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Introduction I

A Festschrift for William Atkinson

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It may seem strange to some, if not to many, readers of the *Bulletin* that this *Festschrift* to honour William Atkinson is only now being published, twenty-five years after his death and forty-five years since, aged seventy, he retired from the Stevenson Chair of Hispanic Studies he had occupied at Glasgow University since 1932. Why was he not honoured in this way on his retirement in 1972?; or, since that did not happen, why was a *Festschrift* not produced soon after his death in 1992? These are questions which the *Bulletin's* readers might be excused for asking. William Atkinson had been, after all, an indefatigable pioneer in the development of British Hispanism: it was largely through his initiatives that Portuguese Studies and Latin-American Studies had become established as major fields of learning at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels in universities in the UK. Moreover, for decades he had served the best interests of this journal; and when it was in jeopardy it was he who had ensured its continuation. A *Festschrift*, especially one produced by or through the *Bulletin*, was no more than his due. But, many years went by and none was forthcoming—not, that is, until now.

The reasons why Atkinson's accomplishments were not recognized sooner, in the traditional way, are worth explaining here. Back in 1971, his colleagues in the Department of Hispanic Studies at Glasgow University were eager to see a volume published to honour him. Ivy McClelland, Reader in Hispanic Studies, a member of his staff for forty years, and Beatriz Jost, Senior Lecturer in Portuguese Studies, got together with Geoffrey [Geoff] Connell, Senior Lecturer in Modern Spanish Studies and Waldo Ross, who in 1964 had replaced Donald Shaw as Lecturer in Latin-American Studies, to discuss how best to bring about a *Festschrift*. It was agreed that Ross would approach Geoffrey Ribbans, Gilmour Professor of Spanish at Liverpool University and the *Bulletin's* Editor, to suggest publishing a Special Issue to mark Atkinson's retirement. At that period, it was not the thing for the *Bulletin* to publish *Festschrift* issues. In fact, apart from the *Memorial Number* for E. Allison Peers, in 1953, the only

Festschrift number that had appeared in the journal's, by 1971, almost fifty-year lifespan, was the one issued in 1961 to honour Professor J. W. Rees. Even so, there is little doubt that Geoffrey Ribbans would have agreed to honour Atkinson at Glasgow University in the way that Albert Sloman had previously honoured Rees at Manchester University, had it not been that in the early 1970s, the *Bulletin*, like its publisher, Liverpool University Press, found itself in grave financial difficulties. (The journal's finances and its prospects would not greatly improve until the mid 1980s.) Geoffrey Ribbans felt obliged to decline to bring out a *Bulletin* Number for William Atkinson, but suggested that Glasgow University might be persuaded to sponsor such a *Festschrift*. Accordingly, soon after Nicholas G. [Nick] Round's appointment to the Stevenson Chair of Hispanic Studies in 1972, Atkinson's former colleagues, notably Geoffrey Connell and Beatriz Jost, suggested to their new Head that the Department at Glasgow should organize a *Festschrift* for his predecessor. With his youthful foot just in the University's imposing doors, Round had to give priority to reconstructing the Department. Beatriz Jost had decided to leave Glasgow and Hispanism to take up a different employment in Switzerland; while Waldo Ross had just accepted a professorship at the University of Montreal. Also, Ivy McClelland was about to retire. Round suggested waiting until he had settled in post, with the intention of producing, later on, a volume as 'a joint tribute to both of them [Ivy and William]'. Time went on, professional and departmental commitments at Glasgow proved to be many and onerous, so that '[t]his [joint venture] never came to pass'.¹ In any case, a change in circumstances caused the idea of a 'joint tribute' to lose its logic and appeal. For in 1986 Ivy received her own *Festschrift*: a special number of *Dieciocho*, organized in the USA by David Gies; and, five years later, she became the recipient, through the *Bulletin*, of a second *Festschrift*.² It is greatly to his credit that, only a year before his death and still without any *Festschrift* to his name, William Atkinson was among the first of many Hispanists to write to the *Bulletin* to welcome warmly its *Festschrift* to honour Ivy.³

1 Both quotations are taken from a letter sent by Geoff Connell, Lytham St Annes to Ann Mackenzie, *Bulletin of Spanish Studies*, University of Glasgow, dated 17 May 2013 (Glasgow University's Archives); cited below, at greater length.

2 See *Studies for I. L. McClelland. A Special Issue*, ed., with an intro., by David T. Gies, *Dieciocho: Hispanic Enlightenment, Aesthetics, and Literary Theory*, 9:1–2 (1986); *The Eighteenth-Century in Spain. Essays in Honour of I. L. McClelland*, ed., with an intro., by Ann L. Mackenzie, *BHS*, LXVIII:1 (1991). A third *Festschrift* was to appear after Ivy's death in 2006, once more through the *Bulletin*, by then based at Glasgow University: *Hesitancy and Experimentation in Enlightenment Spain and Spanish America. Studies on Culture and Theatre in Memory of I. L. McClelland*, ed., with an intro., by Ann L. Mackenzie & Jeremy Robbins, *BSS*, LXXXVI:7–8 (2009).

