The Scottish Journal of Geology 50th Anniversary Volume

The Scottish Journal of Geology (SJG) is a joint publication of the Geological Societies of Edinburgh and Glasgow. First published in 1965, it grew from the former Transactions of the two Societies that began in Glasgow in 1860 and in Edinburgh in 1863. This long history underlines the role that Scotland has played since the days of Hutton and Lyell in developing geological ideas, with much of this seminal work published in the journal and its predecessors. The diverse geology of Scotland continues to provide an important natural laboratory for the study of Earth Sciences.

Although a number of people were involved in the inception and growth of the journal, two names stand out. It happens, by only narrow margins, that neither lived to see their creation pass this particular milestone. Gordon Craig and Douglas Grant were leading figures in the birth of the journal and it is appropriate to acknowledge their respective contributions, summarized below, in appreciations by Bernard Leake and Euan Clarkson. Bernard Leake refers to the collapse of Scottish Academic Press after 25 years of sterling service that precipitated the move to publication by the London Geological Society’s Publishing House. The journal survived at that time largely through the work of David Stephenson and Byron Lintern, the latter sadly also no longer with us.

Since its inception, the SJG has experienced a number of transitions, modernization of format and page layout (the most recent apparent in this issue), and the introduction of colour illustrations. The journal is now also published electronically, facilitating its inclusion in the Geological Society’s Lyell Collection, the only British geological database online, and in Geoscience World, based at Highwire Press in California. In parallel, the Editorial Board has overseen the digitization of the complete archives of not only the SJG but also the entire Transactions of the Edinburgh and Glasgow Societies, extending back to the 1860s and now available online anywhere in the world. The journal enjoys an international circulation based on the high standards of both the papers accepted for publication and their presentation. Throughout its history the SJG has acted as the focus for research work published in the journal and its predecessors. The diverse geology of Scotland continues to provide an important natural laboratory for the study of Earth Sciences.

Although university duties took up much of his time, and serious field-based geology became no longer possible, he was Sir Frederick Stewart’s right-hand man, and undertook a great deal of administration. Yet he enjoyed running undergraduate field excursions and, as I remember from an Arran field trip in the 1970s, demonstrated remarkable knowledge of all kinds of recondite geological phenomena. In 1964 he was instrumental in setting up the Scottish Journal of Geology, fusing the Transactions of the Geological Societies of Edinburgh and Glasgow and, importantly, editing the first three editions of The Geology of Scotland. Somehow, he found time to compile a charming book entitled A Geological Miscellany, with anecdotes, poems and gleanings from many geologists past and present. And then, the Clerk family of Penicuik, descendants of one of James Hutton’s companions, discovered some...
ancient watercolours depicting geological scenes and sections. Gordon, along with Charles Waterston and Donald McIntyre, recognized that these were the ‘Lost Drawings’, originally intended to illustrate Hutton’s *Theory of the Earth*, which had been published in 1799. Exquisite facsimiles of all the drawings and paintings, together with a magnificently explanatory volume were published in 1968, and these remain real treasures. Appropriately he became James Hutton Professor of Geology in 1967, and was Head of Department from 1981–84. His primary geological interest after this was to be the history of geology, and he became a major figure in the Society for the History of Geology (INHIGEO). He was awarded a medal for his historical work and was President of the Society from 1984–89.

Gordon was a positive, friendly man, who always seemed to have plenty of time, and never seemed to get stressed. Although he was shattered by the death of his first wife Mollie in 1968, his many years with Mary and their two sons were relaxed and happy. He loved playing golf and gardening, and he remained pleasantly laid-back. I remember when I was first interviewed in 1963 by Gordon and Sir Frederick Stewart, Gordon had forgotten to change out of his bedroom slippers! He remained a truly supportive friend thereafter. I shall miss him, and so will very many others.

Professor Emeritus Euan N.K. Clarkson
Edinburgh, January 2015

**Dr Douglas Grant (1918–2014)**

This volume of the *Scottish Journal of Geology* starts the second jubilee of the journal; 2014 saw the 50th volume completed in its 50th year of publication and, unfortunately, also saw the death of the man who launched the journal in 1965 and acted as Managing Editor, Douglas Grant (1918–2014), then Managing Director of Oliver & Boyd, publishers, printers and bookbinders, which was jointly owned by the Robert Grant and James Thin families. Thus began an astonishingly full and quite remarkable life of book and journal production over more than 50 years in, mostly, the academic field, in all disciplines but especially in geology and theology. Based in Edinburgh, he travelled widely in Europe, North and South America, Australia, New Zealand, China and Japan, becoming an internationally known publishing consultant. To this was added much public and charitable service, including exceptional service to the Church of Scotland in many roles. Major influences in much that Douglas did were the support of his wife, Enid Whitney (née Williams 1920–2010), whom he married in 1948 in Bromyard, Herefordshire, and his Christian faith and worship in St Cuthbert’s Parish Church, Edinburgh, in which he was an Elder from 1953.

