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Introduction II

William C. Atkinson (1902–1992): Scholar of Spain, Portugal and Latin America

ANN L. MACKENZIE

University of Glasgow

A pioneering Hispanist who was to ensure that not only Spain but Portugal and Latin America would become subjects of major study at universities in the United Kingdom, William Christopher Atkinson was born in Belfast on 9 August 1902, son of Robert Joseph Atkinson, schoolmaster and his wife Rachel (*née* Abraham). He attended Woodvale National School and the Methodist College, Belfast and was awarded several entrance scholarships, including a Belfast City Scholarship, to Queen's University Belfast, where he studied in the Department headed by Ignacio González-Llubera. He was to become the first professor of our discipline in the British Isles to have read Spanish as an undergraduate. He graduated with a First Class Honours BA in French and Spanish in June 1924. His degree results were so outstanding that he was awarded the Henry Hutchinson-Stewart Literary Scholarship for being the best graduate of his year in Modern Languages (including English). This scholarship enabled him to spend a full year in Spain studying for a postgraduate degree and getting to know the country and its people.¹ Based at Madrid, besides taking courses at the University, he did research at the Biblioteca Nacional and various other libraries, and completed his thesis for a research MA, awarded by Queen's University Belfast in June 1925. His thesis dealt with the important but until then scarcely studied sixteenth-century Spanish humanist, Hernán Pérez de Oliva.² By the time he was appointed Lecturer in charge of the

1 Some account is given of his year in Madrid, 1924–1925, in William C. Atkinson, *Fragments of University Reminiscence* (published for the first time in this *Festschrift*); see Chapter 1, '1922–: Discovering the Spaniard'.

2 For information about Atkinson's early career I am indebted to Glasgow University's Archives, which made available to me, among other papers, Atkinson's

Department of Spanish at Armstrong College, Newcastle-upon-Tyne (then part of the University of Durham) from January 1926, he had already published several scholarly articles. Written while he was still an undergraduate, his earliest publication was an essay titled ‘Why Learn Spanish?’, for which he won a prize sponsored by the newly-established *Bulletin of Spanish Studies*. The essay appeared in the journal’s second issue, in 1924, and its founding editor, E. Allison Peers wrote about it in glowing terms: ‘[it] deserves and gains our prize. [...] [I]ts matter, in both its original and adapted parts, delights us. We print it, on another page, as it stands.’³

This was a period when Spanish was regarded by many to be only worth learning for those intending to pursue a career in business and commerce. It was not being taught sufficiently in schools and had not yet received proper recognition in the universities as a respected academic discipline.⁴ ‘The task of the Spanish lecturer at Armstrong College [was] not an easy one’. The Department Atkinson headed had to provide teaching ‘not only for those taking Spanish as part of their Honours course[s] [in other subjects] but also for Pass students in the two Faculties of Arts and Commerce’.⁵ Nevertheless he made time to press for the introduction of a full Honours degree programme in Spanish language and literature, and to publicize its academic merits. To further these ends, in 1927 he started up a ‘Spanish Circle’ intended for students, actual or potential, but also for the general public, at which talks were regularly given on Spanish life and culture, by himself and by invited speakers, to show that ‘Spanish has other

Application for the Stevenson Chair of Spanish (1932), in the form of a detailed letter, with testimonials—reproduced in Part I of this *Festschrift*. For additional information about his undergraduate and postgraduate studies, I am most grateful to Ursula Mitchel, Archives Officer, the McClay Library, Queen’s University Belfast; also to Professor Isabel Torres and Mrs Jill Gray, Queen’s University Belfast.

3 See ‘Notes and News’, *BSS*, I:2 [1924], 85–88 (p. 88); for the essay itself, see *BSS*, I:2 [1924], 74–75).

4 E. Allison Peers, second holder, since 1922, of the Gilmour Chair of Spanish (established at Liverpool University in 1908, and the oldest such chair in the country), was doing everything he could to promote the study of Spanish, both in Britain’s schools and in its universities. It took many years, however, before his crusade achieved its principal aims. The Stevenson Chair of Spanish at Glasgow University (founded in 1924) had as its declared purpose, not only to promote ‘Spanish studies in the University [but] likewise among the students (including teachers, students of commerce, and persons engaged in business) attending a recognised Central Institution for Higher Commercial Education in Glasgow’; and required ‘that the Professor shall in respect of his office, and without further remuneration, perform such duties in relation to Commercial Education as may be prescribed by the University Court’ (quoted from the full particulars of the Stevenson Chair of Spanish as supplied to applicants [including Atkinson] in 1932; these may be consulted in Glasgow University’s Archives).