3 His expressed pleasure in the *Bulletin*'s Volume for Ivy is especially commendable, if, as seems likely, Atkinson had known for almost twenty years that the *Bulletin* in 1971–1972 had refused to publish a *Festschrift* for him. His knowledge of that refusal might explain why on his retirement from Glasgow University in 1972, he wrote to Geoffrey

It is a matter of record that, having bestowed an honorary degree (Doctor of Letters) on Ivy McClelland in 1989, the University of Glasgow honoured her further in 1995 by establishing the Ivy McClelland Research Chair of Spanish, to which I was appointed as its first holder. In that same year, by unanimous decision of the *Bulletin's* Editorial Committee, the journal relocated from Liverpool to Glasgow. This change in university location made it seem quite practicable to honour Atkinson posthumously through a *Festschrift* from the *Bulletin*, underwritten by the University of Glasgow. But the *Bulletin's* change of location was to result in years of costly litigation between Liverpool University and the University of Glasgow over the ownership of the journal before the dispute was finally settled in 2001, to the satisfaction of both universities—and of both *Bulletins*. Some twelve more years were to pass, however, before—with its financial position steadily strengthening under its excellent publishing arrangements with Taylor & Francis, Informa—the *Bulletin of Spanish Studies* finally could commit itself to bringing out a Special Double Issue to honour William Atkinson.

In March 2013 I wrote to my co-General Editors, who were at the time James Whiston, Trinity College, Dublin and Jeremy Robbins, University of Edinburgh, and to our other colleagues on the Editorial Team—Julia Biggane at Aberdeen University, then Associate Editor, and at Glasgow University, Associate Editors Ceri Byrne and John McCulloch. To all of them I put the case for dedicating a Special *Bulletin* Double Issue to William Atkinson. Their response was unanimously favourable. They knew and valued his principal publications: his history of Spain and Portugal, his books on Pérez de Oliva, his translation of the *Lusiads* and his major articles in leading journals. In 2007, the *Bulletin of Spanish Studies* had published a guest-edited Special Issue which served to remind my fellow editors and many other Hispanists of Atkinson's key role in the growth of *Latin American Studies in the UK*. To that Special Issue, Gustavo San Román contributed a survey of 'The Rise of Modern Latin American Literary Studies in the UK: A Questionnaire to Early Practitioners', which drew attention to an article Atkinson had published sixty years beforehand, in which he became the first Hispanist to make a compelling case for enabling students to read for a degree in Latin-American Studies in British universities. Writing in the *Bulletin* in 1947, he argued that 'Latin America is the one great cultural area that still lies outside our ken', and that it deserved to be established as 'a new branch of university study'. He regretted that 'in no British university as yet is there

Ribbans, 'to withdraw also from the membership of the Committee of the *Bulletin*' (see 'Editorial Note', *BHS*, XLIX:4 [1972], 432).

a chair of Latin-American Studies'. He insisted that 'Latin America offers an incomparable field of enquiry, incomparable in extent, in interest, and not least in novelty'.⁴ San Román's article put on record how indebted Latin Americanists of today are to Atkinson, the 'pioneering thinker' who went on to put his vision into practice, so that by the late 1950s, he had established in his renamed Department of Hispanic Studies at Glasgow the first full honours degree programme in Latin-American History, Literature and Thought, in the United Kingdom. Donald Shaw—one of several early British specialists in Latin-American literature San Román interviewed—confirmed that when the Parry Committee was set up in 1962 to consider how best to develop the study of Latin America, Atkinson's degree programme at Glasgow was still the only one of its kind in the UK. Inevitably, that programme at Glasgow provided the basis and model for the Parry Committee's recommendations which led to the establishment of Centres or Institutes of Latin American Studies in five British universities, one of which was Glasgow.⁵

But what most convinced my fellow-editors that nobody more than Atkinson deserved a memorial *Festschrift* from the *Bulletin* was the fact that when its founder-editor died in December 1952, it was Atkinson who stepped in to enable the *Bulletin's* survival. Only three years before his death, at the time when he modified the *Bulletin's* title from *Spanish Studies* to *Hispanic Studies*, Peers had taken the decision to set up an 'Editorial Committee'—so that, as he put it, 'when the time comes for me to lay down the editorship, they will see that it [the journal and what he called its "policy"] will be carried on'.⁶ One of the eight original members of that Editorial Committee was William Atkinson, and on Peers' death it was to him that the others looked for leadership. It was Atkinson, therefore, on behalf of the Committee, who wrote a memorandum from the University of Glasgow, dated 2 February 1953, to all of the *Bulletin's* contributors and subscribers urgently requesting them to continue to give the *Bulletin* their support. He did so in the following terms:

The *Bulletin of Hispanic Studies* has been published without interruption since its foundation in 1923 by Professor E. Allison Peers, among whose many activities in the cause of Hispanism over the past third of a century it had a unique place. With the death of Professor Peers on December 21, 1952, the continuance of the *Bulletin* becomes

4 See William C. Atkinson, 'Programme for a School of Latin-American Studies', in *International Hispanic Number*, *BSS*, XXIV:94 (1947), 139–46 (pp. 140–42, 145).

