**Abstract for *The Valiant Scot* (1637)**

*The Valiant Scot*, first performed in 1637, was written by an author simply recorded as ‘J.W. Gent’. The author is unknown but, if he is not a Scot, he is certainly familiar with the Scottish language, as ‘Scotch’ is interspersed throughout the play which often provides some comic relief.

This is the first modern edition of the play and is supported by a full Introduction, Glossary and Bibliography, to make it accessible to a modern reader, enabling some, at least, of its original meaning and resonances to be recovered. The Introduction, bringing together information about the play and its context, is divided into nine sections: the identity of the author, title, performance, politics and religion, text, language, fact and fiction, themes and synopsis.

*The Valiant Scot* is founded on the story of Sir William Wallace (c.1270 – 1305) national hero of Scotland, who led an uprising against the English. After an overwhelming victory in 1297, a year later Wallace suffered defeat and had to go on the run. He was captured in 1305 and executed for treason. The play, as explained in the synopsis, appears to be based on fact, fiction, and ‘Wallace’, the poem written about 1478 by ‘Blind’ Hary.