Douglas revitalized Oliver & Boyd, modernized the machinery and industrial relations, encouraged technical innovation and printer training in technical colleges, developing a reputation as a man who knew everything worth knowing about publishing. He was entirely honest and reliable, was a superb chairman who spoke tersely but with knowledge and authority, and whose opinion was highly valued. By 1948, he was involved in forming and being a Director of the Scottish Journal of Theology Ltd and for 35 years from 1956–91 he was its Chairman; he joined the Edinburgh Master Printers’ Association, rapidly became Treasurer (1949–59), was Vice-President 1959–61, and President 1961–63; and he joined the Edinburgh Booksellers Society, being Preses (Chairman) from 1977–80. In 1949 he was elected FRSE.

Thus began an incredible calendar of public, charitable and business service that went on for decades and which, to fully appreciate its extent, requires listing. From 1949–85 FRSE and Jane Ierne Grant (née Robertson; 1884–1963), a family of educational publishers and booksellers. He was educated at George Watson’s College (1923–35) and then became a budding actuary employed by the Scottish Widows Fund and Life Assurance Society (1936–39). He volunteered for the Territorial Army and, in 1938, became a Second Lieutenant in the 4th Heavy Regiment Royal Artillery. From 1939–46 he was in the Royal Artillery, initially in the UK and then, in 1942–44, in West Africa, becoming Lieutenant-Colonel in 1943 and Regimental and Garrison Commander of the Takaradi base, SW Gold Coast (Ghana), an important staging post in the war for RAF planes flying to Egypt and on Atlantic anti-submarine patrols. In 1945–46 he was on the staff of the Eastern Command and posted as a staff officer to Wales. He earned the Territorial Decoration and bars. During the war he was elected to the British Ornithologists’ Union.

On demobilization, Douglas eschewed actuarial science and, following his family background, devoted his life to the production and publication of books and journals, mainly of academic interest. In 1946–47 he studied typography in College in London and worked for Blackwells in London and Oxford, making such an impression in Oxford that he was, in a short time, by invitation, made an Honorary Life Member of the Oxford Union Society.

In 1947 he became Managing Director of Oliver & Boyd Ltd, Edinburgh, publishers, printers and bookbinders, which was jointly owned by the Robert Grant and James Thin families. Thus began an astonishingly full and quite remarkable life of book and journal production over more than 50 years in, mostly, the academic field, in all disciplines but especially in geology and theology. Based in Edinburgh, he travelled widely in Europe, North and South America, Australia, New Zealand, China and Japan, becoming an internationally known publishing consultant. To this was added much public and charitable service, including exceptional service to the Church of Scotland in many roles. Major influences in much that Douglas did were the support of his wife, Enid Whitney (née Williams 1920–2010), whom he married in 1948 in Bromyard, Herefordshire, and his Christian faith and worship in St Cuthbert’s Parish Church, Edinburgh, in which he was an Elder from 1953.

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he was a Trustee of The Lodge Trust (Natural History); from 1950 a committee member of the Scottish Council of Law Reporting, and supervised over many years publication of Session Cases; from 1952–76 a Director of Robert Cunningham & Sons Ltd, printers, Alva (Chairman 1970–76); from 1952–56 a Director of the Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce, from 1955–78 a Trustee of the Darling (Ogilby) Investment Trust; from 1956 a committee member of the Police Dependants’ Trust–Lothian & Borders Police; from 1958–76 and from 1980 a member of the Church of Scotland Publications Committee (Vice-Convenor 1971; Convenor 1972–76); from 1964 a Trustee of the Kilwarlin Trust; while also being a Director of: New Education Ltd, 1962–66; Bracken House Publications Ltd, London 1963–67; R & R Clark Ltd, printers, Edinburgh 1963–80 (Chairman 1975–80); Sprint Productions Ltd, printers, Aylesbury 1963–80; Hunter & Foulis Ltd, bookbinders, Edinburgh 1963–75 (Chairman 1970–75); E & S Livingston Ltd, medical publishers, Edinburgh 1963–67; Darien Press Ltd, printers, Edinburgh 1963–68; Port Seton Off-Set Printers, Port Seton 1965–75 (Chairman 1968–75); T & A Constable Ltd, printers, Edinburgh 1965–75, and Multi Media (A. V.) Services Ltd, Port Seton 1967–75 (Chairman 1968–75), where unclosed dates indicate continuance beyond 1993.

Amidst all this activity he built Oliver & Boyd up across many disciplines, including the mathematical, physical, biological and geological sciences, for instance in geology, with books such as The British Caledonides (1963) and Controls of Metamorphism (1965) and launching the SJG in 1965. Literary criticism, theological and biblical studies, books on Scottish wildlife, history, topography, agriculture and forestry, and a splendid list of beautifully produced bird books, such as Birds of the British Isles and the internationally famous series Birds of Tropical West Africa, Birds of Borneo et al. were all embellished with superbly printed illustrations. Academic journals concerned with pathology, medicine, political economy, geology, mathematics, educational psychology, animal production, crop research, the use of English and Forum for Modern Languages added to the lustre and reputation for quality of the firm. He became known for helping new authors by editing and even partially re-writing texts to make them publishable. He was far-sighted in selecting titles and was in constant demand by printers and bookbinders for advice on the technical and administrative side, being noted for his kindness, expertise and willingness to give time to help despite being already heavily committed, as the above list of duties undertaken demonstrates. In 1967 Oliver & Boyd was sold to the Financial Times, but Douglas stayed as Managing Director with the new company until 1968, and initiated new developments with children’s books and a renowned series of paperbacks on the natural and social sciences.