5 Gustavo San Román, 'The Rise of Modern Latin American Literary Studies in the UK: A Questionnaire to Early Practitioners', in *Latin American Studies in the UK*, ed., with an intro., by William Rowe, Luis Rebaza-Soraluz & Claudio Canaparo, *BSS*, LXXXIV:4–5 (2007), 'Section I: Looking Back', 447–94; see especially pp. 450–52, 465–67.

6 See E. Allison Peers, 'The Next Quarter-Century', *BHS*, XXVI:101 (1949), 1–2 (p. 2).

the most fitting tribute to his memory. The Editorial Committee now responsible for the direction plans that the next issue should take the form of a Memorial Number. Responsibility for the continuance rests ultimately, however, with the body of subscribers and contributors whose loyal support in the past helped it through many a difficulty and was a source of unfailing encouragement to the founder.

Renewal of your subscription now will be much appreciated, and will help the Editorial Committee to plan the more effectively for the future. Every effort will be made to bring the Memorial Number out at the regular date in March; should some delay prove unavoidable, your indulgence is requested. Intimation will be made in due course of the appointment of a new Editor; [...].

On behalf of the Editorial Committee,

WILLIAM C. ATKINSON

The University of Glasgow.

2 February 1953.

This message was to prove effective: subscribers renewed their subscriptions; contributors went on sending in their articles for consideration. The *Bulletin* lived on.

But Atkinson did much more than compose and send out this memorandum. He took charge immediately, and anonymously, as interim Editor, a role which, with the experienced assistance of Harold Hall at Liverpool and with Audrey Lumsden at Leeds, he fulfilled from Glasgow for nearly two years.⁷ Albert Sloman was appointed as Peers' successor to the Gilmour Chair of Spanish at Liverpool from October 1953. But, not until Sloman was chosen by decision of the Editorial Committee to succeed Peers as Editor, effective from January 1954, did Atkinson step down as interim Editor of the *Bulletin*. As James Whiston commented: 'It cannot have been easy to have organised things [for the *Bulletin*] from Glasgow to Liverpool in 1953'.⁸

7 For Harold Hall's devoted work for the *Bulletin*, not least in the aftermath of Peers' death, see Albert E. Sloman, 'Foreword', [*H. B. Hall*] *Memorial Number*, *BHS*, LIX:3 (1982), 189–90; Ann L. Mackenzie, 'Introduction' to *Hispanic Studies in Honour of Geoffrey Ribbans*, ed., with an intro., by Ann L. Mackenzie & Dorothy S. Severin, *Bulletin of Hispanic Studies* Special Homage Volume (1992), 1–22 (p. 7). Audrey Lumsden (later to become Audrey Lumsden-Kouvel), continued to support the *Bulletin* until her death, in her late nineties, in 2017. Not least, she did so financially for many years, by donating all the income that had come to her, as one of three life-time beneficiaries from Peers' estate. The funds Audrey provided proved indispensable after the *Bulletin's* move to Glasgow University; besides helping with the legal costs incurred by the dispute with Liverpool University, in 1996 Audrey endowed the E. Allison Peers Research Fellowship at Glasgow University, to support the journal

8 Extract from an email sent by James Whiston to Ann Mackenzie, dated 29 January 2013, welcoming the proposed *Festschrift*; when she received it, it was sixty years to the day since Atkinson took over as the *Bulletin's* interim Editor.

Once the *Bulletin's* Editorial Team had given its support to the *Festschrift* for Atkinson, I then asked for and obtained Ceri Byrne's agreement to come in as my co-editor in the enterprise. Apart from myself, Ceri, now Senior Associate Editor, was the longest-serving member of the *Bulletin's* Editorial Team; moreover, like me, she was a member of staff in what had been Atkinson's Department at Glasgow University. Ceri's collaboration was not just appropriate, however; it was, in a word, indispensable, given her unmatched expertise in dealing with the ever-intensifying complexities of preparing the *Bulletin* for press.

Our first task was to decide on the *Festschrift's* contents. Besides the Introduction, to be contributed by myself, and the catalogue of his publications, appointments and the like, to be undertaken by Ceri, we decided to include Atkinson's hitherto unpublished memoirs with related documents, preserved in Glasgow University's Archives. In view of the breadth of his scholarly interests, we agreed that contributors should be invited to write articles on any subject or period connected to the literatures, cultures and histories of Spain, Portugal and Latin America. Despite the more than forty years since Atkinson's career as university professor had ended, we were initially hopeful that at least one or two of his former colleagues at Glasgow University might still be able to write something for his *Festschrift*. We were certainly confident of receiving articles from a good number of his former students at Glasgow, for many had gone on to distinguished careers in Hispanic Studies, both in the UK and overseas.

