

Traversing  
the Inner Seas



# Traversing the Inner Seas

Contacts and Continuity in and around Scotland,  
the Hebrides, and the North of Ireland

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*Scotia Regnum* (detail) – William Hole, 1607

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Dr Nicholas Evans is currently a Teaching Fellow at the University of Hull, having taught and researched at universities in Ireland and Scotland, and having undertaken a PhD on the Irish chronicles at the University of Glasgow. His research interests are medieval identities, perceptions of the past, and the political, social, and ideological development of societies in Britain and Ireland, with a particular focus on the written sources. He has published *The Present and the Past in Medieval Irish Chronicles* (2010) and *A Historical Introduction to the Northern Picts* (2014).

## Contributors

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Ryan Foster worked as a geography teacher, before going on to complete an MA in Lake District Studies from Lancaster University. His thesis investigated whether the place-name element *-thwaite* in the Lake District was evidence of a Viking *landnám*. In 2013, he was awarded the Northern Scholars Scholarship for a PhD in Scandinavian Studies at the University of Edinburgh, where his research involves the study of Old Norse shieling names during the Viking Age.

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Mark A Hall works as a museum archaeologist, currently for Perth & Kinross Culture Trust and presently on secondment in the Outer Hebrides working on the Udal Project. His interest in medieval material culture focuses on early medieval – mainly Pictish – sculpture, the cult of saints, and gaming and reception studies (especially cinematic portrayals of the medieval past). He has published several articles and books, including *Playtime in Pictland: The Material Culture of Gaming in Early Medieval Scotland*, 'Board Games in Boat Burials: Play in the Performance of Migration and Viking Age Mortuary Practice', "'Pennies from Heaven": Money and Ritual in Medieval Europe', *The Lewis Chessmen: New Perspectives* (with David Caldwell), and 'The Meikle Stones: A Biographical Overview'. He is active on several committees and working groups, including the Scottish Strategic Archaeology Committee.

### **John Holliday (An Iodhlann, Tìree)**

Dr John Holliday trained as a cell biologist before switching to medicine. He has worked for the Pintupi people in the western deserts of Australia

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and was then the GP on Tiree for thirty years. As well as collecting the place-names of the island, he has an interest in the social history of the community. He has written *Tiree: War amongst the Barley and the Brine* with Mike Hughes (2012), 'A Name without a Place, a Place without a Name: The Isleborg Puzzle (again)' (*West Highland Notes and Queries* 4:2, 2016), and *Longships on the Sand* (2016). He is currently working on a geographical history of the island.

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Dr Arne Kruse is Senior Lecturer in Scandinavian Studies at the University of Edinburgh. His research and publications focus on coastal place-names in Scandinavia, medieval Scandinavian names in Scotland, and the more recent Scandinavian names of North America. His studies are typically interdisciplinary in nature, using place-names alongside history and archaeology to sketch patterns of distribution and widen our perception of the relationship between Scandinavian settlers and other languages and cultures.

### **Alan Macniven (University of Edinburgh)**

Dr Alan Macniven is Senior Lecturer and Head of Scandinavian Studies at the University of Edinburgh, where he is responsible for a range of courses on the languages, literatures, and cultures of modern and medieval Scandinavia, including Old Norse and Viking Studies. His research to date has focused on Scandinavian place-names in Scotland and their value as indicators of cultural change. Alan's recent monograph, *The Vikings in Islay: The Place of Names in Hebridean Settlement History*, was shortlisted for the Saltire Society's Research Book of the Year award in 2016. The follow-up, *Scotland's Viking Namescapes*, is scheduled for release in 2018.

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Alexandra Sanmark is Reader in Medieval Archaeology at the Centre for Nordic Studies, University of the Highlands and Islands. Her PhD thesis, from University College London, focused on the Christianisation of Scandinavia. More recently, she has been researching Viking-Age assembly sites as part of *The Assembly Project*, funded by HERA. The results of this project will be published in her forthcoming book, *Viking Law and Order: Places and Rituals of Assembly in the Medieval North*, published by Edinburgh University Press.