5 Quoted from the testimonial written in 1932 by H. M. Hallsworth, Armstrong College, in support of Atkinson’s candidacy for the Chair of Spanish at Glasgow University (reproduced in full below).

rewards to offer than those of commerce'. Owing to a commendably varied programme, these talks were well received and Atkinson recorded 'a very real interest in the language and literature in aspects remote from mere utilitarianism'.⁶ Thanks to his determined promotion of Spain's literature and culture as well as the Spanish language, Spanish became a degree subject in its own right at Armstrong College from Session 1927–1928.⁷ He supervised the first student to write a thesis for an MLitt on a Spanish subject at the University of Durham. He also carried out external examining at the Universities of Edinburgh, Leeds and Birmingham. By 1928 not only was his professional career advancing, a significant change for the better took place in his personal life when he married, on 1 September that year, in the County of Essex, according to the rites of the Established Church, Evelyn [Eve] Lucy Wakefield, schoolteacher. They were to have four children: first, one son, Anthony Cedric, and then three daughters, Hazel, Pamela and Elspeth; they remained happily married for sixty-two years until Eve's death in 1990.

In the 1920s, there were still very few chairs of Spanish at British universities.⁸ But a generous endowment bestowed by Sir Daniel Stevenson had enabled one to be set up at Glasgow University.⁹ In 1932, its first holder (since 1925) William J. Entwistle moved to occupy the King Alfonso XIII Chair of Spanish Studies at Oxford University, leaving the vacancy at Glasgow University which Atkinson was to fill. Almost twenty years later, while writing to Liverpool University in 1953 to recommend the appointment of Albert Sloman to the Gilmour Chair of Spanish, in succession to E. Allison Peers, Atkinson was to concede: 'It is a high responsibility to enter so young upon a Chair of such prestige'.¹⁰ These

6 See Atkinson's report on this 'Spanish Circle' at Armstrong College, in 'Notes and News', *BSS*, V:17 (1928), 46–47 (p. 47).

7 Previously, Spanish had only been a subsidiary subject, examined as a paper within another degree. For information on Atkinson's career at Armstrong College, I am indebted to Alan Callender, Special Collections Assistant, Robinson Library, Newcastle University.

8 The second oldest chair in the UK, the Cervantes Chair of Spanish Language and Literature at King's College London, was established in 1916. Its first holder was James Fitzmaurice-Kelly, who had moved from the Gilmour Chair of Spanish at Liverpool University, leaving the vacancy to which, eventually, Peers was appointed. The King Alfonso XIII Chair of Spanish Studies was not created at Oxford until 1928; its first holder was Salvador de Madariaga.

9 For information on Sir Daniel Stevenson, Chancellor of Glasgow University, 1934–1944, see below, Atkinson's *Fragments of University Reminiscence*, Chapter 2, '1932–: Glasgow and a Chair'; see also its note 4.

10 Atkinson was one of four external assessors chosen to assist the Selection Committee at Liverpool University to appoint a suitable replacement for E. Allison Peers to occupy the Gilmour Chair of Spanish. His letter in support of Sloman's appointment is cited in *The 'Comedia' in the Age of Calderón: Studies in Honour of Albert Sloman*, ed. with an intro., by Ann L. Mackenzie, *BHS*, LXX:1 [1993], 'Introduction', 1–15 (p. 3). I am most grateful to Adrian Allan who, when Archivist at Liverpool University, provided me with

words would have been even more applicable to Atkinson's own appointment to the Chair at Glasgow. Sloman was only thirty-two when he became Gilmour Professor of Spanish at Liverpool, but Atkinson was even younger—barely thirty years old—when in 1932 he went to Glasgow University to take up the Stevenson Chair of Spanish, to be re-titled in due course (1959) the Stevenson Chair of Hispanic Studies.

