

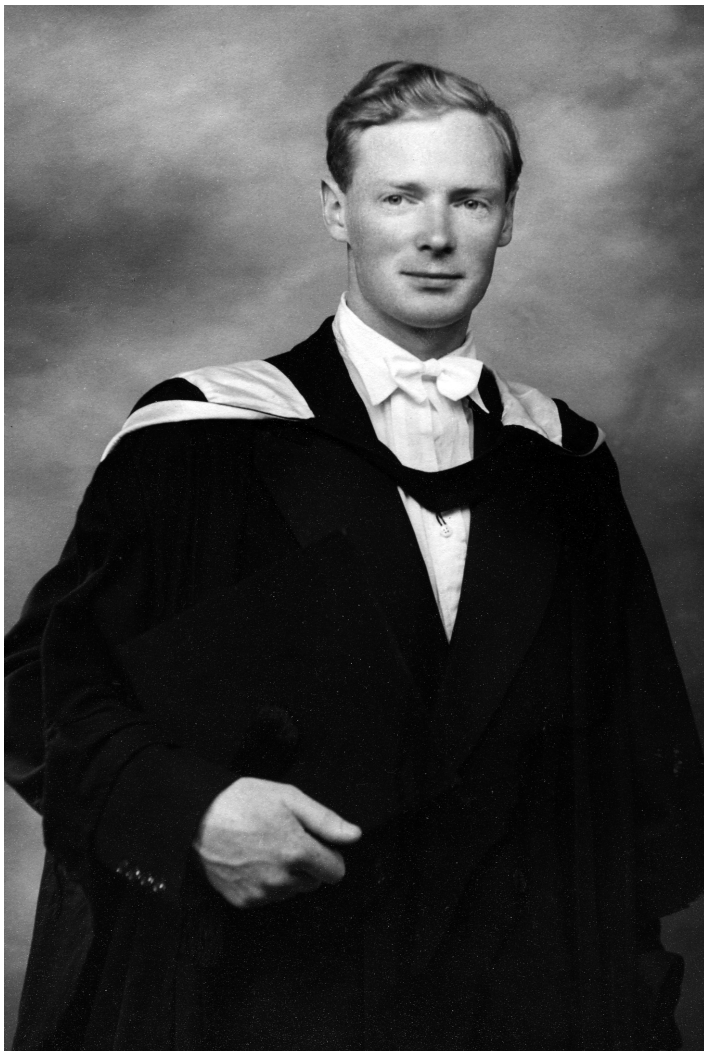
Bibliography

1955-2009

Alexander Fenton

CBE, MA, BA, DLitt, Hon DLitt (ABD),
FRSE, FRSGS, FSA, FSAScot, HRSA
Professor Emeritus of Scottish Ethnology

Presented by his colleagues at the
European Ethnological Research Centre
on the Occasion of his 80th Birthday
26 June 2009



Alexander Fenton on the occasion of his graduation
from the University of Cambridge in 1953.

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Foreword by
Margaret A Mackay



European Ethnological Research Centre
Celtic and Scottish Studies
University of Edinburgh
27 George Square
Edinburgh EH8 9LD

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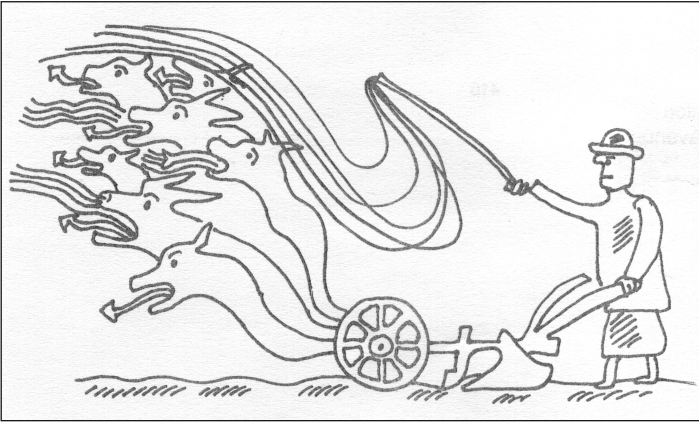
The cover illustration shows Pitglassie
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Drawing by Don Aldridge to illustrate a poem, 'Daydreaming',
in *If All the World Were a Blackbird*.

