the Times Literary Supplement, and Marianne Micros has developed a course on Scottish literature for the Certificate in Scottish Studies. Scottish women writers feature as part of the Orlando: Women Writers Project co-ordinated by Susan Brown, and Scottish writers are included in some British literature courses. Anne Milne has examined eighteen-century British poetry, including the work of Janet Little.³¹ In Land Resource Science, Stewart Hilts has developed a course, The Landscape of Scotland, for the Scottish Studies Certificate. Peter Loptson in Philosophy has published extensively on David Hume and since 2005 has been the editor of Hume Studies. Emeritus librarian Tim Sauer has created an extensive website devoted to the works of Scottish novelist, and founder of Guelph, John Galt.

At Brock, the first Director of the new Medieval and Renaissance Studies programme was Scottish medieval historian Andrew McDonald, who offers a range of undergraduate courses on medieval Scottish and Celtic history. An expert on twelfth- and thirteenth-century Scotland, he has published both on Scotland itself and on the larger Irish Sea World. Mark Spencer, also in History, offers courses with Scottish content in Modern Political Thought and a graduate seminar on the American Enlightenment. He writes widely on Hume and on the influence of the Scottish Enlightenment in America. Mark Spencer of the Scottish Enlightenment in America.

There are two Scottish historians at the University of Western Ontario. Barbara Murison teaches several courses on the history of Scotland. Her research includes both early modern and nineteenth-century Scotland and emigration. Most recently she has published 'Myth and Migration: Unpicking the Career of the Reverend John Sprott'. Anne Skoczylas also offers courses with Scottish content. Her research focuses on religious and intellectual history in the eighteenth century. Roger Emerson, Emeritus Professor of History, continues to publish actively on the Enlightenment.

In Manitoba, Pam Perkins in English, Film and Theatre at

the University of Manitoba offers courses on Scottish literature from the eighteenth to the twentieth centuries. She has written widely on Scottish women writers, including a forthcoming edition to be published by Broadview of Elizabeth Hamilton, *The Cottagers of Glenburnie and Other Educational Writing.*³⁷ The University of Saskatchewan has two experts on early modern Scotland on staff. Gordon DesBrisay in History examines seventeenth-century society, especially in Aberdeen. His recent work has focused on women's lives.³⁸ David Parkinson in English has published extensively on Montgomerie, Douglas and Henryson and also on seventeenth-century literature.³⁹

In Alberta, there are Scottish historians at a number of institutions. Janay Nugent at Lethbridge teaches a course on Scotland 1560-1707 and includes Scottish content in courses such as The Family in Early Modern Europe. Her research focuses on the family in reformation-era Scotland. At Grant MacEwan College, Rob Falconer includes Scotland in his courses Crime and Society in Early Modern Europe and in courses on medieval and early modern European history. His research focuses on crime and control in late sixteenth-century towns. At Grande Prairie Regional College, Duff Crerar includes Scottish material in his courses on Europe, Human Conflict and Canadian Native History and has written on Scottish migration to Canada and early Canadian Presbyterianism.

British Columbia has Scottish Studies specialists at several of its universities. Simon Fraser University has become a centre for the study of Scotland with the establishment of its Scottish Studies Centre. The university offers a wide variety of Scottish courses, including ones in History, English, Humanities and Philosophy, covering such topics as emigration to Canada, Burns, Hume, Adam Smith, and eighteenth-century literature. The Centre also oversees two important projects which aim to preserve the history of the Scots in British Columbia – Oral History: Voices from the West, and the Scots in BC Archives Project. It is also very active in organizing international conferences and guest speakers, including a themed lecture series each year.