There can be no doubt that he obtained this professorial post so early on grounds both of scholarly standing and of previous experience in university management. Not only had he run the Department of Spanish at Armstrong College for several years, he had also served that College in 1931–1932 as Dean of its Faculty of Commerce. Moreover, Atkinson had been acting as Honorary Secretary of the Modern Humanities Research Association since 1929—a post which he continued to fulfil until 1936. Despite, having been burdened at Newcastle 'with such heavy teaching hours as would have discouraged most men from doing any other work, either creative or critical, he [had] steadily pursued his special studies, with notable results'.¹¹ No doubt the number of major publications Atkinson had to his name by 1932 helped to convince the Selection Board at Glasgow that he was the right person to replace Entwistle in the Stevenson Chair. A well-researched book developed from his MA thesis and titled *Hernán Pérez de Oliva. A Biographical and Critical Study* and a critical edition of Pérez de Oliva's theatre had both appeared in 1927 through the *Revue Hispanique*, at that time, as Peers observes in his testimonial, 'one of the two chief Hispanic learned journals in the world'. An edition, for students' use, of Unamuno's *Recuerdos de niñez y de mocedad* had been issued in 1929.¹² He had contributed 'Spain: The Country, Its Peoples and Languages' to Peers' *Spain: A Companion to Spanish Studies* (1929).¹³ Since 1924, he had had a significant number of articles published in the *Bulletin of Spanish Studies*. These included his account of a memorable

copies of documents relating to the Gilmour Chair of Spanish; these included letters from the external assessors consulted about Sloman's suitability as a candidate.

11 Quoted from Peers' letter of reference, dated 12 February 1932, which is to be found as part of Atkinson's application for the Stevenson Chair of Spanish at Glasgow (reproduced in Part I). Peers knew Atkinson well by 1932, and not only because of the younger man's contributions to the *Bulletin of Spanish Studies*, or because of his work as Honorary Secretary of the MHRA which Peers had founded in 1918. While still in post at Armstrong College, Atkinson had taught students attending the Summer School of Spanish regularly organized by Peers in Santander. In 1930 he had delivered a course of lectures there on Spanish literature, a fact he reveals in his application for the Chair at Glasgow.

12 See William Atkinson, *Hernán Pérez de Oliva. A Biographical and Critical Study*, *Revue Hispanique*, LXXI:160 (1927), 309–484; Hernán Pérez de Oliva, *Teatro*, a critical edition, with intro. & notes, by William Atkinson, *Revue Hispanique*, LXIX:156 (1927), 521–659; Miguel de Unamuno, *Recuerdos de niñez y de mocedad*, sel. & ed., with notes and a vocab., by William Atkinson (London: Longmans, Green & Co., 1929).

13 See William Atkinson, 'Spain: The Country, Its Peoples and Languages', in *Spain: A Companion to Spanish Studies*, ed. E. Allison Peers (London: Methuen, 1929), 1–28.

'September in Barcelona' when Primo de Rivera carried out his coup (September 1923); and so, still an undergraduate, he had experienced Spanish history in the making.¹⁴ His 'Columbus—and a Biography' (1925) revealed an early interest in the New World.¹⁵ In four 'Studies in Literary Decadence' (1927), which were still remembered with admiration twenty years later by the *Bulletin's* founder-editor as 'a striking series of articles',¹⁶ he discussed, in turn, three major Golden-Age literary genres: 'The Picaresque Novel', '*La comedia de capa y espada*' and 'The Pastoral Novel'.¹⁷ These articles show a scholar with the gift for elucidating the principal directions taken in Spanish literary history, and with the courage to be critical of the genres he studied when he perceived criticism to be justified. Therefore, summing up the Spanish pastoral novel, he concluded: 'So many shepherds and shepherdesses spelt boredom; and boredom, added to artificiality, is fatal to any form of literature'.¹⁸

