

EDITOR'S PREFACE

The first contribution to this number of Northern Studies looks back to last year's conference. Those of us who were there will remember with pleasure how the author introduced us to the church of St Clements at Rodel, in the field. The rest of our readers will now be introduced to the intriguing "sheila-na-gigs" there.

The greater part of this issue deals with literature. Both Anders Tyrberg's paper on the Swedish novel and Irene Scobbie's on Per Olof Sundman's novel *Två dagar, två nätter* were given at the Society's very successful meeting in Aberdeen this autumn. Ian Campbell's contribution, on Scottish literature in general and on a short story by George Mackay Brown in particular, together with the news from the National Library on their recent Scandinavian acquisitions make for a Scoto-Scandinavian balance, we hope.

Then, a small titbit from Iceland!

We also have a report on a Symposium held in December, marking the quatercentenary of the birth of Queen Anne of Denmark, and a summary of one of the lectures given there on Scoto-Danish relations by Professor Donaldson.

To end with, a reminder that we do like hearing from our members, contributions, queries etc. are all welcome.