Ivy McClelland had died aged nearly ninety-eight in 2006. Antoni Turull, a native assistant in Atkinson's Department in the late 1950s and early 1960s, before moving to Bristol University, had also died, at a much younger age. Arseni Pacheco, Turull's predecessor at Glasgow, who had gone to the University of St Andrews, and then in 1970 to the University of British Columbia, Canada, was also dead.⁹ There were, however, two surviving former colleagues of Atkinson with whom we were still in contact. Donald Shaw had spent seven years as a lecturer in Atkinson's Department in Glasgow (1957–1964) before his transfer to Edinburgh University, and later to the University of Virginia. Geoff Connell, having moved from Nottingham University in 1967, held a lectureship, then a senior lectureship at Glasgow University until his early retirement in 1984.¹⁰ Even if he had wanted to, Donald Shaw could not have contributed to this *Festschrift* for Atkinson because, after he moved permanently to Italy in 2011, he no longer had access to libraries and ceased writing for

9 See M. P. Costeloe & A. Yates, 'Antoni Turull (1933–1990)', *BHS*, LXVII:3 (1990), 285–86. Arseni Pacheco died in 2011.

10 Atkinson mentions Geoffrey Connell's appointment to the post at Glasgow University in some of the letters he wrote to me in 1965–1967 (reproduced below in Part I).

publication.¹¹ Geoff Connell, however, who had fond memories of William Atkinson, agreed with alacrity to write an article in his honour. Geoff's reply to my invitation to contribute to Atkinson's *Festschrift* was written with his characteristic grace, humour and modesty:

Dear Ann,

At various times in my life, I have had experiences which seemed to go beyond simple coincidence and suggest the possibility of thought-transference. The arrival of your letter was one such. [...] Around the time when you were writing to me, I had a particular urge to write the article on Neruda's 'Barcarola' which I should have written thirty years ago as a corollary to the fine piece on 'El fantasma del buque de carga' which Arthur Terry generously contributed to my festschrift.¹² Apart from easing my conscience, it would serve to remind the Association of Hispanists [...] that, unlike the majority of the friends I used to meet at these get-togethers, I am still alive and *compos mentis*. Your letter has given me another reason to get out my copy of *Residencia en la Tierra* and get to work, as a book for Atkinson is long overdue [...].

When he retired, Beatriz Jost and I suggested to Nick Round that there ought to be a festschrift for him [...]. This never came to pass, and it was shameful that he went into retirement without the sort of recognition that I, of much less significance to hispanism, later received.

So I will see what I can do, and send the result for your consideration [...]

With best wishes,

Geoff¹³

Regrettably, Geoff Connell became ill and died before he could write the article on Neruda that he had planned.¹⁴ In consequence, the only former 'colleague' of Atkinson, albeit a very junior one, who is a contributor to his *Festschrift* is myself. For, after graduating with an Honours MA in Hispanic Studies and German, and becoming a research student at Glasgow University, thanks to his support, I served for one session (1967–

11 Donald Shaw died in January 2017. For Shaw's career and comments on his years at Glasgow University, see David T. Gies & Ann L. Mackenzie, 'Who? Me. A Memoir: Donald Leslie Shaw (1930–2017)', *BSS*, XCIV:1 (2017), 149–55. For additional information on Shaw, see below, Mackenzie, 'Introduction II. William C. Atkinson (1902–1992): Scholar of Spain, Portugal and Latin America', see its note 40.

12 See Arthur Terry, 'Pablo Neruda: *El fantasma del buque de carga*', in *Readings in Spanish and Portuguese Poetry for Geoffrey Connell*, ed. Nicholas G. Round & D. Gareth Walters (Glasgow: Dept of Hispanic Studies, Univ. of Glasgow, 1985), 241–58.

13 Letter from Geoffrey Connell to Ann Mackenzie, dated Lytham St Annes, 17 May 2013.

14 See Bernard McGuirk, 'Geoffrey W. Connell (1928–2014)', *BSS*, XCIII:1 (2016), 153–56.

1968) in his Department as a part-time 'tutor' (nowadays called a GTA [General Teaching Assistant]) just before being appointed, from September 1968, as an Assistant Lecturer in Golden-Age Literature at Liverpool University.¹⁵

