Biographical introduction an leet o A. J. Aitken’s published warks

Caroline Macafee


Adam Jack Aitken, Jack Aitken tae his freins, A. J. Aitken tae his readers (an AJA here-efter) was the leadin authority on the Scots langage durin his lifetime.

AJA was born on 19 June 1921 in Edinbro, an brocht up in Lasswade, Midlothian. In 1952 he mairrit Norma Ward Manson (later kent as Chandra); they hae three sons an a dochter. He dee’d at hame in Edinbro on 11 Februar 1998 o ischaemia, efter haein a hert by-pas operation twenty year afore. Chandra dee’d on 14 December 2013.

Jack was the ae son an eldest bairn oot o three childer o Adam Aitken, a miner, an his first wife Alexandrina Sutherland, wha dee’d whan Jack was aboot nine. He was ill-yaised as a step-bairn, but his meenister, Rev. Oliver Dryer, encouraged him for tae mak the maist o his pairts, an helpit him tae lea hame at the age o sixteen, thegither wi his sister Hope, aged fifteen. He was able tae stick in at his eddication thanks tae a schuil bursary. As the son o a miner, he received ither bursaries that alloo’ed him tae gang tae the University o Edinburgh in 1939.

His studies was interruptit by the war. He ser’d frae 1941–45 as a lance bombadier in the Royal Artillery an tane pairt in the Normandy landins an in the war in Nor Africa, risin tae the rank o sergeant major. He was commendit for bravery by Field-Marshall Montgomery in 1944. AJA’s frein, John Millar, than editor o the Aarran Banne, in an editorial o 21 Februar 1998, mindit on a baur that shaws AJA’s characteristic modesty:

... he wanted to stay at an army club in London. They would not allow him to book because he had no documentation from his war service. Then he found a letter o commendation for bravery signed by Montgomery – an incident he’d never once mentioned. They took his booking!

AJA graduatit MA wi First Cless Honours in English Language and Literature in 1947. In 1948 he was appynit Assistant tae Sir William Craigie, the Editor o A Dictionary of the Older Scottish Tongue (DOST) an became Editor o DOST whan Craigie retiree’t in 1956. He describes his university eddication an the early years o his career in ‘Playboy of the West Germanic World’ (no published till noo), an mentions forbye some o the context o his ain wark in his tribute tae Angus McIntosh (‘Angus McIntosh and Scottish studies’, 1981). His 1991 review o wark in the field o Aulder Scots, ‘Progress in Older Scots philology’ (no reproduced here), includes a contextualised descreepition o his ain contributions.

For the muckler pairt o his career, he combined his wark on DOST wi teachin, as a Lecturer an efterwards Reader in the Department o English Language, University o Edinburgh. In 1986 he began his gey active retirement.
A Dictionary of the Older Scottish Tongue

Whan he tane ower editorial responsibility for DOST, AJA tane the calculatit risk o stertin a new readin programme that aboot dooblit the leet o warks excerptit for the dictionar. The original corpus was biased toward verse an leeterary prose, reflectin the availability o published edeetions, but there was ither survivin materials that was mair representative o the ilkaday langage. As expectit, the brandenin o the readin programme tae include minor leeterature, offeecial records, faimly an business papers, etc., was richt productive o new wirds. AJA’s editorship begoud wi the letter J, an the impact o the new readin programme is seen frae the third volume on. The excerption was a voluntary darg for the maist pairt, which AJA ne’er neglectit tae acknowledge.

