

# Scottish Society for Northern Studies



DAY CONFERENCE AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
Saturday 24th November, 2012



**PLEASE NOTE NEW VENUE ADDRESS!**

St.Cuthbert's Parish Church, 5 Lothian Road, Edinburgh EH1 2EP

## Scots and Scandinavians

- 09.30 – 10.00 Coffee/tea and registration
- 10.00 – 11.00 **The 2012 Hermann Pálsson Memorial Lecture**  
**Steve Murdoch** (University of St. Andrews)  
**'The Scots in Early Modern Scandinavia: A Review'**
- 11.00 – 11.45 **Sarah Thomas** (University of Aberdeen)  
**'Church, Diplomacy and Incarceration: Late Medieval Sodor Bishops'**
- 11.45 – 12.30 **Bjorn Bandlien** (Institute for Archaeology, Conservation and History, Oslo)  
**'Two Scottish Queens in Norway: Cultural Contacts between Scotland and Norway, 1266 – 1325'**
- 12.30 – 13.30 **Presentation of the SSNS Magnus Magnusson Memorial Essay Prize for 2012**  
followed by light lunch
- 13.30 – 14.15 **SSNS AGM**
- 14.15 – 15.00 **Helena Forsås-Scott** (University College London)  
**'"Walterscott", Realism, Gender: The Swedish Novel of the 1830s'**
- 15.00 – 15.45 **Colleen Batey** (University of Glasgow):  
**'Scotland: a Stepping Stone in the Norse North Atlantic' (title tbc)**
- 15.45 – 16.30 **Brian Smith** (Shetland Museum and Archives)  
**'P. A. Munch as Historian of Orkney and Shetland'**
- 16.30 – 16.45 Coffee/tea

**Conference fee (includes coffee/tea and light lunch):**

**SSNS Members: £20; Non-Members: £25; Registered Students: £8**

**Please complete the slip and send with cheque made out to the 'Scottish Society for Northern Studies' before Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> November 2012 to:** Alan Calder, SSNS, c/o Dept. of Celtic and Scottish Studies, University of Edinburgh, 27 George Square, Edinburgh EH8 9LD Email: [alancalder@btinternet.com](mailto:alancalder@btinternet.com)  
(No acknowledgement will be sent unless SAE enclosed)

I/we wish to attend the SSNS Day Conference & AGM on Saturday 24 November 2012.

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_ Landline: \_\_\_\_\_

Cheque enclosed for £ \_\_\_\_\_ (made payable to the **Scottish Society for Northern Studies**)  
Please specify if assistance required for access.

## ABSTRACTS

### **Steve Murdoch • 'The Scots in Early Modern Scandinavia: A Review'**

The 21<sup>st</sup> century has seen some dramatic changes in our understanding of the place of Scotsmen and women within early modern Scandinavia. Rigorous interrogation of military, civic and church records have overturned long-held beliefs about the importance of particular Scandinavian cities to the Scots, and led to a re-think of the roles Scots played within Scandinavia. Gothenburg, it transpires, was not the most important Swedish destination for Scottish traders as is often claimed, but was dwarfed in importance by both Bergen and Stockholm. Scots did not only arrive in Scandinavia as pedlars, but also undertook (indeed controlled) large parts of the Swedish iron, tar and cloth trade. In terms of soldiering, the importance of the Scots came not through mass mercenary activity, but through the tactical and decision making skills brought into the Swedish and Danish military command. The role of Scots in the navies of both monarchies has at last been fully researched, as has the penetration of key Scandinavian institutions including the two Lutheran churches and, in the Swedish case, the colleges of war, commerce, mining and at governmental level, the parliament and state council. This lecture reviews Scottish activity in a number of key areas and emphasises the fresh conclusions drawn by a number of scholars over recent years.

### **Sarah Thomas • 'Church, Diplomacy and Incarceration: Late Medieval Sodor Bishops'**

From 1266 to 1472, the diocese of Sodor - the Hebrides and the Isle of Man - had an awkward geopolitical position; the Treaty of Perth of 2 July 1266 left the diocese in the Nidaros Church province but transferred patronage of the see in addition to the secular sovereignty of the diocese to the King of Scots. Communication between diocesan and metropolitan was most likely to take place on those points in the ecclesiastical calendar when bishop and archbishop ended up in the same place: consecration and confirmation, provincial synods, visitations and other provincial or national meetings. This paper will discuss the identities and activities of the Sodor bishops in the first hundred years after 1266. How did these men respond to their diocese's geopolitical circumstances?

### **Bjorn Bandlien • 'Two Scottish Queens in Norway: Cultural Contacts between Scotland and Norway, 1266 –1325'**

Following the peace treaty of Perth in 1266, relations between the kingdoms of Norway and Scotland became closer. A clear sign of this is the marriage between Margrete, daughter of Alexander III and King Erik Magnusson of Norway. She died in 1283, but the Norwegian-Scottish marriage alliance continued when King Erik married Isabella, sister of Robert Bruce, in 1293. Although historians have long explored the consequences of these marriages on Scottish political and dynastic turmoil, little has been said on the cultural consequences that followed. In the years around 1300 there were many Scots in Norway and vice-versa, and especially in Norway, the Scottish impulses seems to have had some effect on historical writing, poetry, monastic spirituality and aristocratic identities. This knowledge might also offer some additional glimpses of Scottish culture in the period. The paper will present three case studies 1) an Old Norse translation of a text found by a Norwegian envoy in Roxburgh in 1286; 2) the activities of a Scottish friar in King Erik's service, and 3) a magnificent manuscript of William of Tyre's crusading chronicle that belonged to Queen Isabella Bruce, now in the Vatican Library.

### **Helena Forsås-Scott • "'Walterscott", Realism, Gender: The Swedish Novel of the 1830s'**

What did the Swedish novelist Fredrika Bremer mean when she wrote to a friend, 6 Oct. 1834: 'Walter Scott! [...] how I love him'? Bremer played a leading role in the development of the bourgeois Swedish novel, and in this paper, drawing on cultural studies and gender studies, including a doctoral dissertation by Åsa Arping (2002), I want to take a look at Scott's relevance for the emergence of realist prose fiction in Sweden. Scott has been studied in relation to the historical novel in Sweden and I shall touch on one such novel by Carl Jonas Love Almqvist, but my emphasis will be on realism and the two women writers who were central to its emergence in Sweden and who also went on to establish major international reputations, Fredrika Bremer and Emilie Flygare-Carlén. Having outlined the economic, political and social context, including relations of gender, in which the Swedish middle class began to appear in the 1830s, the status of the novel at the time, and the Swedish reception of Scott, I shall focus on Bremer's *Familjen H\*\*\** (1830-31; *The Colonel's Family*) and two novels by Flygare-Carlén, *Valdemar Klein* (1838) and *Romanhjeltinnan* (1849; *The Novel Heroine*). How innovative in terms of narrative and content were these novels? What version/s of realism do they develop? Where and how can we trace the impact of Scott? How significant was – and is – the fact that these novels were written by women, and how do the texts construct gender, and with what implications? How can we sum up the role of Scott in the emergence of Swedish novelistic realism, and how might this compare to Scott's impact elsewhere in Scandinavia?

### **Brian Smith • P.A. Munch as historian of Orkney and Shetland**

The Norwegian historian P.A. Munch was a pioneer researcher concerning the history and indeed the prehistory of the Northern Isles of Scotland. He pondered the problems of Orkney and Shetland's past and published documents about them. However, his work is not beyond criticism: he also pioneered an unhelpful way of looking at the islands' history from a nationalist perspective.