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Statistical Accounts of Scotland Online

Peter Burnhill, Ann Matheson & Tim Stickland
University of Edinburgh
OVERVIEW

• About the Statistical Accounts
  – their history
  – their significance

• Statistical Accounts Online
  – how it came about

• About the Online Service

• Looking to the Future
STATISTICAL ACCOUNTS OF SCOTLAND

- First (‘Old’) Account 1791-99 (21 v.)
- Second (‘New’) Account 1834-45 (15v.)
- Sir John Sinclair
  - ‘Agricultural Sir John’
- Based on response by Parish Ministers to 166 ‘queries’
- Result was detailed descriptions of 938 parishes
  - Statistical tables
  - Maps and diagrams
STATUS AND SIGNIFICANCE

• First successful national survey of Scotland
• Locally created
  – based on wide coverage of well-ordered facts
• two Accounts allow comparisons, 1790s & 1830s
• how life was lived
  – religion, social customs, diet, moral attitudes
  – population trends, agriculture, education, transport
• period of critical change: for Scotland, for Britain, for World
  – Making of Industrial Revolution
  – Agricultural Reform
  – ‘Trouble on the Continent’
STATISTICAL ACCOUNTS ONLINE

• Printed sets not easily accessible; in need of preservation
  – Solution via digital technology

• Co-operative initiative by Scotland’s research libraries

• Accounts were first choice as national resource
  – To scan 29,000 text pages, using JISC funding
  – To make text fully searchable, using funding from Scottish Archive Network
  – To put online, using funding from Carnegie Trust and the JISC

• Database system and user interface developed by EDINA

• Overseen by Joint Board and Editorial Board
EDINA National Data Centre

- As National Centre for UK
  - serves staff & students at 160 universities & 500 colleges across UK
  - based on Edinburgh University Data Library, 1983 -
  - designated & funded by the Joint Information Systems Committee of the UK funding bodies for further & higher education

- Mission: to enhance productivity of research, learning & teaching
- established reputation for Service-orientation & Project-competence

- One of two national data centres
  - with MIMAS at University of Manchester

- One of several national facilities funded by JISC and research councils
  - eg AHDS, SOSIG, UKDA
STATISTICAL ACCOUNTS ONLINE SERVICE

• Public Service and Scholar Service

• Public Service
  – Free access over the Web
  – Access to page images of original volumes of both Accounts
  – Available 24/7, worldwide usage
  www.edina.ac.uk/stat-acc-scot/

• Scholar Service
  – Advanced search facilities
  – Access to Additional Resources
  www.edina.ac.uk/stat-acc-scot/access/
The Statistical Accounts of Scotland are essential sources for study of Scotland's past.


University of Edinburgh has automatic access to the Scholar Service. 
» Please read the terms of use

Quick search
Find [ ] in [ ]

Quick links
- Browse parish and county (shire) reports
- Search all text
- Navigate volumes as published
- See related resources
The Statistical Accounts contain reports on all the parishes in Scotland, compiled from information provided by the church minister of each parish. There are also a number of reports (mostly in the New Account of 1834-45) concerning the counties, or shires.

Use the options below to find reports on a Scottish parish or county (shire).

Choose from county lists

Choose county...
Aberdeen

Show reports in this county

Search by name

Name

Search

parish reports

county reports

Choose from A-Z list

Choose A-Z...
A

Show matching reports
FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS

• Additional Resources
  – Original Manuscripts of Answers to Sir John Sinclair’s Questions
  – Sinclair’s *Specimens of Statistical Accounts* (1793)
  – Related Correspondence

• Additional Facilities
  – Index of tables
  – Making more of the spatial
  – Schools module

• Revisit Digital Preservation!
  – Migration via ‘continuing access’ strategy
  – XML mark-up for deposit & access