

Editorial

Following Volume 33 under the editorship of Emily Lyle where fairs were featured, the present volume returns to a more varied format encompassing the variety of research being carried out in *Scottish Ethnology* in the context of the changes, both rapid and gradual, taking place in the field. As a part of a wider reorganisation, one of the most significant recent events in Scotland has been the combining, from 2001, of the School of Scottish Studies with the Department of Celtic into a single entity (Celtic and Scottish Studies) and the appointment of a personal chair in Celtic and Scottish Studies. The result has been to enhance the potential for research and publications in aspects of ethnology relating to Gaelic culture, which we are confident will be realised in the contents of the journal from this issue.

Specific interdisciplinary projects in Scotland are also making their mark on the discipline and providing replies to the timely questions concerning the future raised in the present volume. One of these examines the state of folk tradition in Scotland through an interdisciplinary study of its revivals and survivals. Closely allied is publishing activity emerging around the bagpiping, ranging from historical interpretation to the dynamics of change over the past century. In terms of the prospects for folkloristics during this century, it has begun to become apparent that one promising direction lies in the increased interaction between the discipline and the host communities. The School has lent constant and substantial support to the preparation of the recently launched Tobar an Dualchais/Kist o'Riches Project, a pioneering national initiative to be carried out over four years (and the first major one of its kind) that will make the contents of the major sound collections of Gaelic and Scots ethnological materials widely accessible online. In keeping with the School's long-term commitment to tradition-bearers and their communities throughout Scotland, the benefits will extend beyond the world of academic researchers, bringing the traditions to all levels of education, cultural and arts organisations, folk performers and small communities.

Calum Maclean (1915–1960), a Gaelic-speaker from Raasay and the first full-time collector to be hired by the School in 1951, left behind a legacy of fond respect among Highland singers/reciters and international academics, along with his monumental contribution of recorded materials held in folklore archives. A major research project awarded to the School to begin in 2006 will enable the transfer of thousands of pages of Maclean's Gaelic field transcriptions to disk with sophisticated search and classification enhancements. The major part of the material is being provided through an agreement with the Department of Irish Folklore, University College Dublin in a co-operative initiative that emphasises the central role of international collaboration in the future of ethnology.

