# Celts and their Cultures at Home and Abroad A Festschrift for Malcolm Broun

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### EDITED BY

ANDERS AHLQVIST & PAMELA O'NEILL

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# CELTS AND THEIR CULTURES AT HOME AND ABROAD A FESTSCHRIFT FOR MALCOLM BROUN

Edited by ANDERS AHLQVIST & PAMELA O'NEILL

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#### Preface

#### ANDERS AHLQVIST & PAMELA O'NEILL The University of Sydney

THIS collection of scholarly articles is offered to Malcolm Broun OAM QC in recognition of his sustained support for our discipline. Malcolm Broun, one of Australia's foremost practitioners and authors in family law, graduated from The University of Sydney in 1958 with a Bachelor of Arts and in 1959 with a Bachelor of Laws. He was called to the New South Wales Bar in 1959, invested as a Queen's Counsel in 1982 and awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in 1999. He has long been a stalwart of various Celtic community groups in Australia, including as a member of the executive of the Scottish Australian Heritage Council, continuously since 1982, which was the year following its founding in 1981, and President of the Sydney Society for Scottish History, continuously since its founding in 1982.

Our honorand has done an enormous amount for Celtic scholarship and learning in Sydney: he arranged for Duncan MacLeod to teach Scottish Gaelic in his chambers in the 1980s and '90s; he has sponsored many visits from international scholars; together with his friend Peter Alexander, he was one of the founders of the Geoffrey Ferrow Chair of Celtic Studies Appeal which ultimately led to the establishment of the Sir Warwick Fairfax Chair of Celtic Studies at the University of Sydney.

Having spent much of his life amassing a valuable collection of books on Scottish history and Gaelic language, Mr Broun generously gifted the bulk of his collection to the University of Sydney's Fisher Library upon his retirement from the Bar in 2010; much of the remainder he has given to individual scholars whose work has been enriched by his kindly interest.

\*

In the main, this book is based on papers given at the Eighth Australian Conference of Celtic Studies, which was held at The University of Sydney on 11–14 June 2013. However, it is not a conference proceedings volume. Some contributions are by authors

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who were present at the conference, but did not give papers. All of them have been rigorously peer-reviewed, and most of them considerably modified, as a consequence of that process.

The conference differed from previous Australian Conferences of Celtic Studies in one important way. Thanks to a splendid initiative taken by our colleague Dr Lynette Olson, it included a special two-day session, held on 12–13 June 2013, which was devoted to the first *Life of St Samson of Dol*. Apart from Lyn Olson herself, the speakers were Caroline Brett, Constant Mews, Karen Jankulak, Joseph-Claude Poulin and Jonathan Wooding. Their contributions will soon be available in another publication, which is being edited by Dr Olson.

We are very grateful to all our contributors for their patient cooperation while the volume was being prepared. Likewise, we wish to thank our peer-reviewers, all of whom responded very generously indeed to our requests for help. We also thank Mrs Wendy Broun for Malcolm Broun's coat of arms and photograph which appear as front cover and frontispiece, as well as Professor Brian Taylor for suggesting such a fine title. Furthermore, we wish to put on record how much we are indebted to Professor Neil McLeod, for his wise counsel, before and during the conference, as well as afterwards, as the book gradually took shape.