

News from north of the Border

Derrick Johnstone

The Bibliography makes use of the Zotero app which many researchers find invaluable in managing their own projects. It is easy to use and the Club provides tips on tracking down copies of the literature cited. The OEC continues to update the Bibliography as new literature becomes available and members spot missing items;

The Club has supported a variety of projects including a catalogue of Architectural Plans (1700-1824) held by the Edinburgh Dean of Guild Court. This is a remarkable collection of drawings, reports and correspondence tracing the development of the city site by site, not least that of the New Town.

Another is the Edinburgh Southside Graveyard Project which has been restoring headstones, laid flat for safety reasons. Since 2016 the work of the Project has not only allowed inscriptions to be read once more, but also improved the environment and provided constructive opportunities to participants on Edinburgh Council's Community Payback Programme for offenders. The Club also sponsors an annual prize at the University of Edinburgh for the best postgraduate dissertation relating to the history of Edinburgh.

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The Leopard after the fire

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The Old Edinburgh Club (OEC) is one of the longest established history societies in Scotland, founded in 1908. Like others, it runs a regular programme of events and produces its own journal, *The Book of the Old Edinburgh Club*. Recent lecture topics have included 'India in Edinburgh in the 19th Century', 'Science, Technology and the Royal Scottish Museum and Widows, Dowers and Debts in Early Modern Scotland'. Another considered 'Edinburgh and the Census' and asked how access to census data could be improved to facilitate local history research. This is so constrained outside the tight confines of data archives accessible to only a small number of academic researchers.

The Club has recently published the latest volume of the *Book of the Old Edinburgh Club*. This features articles amongst others on the British Linen Company and its connection with slavery, on Jews in Edinburgh 1841-1911, on the Treasury and the University of Edinburgh, on 350 years of the Royal Botanic Gardens, and on forgotten philanthropist Catherine Sinclair. The issue uses high quality images including this striking engraving of Climmeron Quarry taken from Stodart's Picturesque Views in Scotland (1801) (see in colour on back cover).

Back copies of the Book up to 1985 are available online on the Club's website www.oldedinburghclub.org.uk and further volumes up to 2008 are being digitised. These constitute a substantial body of work on the city's history with many authoritative articles. More recent back copies are available for sale.

Another recent development has been the compilation of the *Bibliography of Edinburgh History*, <https://oldedinburghclub.org.uk/bibliography-of-edinburgh-history/> designed to provide a launchpad in seeking out what has been written about the city's rich heritage. With over 2,000 items, it includes publications from the earliest works such as Matland's History of Edinburgh and Leith in 1753 to those of today. There are books, individual chapters, journal articles and dissertations. Whether your interest is in parts of the city, its individual communities, society and the built environment, the Club believes this offers the best single online source to consult.