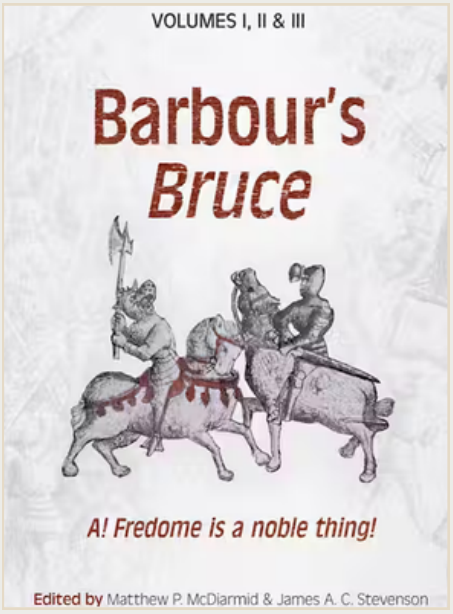
SCOTTISH TEXT SOCIETY

Spring Newsletter 2025

Dear member, welcome to the Spring edition of the Society's Newsletter.

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome the Society's new members and share with you news and events that may be of interest to you.

If you have any items to share with the membership please do email details to the membership secretary in time for the Autumn edition.



BBC Radio 4 - In our Time

Tune in to Radio 4 on Thursday 19th June at 9am when Melvyn Bragg will welcome Rhiannon Purdie, Scottish Text Society's Editorial Secretary, who will be discussing Barbour's Bruce along with Michael Brown and Steve Boardman.

If you can't listen live you will be able to catch it later on BBC Sounds.

A hybrid launch for **The Muses Threnodie**, the Society's most recent publication, is being planned for the end of June. More details will be circulated nearer the time as arrangements are confirmed.

A "must see" exhibition is on at the National Galleries of Scotland this summer. **The World of King James VI & I** has just opened and runs until September 14th. If you can't make it in person you can get a real flavour of the exhibition here.



English Short Title Catalogue (ESTC) is relaunched

The ESTC team is delighted to launch the Beta version of the new English Short Title Catalogue (ESTC), the most comprehensive resource available for the output of the printing press in the English-speaking world before 1801. ESTC is now part of the Consortium of European Research Libraries' (CERL) ecosystem and accessible for free here.

ESTC is a bibliography that aims to record every distinct letterpress item produced during the hand-press era in the English-speaking world. It is also a union catalogue that lists copies of those items held by libraries and other owners around the world as well as links to digital reproductions where available. Begun in the late 1970s and with its roots in Pollard and Redgrave's Short-Title Catalogue of Books Printed in England, Scotland, & Ireland and of English Books Printed Abroad 1475-1640 (STC), ESTC currently contains about 500,000 records and more than 3 million holdings. It is co-managed by the British Library and ESTC North America (ESTC/NA).

For the first time since October 2023, ESTC is fully accessible again. This Beta version provides basic and advanced search facilities with further features, including browsing, facets and an editing interface for contributors, to be deployed later this year.

The British Library and ESTC North America are excited to be able to add the English Short Title Catalogue to CERL's collection of bibliographical resources which includes, among others, the Heritage of the Printed Book Database (HPB), Material Evidence in Incunabula (MEI), the Incunabula Short Title Catalogue (ISTC) and the Short Title Catalogue Netherlands (STCN).

Helen Vincent, Head of Western Heritage Collections at the British Library said: 'ESTC has been a vital source of information for my own work as a librarian and a researcher for many years. I know how valuable a resource it is and how frustrating the loss of access has been. We are grateful to those who provided temporary access to partial datasets following the cyber-attack on the British Library, and excited to enable full access to the most up-to-date information about bibliographical description and holding institutions, in partnership with CERL and ESTC/NA. We look forward to engaging with stakeholder organisations and individual users as we continue to develop ESTC and to preserve and add to the collective knowledge about our shared printed heritage assembled by so many librarians and scholars over nearly a hundred years.'

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Members may be interested in the latest issue of the **Journal of the Northern Renaissance**, edited by Tricia McElroy and David Parkinson, and containing essays by Megan Bushnell (previous McIntosh Lecturer), Roger Mason and Alessandra Petrina.

The Journal is open access and can be found here.





The Society hopes to have a tiny presence at an upcoming international conference to mark the 400-year anniversary of the death of James VI of Scotland and I of England. **Understanding King James VI and I: 400 Years On** will be held in Glasgow 9-11 July 2025. More details can be found here.

The Council regrets that the Society's publication schedule has again fallen into arrears. We are currently expecting two volumes to be delivered by the end of 2025, with the expectation of publication in 2026: **The Poems of William Stewart and John Bellenden: with selected works from their contemporaries 1513-1542, edited by Janet Hadley Williams**, and **The Poems of John Stewart of Baldynneis, ed. Katherine McClune.**

We are conscious of the generosity of members in accepting the delay in publication and we are investigating methods of mitigation, to underpin the value of Society subscription. Should any Society member have suggestions for mitigation, please email the president.

After many delays, we are working towards hosting the next **McIntosh Lecture** in Glasgow in October or November 2025. Further details will be circulated as available.

Finally, members should note that the Council has decided to move away from using X and Facebook as social media platforms and will be exploring Bluesky over the summer, with the intention to set up an account there.