(© Don Aldridge)

Foreword

THE European Ethnological Research Centre takes great pleasure in publishing Professor Alexander Fenton's *Bibliography*, prepared by his colleagues here to honour and celebrate an outstanding scholar, inspiring teacher and staunch friend on the occasion of his eightieth birthday on 26 June 2009.

This list of nearly three hundred publications, arranged both chronologically and thematically, not only provides an invaluable resource for all with an interest in European Ethnology and Scotland's place within it, but also, importantly, serves to chart a career which exemplifies spheres of activity and methodological approaches which are all of a piece with the man himself. It reveals the contours of the personality which lies behind the achievement and what he himself has called that 'interest in folk and in their ways of doing and speaking' which has animated his work from the start.

The year 2009 sees several notable anniversaries: it is fifty years since Sandy, as he is known to all, was appointed to the National Museum of Antiquities, following work as a lexicographer and editor on the *Scottish National Dictionary*; forty years since a visit to Slovakia confirmed sustained European involvements; thirty-five years since he began to engage with university teaching; twenty-five years since he created the *Review of Scottish Culture*; and twenty since the founding of the European Ethnological Research Centre, which now has

its base in Celtic and Scottish Studies at the University of Edinburgh, where he was appointed the first Professor of Scottish Ethnology.

The biographical outline sketches in the highlights of Sandy Fenton's career; the publications listed reveal the fruits of the endeavours of these years. A love of language and of poetry is a leitmotif throughout. (In fact, his first foray into print was a poem written while at King's College, Aberdeen.) His ear was attuned early to the Scots of home and neighbourhood and all that it could convey in terms of rich regional variety. He was encouraged by his teachers to acquire other languages and he developed a facility in this regard. University study, National Service in Germany, his post on the Scottish National Dictionary and subsequent museum work with its links to the Scandinavian open-air museum movement drew him to the 'words and things' approach. The language of gesture, communication 'with hands and feet' through a knowledge of shared techniques and implements, enabled him to communicate readily with the country people he encountered furth of Scotland on his ethnological travels and in the realm of cross-cultural comparison.

Thus there is a strong international flavour to the scholarly journals and the languages in which his work has appeared. Indeed there is scarcely a country in Europe where his work has not been published and highly regarded. And not infrequently his range of interests and abilities come delightfully together, as they do in the attractive volume *If All the World Were a Blackbird*, translations into Scots of another 'Sandy', the Hungarian poet Sándor Weöres, illustrated by his friend the late Don Aldridge. Sandy has always felt that scholarship should be readily accessible to those who could identify closely with it and see their own lives – or parallels to them – reflected in it, so articles in local and popular publications, such as 'A Polish Baptismal Feast' in the *Turriff Advertiser*, will be found here alongside those for the specialist.

Here we find writing on food, on tools and processes, on terminology, on vernacular buildings (Sandy was instrumental in forming The Scottish Vernacular Buildings Working Group), and on the development of ethnology as a subject. He has always been quick to acknowledge his mentors – among them the late David Murison, Editor of the *Scottish National Dictionary* – and he too has been responsible for encouraging so many and for bringing them into active ethnological work in museums, in universities and in projects such as those promoted by the European Ethnological Research Centre, sustained by his friendship, kindness, his interest in others, and the model of his writings.