The first publisher o DOST was the University of Chicago Press. Frae the ootset, the dictionar had gey little siller, an its publication dependit on the eidentness o indeeviduals athin the press tae continue financin publication frae year tae year. Craigie was aareadis fameelar wi the hemmer an studdie at the dictionar was forgit atween: on the tae haun the need tae maintain academic staunarts, an on the tither the practical need for speed an economy. E’en afore AJA tane ower, there was complaints frae the publishers aboot the cost o editorial chynes at a late stage in production – a complaint aften levelled again AJA tae. Frae 1950, the University o Edinburgh contributit tae editorial costs. The Carnegie Trust was an important source o fundin forbye, an ither public an private sources continued tae be crucial. The seekin o funds for DOST thegither wi The Scottish National Dictionary (SND) became the responsibility, frae 1952, o a Joint Council o the Scottish Universities, chaired originally an for mony a year by Angus McIntosh. The twa dictionars was brocht thegither in Edinbro, takin up a key position in a verra productive period for the Scots langage at Edinbro, thegither wi the Linguistic Survey of Scotland an the collectin acteevities o the School of Scottish Studies. The wark o DOST an SND (in its main phase, afore the present wark o supplementation an revesion) wintit the kin o offeecial support offered tae seemilar national projeeks in ither countries, as AJA pyntit oot on mony occasions. It was possible only acause o the superhuman dedication o the editors.

The early 1980s brocht financial crisis. The University of Chicago Press pull’t oot in 1981. Their commitment had aareadis gaed on faur ayont the ten year originally enveesaged in 1931. Efter a hiatus, the setuation was saved by the intervention o Aberdeen University Press, championed by Colin MacLean as Managing Director (Publishing), wha tane on DOST, SND an the new Concise Scots Dictionary. Wi the demise in 1993 o Aberdeen University Press, by thon time pairt o Robert Maxwell’s doomed publishin empire, the dictionar muved again, tae Oxford University Press frae vol. VIII on. Alexander Fenton’s fund-raisin efforts an a gruellin final push by the dictionar staff saw the final volume, vol. XII, published, though athoot sent-on material intendid for a Supplement, in 2002.

AJA has spak an screivit extensively on the editorial policies an practicks o DOST, includin ‘Sense-analysis for a historical dictionary’ (1973), ‘Textual problems and the Dictionary of the Older Scottish Tongue’ (1977) and ‘DOST: how we make it and what’s in it’ (1982). Unner his editorship, DOST became mair nor just an adjunck tae The Oxford English Dictionary (OED). The slips was noo arrynged accordin tae thair ain implicit semantics, rather nor bein forced intae the pre-existin sense analysis o the OED. Wi its gretter coverage o Scottish material DOST has a wheen wirds addetional tae OED as weil as addetional forms an senses, an mony ante-datins. Wi the faur muckler boouk o material examined, an aa, mair reliance can be pit on first an last recordit dates as time leemits.
DOST is forbye kenspeckle for the amunt o secondary research duin by the editors tae provide accurate defineetions o technical an specialised vocabular.

AJA was yin o the first tae appreciate the potential o the computer for research in the Arts. Though computer methods arrived ower late tae be the dock-nail o the collection process for DOST, he biggit up, wi Paul Bratley an Neil Hamilton-Smith, the Older Scots Textual Archive, a computer-readable archive o mair nor a million wirds o Auld Scots leeterature. Forbye, he was tae the fore in organisin the first conference on computers an leeterary studies.

AJA was michtily respectit internationally as a lexicographer. He spak an screivit on English as weel as Scots lexicography, an actit as adviser or consultant tae a wheen projeeks, includin the Dictionary of Sanskrit on Historical Principles, the Middle English Dictionary, The Dictionary of Early Modern English Pronunciation, an The Dictionary of Old English. His reputation an achievements as a lexicographer by thairseis wad been eneuch tae win him a place amang the gret names in scholarship.

Teachin an writin on Scots

In a letter o 9 September 1987 AJA telt me:

The achievement of which I have been ... most proud is that I think I can claim to have created Scots as a University teaching subject, thanks to the opportunity given me from 1948 onwards by Angus McIntosh. Before then all there was was a series of interpretative and philological commentaries on specific texts of Middle Scots verse ...

