

NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS

Dr Nick Aitchison studied Archaeology and Scottish History at the University of Glasgow, where he was also awarded his PhD, subsequently published as *Armagh and the Royal Centres in Early Medieval Ireland* (1994). His other publications include *Macbeth: Man and Myth* (1999), *Scotland's Stone of Destiny* (2000), *The Picts and the Scots at War* (2003) and *Forteviot: a Pictish and Scottish Royal Centre* (2006). Dr Aitchison's interests focus on early medieval Scotland but, as a native of Stirlingshire, he also maintains a keen interest in the archaeology, history and toponymy of the Forth valley. In addition to being a member of the Scottish Place-Name Society, Dr Aitchison is also a fellow of the Royal Historical Society, the Society of Antiquaries of London and the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland.

Professor Thomas Owen Clancy holds the Chair of Celtic at the University of Glasgow, where he has taught since 1995. He has been Principal Investigator for a number of recent place-name projects, including most recently the AHRC-funded 'Scottish Toponymy in Transition' (2011–2014) and the Leverhulme-funded 'Commemorations of Saints in Scottish Place-Names' (2010–2013). He is a former editor of *The Innes Review* and is joint series editor of *The International Companions to Scottish Literature*.

Dr Richard A. V. Cox's interests include Gaelic language and literature, including modern poetry and prose writing, publishing, lexicography, linguistics, onomastics and Norse-Gaelic contact. Formerly at the Departments of Celtic at Glasgow and then Aberdeen, he is currently Professor in Gaelic language and literature at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, Isle of Skye.

Kay Muhr read Celtic studies at Edinburgh 1966–1970 and gained a PhD (on narrative style in traditional Gaelic literature) from the same university. After postgraduate fellowships in Cambridge, Dublin and Queen's University Belfast, she became a research fellow on the *Ordnance Survey Memoir* project in Queen's University's Institute for Irish Studies. She was Senior Research Fellow of the Northern Ireland Place-Name Project in Irish and Celtic Studies in Queen's from its foundation in 1987 until 2010. She is the author of Vol. 6 of the *Place-Names of Northern Ireland* series, an introduction to local place-name study called *Celebrating Ulster's Townlands* and joint author (with Patrick McKay) of *Lough Neagh Places: their names and origins* (2007). She has written on the use of place-names in the Ulster Cycle tales of Early Irish literature (*Ulidia, Emania, Seanchas Ard Mhacha*), on names and mythology: water imagery in Early Irish (*Celtica XXIII*), on early maps of Ireland, place-name elements relating to archaeology and religion, and English place-names

in Ireland (2013). Her research interests span Ireland, Scotland and the Isle of Man, including language, culture, oral tradition and place- and family names. A former president of the Society for Name Studies in Britain and Ireland, and chairman of the Ulster Place-Name Society, she is currently a consultant on Irish and Scottish Gaelic surnames for the University of the West of England and Oxford University Press *Family Names of Britain and Ireland* project (1st edn 2016).

Dr Colm Ó Baoill is a native of the city of Armagh, which is about two miles from Eamhain Mhacha, home of Cù Chulainn and capital of the Ulster Cycle of Gaelic tales. He graduated in Celtic from Queen's University, Belfast, in 1960, having studied under the guidance of Heinrich Wagner (1923–1988), and he later spent several summers recording some of the Gaelic dialects of Scotland for Vol. IV of Wagner's *Linguistic Atlas* (published in 1969). In 1966 he came as a lecturer to Aberdeen University where, with the support of Dr Annie M. Mackenzie, he took an interest in Scottish Gaelic verse and song of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. He has published seven editions of the verse of that period, four of them for the Scottish Gaelic Texts Society. He retired from university teaching in 2003, but his interest in a wide range of Gaelic literary and linguistic topics remains.

Dr Simon Taylor has been working in various aspects of Scottish place-name studies since the early 1990s, including the production of detailed surveys of Fife (5 volumes, 2006–2012), Clackmannanshire and Kinross-shire (1 volume each, forthcoming). He is employed half-time as a lecturer at the University of Glasgow. Editor of *JSNS* since its inception in 2007, he is now co-editor with Richard Cox.

Alasdair C. Whyte is from the island of Mull. He will defend his PhD thesis in Celtic and Gaelic at the University of Glasgow in January 2017. His thesis title is 'Settlement-Names and Society: analysis of the medieval districts of Forsa and Moloros in the parish of Torosay, Mull'. He is supervised by Dr Simon Taylor and Professor Thomas Owen Clancy. In addition to name studies and linguistics, his research interests include literature and song.

Sheila Young is currently completing her PhD, on pre-wedding rituals for women, at the Elphinstone Institute, University of Aberdeen. She won the SNSBI essay prize in 2008 for 'Oil and Gas Field Names in the Central and Northern Sectors of the North Sea: their provenance, cultural influence, longevity and onshore migration', which was later published in *Nomina* 32 (2009), 75–112.