This Bibliography does not include a myriad of reports, reviews and other items produced over the years. Nor does the heading ‘Editorial Activities’ do full justice to the immense contribution this represents, from entries in the *Scottish National Dictionary* to the co-editorship of the journal *Tools and Tillage*, and the general editorship role in the European Ethnological Research Centre of its *Review of Scottish Culture*, the Flashback series, *Sources in Local History* and the fourteen magisterial volumes of *Scottish Life and Society: A Compendium of Scottish Ethnology*. This bibliography will be ‘out of date’ soon, for Sandy continues to write and publish at a prodigious rate and a supplement will be required ere long.

‘Ethnological wisdom inevitably begins at home’, he has written, and it is fitting that the cover illustration should be a picture of his home at Pitglassie Croft, Auchterless, painted by May Beale around 1950. Home life has sustained him throughout his life, the one in which he was reared and the household he and Evelyn and their children created in Edinburgh. If a motto were to be selected for this volume, prepared with respect and affection for a man in whom the personal and the professional interconnect so humanely, it could well come from his own simple yet eloquent words about ethnology, the

discipline he has done so much to further through his research, his writing, his teaching and his example as lexicographer, museum curator and director, and university professor:

It is an international subject, one perhaps that also borrows heavily from neighbouring disciplines, but equally it is a subject that relates to each and every one of us, as individuals within our own environments of home and work, and there is no one who cannot be a practitioner. It is one in which personal roots, the home and environment within which the researcher is brought up, become part of the research apparatus of national identity.

Margaret A Mackay
DIRECTOR
European Ethnological Research Centre
University of Edinburgh

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Editorial Activities

- Editor of the letters K, N and O in the *Scottish National Dictionary*.
- Co-editor (with A Steensberg and G Lerche) of *Tools and Tillage*, 1968-95 (26 vols).
- Co-editor (with A Gailey) of *The Spade in Northern and Atlantic Europe*, Belfast, 1971.
- Co-editor (with J Podolák and H Rasmussen) of *Land Transport in Europe* (Folkelivs studier 4), Copenhagen, 1973.
- Co-editor (with T Owen) of *Food in Perspective* (Proceedings of the Third International Conference of Ethnological Food Research), Edinburgh, 1981.
- Editor, *Ethnological Atlas of Europe and Neighbouring Countries, Seventh International Working Conference, September 1978, Enniskillen, Northern Ireland*, Belfast, 1981.
- Editor and Founder (in association with H Cheape and R K Marshall) of the *Review of Scottish Culture*, 1984-present (21 vols).
- Co-editor (with H Pálsson) of *The Northern and Western Isles in the Viking World: Survival, Continuity and Change*, Edinburgh, 1984.
- Co-editor (with E Kisbán) of *Food in Change: Eating Habits from the Middle Ages to the Present Day*, Edinburgh, 1986.

- Co-editor (with J Myrdal) of *Food and Drink and Travelling Accessories: Essays in Honour of Gösta Berg*, Edinburgh, 1988.
- Editor (with I Fraser) of *Scottish Studies* (The Journal of the School of Scottish Studies, University of Edinburgh, 1992-93), 31, 1993.
- Co-editor (with D A Gillmor) of *Rural Land Use on the Atlantic Periphery of Europe: Scotland and Ireland*, Dublin, 1994.
- Co-editor (with D A MacDonald) of *Studies in Scots and Gaelic* (Proceedings of the Third International Conference on the Languages of Scotland), Edinburgh, 1994.
- Editor of *At Brechin with Stirks: A Farm Cash Book from Buskhead, Glenesk, Angus, 1885-1898* (Sources in Local History 1), Edinburgh, 1994.
- Co-editor (with M Schärer) of *Food and Material Culture* (Proceedings of the Fourth Symposium of the International Commission for Research into European Food History), East Linton, 1998.
- Co-editor (with D Hamilton and I Fraser) of *Scottish Studies* (The Journal of the School of Scottish Studies, University of Edinburgh, 1993-98), 32, 1998.
- Editor, *Order and Disorder: The Health Implications of Eating and Drinking in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries* (Proceedings of the Fifth Symposium of the International Commission for Research into European Food History), East Linton, 2000.
- Co-compiler and co-editor (with J Beech) of *M F Michie, Glenesk: The History and Culture of an Angus Community*, East Linton, 2000.
- General Editor of the Flashback oral history series of the European Ethnological Research Centre, 1993-present (21 vols).