The haundoots that AJA made in the 1950s for his coorses on Scots langage was for mony a year the only clear summaries o Scots vocabular, phonology, orthograhpy, grammear an stylistics, an they circulatit widely amang scholars. Ower time he made a fouth o this material available in prent, an his writins mair or less forms the founs o the subjeck. In teachin coorses on Auld Scots, AJA made uise o an anthology o verse texts o his ain walin, includin an excellent glossary, which gied byornar detailt information on the stylistic restrictions o parteeicular vocabular items. This was intendit for publication, bit for some reason ne’er kythed. AJA providit students wi a representative walin o prose texts an aa.

Mony o his ideas has formed the stertin pynt for PhD topics, an there is hardily an acre o Scots langage research whaur he hasna cut the feerin. His paper on variation (especially orthographic variation) in Auld Scots has lang been reairdit as the fundamental descreepion (‘Variation and variety in written Middle Scots’, 1971). AJA’s interpretion o textual variation was aways informed by a thorough knowledge o palaeography, an an awareness o the leemutations o prent edeetions.

His descreepion o the vowel phonology o Auld Scots will ay be the essential stertin pynt for aa future wark. This was set oot in ‘How to pronounce Older Scots’ (1977), alang o a discussion o the deefrent models, o varyin degrees o accuray, that reciters in practice follaes. At the time o his daith, AJA was wirkin on a lang screive on Auld Scots phonology, includin a detailt hainin o the evidence, maistly frae orthograhpy an rhyme. This was near eneuch complete tae be published posthumously as The Older Scots Vowels (Āitken, 2002). Thegither wi the paper on ‘The Scottish Vowel-Length Rule’ (1981) (also kent as ‘Āitken’s
Trudgill's *English* (1979) 'Scottish speech: a historical view in the Sixteenth Century Scottish Devotional Anthology' (1957) examines the stylistic features of oral narrative style in Middle Scots speech in Scotland: a second look. Scots alang o Mairi Robinson an J. Derrick McClure version o AJA's recordins (an later CDs) o Scots constitue contemporary evidence, as he pends the development of Older Scots. He read Aulder Scots verse on a puckle recordins, an had a pickie-say in a series o modrenised readins o Henryson in association wi the Robert Henryson Society. The Society also commissioned a recordit version o AJA's 'How to pronounce Older Scots' (1996), replacin an earlier tape cassette wi the ilk title, no available ony mair, whaur AJA read passages in his reconstruction o Aulder Scots alang o Mairi Robinson an J. Derrick McClure (1980).

AJA ettle tae the evidence frae the 17th century forrat intae his account o anglicisation an the origins o Scottish English, an was in the process o examinin screivins an texts o the period. His raither sketchy presentation o data in 'The pioneers of anglicised speech in Scotland: a second look' (1997) mints that this was just a preedin wark that wad been a thorough, detailt examination o the internal history o anglicisation.

AJA's paper 'The language of Older Scots poetry' (1983) is the ainly comprehensive survey o the rynge o Aulder Scots poetic varieties an the stylistic characteristics o ilkane. 'Oral narrative style in Middle Scots' (1978) is another important study o the leeterary langage o Aulder Scots, an analyses a puckle blauds o prose an verse, includin the well-kent *Wyf o Awchtermwchty* an an interestin piece o airtless 17th prose. His review article, 'A Sixteenth Century Scottish Devotional Anthology' (1957) examines the stylistic features o a byornar survival o pre-Reformation devotional prose.

