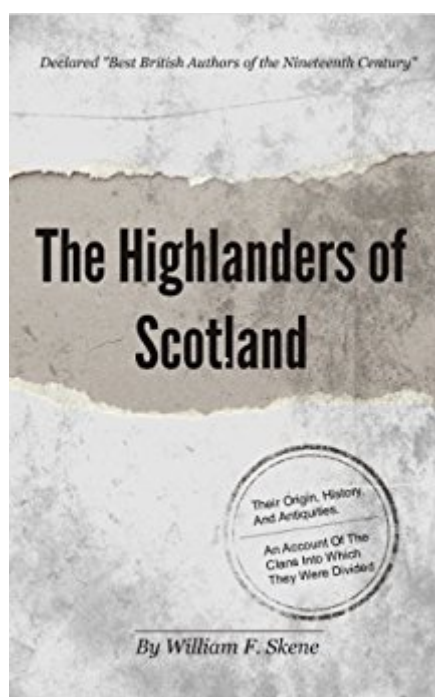


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The Highlanders Of Scotland



Synopsis

The Highlanders of Scotland is a two-volume set by William F. Skene. Volume I contains the origin, history, and antiquities of the Highlanders as well as a sketch of their manners and customs. The second is an account of the clans into which they were divided and the state of society that existed among them. It was edited by Alexander Macbain and contains notes by him as well. William F. Skene, was declared "British Authors of the Nineteenth Century" by H. W. Wilson Company, New York, 1936.

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Customer Reviews

Bear in mind that this book is about the history of Scotland, written in the 19th century when, shall we say, certain classist and racist assumptions were taken as scientific truths, and there had been many centuries of efforts by "those in power" to dull the light of their foes while polishing their own myths. Mr. Skene steps into this morass and acts rather Sherlock Holmesian in his dissection of the culture and its influences. He goes far back to the Greek historians, and the medieval monks,

following the spoor of the Scots and their unique history in Europe. The chapters about the Picts and their history alone - I have a Pictish ancestor and also belong to Clan MacNachtan, descendents of Pictish kings - does a better job of understanding them than we are nowadays, comparing historians' notes to get the lost grain of truth and ferreting out the schemes, intrigues and alliances which doomed these ancients as a culture by the 11th century. Much of the actual science of his era is now being re-examined with a revisionist intent. Yeah, there was no relocation of the Picts to the lowlands and trustworthy Norman families given their lands - just because it was done without edict. And there was no other reason for certain clans to become "non-persons", just because it wasn't published. Interestingly, he examines Shakespeare's Macbeth in light of the conflicting Scottish and Pictish cultures to give new insight to the classic. What a buff-job that was, probably to please the court of Elizabeth I. If you want some real insights into the wheres and whyfours of Scottish history, you should start with this book. It will make you think again about your notions of who and where were the Highlanders. Then go on to more modern specifics. But this has a real place in any Albaphile's library.

I enjoyed reading this history of the clans of Scotland. If reading from works of 19th century authors bothers you, this book is not for you. Also, I'm not sure that the translation into e-book came over as accurate as the book because I had to figure out some of the words. This is one book that I wished that I had bought the printed version as I did not pay attention to the fact that some of the work was disputed in the editor's notes. So, some of the facts that I accepted as true were refuted in the notes. Now I should go back and look at the notes as they apply to specific sections. Not fun! I think the fact that the author took the time to go back to the sagas made his book all the more rich and reliable.

This book very informative for both Scots and for those who wish they were. Increases the knowledge we already have about our great culture, provides an insight to those who wish to know more about Scottish history.

This book was quite confusing, in structure and in content. The organization, if there was one, was difficult to follow. The notes of exceptions at the end by an unknown reviewer were even more difficult to follow, much less, understand. I was able to get some historical perspective from it, but am left uncertain of its validity.

I thought this was an outstanding piece of literary work. It is written in the classic style that I personally love about most intelligent writing of this period, but more than that, it is evidence of some truly detailed and insightful research on the part of the author. I am no expert on the subjects discussed (part of the reason I bought the book to begin with), but I was impressed with the observations made by the author and the arguments he used to back them up.

I will not buy this book but write this review because of a practice which I think is misleading. Under 'Product Details' states that the book was published in 2013. I am sure this is correct, but the front of the book lists the author and editor as living in 1836 and 1902. I have missed this practice in the past and have books on my shelf which I would not have purchased had I known the true age of the material. I purchased these books under the impression that they were contemporary based on the publication date. should make the original publication date clear rather than just the most recent publication date.

Enjoyed reading about Scotland and the highlanders. Would recommend to anyone interested in knowing more about Scotland and it's history.

Good, as far as it goes but it talks too much about other history, only distantly related to the question on the cover, and then suddenly says, in effect, "see, this is who I believe they are".

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