In the chapter of his memoirs which he calls '1932—: Glasgow and a Chair', Atkinson remembers that when he was inducted and could attend his first meeting of Senate, he found that the average age of the other senators (i.e., the University's professors) was sixty, double his own age; and some of them were in their seventies or even eighties, for many had taken up their posts before any definite retirement age had operated; and so they were free to 'carry on' until they were 'carried out'.¹⁹ By the time Atkinson himself was appointed in 1932, the statutory retirement age for professors was sixty-five; however, this was subsequently increased to seventy years. Made professor at only thirty, Atkinson was, therefore, able to occupy the Stevenson Chair with distinction for exactly forty years, a lengthy period during which his chosen discipline grew and flourished in British and Irish universities to become Hispanic Studies—that is, a multifaceted discipline allowing students to take university degrees in the languages, literatures, histories and cultures not only of Spain but of Portugal and of many countries in Latin America. For initiating this development of Hispanic Studies in the UK and beyond, much of the credit should go to Glasgow's second Stevenson Professor.

14 See William Atkinson, 'September in Barcelona', *BSS*, I:4 (1924), 145–47. Atkinson also mentions this coup in his *Fragments of University Reminiscence*, Chapter 3, '1942—: One Man's War'; see also its note 4.

15 William Atkinson, 'Columbus—and a Biography', *BSS*, III:9 (1925), 27–29.

16 See E. Allison Peers, 'Twenty-five Years', *BSS*, XXV:100 (1948), 199–206 (p. 206).

17 For these 'Studies in Literary Decadence', see William Atkinson, 'The Picaresque Novel', *BSS*, IV:13 (1927), 19–27; '*La comedia de capa y espada*', *BSS*, IV:14 (1927), 80–89; 'The Pastoral Novel' [1], *BSS*, IV:15 (1927), 117–26; 'The Pastoral Novel' [2], *BSS*, IV:16 (1927), 180–86.

18 See Atkinson, 'The Pastoral Novel' [2], *BSS*, IV:16 (1927), 186.

19 See Atkinson, *Fragments of University Reminiscence*, Chapter 2, '1932—: Glasgow and a Chair'.

At Glasgow University in the 1930s, Atkinson found that for the holder of a chair '[a]utonomy was real, including the professor's freedom to make of his Department what he would'.²⁰ At no time did Atkinson abuse his professorial power where members of his staff or his students were concerned. He was fortunate to find already at Glasgow when he arrived, a gifted young teacher and researcher in Ivy McClelland. She had been appointed an Assistant Lecturer in Spanish two years earlier (1930); and she was sufficiently appreciative of his trustful non-interference in how she and others carried out their departmental duties that she remained at Glasgow throughout his long tenure of the Stevenson Chair, and until her own retirement, one year after his, in 1973. As regards what the undergraduates thought of him, one of the earliest was Barbara Napier. She was later to serve the University for many years as Adviser to Women Students; and at the time of Atkinson's retirement in 1972 she put on record her early impressions of 'the spare young figure—improbably young to be the Professor—with a head of fiery hair', who enjoyed teaching (which he did 'supremely well') and who took 'a sincere and warm interest in his students'.²¹

As was then the norm in UK universities, the degree programme offered in Atkinson's Department and in the other departments of Modern Languages at Glasgow, followed in the tradition of Classical Studies; so the focus was largely on providing courses in language, literature and history, which, like most university teachers in the Humanities of his generation, Atkinson regarded as 'the three first keys' to the understanding of a country and its people.²² In a review-article in 1938, in which he assessed the varying merits of three recently published major histories of Spanish literature, he revealed his firm belief in the study of the causes and effects of works of literature. In line with that belief, he ensured that during his headship his lectures on the literary history of Spain, and, later on, of Portugal and Latin America, formed the basis of the Department's teaching programme for students. He saw that these lecture-courses were used as a means 'to stimulate their powers of thinking and to interest them in the search for truth in whatever field [might] claim them'.²³

20 Atkinson, '1932-: Glasgow and a Chair'.

21 See BLN [Barbara Napier], 'William C. Atkinson, MA, Professor of Hispanic Studies', *The College Courant (The Journal of the Glasgow University Graduates Association)*, 24:49 (Martinmas, 1972), 38. For further recollections of Atkinson as teacher and department head, see, in this *Festschrift*, John C. McIntyre, 'Professor William C. Atkinson (WCA) As Remembered by Some Former Students'.