AJA's papers on Modren Scots is o thair time: the educational an cultural rammies has mued on (though mony o the ilk issues perennially recurs), an the demographic an linguistic structure o the population has chynge. Nanethese conceps that AJA introduced in thir papers continues tae be uisefu an tae inform thinkin aboot the state o the langage. In 'Scottish speech: a historical view with special reference to the Standard English of Scotland' (1979), he introduced the distenection atween covert an overt Scotticisms, an described Scottish code-switchin practicks forbye. The relationship atween Scots an Scottish Staunart English is captured in whit he cried his 5-column model (it stertit aff in his early teachin as a 3-column model), which provides a richt uisefu woy o representin an analysin the linguistic chyces available tae Scottish writers an speakers. He revisitat thir subjekcs in twa chapters in Trudgill's *Language in the British Isles* (1984), 'Scottish accents and dialects' and 'Scots and

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1 Frae a catalogue-style descreepetion o AJA's planned collection o papers.
2 Noo available through the Scots Language Society.
English in Scotland’. Sin we haena been able for tae include the 1979 paper in this collection, notes has been addit tae the twa 1984 chapters tae mak siccar that the relevant material is aa covert. AJA’s observations is ay valuable as a descreepion o the speech continuum at a pynt in time whan external influences wasna that pervasive, an educatit Scottish speech was maybe mair distinctive.

His descreepion o attitudes tae Scots in terms o Guid Scots v. Bad Scots (‘The good old Scots tongue: Does Scots have an identity?’, 1981; ‘Bad Scots: Some superstitions about Scots speech’, 1982) has been influential, as has his suggestion that the model o Guid Scots that creetics an activists alike had in mind was an Ideal Scots faur frae the spoken leid (though this attitude has mellowed syne).

In his airticle ‘The extinction of Scotland in popular dictionaries of English’ (1987), on the neglect o Scottish material in English dictionars, AJA examined the coverage o Scots an Scottish English wìds an eedìoms in five popular aë-volume dictionars, providin a verra usefu check list, classified inta categories sic as covert Scotticism, items associatit wi distinctively Scottish institutions, an wìds weel kent through the warks o Rabbie Burns.

He turnt his attention an aa tae the vexed issue o the status o Modren Scots as a leid (‘New Scots: the problems’, 1980; ‘The good old Scots tongue: Does Scots have an identity?’, 1981). He was ayweys a realist, an he wasna convinced that Scots cud claim the status o a leid in the present day. His concailn wis less for the leid as an abstraction an mair for the speakers, especially bairns in schuil that micht suffer frae linguistic prejudice (‘The Scots Language and the Teacher of English in Scotland’, 1976).

Leadership

AJA made it his business tae keep up tae date wi ilka aspeck o scholarship in the Scots langage. He was, in effeck, a yin-man Scots Language Resource Centre, providin information an contacks on request, an also whiles producin bibliographies an reviews o wark in the subjekt, an identifyin areas for future research. He played a pait in organisin mony conferences, an an editorial role in a puckle collections o papers, includin conference proceedins. Amang the bodies that drew on his expertise was the Scottish Early Music Consort, that he advised on the pronunciation o Auld Scots sangs.

AJA was involved in ilka major effort on behauf o the leid or rather, as he ayweys emphasised, its speakers. In the 1950s he gied strang support tae David Abercrombie’s campaign tae brak the monopoly o RP vycs on the BBC (he had a nummer o letters on this subjekt published in The Scotsman – some o thaim is reproduced in the present eediection). The battle tae hear Scottish accents won, he went on in the 1990s tae lead a delegation frae the Scots Langage Society for the Scots leid tae be heard on Scottish radio.

Awyways generous wi his time, AJA ser’d on a wheen committees. He was Chairman o the Language Committee o the Association for Scottish Literary Studies 1971–76; Chairman o the Forum for Research on the Langages o Scotland 1978–81 an Honorary President frae 1994; Vice-President o the Scottish Text Society frae 1985; Honorary Preses o the Scots Language Society frae 1994; Honorary Vice-President o the Scottish National Dictionary Association frae 1995; an Honorary Vice-President o the Robert Henryson Society frae 1996.

In 1981 the British Academy awardit him the Biennial Sir Israel Gollancz Prize. In 1983 he was awardit a DLitt by the University o Edinburgh, an was appyntit Honorary Professor in
1984. In 1987, he was presentit wi a Festschrift: *The Nuttis Schell* (Macafee and Macleod eds.).