The understandable shortage of erstwhile colleagues of Atkinson among the contributors has been more than compensated for by the number of his former students who agreed to write something for his *Festschrift*. Because of other commitments, one or two who had intended to send articles subsequently withdrew. Even so, nearly half the contributions published here to honour William Atkinson were written by Hispanists who were undergraduates and/or postgraduates during the years when he was in charge of Hispanic Studies at Glasgow. They include: Bernard McGuirk, John McIntyre, Ann Mackenzie, Giovanni Pontiero and Margaret Tejerizo. John McIntyre (MA Hispanic Studies and French, 1962) and Giovanni Pontiero[†] (MA Hispanic Studies and Italian, 1960) were among the first students at Glasgow to take the Honours Degree Programme in Latin-American history, literature and thought, introduced by Atkinson, and largely taught, until 1964, by Donald Shaw. John McIntyre has contributed an essay on 'Professor William C. Atkinson (WCA) As Remembered by Some Former Students', which, as I can confirm from my own experiences of WCA, brings the man and professor vividly to life. Pontiero, who went on to do research under Atkinson's guidance, was awarded in 1962 his PhD for a thesis on Manuel Bandeira, the first doctorate on Brazilian literature at Glasgow. Giovanni died in 1996, but he left unpublished a study and edition with translations of another Brazilian poet, Mário Quintana, which is here his posthumous contribution to honour his former teacher and supervisor. The article which Margaret Tejerizo has contributed, on Chekhov as performed in twenty-first-century Spain is doubly welcome. She was an Honours student in Atkinson's Department, and after graduating MA in Hispanic Studies and Russian, she went on to complete a doctoral thesis for Glasgow on a comparative (Spanish/Russian) topic. She held a post at Strathclyde University, but later was appointed to a lectureship at Glasgow University, where she is still a senior lecturer in Russian; she continues to be engaged in comparative research into nineteenth- and twentieth-century Spanish and Russian literature. Her involvement in this *Festschrift* is made even more appropriate by the fact that, though a Hispanist, in 1954 Atkinson had headed a first Scottish cultural delegation to the USSR.¹⁶ He would go on to do much more to

¹⁵ Atkinson refers to this appointment he arranged for me in his letters reproduced below.

¹⁶ For more on Atkinson's role in fostering Anglo-Russian cultural relations and exchanges, see below, Atkinson, *Fragments of University Reminiscence*, Chapter 2 '1932-: Glasgow and a Chair'. See also Atkinson's letter to the Editor, 'Students of Russian: Cultural Exchanges Essential', *The Times*, 17 August 1954, p. 7.

promote Russian Studies in British universities and Anglo-Russian cultural exchanges more generally. Bernard McGuirk was one of Atkinson's last students; for he graduated, MA with Honours in French and Hispanic Studies, the very year (1972) in which Atkinson retired. As his article reveals, Bernard was the graduand charged by his classmates with the task of making the speech at which they all took leave of their Professor, and presented him with their gift to mark the occasion: a framed copy of Salvador Dalí's *El Cristo de San Juan de la Cruz*. That gift could not have given the recipient greater pleasure; though the students concerned were almost certainly unaware that William Atkinson's powers of persuasion had had much to do with Glasgow City Council's decision to purchase Dalí's original masterpiece in 1951, thus ensuring for it a permanent home in Scotland.¹⁷ The painting hangs to this day in Glasgow's Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum, only a short walk from the University's precinct.

The other contributors of articles to this *Festschrift* for Atkinson also have strong connections to Glasgow University, albeit forged in the post-Atkinson era, whether as undergraduates, postgraduates or members of staff. During the lengthy and productive tenure of Atkinson's successor in the Stevenson Chair of Hispanic Studies at Glasgow, Nuala Finnegan, David G. Frier, Francis Lough and Patricia Anne Odber de Baubeta all graduated with MA or PhD degrees in Hispanic Studies from Glasgow University. Anne Holloway's connection with Glasgow is different and more recent. She held a post in Spanish Golden-Age Studies at the University for several years, before being attracted back to Northern Ireland in 2013, to a lectureship at her *alma mater*, Queen's University Belfast. Glasgow's loss was Queen's significant gain. Moreover, Holloway's move to the *Bulletin's* other university base facilitated her appointment to its Editorial Team. D. Gareth Walters' collaboration in this volume is justified by any standards. He joined the Department headed by Round as a junior lecturer in 1973, where he progressed to Senior Lecturer, and in due course was promoted to a personal professorship. In 1995, he was appointed to succeed Nick Round in the Stevenson Chair of Hispanic Studies which Atkinson had occupied. He headed Atkinson's former Department until his move, a few years later, to a Chair of Spanish Studies at Exeter University.

As it turned out, though invited contributors were free to write on any subject within Hispanic Studies, when the articles came in these were found without exception to relate in some significant way to Atkinson's own major interests. Through the subjects they deal with, no fewer than three contributors acknowledge the principal part William Atkinson played in the development of Luso-Brazilian Studies in the United Kingdom. Odber de Baubeta's article concerns Camoens—in Atkinson's words, Portugal's

17 This fact was told to me by Ivy McClelland in one of many agreeable conversations I had with her down the years in which she recalled people and events from the years when Professor Atkinson was Head of the Department of Hispanic Studies at Glasgow.