22 For his comments on these 'three first keys' (language, literature and history) to the study of another civilization, see William C. Atkinson, 'British and American Universities, Languages, and Area Studies', *South Atlantic Bulletin*, XXI:2 (November 1955), 1-4 (p. 3).

23 Quoted from William C. Atkinson, 'La Trahison des clercs: Notes on the Writing of Spanish Literary History' [review-article], *BSS*, XV:57 (1938), 4-19 (p. 19).

Despite the demands of the lofty post obtained at so young an age, Atkinson's research work and output maintained its momentum through the 1930s. Peers had been so much impressed by the younger man's contribution to *Spain: A Companion to Spanish Studies* (1929) that he brought him in to be his co-author, with Entwistle, of *A Handbook to the Study and Teaching of Spanish*, almost ten years later. Atkinson wrote or co-wrote several chapters of this *Handbook*—in one of which he revealed an already considerable knowledge of Portugal, its language, history and literature; while in another he displayed his developing interest in the techniques of scholarly translation.²⁴ A contributor to *The Year's Work in Modern Languages* from its first volume (1930), he continued for seven more years to provide the annual survey of the section concerned with Spain, then known as 'Classical and Modern Spanish Literature'—an indication of the breadth of his knowledge.²⁵ In 1934 he published *Spain: A Brief History*, an elegantly written account which appeared at a time when few histories of Spain were available in English. For that reason, but also for its objectivity and factual accuracy, the book was well received by reviewers.²⁶

The first few years at Glasgow were productive, too, of literary-critical articles. An essay on Pedro Antonio de Alarcón and the nineteenth-century Spanish novel came out in 1933. A knowledgeable study on 'Luis de León in Eighteenth-Century Poetry' appeared in the *Revue Hispanique* in that same year, while his review-article on Keniston's *The Syntax of Castilian Prose* in 1938 demonstrated his grasp of the history of the Spanish language.²⁷ In 1935, the three-hundredth anniversary of Lope's death inspired him to write several articles. He contributed a thoughtful analysis of Lope's '*La Dorotea: acción en prosa*' to the *Lope de Vega Tercentenary Number* of the *Bulletin*, and another article on Lope appeared in the

24 See *A Handbook to the Study and Teaching of Spanish*, ed. & intro. by E. Allison Peers, with the assistance of W. J. Entwistle & W. C. Atkinson (London: Methuen & Co., 1938). See William C. Atkinson, 'An Introduction to Portuguese', Part IV, Chapter XVI, 268–81; and, in the same book, Atkinson, 'Translation from Spanish', Part I, Chapter VI, 88–101.

25 See W. Atkinson, 'Classical and Modern Spanish Literature', *The Year's Work in Modern Language Studies*, I (1930), ed. William J. Entwistle (Oxford: Oxford U. P./London: Humphrey Milford, 1931), 102–09. Atkinson was still contributing this section to the *YWML* until W. C. Atkinson, 'Classical and Modern Spanish Literature', *The Year's Work in Modern Language Studies*, VIII (1937), ed. L. W. Tancock & A. Gillies (Cambridge: Cambridge U. P., 1938), 134–38.

26 William C. Atkinson, *Spain: A Brief History* (London: Methuen & Co., 1934); reviewed, for instance, by María Victoria de Lara, in *BSS*, XI:42 (1934), 114–15.

27 See William C. Atkinson, 'Pedro Antonio de Alarcón', *BSS*, X:39 (1933), 136–41; William Atkinson, 'Luis de León in Eighteenth-Century Poetry', *Revue Hispanique*, LXXXI:2 (1933), 363–76 ('Tome LXXXI et Dernier [première partie & deuxième partie] dédié à la mémoire de R. Foulché Delbosc', 2 vols [New York/Paris Hispanic Society of America, 1933]); 'Castellano, español, idioma nacional', review-article of Hayward Keniston, *The Syntax of Castilian Prose*, *BSS*, XV:59 (1938), 155–58.