**The present collection**

In his retirement AJA ettlet for tae produce a volume o his papers on Aulder Scots an Scots phonology. A puckle lines that he draftit for a Foreword indicates his intentions:

> All of the articles that follow treat of the ‘internal’ history of Older Scots. All but one have appeared in widely scattered earlier publications, several of which are no longer easy to obtain. Some have been quite extensively referred to by other scholars. For these reasons, reprinting them seems justified. I have left the original texts intact, but added afterthoughts (Addenda), occasioned by more recent works by others.

The papers referred tae is ‘Progress in Older Scots philology’, ‘How to pronounce Older Scots’, ‘The Scottish Vowel-length Rule’, ‘Variation and variety in written Middle Scots’, ‘The language of Older Scots poetry’ an ‘Oral narrative style in Middle Scots’. The unpublished item was *The Older Scots Vowels*, separately published as a beuk by the Scottish Text Society in 2002.

A fu list o AJA’s publications, sae faur as can be ascertained, is gien ablow. The present walin o papers gies a representetive view o his wark. The maist o the important papers that arena reproduced here is aareadies available online, albeit ahit pey waas. Addeetionally, ‘The lexicography of Scots two hundred years since: Ruddiman and his successors’ (1989) has been separately pitten online, on a wabsteid creatit for the purpose o meetin the publisher’s self-archivin proveesions, [http://carolinemacafee.wix.com/ajaonscotslanguage](http://carolinemacafee.wix.com/ajaonscotslanguage) (accessed 29 April 2015).

We are pleased tae be able for tae present the reader wi a nummer o previously unpublished papers: ‘Sources of the Vocabulary of Older Scots’ (which is weel kent tae an aulder generation o scholars as a haundoot, but hasna appeared in prent), ‘Address and Toast to the Immortal Memory of Robert Burns’, an the autobiographical ‘The playboy of the West Germanic world’. Some mair unpublisht material, maistly cut oot o publisht papers for reasons o linth, will be fun in the notes an appendices tae some of the papers here. We hae includit forbye twa-three minor screivins that is itherwise haurd tae fin, sic as letters tae the press.

AJA had begoud tae gang ower some o the papers he had walit hissel, though juist in a preliminary wey. Thir revisions an addeetions, wi antrin typographic corrections, is incorporatit in the versions published here. Minor chynges is made silently, wi mair substantial yins pyntit oot in notes. Stylistic chynges, e.g. tae spellins, abbreviations an the format o references an notes, has been made here tae harmonise the different papers. AJA whiles referred tae the leid as ‘Scottish’, follaein Craigie (as in the title o the *Dictionary of the Older Scottish Tongue*): this has been chynged tae ‘Scots’.

In *The Older Scots Vowels* AJA made a wheen refinements tae his reconstruction o Aulder Scots phonology. It was accordinly possible tae revise ‘How to pronounce Older Scots’ in line wi his ain later writins, in Macafee an †Aitken (2003), which is includit here in the same downloadable file as ‘How to pronounce Older Scots’. AJA also ettlet tae revise ‘The Scottish
Vowel-length Rule’ follaein the publication o The Linguistic Atlas of Scotland vol. III, an did mak some reveesions, bit a full-scale re-writin bude tae be left tae some ither haun.

The impetus for the present collection cam frae Prof. Priscilla Bawcutt: at her suggestion the Scottish Text Society proposed a volume o AJA’s collectit papers, later decidin on an e-book. As AJA’s literary executors, Iseabail Macleod an masel are verra conscious o the gret honour that the STS did tae Jack Aitken’s memory wi this proposal. Hooever, efter conseederation, we feel that, while the capabilities o a publishin hoose wad mak the wark easier tae fin athin an academic environment, this means o publication wad also pit it ahint a pey waa, which wad be an obstacle for the mony fowk wi an interest in the leid that disna hae access tae the subscription resources o a university leebrary. We are accordinly verra gratefu tae the Scots Language Centre for agreein tae host the papers on their wabsteid, an tae Michael Hance an Chris Third o the Centre for makin this online publication possible.

