INDEX TO OLD-LORE MISCELLANY

OF ORKNEY SHETLAND CAITHNESS AND SUTHERLAND

by

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VIKING SOCIETY FOR NORTHERN RESEARCH
UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON
1992
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INTRODUCTION

This index is intended to supplement the one that I compiled some years ago for the *Old-Lore Series*, which consisted of the contents lists for the 75 numbers strung together one after another. This present index has a more thematic approach and covers the *Old-Lore Miscellany* only, which was issued in 10 volumes between 1907 and 1946, forming the major sub-series of the aforementioned *Old-Lore Series*.

The master index is the AUTHOR INDEX. Entries are arranged under each author in order of publication and not in the more customary alphabetical order. Original contributions are listed first, followed by edited or compiled pieces for which I have not been able to find an alternative heading. Where edited works have been entered under their own headings, cross-references are provided from the editor. A number of articles were published anonymously and these are listed at the end under the heading [Anon.]. It may be possible to guess at the authorship of some of these, but I have not thought it right to commit myself. I have, however, silently expanded initials where the authorship is probably not in dispute. Where I have not been able to allocate an identity to initials I have entered the article under the final element, as is standard practice in library catalogues. Similarly, I have entered pseudonymous articles under the pseudonyms—necessarily, as I do not know the writers’ identities! (In this context, incidentally, I have treated ‘X.’ as a pseudonym rather than as an anonym.)

The publication history of the *Old-Lore Series* is fairly nightmarish. Not only did it comprise three separate sub-series, each with its own volume and part numbers, but the *Miscellany* tended to publish material in easily-digested gobbets rather than as a full meal—each ‘gobbet’ sometimes being only one or two pages long. Citations, therefore, can be very convoluted—one contribution was published in 12 parts; another in 11. For this reason, I have abbreviated references to a simple statement of volume number followed by pages. For those who wish to have a more complete bibliographical reference, I have provided, before the author index, a conversion table. This converts vol. + pages to part number, date of publication and running number within the overall series (which is necessary for ordering numbers from the Viking Society). Thus, the first item in the author index, whose reference is 10:232, converts to v. 10, pt 5 (1943), being no 73 in the *Old-Lore Series*. 
Each item in the author index has an index number, which is printed in bold at the end of the entry. These are used for reference purposes in the SUBJECT INDEX, which is a simple alphabetical one, using specific rather than general terms as far as possible. I have avoided purely geographical headings, except in one case, where the matter was too broad to be easily summed up in a term that was not in itself so vague as to be virtually useless. Nor have I made use of subdivisions except in a few cases, where they seemed necessary. Most entries are simply not extensive enough for such frills. Some contributions were not in the nature of what might be termed ‘learned articles’ but were narratives in the native dialect. I have concocted the subject heading ‘Stories in dialect’ for these and also indexed them under their subjects. In this way, those interested in dialects can pinpoint them easily. It is not my intention to suggest that they are, in any way, less valid than more learned-seeming contributions. Linking cross-references, in the index, will, I hope, send users from one subject heading to another related one.

To compensate for the lack (largely) of geographical references in this index I have added (hastily) a round-up of material under each county, using broader headings than those used in the main index, which may be useful to those searching for topics on a more general plane, such as history or literature. This is by way of being an experiment and I am not sure if it will work or not. I hope it does.

The work is completed by a PORTRAIT INDEX and an INDEX TO OBITUARIES. I have nothing much to say about these, except that I have added dates to the names in the portrait index, where I could discover them, with one, obvious, exception. This is intended both as an aid in identifying folk with the same name and to assist any user who may be searching for portraits from a particular era. I have not provided dates in the index of obituaries as it is to be assumed that the subjects would be contemporaneous with the dates of their obituaries.

The Old-Lore Series was very much the brainchild of Alfred Johnston, the Society’s founder, and I would like to dedicate this index to the Miscellany, issued as it is in the Society’s centenary year, to his memory.
ABBREVIATIONS

comp.  compiled
ed.    edited
front. frontispiece
trans.  translated
transcr. transcribed

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