English Review in the same year.²⁸ In a study of ‘Séneca, Virués, Lope de Vega’, which figured in the *Homenatge a Antoni Rubió i Lluch* in 1936, he explains how in the Spain of Virués and Lope classical tragedy came to be transformed ‘into something infinitely richer, since more vital, than the pious imitations its cult inspired elsewhere’.²⁹

The outbreak of the Second World War in 1939 brought a change of place and occupation for Atkinson. As he recounts in his memoirs, he was seconded to a branch of the Foreign Office. Attached to the Royal Institute of International Affairs and based at Oxford, he worked under Arnold Toynbee in the Foreign Research and Press Service, where he headed (1939–1943) the Iberian Section, and served as a translator and analyst of Spanish and Portuguese newspapers. This was a period when he was sent on several fact-finding missions for the British government to Spain and Portugal.³⁰ His work and experience during the four years he spent away from the groves of academe, and in particular the missions he went on abroad, extended his knowledge of European affairs and of the political, social and cultural realities then affecting the Iberian Peninsula. This knowledge not only informed the Sunday night talks he broadcast through the BBC at the time,³¹ but produced a number of insightful writings on the relations, past and present, between Spain and the United Kingdom (for instance, his ‘Suggested Bases for a British Policy to Spain’),³² and between Britain and Portugal. His survey (1945) of *British Contributions to Portuguese and Brazilian Studies* was, and still is, most illuminating.³³

Back as professor and head of the Department of Spanish at Glasgow University from 1943, Atkinson was impatient to continue developing the curriculum, a task he had embarked upon before the War began, by increasing the number of Iberian languages studied from just one to three: Spanish, Portuguese and Catalan. He had also begun to expand the type of courses on offer, to enable undergraduates to study the distinctive literatures, ideologies and histories of the different parts of the Iberian Peninsula. From the late 1940s, he was ready to complete the process of

28 See William C. Atkinson, ‘*La Dorotea*, acción en prosa’, in *Lope de Vega Tercentenary Number*, *BSS*, XII:48 (1935), 198–217; and his ‘Lope de Vega 1562–1635’, *The English Review* (1935), 319–31.

29 William C. Atkinson, ‘Séneca, Virués, Lope de Vega’, in *Homenatge a Antoni Rubió i Lluch: miscel·lànea d’estudis literaris històrics i lingüístics*, 3 vols (Barcelona: s.n., 1936), I, 111–21 (p. 121).

30 See Atkinson, *Fragments of University Reminiscence*, Chapter 3, ‘1942–: One Man’s War’.

31 Some typescripts of these talks he gave on the radio during the War are preserved in the Atkinson Papers in Glasgow University’s Archives.

32 See William C. Atkinson, ‘Suggested Bases for a British Policy to Spain’, *The Fortnightly* (February 1945), 69–84.

33 William C. Atkinson, *British Contributions to Portuguese and Brazilian Studies* (London/New York/Toronto: Published for the British Council by Longmans, Green & Co., 1945 [rev. ed. 1974]).

transforming what had hitherto been the Department of Spanish at Glasgow University into what was to become the Department of Hispanic Studies. He did so by taking what he called 'the great leap forward', in order to bring in innovative degree-level courses on the countries of Latin America—their literatures, cultures, ideologies, histories and civilizations.

His article on 'Columbus—and a Biography', which appeared in 1925, is proof that Atkinson had been interested in studying the 'New World' for at least twenty years. By the 1930s he was regularly reviewing books on Latin America for the *Bulletin of Spanish Studies*.³⁴ Peers had noted, with approval, while reviewing, in the same journal, Atkinson's eight substantial pages on 'Classical and Spanish Literature' in Volume V of *The Year's Work in Modern Language Studies* (1934), that there were 'two paragraphs on Spanish America'.³⁵ However, it was from 1946 that Atkinson's early interest developed into a major academic commitment—indeed a crusade. In that year he went to Latin America for the first time, undertaking a six-month lecture tour funded by the British Council, during which he visited all twenty countries of that subcontinent. His enthusiasm for Latin America is evident in the account he gives in his memoirs of that first visit.³⁶ The tour was a personal as well as a professional success, as demonstrated by the honorary professorship bestowed on him by the National University of Colombia, Bogotá. He returned determined to develop his already broad research interests by publishing more studies on Latin America. More importantly, he came back dedicated to doing all that he could not only to establish Latin American Studies at Glasgow, but in other British universities too, as a discipline as worthy of academic study as any and all of the traditional degree subjects taught and researched in the UK's Faculties of Arts. In an article which appeared in the *Bulletin of Spanish Studies* in 1947, he set down his ambitious 'Programme for a

