

THE BOOK
OF THE
OLD EDINBURGH
CLUB

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Reading Room

5 APR 1913

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STOCKBRIDGE and S^t.BERNARD'S.

NEW SERIES

Volume 2

1992

COVER

Stockbridge and St Bernard's

*Engraved by Robertson for the Edinburgh Magazine or Literary Miscellany,
December 1790*

This view shows a rural scene enhanced by the new stone bridge over the Water of Leith designed by Alexander Steven in 1785. The previous timber bridge at the foot of Stockbridge Brae was probably for foot traffic only. The bridge is still in use today, though widened frequently over the years. To the left the thickly wooded banks of the Water of Leith line the boundary of the Earl of Moray's pleasure grounds, and viewed through the trees are the bowed wings added to Drumsheugh House by Lord Moray who purchased the property in 1780. In the Articles and Conditions for laying out his thirteen acres of ground drawn up in 1822 he 'resolved to preserve the beauty of the bank on the south side of the river' by provision for its protection and maintenance. The row of simple cottages on this side gave way during the early nineteenth-century building boom to India Place and Saunders Street. These streets were demolished in the early 1960s as part of a city improvement scheme and new housing was erected, designed by Michael Laird and Partners.

The circular Roman temple in the middle distance is St Bernard's Well, built in 1789 by Frances Garden of Troup to designs by Alexander Nasmyth. On the right of the print is St Bernard's House, the property of Walter Ross, WS, well known for his interest in the acquisition of sculptured stones saved from buildings demolished in the Old Town. These he built into a square tower in his grounds, known as Ross's Folly. In the left-hand gabled and turreted projection of his house is a fine Gothic window. The square castellated projection to the right also exhibits a Gothic window, but according to Cumberland Hill, author of *Historic Memorials and Reminiscences of Stockbridge* (1887) this was a painted imitation – showing some flair on Ross's part for picturesque invention. Ross died in 1789 and St Bernard's House was bought by Sir Henry Raeburn to consolidate his property for feuing. Ross's Folly was demolished to make way for Ann Street, planned in 1814; the sculptured stones were saved for posterity by Sir Walter Scott and moved to Abbotsford. St Bernard's House, demolished in 1826, stood on the site of Carlton Street, and Danube Street and St Bernard's Crescent progressively covered the orchards and kitchen garden. Today the wooded banks and walk along the river still preserve some elements of the original character of this rural scene.

By courtesy of Ian Gow

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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 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 is helpful if finished copy is also supplied on disk when 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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Annual Report of the Old Edinburgh Club for the Year 1991

NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS

ZELLA ASHFORD is a great-great-granddaughter of Andrew Bonar, who was a partner in the Edinburgh private bank of Ramsays, Bonars & Company, and younger brother of John Bonar of the Excise. She has a growing interest in the Bonar genealogy.

DR JOHN BARCLAY is retired but is remembered for his pioneer work in the field of local history, principally through the Extra-Mural Department of the University of Edinburgh and the Scottish Tourist Board. His publications include a short history of Edinburgh and others of the Society of Solicitors in the Supreme Courts, the Boys' Brigade in Edinburgh and his old school, the Royal High School. He was President of the Old Edinburgh Club, 1980-84.

IAIN GORDON BROWN is Assistant Keeper in the Department of Manuscripts of the National Library of Scotland. He has written extensively on many aspects of Scottish culture and taste in the eighteenth century, and has published articles on Robert Adam in several leading journals. He was Curator of the major bicentenary exhibition 'Monumental Reputation: Robert Adam and the Emperor's Palace' shown in Edinburgh and London in 1992-93.

IAN GOW is Curator of the Architectural Collections of the National Monuments Record of Scotland. He has written many articles on the decorative arts and architecture of Scotland, including a study of the building of the National Gallery of Scotland. His book on the *The Scottish Interior* was published by Edinburgh University Press in 1992 (reviewed

in this issue). He is currently completing a PhD thesis on David Ramsay Hay, Scotland's pioneer interior decorator.

STUART HARRIS worked as an architect for the City of Edinburgh from 1950 to 1984, latterly as Depute City Architect. He produced *A Future for the Past* with Moultrie Kelsall in 1961 and has published several previous articles in the *Book of the Old Edinburgh Club*. Since his retiral he has been working on a book on place names in the City of Edinburgh District.

ALISON MORRISON-LOW has been a Curator of the History of Science collections at the National Museums of Scotland since 1980. She first became interested in William Nicol in connection with Sir David Brewster, for whom she organised a bicentenary symposium in 1981. Since then she has published work on the Scottish and Irish scientific instrument trade and the early history of Scottish photography. Her current research is directed towards the industrialisation of precision instrument manufacture.

RICHARD TORRANCE is a primary school teacher in Edinburgh. He has been on the Council of the Scottish Genealogy Society for fifteen years, the last five as Chairman.

THE VERY REVEREND DR RONALD SELBY WRIGHT, CVO, DD, FRSE, is Emeritus Minister of the Canongate (the Kirk of Holyrood House and Edinburgh Castle). He published *The Kirk in the Canongate: A Short History from 1128 to the Present Day* in 1956.