The current Director of the Centre, Leith Davis, teaches courses in eighteenth- to twentieth-century Scottish literature, and publishes widely on Scottish literature especially of the

eighteenth century, Robert Burns and Janet Little.⁴³ Steven Duguid in Humanities offers courses on Edinburgh and the Scottish Enlightenment. In History, Jack Little teaches occasional special topics courses on the Scots in Canada. His research examines the experience of Scottish settlers in Canada, especially those from the Highlands and Islands and their settlement in Quebec.⁴⁴

At the University of Victoria, a recent charitable donation has established a graduate scholarship in Scottish Studies as well as a rotating two-year Faculty Fellowship in the area. Paul Wood in History, the first holder of the Fellowship, teaches courses on the Scottish Enlightenment. His research focuses particularly on the Enlightenment in Aberdeen and on the work of Thomas Reid.⁴⁵ His interests are shared by Patrick Rysview in Philosophy, the second holder of the Fellowship, who has also published on Reid's work.⁴⁶ At Trinity Western, Holly Faith Nelson teaches several courses which look at Scottish material and also at the treatment of the Scot including Renaissance Poetry and Prose and Seventeenth-Century Women's Writing. She has written extensively on James Hogg⁴⁷ and is co-editor of James Hogg and the Literary Marketplace: Scottish Romanticism and the Working- Class Author, which will be published by Ashgate this year. David W. Atkinson, now the president of Kwantlen Polytechnic University, has edited a collection of the seventeenth-century sermons of Zachary Boyd.⁴⁸

Since the last survey of this kind was done over two decades ago, web-based research technologies have revolutionized the way that scholars are able to connect to sources and to each other. Crucial reference works are now available for download that were previously held only in select Scottish libraries. Searchable electronic editions such as those produced by TannerRitchie are making it possible to ask new questions of the sources. With new types of communication and remote access to Scottish records, Canada's geographically dispersed faculty and graduates students have ever-improving access to primary and secondary sources relevant to Scottish research. From this survey it is clear that most Canadian faculty with Scottish interests work independent of specialized Celtic and Scottish Studies centres. In the past, a lack of Scottish library resources at these institutions has limited the number of

graduate students with Scottish specialties working with these researchers. The digitization of extensive Scottish collections will increase the opportunities for these students at a wider range of institutions.

The age of the Internet has made transatlantic communication increasingly commonplace among researchers of Scottish topics. This makes it easier than ever for Scottish researchers based in Canada to be part of a worldwide community of scholars and engage in debates and collaborative projects. Common interests among this diverse group of Canadian faculty include late medieval poetry, Scottish women, national identity, the Enlightenment in Scotland, and Scottish settlement in Canada. Beyond these trends, researchers continue to investigate a very wide range of topics in a broad range of institutions across Canada.

Digitized resources and distance education programmes have made it easier to study Scotland outside of Canada's main research facilities. Nevertheless, the number of centres for Celtic and Scottish research in Canada are on the increase. These centres play an important role in the collection and development of Scottish archives. They also host collaborative research projects with diverse themes, many of which focus on the establishment of databases recording Scottish settlement of Canada. The strengths of Scottish studies in Canada rest both in the extensive coverage of certain themes, and in the variety of individual investigations, providing seeds for future growth in even more fields. We hope that the next survey of Scottish studies in Canada will see these strengths grow even further.