‘greatest poet’;¹⁸ Frier discusses a novel by Camilo Castelo Branco, the late nineteenth-century Portuguese writer who, in Atkinson’s judgment, ‘led the novel back to the present’;¹⁹ while Pontiero’s contribution studies, edits and translates the work of Mário Quintana, ‘one of the most influential Brazilian poets of modern times’.²⁰

Both Odber de Baubeta and Pontiero deal with another major interest of Atkinson—literary translation. In ‘Revisiting Camões’ Sonnets: Anthologies, Translations and Canonicity’, Odber de Baubeta has much that is original and enlightening to say about the ‘[m]ore than 1,270 English translations of Camões’ Portuguese sonnets [which] have been published in periodicals, anthologies, academic studies or other works’. The late Giovanni Pontiero is renowned for his numerous, often prize-winning, translations of poets and novelists of the calibre of Brazil’s Mário Quintana, Manuel Bandeira, Ana Miranda and Clarice Lispector and of Portugal’s José Saramago. Until now, Pontiero’s versions in English of Quintana’s poems and aphorisms have been among the least accessible of his translations. Their publication in this *Festschrift* should enable them to receive in future the attention from Brazilianists and other scholars that they deserve. Two other contributors whose articles have much to do with translation, in theory or/and practice, are Margaret Tejerizo and Bernard McGuirk. Tejerizo surveys various works of Chekhov (1860–1904) and the reception they have recently been given when performed in Spanish in the theatres of Madrid. McGuirk analyses, comparatively and deconstructively, translations into Spanish, Portuguese, English and French of Antonio Tabucchi’s novel in Italian, *Sostiene Pereira* (first published in 1994).

Atkinson dedicated much scholarly energy to the translation of significant literary works in Portuguese and Spanish long before Translation Studies and its closely-related discipline Comparative Studies found favour in British universities as major subjects suited to Degree Courses, even entire Degree Programmes in their own right. Nowadays, such programmes and courses are treated with the greatest respect by Heads of Faculties of Arts, and likewise by members of panels appointed to assess submissions for REF (Research Excellence Framework) purposes. Atkinson is best remembered for his widely-esteemed English prose-

18 See William C. Atkinson, ‘Literature and the Arts—II’, in his *A History of Spain and Portugal. The Peninsula and Its Peoples: The Pattern of Their Society and Civilization* (Harmondsworth: Penguin Books, 1960), 204–14 (p. 211).

19 Atkinson, ‘Literature and the Arts—III’, in *A History of Spain and Portugal*, 343–52 (p. 345).

20 See below, *The Poems and Aphorisms of Mário Quintana*, selected, translated & introduced by Giovanni Pontiero; quoted from his Introduction: ‘Mário Quintana, the Sorcerer’s Apprentice’.

translation of Camões' *Os Lusíadas* (1952).²¹ But he also accomplished several English translations of Spanish and Spanish colonial works, including the eighteenth-century *Vida* of Diego Torres de Villarroel.²² His insightful views on literary translation were far ahead of those prevalent in his own time, and are remarkably in tune with present-day thinking on the merits and purposes of composing and studying literary translations, and of comparing such versions with the original, often 'canonical' works from which they are derived. In the observations he wrote on 'Translation from Spanish', while recognizing 'the impossibility of absolute equivalence between tongues', Atkinson declared that the translating of a literary text, to be successful, should engage the translator in 'the attempt to achieve for a different public and through a different medium what the author might have sought to achieve had these been native to him.' With equal truth, he went on to say that a translation must seek to reproduce

[...] the pattern of the author's thought, the principle behind the concatenation of words, sentences, paragraphs, wherein lie the essential rightness of the part and the essential unity of the whole. To surprise this is to be within reach of a competent translation. It is also to be within reach alike of literary appreciation and of independent literary creation, in which are to be found the ultimate and not ungenerous rewards of the translator's craft.²³

In view of William Atkinson's pioneering role in establishing Latin American Studies in British universities, it is pleasing that of the nine articles which make up Part II of his *Festschrift* three deal with authors and works from Latin America. Francis Lough discusses *avant-garde* aesthetics in *Menos Julia*, a short story by the modern Uruguayan writer, Felisberto Hernández. As it happens, *Menos Julia* was first published (in Buenos Aires) in the same year (1946) in which Atkinson went on his first lecture tour of Latin America. During this tour, which lasted six months he visited, so he tells us, all twenty countries—including therefore Uruguay. Evidently, he tolerated with commendable *sang-froid* the difficulties of travelling repeatedly in a single-engined propeller-dependent aeroplane across vast stretches of Latin America.

Not only in 1946, but in several subsequent lecture tours through Latin America, Atkinson visited Mexico. For that country's difficulties, he

21 Luis Vaz de Camoens, *The Lusíads*, trans., with an intro., by W. C. Atkinson (Harmondsworth: Penguin Books, 1952; reprinted 1973).