34 The books on Latin America which he reviewed for the *Bulletin* in this period included: Sturgis E. Leavitt, *Hispano-American Literature in the United States. A Bibliography of Translation and Criticism* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard U. P./Oxford: Oxford U. P., 1932) (*BSS*, X:38 [1933], 103–04); F. A. Kirkpatrick, *The Spanish Conquistadores* (London: A & C Black, 1934) (*BSS*, XII:45 [1935], 51–53); H. Grattan Doyle, *A Bibliography of Rubén Darío (1867–1916)* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard U. P./Oxford: Oxford U. P., 1935) (*BSS*, XIII:49 [1936], 53–54); Onera Amelia Merritt-Hawkes, *High Up in Mexico* (London: Nicholson & Watson, 1936) (*BSS*, XIV:53 [1937], 52–53); *Handbook of Latin American Studies*, I, ed. Lewis Hanke (Cambridge, MA: Harvard U. P., Oxford: Oxford U. P., 1936) (*BSS*, XV:57 [1938], 76); *Handbook of Latin American Studies*, III, ed. Lewis Hanke (Cambridge, MA: Harvard U. P./Oxford: Oxford U. P./London: Humphrey Milford, 1938) (*BSS*, XVI:62 [1939], 115–16).

35 See Peers' review of William C. Atkinson, 'Classical and Spanish Literature', in *The Year's Work in Modern Language Studies*, V (1934), ed. William J. Entwistle, with the assistance of L. W. Tancock, 116–24 (*BSS*, XII:47 [1935], 160).

36 See Atkinson, *Fragments of University Reminiscence*, Chapter 5, '1962–: Brave New World'. See also William C. Atkinson, 'A Rolling Stone Bows Out', *Glasgow University Gazette*, 67 (December 1971), 1–3 (p. 1) (reproduced below, in Part I).

School of Latin-American Studies'. Quite possibly it was that very article which convinced Allison Peers, scarcely two years later, to change his journal's title from *Bulletin of Spanish Studies* to *Bulletin of Hispanic Studies*, in order to signify the *Bulletin's* increased interest in receiving for consideration, besides articles on Spain, studies on Portugal and Latin America. In his forward-looking article, Atkinson made the case for establishing Latin America as 'a new branch of university study', which would 'rest not only on the importance of the knowledge therein represented, but also on the value of the intellectual discipline involved and on the scope it offers for research and higher studies'.³⁷ Later in the same year (5 November 1947), utilizing his first-hand experiences of its cultures, politics, societies and economics, he delivered an address to the Royal Philosophical Society of Glasgow, in which he drew attention to 'The Significance of Latin America'.³⁸

From the late 1940s, not only was he advocating that Latin-American Studies should become a principal area of study in British universities, he was practising much of what he preached. Students in his Department of Hispanic Studies at Glasgow were being taught increasingly about Iberian explorations in the New World, and about its outcomes—literary, ideological, social and political—for the Latin-American countries which emerged and developed during the centuries which followed. By 1950, a graduate from Peers' Department at Liverpool University, Jack Metford, whom Atkinson had appointed to a lectureship at Glasgow (partly to assist him in teaching students about Latin America), could truthfully report that universities such as Durham, Leeds and Liverpool were also offering courses in Latin American Studies, and that 'there is every reason to hope that similar courses will become available in other universities'. Metford predicted—correctly, as it turned out—that Latin-American Studies will at last receive their academic due'.³⁹ By the time Metford left Glasgow, to take up the headship of Spanish at Bristol University, Atkinson was ready to expand Latin-American Studies still further. To that end, he brought in Donald Shaw in 1957, mainly, though not exclusively, to devise and teach three courses on Spanish-American literature, history and thought, from its origins to the present day! It was thanks to Atkinson that Shaw was obliged to turn himself from a Hispanist concerned with Spain, its modern

37 See William C. Atkinson, 'Programme for a School of Latin-American Studies', in *International Hispanic Number*, BSS, XXIV:94 (1947), 139–46 (p. 142).