We wad like tae record oor muckle thanks forbye tae the various publishers that has alloed copyricht material tae be reproduced here, athout chairge; an likewise editors Prof. Michael Benskin an Prof. P. G. J. van Sterkenburg, an Dr Christine Robinson on behauf o Scottish Language Dictionaries, that has freely gien their permission an encouraged the projeck. Oor thanks gangs an aa tae aabody that contributit photies tae the wabsteid ‘A. J. Aitken on the Scots Language’ an tae Michael Montgomery an his colleague Paul Reed for the audio there.

As editor o the collectit papers in their present form, Ah wad like to express ma ain gratitude tae Iseabail Macleod for her support an advice, an for comments on the editorial maitter. Ony errors introduced intae this edeetion is ma sole responsibeelity.
A. J. Aitken: publications


1953

● Notice of A Memoir and a List of the Published Writings of Sir William A Craigie, Scottish Historical Review 32, 170–172

1957


1958


1961

● ‘The Dictionary of the Older Scottish Tongue’, Scottish Genealogist 8, 3–12


1962

● ‘Scottish language’, Chambers’ Encyclopedia (extensive revision of an article originally by W. Craigie)

c. 1963, revised 1971


1964


1966


1967


1968

● with David M. Murison, ‘It pays to increase your word power’, Reader’s Digest, January 1968, 5

1969


1971


● co-editor with A. McIntosh and H. Pálsson, Edinburgh Studies in English and Scots (London: Longman)


1972

● ‘The present state of Scottish language studies’, Scottish Literary News 2:2–3, 34–44
A. J. Aitken: Collected Writings on the Scots Language


1973


- ed., Lowland Scots (Association for Scottish Literary Studies, Occasional Papers no. 2)


- ‘Definitions and citations in a period dictionary’ in Raven I. McDavid, Jr. and Audrey R. Duckert, eds., Lexicography in English (New York Academy of Sciences vol. 211), 259–265, [online]

- ‘Le dictionnaire d’ancien écossais: aperçu de son histoire’ in Tavola Rotonda sui Grandi Lessici Storici (Firenze: Accademia della Crusca), 37–44

- ‘L’analyse des sens pour un dictionnaire historique’, ibid, 91–95


1975


1976


1977

● co-editor with M. P. McDiarmid and D. S. Thomson, Bards and Makars. Scottish Language and Literature, Medieval and Renaissance (University of Glasgow Press)


1978

● ‘Historical dictionaries, word frequency distributions and the computer’, Cahiers de lexicologie 33, 28–47


1979

● co-editor with Tom McArthur, Languages of Scotland (Edinburgh: Chambers; Association for Scottish Literary Studies, Occasional Papers no. 4)

● ‘Scottish speech: a historical view with special reference to the Standard English of Scotland’ in Languages of Scotland, 85–118

● ‘Studies on Scots and Scottish Standard English today’, ibid, 137–160

● ‘The English of Scotland’ in Collins Dictionary of the English Language, xxiv–xxv
● ‘Citation slips and computer chips’, *Logophile* 3:2, 8–11

**1980**


  (accessed 27 April 2015).

● ‘On some deficiencies in our Scottish dictionaries’ in W. Pijnenburg and F. de Tollenaere, eds., *Proceedings of the Second International Round Table Conference on Historical Lexicography* (Dordrecht-Holland: Foris Publications), 33–56

● with Mairi Robinson and J. D. McClure [audio tape and booklet] ‘How to Pronounce Older Scots’ (Language and Humanities Centre, University of Edinburgh)

**1981**

  (accessed 27 April 2015).

  (accessed 27 April 2015).

