

## EDITORIAL

This issue contains a review of a festschrift to Dr. T.M.Y. Mason, the veteran Shetland writer and antiquary. Much of Dr. Manson's work has involved the building up of contacts between Shetland and other parts of the Scandinavian world. In this, he was not alone, but it is due to the dedication of such people that Viking studies have progressed beyond specialist, academic interests to embrace a much wider public. The words 'vulgariser' and 'populariser', in their best sense, spring to mind here. Like their Icelandic counterparts, the folk of the Northern Isles have for many decades been very much aware of their cultural background, and have consequently recognised the value of such indefatigable workers as Dr. Manson. It is altogether fitting that we, as a society, should pay tribute to Dr. Manson, since his aims coincide very much with our own. We are very conscious of the debt that we owe to this literary bridge-builder, and we wish him well for the future.

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This is my last issue as editor of 'Northern Studies'. From issue No. 22 (1985), the editorial task will be taken over by Dr. Doreen Waugh, who is well known to many members of the Society. Dr. Waugh is a place-name scholar, having recently completed her Ph.D. thesis on the place-names of the northern parishes of Caithness, and as a native of Shetland, is eminently qualified to act as editor of the journal. Contributions to 'Northern Studies' will therefore be warmly welcomed, whether in the form of scholarly articles or reviews of current literature relating to Scandinavia and Scotland.

May I take this opportunity to thank all those who have contributed to 'Northern Studies' since I took over the editorship, and my apologies for the lateness of this current issue. I must also place on record my thanks to John Baldwin, who has been a source of continual support and encouragement over the years.

**Ian A. Fraser**