

THE BOOK  
OF THE  
OLD EDINBURGH  
CLUB

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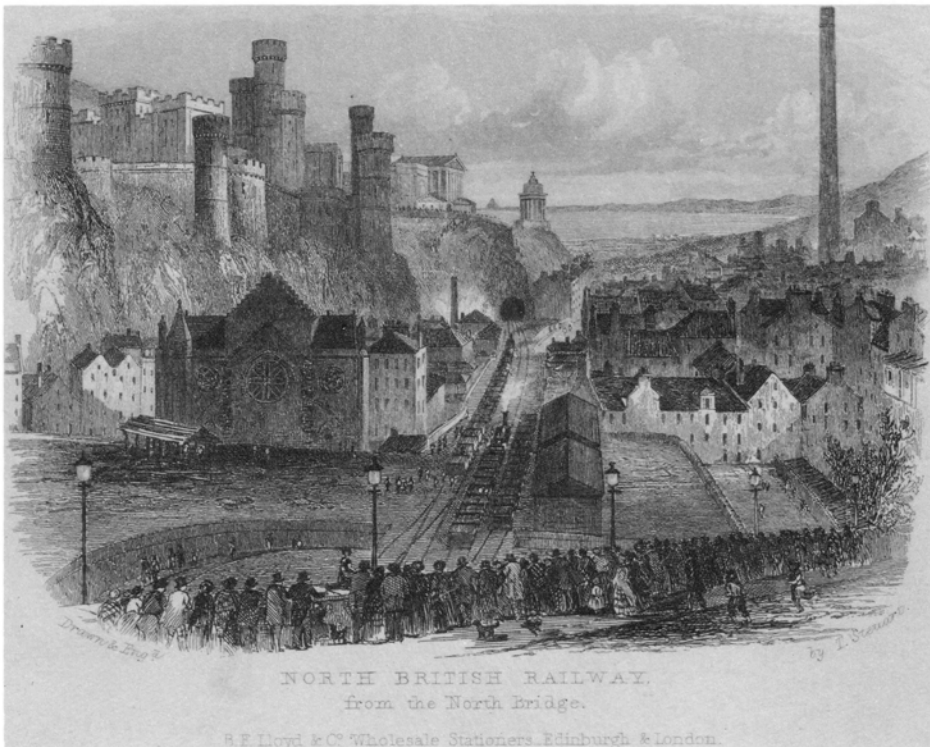
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NEW SERIES  
*Volume 1*

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1991

## C O V E R

### View of the North British Railway from the North Bridge

*Drawn and engraved by T. Stuart, c. 1848*

This vignette shows the Calton Jail, High School, Burns Monument and the new Gas Works chimney erected in 1847. They dominate the valley with the newly opened terminus of the North British Railway in the foreground. The building of the railway opened up the eastern approach to Edinburgh from Berwick-upon-Tweed; the Bill for its construction received the royal assent on 4 July 1844 and it opened with a fancy dress fanfare in June 1846. The old North Bridge was always an impediment to railway operations. In 1848, to get ground for a goods line through one of only three arches wide enough to take railway lines (the other two contained the five passenger lines), the old buildings round about including Trinity College Church and Hospital were demolished. An admiring crowd views the scene from the comparative safety of the North Bridge.

*By courtesy of Lammerburn Press*

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NEW SERIES  
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The original series of *The Book of the Old Edinburgh Club* was published in 35 volumes between 1908 and 1985; a final index volume will appear retrospectively. The New Series was relaunched as an annual publication in 1991.

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#### BOOKS FOR REVIEW

Books should be sent to Dr Andrew Fraser,  
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#### GUIDELINES FOR CONTRIBUTORS

1. Authors are invited to send a preliminary letter outlining the proposed contribution to Dr Fraser at the above address. An early indication of the illustrations envisaged would be helpful.
2. Copy should be submitted in typescript, double-spaced, on one side of A4 paper, with wide margins. It may be possible to accept finished copy on disk if the contribution is produced by word processor.
3. Notes and references should follow the text, with arabic numerals inserted consecutively at the appropriate places in the text.
4. References to printed sources should be set out as in the following examples:

Sir Daniel Wilson, *Memorials of Edinburgh in the Olden Time*, 2nd edn, 2 vols (Edinburgh 1891), II, p. 59.

J. B. Morrell, 'Medicine and Science in the Eighteenth Century', in Gordon Donaldson (ed.), *Four Centuries: Edinburgh University Life, 1583-1983* (Edinburgh 1983), pp. 38-52.

R. K. Hannay and G. P. H. Watson, 'The Building of the Parliament House', *Book of the Old Edinburgh Club*, 13 (1924), pp. 1-78.

5. References to manuscript sources should be in accordance with the practice of the repository in which the documents are housed. Examples are:

Edinburgh City Archives (ECA), Town Council Minutes, 12 August 1752.