● ‘Foreword’ in E. Haugen, J. D. McClure and D. Thomson, eds., *Minority Languages Today* (Edinburgh University Press), vii–xii

  (accessed 27 April 2015).

  http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/dictionaries/summary/v004/4.aitken.html
  (accessed 19 March 2014).
  (accessed 27 April 2015).

● ‘Scottish lexicography’ in David Daiches, ed., *A Companion to Scottish Culture* (London: Edward Arnold)
Paper 1: Biographical introduction an leet o A. J. Aitken’s published warks

1982


1983


1984


● ‘What’s so special about Scots?’, *Northern Ireland Speech and Language Forum Journal* 10, 27–44


● ‘The Friends of the Dictionary of the Older Scottish Tongue’, *University of Edinburgh Bulletin* 20:4, 4

1985

A. J. Aitken: Collected Writings on the Scots Language


1986


1987


1988


- ‘An appreciation: Professor Denton Fox’ [obituary], *The Scotsman*, 30 November 1988

1989

Paper 1: Biographical introduction an leet o A. J. Aitken’s published warks

- ‘The lexicography of Scots’ in F. J. Hausmann et al., eds., Wörterbücher, Dictionaries, Dictionnaires: An International Encyclopedia of Lexicography (Berlin: De Gruyter), vol. 2

1991


1992


- ‘Prof. David Abercrombie: distinguished phonetician’ [obituary], Scotsman 9 July 1992

1993

- ‘Lexicography’ in David Daiches, ed., The New Companion to Scottish Culture (Edinburgh: Polygon), 182–183


1994


1996


15
1997


• ‘Deid castis upe his yettis wyd. David Murison, maister an servant o the Scots leid (1913–1997)’ [obituary], *Lallans* 49, 30–31

1998


1999 (posthumously)

• *William Dunbar ‘The Tretis o the Twa Mariit Wemen an the Wedo’ Translated into English by Jack Aitken* (Glasgow: Scotsoun). [Reading text prepared for ‘William Dunbar’, Scotsoun sscd 020-021.]

2002 (posthumously)


2003 (posthumously)


2015 (posthumously)


Letters to the press (not a complete list)

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- **Times Literary Supplement** 27 October 1972 [on the funding of major dictionaries]


**Sound recordings**

- with Mairi Robinson and J. D. McClure [audio tape and booklet] ‘How to Pronounce Older Scots’ (Language and Humanities Centre, University of Edinburgh, 1980). Replaced by next.


- ‘William Dunbar’ [double audio CD], selected and introduced by Edwin Morgan. (Glasgow: Scotsoun, sscd 020-021). Readers include A. J. Aitken. [Aitken’s modernised reading text of ‘The Tretis of the Twa Mariit Wemen and the Wedo’ was published by Scotsoun as a booklet in 1999 in his memory.]

- ‘Gavin Douglas’ [audio CD], commentary and selection by Matthew P. McDiarmid. (Glasgow: Scotsoun, sscd 042). Readers include A. J. Aitken.
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- ‘Alexander Scott’ [audio CD], commentary and selection by John MacQueen. (Glasgow: Scotsoun, sscd 043). Readers include A. J. Aitken.

- ‘Alexander Montgomerie, Poems and Songs’ [audio CD], commentary and selection by Helena Shire. (Glasgow: Scotsoun, sscd 060). Readers include A. J. Aitken.

- ‘In Mind o a Makar, a Scotsoun tribute to Robert Garioch’ [audio CD]. (Glasgow: Scotsoun, sscd 061). Speakers include A. J. Aitken.


Obituaries (not necessarily a complete list)

- anon. ‘Professor Jack Aitken’, *The Times* (3 March 1998)


Biography


A personal website http://carolinemacafee.wix.com/ajaonscotslanguage has been created to ‘self-archive’ one of AJA’s papers that could not be included in ‘Collected Writings on the Scots Language’. The site also has a selection of photographs and a link to an audio recording of ‘Progress in Older Scots philology’ (as of 29 April 2015).