

## EDITORIAL

The editorial appeal for material for 'Northern Studies' has provoked an excellent response. This issue is devoted to short articles, covering a wide field, and we hope that this will stimulate members to become more involved in the work of the Society. Professor Duncan Mennie's erudite paper on Scandinavian literature in the Scottish Periodical Press was delivered at the Society's one-day meeting in Newcastle on October 27, 1979. Harry Watson, a long-standing member of the Society, is now on the staff of the Dictionary of the Older Scottish Tongue in the University of Edinburgh. His paper on the development of teaching Scandinavian languages at Secondary level in Scottish schools tackles an aspect of study which has hitherto been unrecorded and neglected, and is very welcome. Colleen Batey, a post-graduate archaeologist in the University of Durham, has contributed a report on her excavations at Orphir in Orkney.

It was pleasant indeed to receive a report on the Newfoundland conference from our former president, Prof. Ted Cowan, now occupying the Chair of History in Guelph University, Ontario. Clearly, hard-headed Scottish historians are thin on the ground in North America, and cannot but act as moderating influences on the plethora of suspect theories on early European contacts with the New World.

Not many of us realise that we have a genuine mediaeval Swedish runestone in the heart of Edinburgh. Adam McNaughton's short article describes this in detail, together with an account of the remarkable individual who was responsible for acquiring it. Finally, Dr. Alan Bruford, archivist in the School of Scottish Studies, reviewing the publications of Thule Press, casts a critical eye over a publishing house which has produced some innovative books and reprints at a time when interest in Shetland has never been greater.

We are most grateful to all these contributors for their efforts. *Northern Studies* '16' will contain some articles held over from this issue, but further contributions for this and future issues, especially reviews, will be gratefully accepted.