

## **EDITORIAL**

The contributions to this issue have come from members of the Society who have all done valuable service to Northern Studies in the past. Harry Watson's article on Scots-Scandinavian literary parallels reminds us of the links which have long existed between Scandinavian and Scottish authors. The bibliography provided by Dr. Gillian Fellows Jensen is a reminder of the enormous amount of material which is available for study on the subject of place-names and related topics, and Ian Morrison's notes and articles on maritime Scandinavia and the Scottish connection provide us with further thoughts on the strong ties between ourselves and our neighbours across the North Sea.

We make no apology for the strong nautical element in this number. The sea continues to exert an influence on Scottish life which in this decade of the twentieth century at least, draws us very much within the Scandinavian sphere of activity. After all, the North Sea oil boom is something we share with Norway in a very real sense. If our fathers looked west across the Atlantic for their fortunes, our own generation has its sights fixed firmly on the seas to the east and north for economic survival.

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The imminent publication of 'Caithness – A Cultural Crossroads' is a major event in the history of the Society, since this volume, a collection of papers delivered at our Caithness conference in 1980, will be a fitting companion to 'Scandinavian Shetland' which we published in 1978, and which is now almost out of print. Members of the Society will have the opportunity to buy the Caithness volume at a reduced rate.