

## **ICAME shorter notice**

### **The Corpus of Modern Scottish Writing (1700–1945)**

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The Corpus of Modern Scottish Writing (1700–1945), created at the University of Glasgow with funding from the UK AHRC, has now been made available online (November 2010, [www.scottishcorpus.ac.uk/cmsw](http://www.scottishcorpus.ac.uk/cmsw)). The first release of the corpus contains 4.5 million words of text, in a range of genres, and features a number of integrated tools for concordancing and frequency analysis.

The genres represented are: administrative prose, expository prose, personal writing, instructional prose, religious prose, verse and drama, imaginative prose, and journalism. The corpus also contains a collection of texts by 18th and 19th century orthoepists or language commentators, which may be searched independently of the main corpus. Many texts, including a considerable quantity of manuscript materials, were acquired in collaboration with organisations such as the John Murray Archive (National Library of Scotland), the Mitchell Library, Glasgow University Archives, and Glasgow University Library Special Collections. All texts have been carefully edited and proofread, can be downloaded in plain text and html format, and are accompanied by high-quality images.

The arrival of CMSW means that it is now possible to carry out empirical research into nearly six centuries of Scots. CMSW fills the chronological gap between the Helsinki Corpus of Older Scots (1450–1700, Meurman-Solin 1995) and the Scottish Corpus of Texts & Speech (1945–present, see [www.scottishcorpus.ac.uk](http://www.scottishcorpus.ac.uk)). The main research output of the project is a monograph study of modern Scots orthography (Bann and Corbett, under contract). The corpus also opens up numerous avenues for research into the forms and role of Scots language, and interaction between Scots and standard English, not to mention aspects of the history, culture and society of Scotland in the period in question.

***References***

- Bann, Jennifer and John Corbett. In preparation. *Spelling Scots: A history of Modern Scots literary orthography*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press.
- Meurman-Solin, Anneli. 1995. A new tool: The Helsinki Corpus of Older Scots (1450–1700). *ICAME Journal* 19: 49–62.