General Editor of the Sources in Local History series of the
European Ethnological Research Centre, 1994-97 (6 vols).

General Editor of the Scottish Life and Society: A Compendium
of Scottish Ethnology series of the European Ethnological
Research Centre, 2001-present (10 vols).

Biographical Details

Alexander Fenton, MA (Aberdeen), BA (Cambridge), DLitt (Edinburgh), Hon DLitt (Aberdeen), FRSE, FRSGS, FSA, FSAScot, HRSA, Professor Emeritus of Scottish Ethnology.

Born 26 June 1929 and schooled at Drumblade, Auchterless and Turriff Secondary. MA (Hons) English with French and History, Aberdeen, 1951; BA Archaeological and Anthropological Tripos, Cambridge, 1953.

CAREER

- 1953-1955 **National Service**
- 1955-1959 **Senior Assistant Editor,**
Scottish National Dictionary
- 1959-1961 **Part-time lecturer,** English as a Foreign
Language, University of Edinburgh
- 1959-1975 **Assistant Keeper,** National Museum of
Antiquities of Scotland
- 1974-1982 **Part-time lecturer,** Scottish Material Culture,
Scottish History, University of Edinburgh
- 1975-1979 **Deputy Keeper,**
National Museum of Antiquities of Scotland
- 1978-1985 **Director,** National Museum of Antiquities of
Scotland
- 1985-1989 **Research Director,**
National Museums of Scotland
- 1989-2006 **Director,** European Ethnological Research Centre
- 1990-1994 **First Chair of Scottish Ethnology,**
Head of Department and Director of the School
of Scottish Studies, University of Edinburgh
- 2006- **Consultant,** European Ethnological Research
Centre

AWARDS

Honorary Fellow, School of Scottish Studies, 1969

Scottish Arts Council Book Award for *Scottish Country Life*,
1976

Foreign Member, Royal Gustav Adolf Academy, Sweden, 1978

Foreign Member, Royal Danish Academy of Sciences and
Letters, 1978

Dag Strömbäck Award (Sweden) for *The Northern Isles:
Orkney and Shetland*, 1979

Honorary Member, Volkskundliche Kommission für West-
falen, 1980

DLitt from University of Edinburgh for publications, 1981

President, Section H (Archaeology and Anthropology) British
Association for the Advancement of Science, 1982

Honorary Member, Hungarian Ethnographical Society, 1983

O'Donnell Lecturer, Celtic Department, University of
Edinburgh, 1984

Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, 1985

Commander of the British Empire, 1986

Hon DLitt from University of Aberdeen, 1989

Dalrymple Lecturer in Archaeology, University of Glasgow,
1989

Fellow of the Royal Scottish Geographical Society, 1991

Honorary Fellow, Faculty of Arts, University of Edinburgh,
1995

Honorary Professor of Antiquities to the Royal Scottish
Academy, 1996

Honorary Member, Ethnos r.y., the Association of Finnish
Ethnographers, 1997

MEMBERSHIP

Society of Antiquaries of Scotland
Society of Antiquaries of London
The Museums' Association
Social History Curators' group
Scottish Industrial Archaeology Society
Scottish Records Association
Society for Medieval Archaeology
Scottish Local History Forum
Scottish History Society
Scottish Medievalists
Vernacular Architecture Group
Scottish Vernacular Buildings Working Group
Historic Farm Buildings Research Group
Royal Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland
British Agricultural History Society
Royal Scottish Geographical Society
Society for Folk Life Studies
Association of Scottish Literary Studies
Universities Forum for Research in the Languages of
Scotland
Buchan Heritage Society