22 For full details of this and other works translated by Atkinson, see below Introduction II; and its notes 75 and 76.

23 For these quotations, see William C. Atkinson, 'Translation from Spanish', in *A Handbook to the Study and Teaching of Spanish*, ed. & intro. by E. Allison Peers (London: Methuen & Co., 1938), Chapter VI, 88–114 (pp. 88, 101).

developed an enduring concern, deploring especially the widespread illiteracy which even on later visits he found to be still Mexico's 'bugbear no. 1'. He noted with dismay that huge sums were being spent on establishing cultural hubs and centres of linguistics, designed to attract tourists and impress especially the United States; yet schools and teachers lacked even basic educational resources. He criticized, too, the low standards of health care, the still primitive agricultural methods, the bad roads and the inadequate means of transport. A perceptive observer, he blamed, for the country's ills, administrative incompetence and a lack of 'probity'.²⁴ Given the considerable interest he took in Mexico, it is fitting that his *Festschrift* contains a contribution from a specialist in contemporary Mexican socio-cultural studies who discusses the conditions and ills of present-day Mexico. Nuala Finnegan does so by conducting an analysis of Rafael Bonilla's *La carta* (2010), a documentary film which vividly portrays that country's social, economic and political problems. It would be a stretch too far to count Anne Holloway's article among those contributed on Latin-American subjects. It is worth mentioning, none the less, that Ángeles Vicente, the author who Holloway discusses, though she is generally and justifiably accepted as a writer 'belonging' to Peninsular Spain, spent her formative years, between the ages of ten and twenty-eight, in Argentina, another Latin-American country, for which, as evidenced by his writings, Atkinson developed special feelings. Returning to Spain in 1906, Vicente embarked as an *émigrée* on her literary career; her first novel, *Teresilla*, was published (1907) just one year later.

Had he received this *Festschrift* in his lifetime, there can be no doubt that Atkinson would have particularly welcomed Pontiero's work on the intensely Brazilian poetry of Mário Quintana. For there is plenty of evidence, that of all the twenty Latin-American countries he visited and studied, Brazil was the land he most admired—for its past, its present and its future. In 'Brave New World', he praises Brazil's 'so strikingly different achievement of independence, that maintained an empire intact where Spanish America had disintegrated explosively'.²⁵ It is clear that Atkinson also loved Brazil in the present (1971)—for its energy, its progress, its landscapes and for much, if not all, of its architecture. In 'A Rolling Stone Bows Out', he praises Rio de Janeiro as 'still one of the world's loveliest cities'. As for Brasilia, he finds in it much that is 'worthy of the new capital of a country, half a continent, that still has its problems on a scale to match

24 For his experiences of Mexico, and other Latin-American countries, see Atkinson, *Fragments of University Reminiscence*, Chapter 5, '1962–: Brave New World'.

25 See below, in *Fragments of University Reminiscence*, '1962–: Brave New World'. See, too, his unpublished paper (dated 23 April 1972) on 'The Independence of Brazil, 1822' (Glasgow University's Archives), prepared for the Central Office of Information to mark the hundred-and-fiftieth anniversary of Brazil's independence. See also William C. Atkinson, 'The Literature of Brazil', *The Nineteenth Century and After* (May 1948), 10 pp.

but is confident it knows, as so few of the others do, where it is going'. He describes how he felt while he was lecturing in Brasilia: he believed he was 'standing indeed on the threshold of an exciting future'. With Stefan Zweig's book in his mind—*Brazil, Land of the Future*—Atkinson delights in the fact that Brazil's 'future is now visibly taking shape' which, he cannot resist adding, 'reinforces Glasgow's long insistence that your Spanish-Americanist is no Latin-Americanist'. This is a statement with which Giovanni Pontiero, trained in Latin-American Studies at Glasgow by Atkinson himself, and a Latin Americanist through and through, would have wholeheartedly concurred.²⁶

While collectively the essays contributed reflect many of Atkinson's major interests in Spain, Portugal and Latin America, one might initially feel regret that the Golden Age does not figure more prominently in the *Festschrift's* contents. It is true that Atkinson published studies, significant in both quality and quantity, on modern Spain: on its eighteenth-, nineteenth- and, indeed, its twentieth-century literature, culture and history. But his first researches were conducted into the sixteenth-century Spanish writer and thinker, Hernán Pérez de Oliva, on whom, before he was thirty, he had published a full-length study and a critical edition.²⁷ He continued, thereafter, to publish many articles on Golden-Age authors, works and genres. An important series of articles, published in 1927, comes to mind, even though, almost a century later, present-day specialists in Spain's Golden-Age might well have reservations about the title under which they appeared: 'Studies in Literary Decadence'. In these studies he discusses three important Spanish Golden-Age genres, one of which is the picaresque novel.²⁸ Though in her article she concentrates on an early twentieth-century writer, Holloway also has much to say about the picaresque tradition in Spain, in order to demonstrate that Vicente's novella, *Zezé* (1909) 'expands the limits of the narrative conventions of the [Golden-Age] picaresque'. Thanks to Holloway's study, the *Festschrift* does not fail, after all, to bring to mind Atkinson's work in interpreting Spain's Golden Age in literature.

