

EDITORIAL INTRODUCTION

The Editors are proud to present the second issue of the fifth volume of the *JIEWS*. This issue highlights several innovations, including scholarship developed at the IOWC, an extended original article, and a new section to the journal.

The issue opens with a special feature organised and edited by Andrew MacKillop (University of Glasgow), entitled ‘Scotland, Scots, and the Indian Ocean World.’ This special feature is partly the culmination of work that was first developed at a conference at the IOWC in May 2019 entitled, ‘Celts in the Atlantic and Indian Ocean Worlds.’ It also represents a significant research output from a strategic partnership between McGill University and the University of Glasgow dating from 2015.

In focusing on Scots and Scotland in IOW studies, MacKillop and his contributors challenge spatial framings of micro- and macro-regional histories of imperialism. How can scholars trace the history of a small, northern ‘periphery’ in such a vast expanse as the IOW? And what can the history of the IOW tell us about a nation as distant and comparatively small as Scotland? In exploring institutional, kinship, and religious networks as well as ‘deathscapes’ between these distant and contrasting zones, MacKillop and the contributors collectively trace patterns of connectivity across a large swathe of the globe since the mid-seventeenth century. MacKillop explores these themes and more in the Guest Editor’s Introduction, where he also introduces his own substantive article, as well as those by Elizabeth Elbourne (McGill), John M. MacKenzie (University of Lancaster), and Philip Gooding (McGill).

This issue also features an extended article by Andrew MacDonald (University of the Witwatersrand) on a site-specific history within Durban, South Africa. This article stems from a workshop on port-cities and coastal environments held at NYU Shanghai in 2020. It is a ‘deep history’ of the Durban lagoon, which has, up to now, been a relatively overlooked locale within a highly studied urban space. Such an approach builds on ‘Braudelian’ traditions focused on the environment that inspired so much about the foundational works on Indian Ocean history, such as by K.N. Chaudhuri and Michael Pearson. Moreover, in connecting this urban history to a liminal environment between and across land and water, MacDonald connects Durban theoretically and physically to the histories of port-cities across the IOW. As with the special feature contained in this issue,

this article is a history of connectivity across vast expanses, including the African mainland and maritime zones either side of the Cape.

Finally, this issue marks the publication of the *JIEWS*' first 'State of the Field' essay. Focusing principally on the discipline of history, this article, written by renowned historian Edward A. Alpers, charts the evolution of IOW historiography since the Second World War and poses questions and challenges for future researchers. The Editors hope that this article will become an important reference work for anyone seeking to engage with IOW history and studies moving forwards. We are excited about commissioning and publishing more 'State of the Field' essays from different disciplinary and regional perspectives in the future.

The *JIEWS* Editorial Team