Notes

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- ³ TannerRitchie Publishing, http://www.tannerritchie.com.
- 4 'Open-Access Text Archive,' The Internet Archive, http://www.archive.org/details/texts .
- ⁵ Transatlantic Crossings (1995); Transatlantic Crossings II (2006).
- ⁶ Olaf Jenzen, ed., *Merchant Organization in Maritime Trade in the North Atlantic, 1660-1815* (St. John's: International Maritime Economic History Association, 1998).
- ⁷ For example, David George Mullan, *Scottish Puritanism*, 1590-1638 (Oxford, New York: Oxford University Press, 2000); David George Mullan, ed., *Women's Life-Writing in Early Modern Scotland*. (Aldershot: Ashgate, 2003); *Narratives of the Religious Self* will appear with Ashgate later this year.
- ⁸ Scott Moir, 'The Crucible Witchcraft and the Experience of Family in Early Modern Scotland' in *Finding the Family in Medieval and Early Modern Scotland*, eds. E. Ewan and J. Nugent (Aldershot: Ashgate, 2008), pp. 49-62.
- ⁹ Heather Sparling 'Categorically Speaking: Towards a Theory of (Musical) Genre in Cape Breton Gaelic Culture,' *Ethnomusicology*, 52 (2008): 401-425; Heather Sparling, "'Music is Language and Language is Music" Language Attitudes and Musical Choices in Cape Breton, Nova Scotia,' *Ethnologies*, 25 (2003): 145-171.
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- ¹³ Cynthia J. Neville, Violence, Custom and the Law: The Anglo-Scottish Border Lands in the Later Middle Ages (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 1998); Cynthia J. Neville, Native Lordship in Medieval Scotland: The Earldoms of Strathearn and Lennox c.1140-1365 (Dublin: Four Courts Press, 2005). A new collection of essays, Land, Law and People in Medieval Scotland, will be published by Edinburgh University Press in Fall 2009.
- ¹⁴ F. A. Black, 'The Export of Scottish Print Culture: North America' in *The Edinburgh History of the Book, Volume 3: Ambition and Industry, 1800-1880*, ed. B. Bell (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2007).
- ¹⁵ Scott A. McLean and Michael E. Vance, eds., William Wye Smith, Recollections of a Nineteenth-Century Scottish Canadian (Toronto: Natural Heritage Books, 2008); M. Harper and M.E. Vance, eds., Myth, Migration and the Making of Memory: Scotia and Nova Scotia c.1700-1990 (Halifax and Edinburgh: Fernwood and John Donald, 1999).
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- ¹⁷ A. E. Christa Canitz, "Historians ... Will Say I am a Liar": The Ideology of False Truth Claims in Mel Gibson's 'Braveheart' and Luc Besson's 'The Messenger' in *Postmodern Medievalisms*, eds. R. Utz and J. Swan (Cambridge and Rochester: D.S. Brewer, 2004), 127-42; 'A Benefice for the Profit: William Dunbar's Petitionary Poems', *Studies in Scottish Literature* 33-4 (2003-4): 43-61.
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- ¹⁹ Marilyn Orr, 'Public and Private I: Walter Scott and the Anxiety of Authorship', *English Studies in Canada*, 22 (1996): 45-58; 'Real and Narrative Time. *Waverley* and the Education of Memory', *Studies in English Literature*, 1500-1900, 31 (1991): 715-34.
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- ²⁸ E. Ewan and M. Meikle, eds., *Women in Scotland c.1100-c.1750* (East Linton: Tuckwell Press, 1999); E. Ewan *et al*, eds., *The Biographical Dictionary of Scottish Women* (Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press, 2006).
- ²⁹ Sarah Tolmie, 'Sacrilege, Sacrifice and John Barbour's Bruce', *International Review of Scottish Studies* 32 (2007): 7-32.
- ³⁰ Daniel Fischlin and Mark Fortier, eds., *Royal Subjects: Essays on the Writings of James VI and I* (Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 2002).
- ³¹ Anne Milne 'Lactilla tends her fav'rite cow': Ecocritical Readings of Animals and Women in Eighteenth-Century British Labouring-Class Women's Poetry (Lewisburg: Bucknell University Press, 2008).
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- ³³ Mark G. Spencer, *David Hume and Eighteenth-Century America* (Rochester: University of Rochester Press and Boydell & Brewer, 2005).
- ³⁴ Barbara Murison 'Myth and Migration: Unpicking the Career of the Reverend John Sprott', *Acadiensis*, 37 (2009); 'Lapidary Inscriptions: Rhetoric, Reality and the Baillies of Mellerstain', in *Finding the Family in Medieval and Early Modern Scotland*, eds. E. Ewan and J. Nugent (Aldershot: Ashgate, 2008), pp. 99-112.
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- ³⁹ David Parkinson, *The Complete Poems of Robert Henryson* forthcoming with TEAMS (The Consortium for the Teaching of the Middle Ages); *Alexander Montgomerie: Texts*. Scottish Text Society, Fourth Series, vol. 28, (Edinburgh, 2000).
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