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Notes for contributors are available from the above address. Offers of papers are welcome, and intending contributors should first contact the Editor. Books for review are also welcome.

Front cover: Tristram and Iseult mirror-case valve from Perth, 13th century (copyright Perth Museum and Art Gallery).

Back cover: Fragment of early medieval sculpture from Pittensorn Farm, Perthshire (copyright Ian G Scott and Perth Museum and Art Gallery).

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Introduction

Welcome, readers old and new, to the latest volume of the *Tayside and Fife Archaeological Journal*: another bumper feast of the region's archaeology.

This volume has an added importance for it marks the 21st anniversary of the Tayside and Fife Archaeological Committee. Since 1977 TAFAC has successfully brought the region's archaeologists together and increased public awareness of and involvement in archaeology. This year's conference celebrates this achievement.

An important part of this achievement is the Journal and the accompanying monograph series, which will reach its third volume early next year. All these publications have been guided by the skilled hands of the managing editors, Peter Yeoman and Sarah Govan, for which they have the deepest thanks of TAFAC and its supporters. Sarah has now moved to the Council for British Archaeology in York and we wish her every success there.

Thanks must also go to the grant-giving bodies who have supported this volume: Fife Council, Historic Scotland, Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust, Council for British Archaeology, National Trust for Scotland, East of Scotland Water, RCAHMS, Top Rank Ltd, Crail Golfing Society, and, for once again providing an excellent cover, the Russell Trust. Also to be applauded is the hard work of the rest of the editorial board and of course the contributors. Last, but not least, I record the Committee's thanks to the referees who gave so willingly and constructively of their valuable time.

The papers again reflect the richness of Tayside and Fife's archaeology. In chronology they range from the Mesolithic to the post-medieval, and they cover all points of the compass from Culross to Arbroath and from Fife Ness to Dunkeld. A balance is struck between excavation reports, artefact studies and syntheses of site and subject. Through all, countless ancestors speak to us of their concerns and ours.

Looking back at the significance of the first four volumes, I would single out their drive to engage with the past. This is a dialogue which works best when archaeologists work alongside historians, geologists, place-name specialists, art historians, environmentalists and you the reader. We all have our parts to play and it is only by working together that we can dispel – though never entirely – confusion and opacity, the latter so ably and hilariously demonstrated by the following 'Important Note' from *1066 And All That* by W C Sellar and R J Yeatman:

The Scots (originally Irish, but by now Scotch) were at this time inhabiting Ireland, having driven all the Irish (Picts) out of Scotland; while the Picts (originally Scots) were now Irish (in brackets) and vice versa. It is essential to keep these distinctions clearly in mind (and vice versa).

Mark Hall
Chairman, TAFAC

Errata - TAJ volume 3

A number of acknowledgements were omitted from volume 3 due to editorial and technical problems. The Editor sincerely regrets these oversights and apologises to Historic Scotland, the Fife Council and to the Kingdom Housing Association, whose financial support of individual projects and associated publication grants were not properly acknowledged.

page 21. A final paragraph should be added to the Acknowledgements to read:

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