The history of the Iberian Peninsula is an area of study to which Atkinson made an exceptional contribution, not only through two full-length surveys, but also in numerous articles on a rich diversity of people and topics. He also lectured and wrote knowledgeably about the history of

26 For these observations and quotations from Atkinson, see below, William C. Atkinson, 'A Rolling Stone Bows Out' (first published in the *Glasgow University Gazette*, 67 [December 1971], 1–3).

27 Hernán Pérez de Oliva, *Teatro*, a critical edition, with intro. & notes, by William Atkinson, *Revue Hispanique*, LXIX:156 (1927), 521–659; William Atkinson, *Hernán Pérez de Oliva: A Biographical and Critical Study*, *Revue Hispanique*, LXXI:160 (1927), 309–484.

28 'Studies in Literary Decadence' appeared in the *Bulletin of Spanish Studies*, IV:13–16 (1927). For 'Studies in Literary Decadence: I.—The Picaresque Novel', most relevant for present purposes, see *BSS*, IV:13 (1927), 19–27.

Latin America, taking a noteworthy interest in the histories of Venezuela, Ecuador, Bogotá, Argentina, Mexico and, naturally, Brazil. Of his two history books, the more extensive *A History of Spain and Portugal* (1960)—frequently reprinted, and translated into many languages—encountered a globally positive reception. It is true that none of the articles published here to honour his memory deals wholly or mainly with Iberian or Latin-American history. None the less, Atkinson's interests as a historian have been recognized, consciously or unconsciously, by several contributors. The nineteenth-century realist novel Frier discusses has a plot that unfolds within an actively historical setting, through which the novelist conveys and deliberates upon the troubled situation in Portugal in the 1840s. In an article pointedly titled 'Rewriting the *Estado Novo*: Antonio Tabucchi's *Sostiene [Afirma] Pereira*', Bernard McGuirk makes insightful comments about conditions in Portugal under the dictatorship of Salazar. The novel analysed recreates that country as it was in 1938, when, in McGuirk's words, it had the 'reputed passivity of a Nation-in-waiting'; but murderous agents of Portugal's 'New State' had 'long penetrated into lives and deaths within and beyond geopolitical frontiers'. Portugal under Salazar was ideologically the neighbour of a comparably Fascist state—Spain—, about which the novel and McGuirk as its interpreter have also perceptive things to say. Atkinson had a particular interest in Portugal's contemporary history and he wrote about Salazar and about 'The Political Structure of the Portuguese "New State" ', and indeed about 'Portugal, the War and After' and 'What Next in Portugal?'²⁹ Moreover, he liked, from time to time, to discuss the comparable positions of 'Portugal and Spain'.³⁰

Atkinson wrote even more articles about Spain, the Civil War and its politics, than he did about Salazar's Portugal, debating, in articles usually published in *The Fortnightly*, such burning issues as 'Spain's Two Republics', 'Spanish Affairs in an Impasse', 'The Civil War and After' and 'Dr Negrín's Thirteen Points'. In 1944–1945, he went on to discuss 'The Falangist Twilight' and 'The Spanish Political Situation'; and in 1951, he conducted his 'Inquest on the Spanish Civil War'.³¹ The poems from

29 See William C. Atkinson, 'The Political Structure of the Portuguese "New State" ', *The Nineteenth Century and After*, 122 (1937), 346–54; 'Portugal, the War and After', *The Fortnightly* (July 1944), 17–23; 'What Next in Portugal?', *The Fortnightly* (June 1951), 372–78.

30 See William C. Atkinson, 'Portugal and Spain', *The Dublin Review*, 402 (1937), 40–50.

31 See William C. Atkinson, 'Spain's Two Republics', *The Dublin Review*, 400 (1937), 8–20; 'Spanish Affairs in an Impasse', *The Fortnightly* ([?]1937), 267–76; 'The Civil War and After', *The Fortnightly* (October 1939[?]), 410–21; 'Dr Negrín's Thirteen Points', *The Fortnightly* (January 1939), 27–35; 'The Falangist Twilight' [by 'Adamastor' (William C. Atkinson)], *The Fortnightly* (April 1944), 219–26; 'The Spanish Political Situation', *The World Today, Chatham House Review* (November 1945), 213–21; 'Inquest on the Spanish Civil War', *The Fortnightly* (October 1951), 672–78.

Cancionero apócrifo which Walters analyses in considering ‘Antonio Machado’s “Late Style”’, were written by a poet living in anguished contemplation of ‘Spain on the eve of a national conflict, Europe in the heyday of the age of the dictators’. As an historian not only of Spain but of Latin America, and one, moreover, who was an observant ‘reporter’ on Mexico’s current affairs, Atkinson would surely have approved of Finnegan’s article, and her view that the crimes, public protests and other events which Bonilla’s film has documented, are not only of passing interest but are to be seen as ‘part of the country’s history’. He would not have doubted that *La carta* (2010) provides valuable evidence on the present state of Mexico which will go on to enlighten historians of that country for decades, even centuries still to come.*

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