From 1968–73 he represented the Scottish printing and publishing industry in the National Economic Development Office in London. With the backing of certain Scottish Universities, in 1969 he founded, and became Managing Director of, the Scottish Academic Press Ltd (SAP), Edinburgh. This eventually built up a list of 16 academic journals and achieved a publishing coup in obtaining from the Beijing authorities the right to publish the massive 20-volume English language version of the Stratigraphy of China. Equally prestigious was the successful launching for the Geological Society of London, the world’s oldest geological society, in January 1971, of The Journal of the Geological Society to replace The Quarterly Journal of the Geological Society (1845–1971), which due to mismanagement was chronically 18 months behind in publication. SAP undertook the management of the whole operation for only 10% of the institutional income but guided the operation into surplus for the first time, increased the subscriber numbers each year, saw such a flood of papers pour in as authors realized publication was prompt, that a committee of editors was needed to replace the writer, who was the last sole editor in a chain going back to 1845. The economical type layout eventually devised by Douglas is still used 40 years later in the society’s Special Publication series, which he also revitalized. This success, and Douglas’s offer of help (under extremely generous terms) to the seriously beleaguered Geologists’ Association in 1977, resulted in SAP taking over production of their Proceedings in the middle of a volume.

Douglas, whose contributions to Scottish publishing are unequalled, continued serving in a wide range of posts, some noted above, while building up SAP. From 1970–75 he was also a Director of: Scottish International Review Ltd, Edinburgh (Chairman 1973–75); from 1970–91 he was both Director and Secretary of the British Journal of Educational Psychology Ltd; from 1971 his public service increased as he became a member of the Finance committee of New College, where the renowned Divinity and Religious Studies of Edinburgh University are based, and then from 1974–84 a member of the University Court, from 1975 a Governor of the Esaide Trust (Ministers’ Daughters’ College), from 1975–79, a member of the Scottish Arts Council Grants to Publishers Committee, while adding from 1975–91 the Chairmanship of the Handsel Press Ltd (which excels in theological output) and a Directorship of Clark Constable Printers Ltd (1978–89).

In early days Douglas had refereed rugby in the Scottish Borders and in the north of England, walked the slopes of the Badenoch Hills and the Cairngorms and even did a little fishing, remaining a member of the Edinburgh Amateur Angling Club from 1957, (President 1978–80) and later undertook some golf, being a member of the venerable Honourable Company of Edinburgh Golfers. He was also a member of Scotland’s oldest club, founded in 1787, The New Club, with its magnificent centrally situated premises. Another source of relaxation, but with the family, was his country house, St Giles, in Kingussie. To the Rev. C. Robertson ‘he was a good man … with great personal charm, a warm and gracious manner, a winsome, lovable nature … with an outstanding ability to work with others’.

In 1980 he presented a far-seeing prophetic lecture to the Royal Society of Edinburgh on Publishing for the Scholar, which examined the changes taking place due to new technology and in 1981 the American Association of University Presses asked him to lecture on the same topic. In 1986 the University of St Andrews recognized that he ‘has done more than any other person to encourage, keep alive, and foster the publication of learned works and journals in Scotland’, being
particularly remembered for his special interests in geology and theology, and for his literary Writers and Critics series and for his Contemporary Science Paperbacks, awarding him the Degree of Doctor of Letters, honoris causa.

After 1986, although Douglas undertook a few additions to his already overloaded timetable by becoming a Director of Pindar (Scot) Ltd 1986–89, and Macdonald Lindsay (Printers) Ltd 1988–89, and a Trustee of The Society for the benefit of sons and daughters of the Clergy of the Church of Scotland College from 1990, his main energies were spent trying to save the under-capitalized SAP from financial collapse due to over extension that occurred in 1991. This left several ambitious, but important, incomplete projects on which considerable sums had been invested, including The Geology of Scotland and The Geology of England and Wales. The Geological Society, which had established its own Publishing House in 1987, purchased these two at a generous price and saw them through to publication and surplus, and also took over from SAP, producing the Proceedings of the Geologists’ Association and SJG, with the last still continuing. This was a time of great stress for Douglas (who was then 73 years old) and his faithful assistant Bridget Wilcox, and he gradually ran down his commitments. In this difficult time he appreciated being made an Honorary Fellow of the Edinburgh Geological Society in 1992 in recognition of his contributions to geological publishing.

However, by October 2000, when he was 82, he established with the Rev. W. Forker and Mr N. Steven, the Dunedin Press and was a shareholder, but never a Director or official. This Press continues prestigious academic publishing with about 20 titles a year, including outstanding geology titles such as The Geology of Ireland (2001, 1st edition; 2009, 2nd edition).


Professor Bernard Elgey Leake
Cardiff, January 2015