

writings. Shetland in 1984, like its symbol Dr. Manson, cherishes the past but does not live in it. Part-compensation, perhaps, for the perils of a multi-national age is the heritage of multi-national scholarship; some of the bibliographies appended to these articles are noteworthy in their own right, testifying as they do to important recent work on Shetland that includes doctoral theses from Stanford to Manchester, and on topics relevant to Shetland and dealt with in publications from Rome to Reykjavik, from Budapest to Manitoba.

And a final bouquet to Dr. Crawford: she has produced an elegant as well as an instructive volume, and its many parts add up to a distinguished whole. I do wish that she had furnished it with an index, but that apart she has risen superbly to a daunting editorial occasion.

**John Simpson**

**Bruce Walker and W. Sinclair Gauldie: *Architects and Architecture on Tayside*. Dundee Institute of Architects, 27 Bank Street, Dundee, 1984, 206 pp.**

The first author of this book is well known to members of the society for his enthusiastic interest in Scottish buildings, especially rural ones. Here he displays his wide knowledge of notable works of architecture in a large part of eastern Scotland (more extensive than the Tayside of modern local government) to provide the greater part of a book published in celebration of the centenary of the Dundee Institute of Architects.

By means of nearly 200 illustrations of major buildings in town and country he demonstrates (as the foreword tells us) 'the legacy left by architects for us to enjoy or suffer'. After a brief look at the early centuries from Roman and Pictish times, and some attention to 'monastries' (*sic*), castles and burghs of the Middle Ages, detailed attention is given to the achievements of both local and distant architects from the seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

The text is as far as possible arranged around the work of named architects, whose biographies are sketched, and it has the great merit of suggesting dates for each building. The record of structures which have been demolished is particularly useful.

It is an informative book to read through, but a quite maddening one to use as a work of reference. Since there is no index and little obvious connection between the text and the illustrations, it is often hard to discover all that the author has to say about the particular building or architect. Indeed I am not at all sure that all the illustrations are even mentioned in the text.

There are many attractive old drawings and photographs; but their value is much

reduced by an almost entire absence of dates. We do not know whether it is an illustration of the building when new, or now, or at some date in between. It really is very disappointing to be left by an obvious expert to make our own guesses on the basis of the length of female skirts or the design of motor cars which are incidental features of pictures of buildings. No doubt these features provide scale in one sense: help with timescale would also have been welcome.

**Donald Watt.**