National Library of Scotland (NLS), MS. 638, ff. 9-10.

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## NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS

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SIR MALCOLM INNES OF EDINGIGHT, KCVO, Lord Lyon King of Arms, has a long connection with the office as his father, Sir Thomas Innes of Learney, was also Lord Lyon.

PRISCILLA MINAY trained at Edinburgh College of Art and taught for a few years before entering the library profession. Now retired, she was formerly in charge of the Fine Arts Department, Edinburgh City Libraries. She has had a long-standing interest in garden history and has published articles on the Scottish lawyer and botanist James Justice.

ALLEN SIMPSON is Archivist to the Royal Scottish Society of Arts and Curator of the History of Science at the National Museums of Scotland, based at the Royal Museum of Scotland, Chambers Street, Edinburgh. He is joint author of *Brass & Glass: Scientific Instrument Making Workshops in Scotland* (reviewed in this issue) and is currently researching a history of Scottish weights and measures.

UNA ROBERTSON, Programme Secretary of the Old Edinburgh Club, is a freelance historian who has published widely on topics in social and domestic history. A member of the Scottish Beekeepers Association, she is also currently President of the Edinburgh and Midlothian Beekeepers Association.

## EDITORIAL NOTE

When the Old Edinburgh Club was formed in 1908 its objects included 'the collection and authentication of oral and written statements or documentary evidence relating to Edinburgh; the gathering of existing traditions, legends, and historical data; and the selection and publication of material desirable for future reference'.

This was the authority for the publication of *The Book of the Old Edinburgh Club*, which was first issued to members in March 1909, a fine well bound volume with red lettering on the title page, top edge gilt and fore-edge and tail uncut. By 1945 twenty-five volumes had been published, but by then rising costs meant change and the top gilt had to go. Apart from this there was little alteration in the style and between 1948 and 1966 seven more volumes were received by members.

By 1969, however, it was becoming clear that far from there being enough funds to present a full-scale volume every other year or so, the trend was for only an occasional volume. In an effort to cut costs, further and more obvious changes were made. The red lettering went and the decision was made to issue each volume intermittently in separate parts. A slight change was also made in the page size to allow the advantages of a different type face, giving more printed words to the page while still retaining adequate legibility. It was hoped that the Club would be able to issue parts with at least the frequency of the volumes in pre-war years. Eight paperback parts were produced between 1969 and 1985, completing volumes 33 to 35, and arrangements were made to allow members to have them rebound to match the earlier volumes in the series.

The Council of the Club has been very conscious of the delay that has followed since 1985. Rising costs and the advent of computerised technology for desk-top publishing prompted a reconsideration of the format of the Club's publication. An initial review by a small Committee in 1988 suggested a change to standard A4 paper size for economy, which, although altering the height of the volumes on the shelf, would allow the flexibility of a modern two-column format and the ability to include illustrations in the text.

Slow progress was made over the next two years and in 1990 a new Publications Committee was set up to reappraise the situation. The Committee recommended, and Council agreed, that *The Book of the Old Edinburgh Club* should be

relaunched as a New Series and as a regular annual publication, in the belief that the promise of prompt publication will regenerate the flow of contributions that had almost dried up during the dormant period. A formal Editorial Board has been established to ensure adequate review of submitted articles and spread the considerable load which had threatened to overwhelm previous editors. The Board is convinced that there is still a strong demand, from both authors and readers, for a publication that will continue to feature the traditional scholarly article found in the original series of *The Book of the Old Edinburgh Club*, and feels that there is also a place for a somewhat wider range of items, including book reviews and occasional lighter pieces (in a new 'Reekiana' section). An attractive annual publication should not only appeal to existing members but also enhance the reputation of the Club and help to attract new members.

Council of the Club agreed to revert to the traditional page size of previous issues, but to abandon the former system of parts and volumes which was becoming a bibliographer's nightmare. The relaunch also raised the possibility of adopting a shorter title, but discussion at the Annual General Meeting of the Club in March 1991 made clear the members' preference for retention of the old name. Accordingly, the present issue appears as the first annual volume of a New Series. A cumulative index will be included in every fifth volume so that members and libraries can have the new volumes rebound to match the original series if they so wish; however the New Series is also designed to stand more economically on the shelf as a run of individual volumes as issued.

The Editor owes a great debt of gratitude to the contributors, the Editorial Board, past and present members of the Council of the Club, Tom Bee of Artwork Associates, the typesetters, and many others for their patience and support during the long but intensive period while the present volume was being assembled and the new design developed. This is very much a collective effort, and it is hoped that it will re-establish the *The Book of the Old Edinburgh Club* as the natural vehicle for authoritative articles on all aspects of Old Edinburgh and its ever fascinating history.

Andrew G Fraser

October 1991