38 William C. Atkinson, 'The Significance of Latin America', *Proceedings of the Royal Philosophical Society of Glasgow*, LXXII, Pt. 2 (1947), 11–26.

39 J. C. J. Metford, *British Contributions to Spanish and Spanish-American Studies* (London/New York/Toronto: Published for The British Council by Longmans, Green & Co. 1950), 82.

literature and culture, into a specialist also in Spanish America.⁴⁰ By the late 1950s Atkinson had introduced, as an alternative to Peninsular Studies, a full two-year Honours Degree Programme in Latin American Studies, the first of its kind in the UK. This, as Shaw confirms, was still the only such programme which was ‘up and running’ in any British university,⁴¹ when in 1962 the Parry Committee, under orders from the government, began its work to construct a model for the establishment in selected universities of advanced centres specializing in Latin America. Small wonder that the Parry Committee was heavily dependent, for both information and inspiration, on the Honours Latin-American courses which Atkinson and Donald Shaw had introduced at Glasgow University. These courses, it is true, centred on language, literature, history and thought, while for the Parry Committee, as Donald Shaw puts it, ‘the humanities were not their priority. They [the members of the Committee] thought that courses in Latin American Studies such as anthropology, politics etc. would help trade with Latin America, which was what the government was really interested in’.⁴² Atkinson had always envisaged, however, that Latin American Studies as taught and researched in universities would expand to become an ‘interdisciplinary’ area of study, concerned not only with the traditional Arts subjects, but also with the politics, economics, geography and societies of Latin America. It is beyond dispute that the courses on Latin America which Atkinson had initiated, developed and, with Shaw’s indispensable assistance, implemented at Glasgow influenced fundamentally the deliberations and eventual conclusions of the Parry Committee. In light of the Parry Report, five research Centres or Institutes of Latin American Studies were established, to which were appointed not only historians, linguists and literary critics, but also specialists from faculties outside the Arts, including economists, geographers, sociologists and political scientists. These Centres, which focused on teaching and supervising postgraduates, were set up within the Universities of Oxford, Cambridge, London, Liverpool and, of course, Glasgow. Logically, Atkinson became the first Director of the Institute of Latin-American Studies at

40 On Donald Shaw’s career, including the Glasgow years, see David T. Gies & Ann L. Mackenzie, ‘“Who? Me. A Memoir”: Donald Leslie Shaw (1930–2017), *BSS*, XCIV:1 (2017), 149–55. For Shaw’s comments on his own career, see 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), 447–94 (pp. 465–67). Shaw vividly recalls his seven years as a lecturer at Glasgow University in his unpublished memoirs, ‘Donald Shaw, Who? Me. A Memoir’ (Charlottesville, Virginia, 2001).

41 For the insights and recollections of some of the first students within Atkinson’s Department of Hispanic Studies to follow the Honours Programme in Latin American Studies which he had introduced, see McIntyre, ‘Professor William C. Atkinson (WCA)’.

42 Shaw, as reported in San Román, ‘The Rise of Modern Latin American Literary Studies in the UK: A Questionnaire’, 466.

Glasgow, a role which, in addition to his duties as Stevenson Professor and Head of the Department of Hispanic Studies, he fulfilled until his retirement, aged seventy, in 1972.⁴³

From the late 1950s into the early 1970s, therefore, Honours students at Glasgow within Atkinson's Department of Hispanic Studies benefited from being able either to specialize in Spain and Portugal in the Peninsular Division, or, if they preferred, to enter the Latin-American Division. They also had an attractive third option. If they wanted their Honours degree to be in Modern Languages entirely, but did not wish to take Hispanic Studies jointly with French Studies, or German Studies or Russian Studies, they could choose to study the languages and corresponding literatures and civilizations on offer in both the Peninsular Division and the Latin-American Division. Those who made that choice took the necessary courses and examinations not only in Spanish and Spanish-American Studies, but also in Portuguese and Brazilian Studies. They, therefore, fulfilled the University's requirement that all Honours students in Modern Languages follow a degree programme involving at least two modern foreign languages. These students therefore graduated with a Double Honours Degree entirely in Hispanic Studies.

Whether they chose to study in the Peninsular Division or in the Latin-American Division or, indeed to enter both Divisions simultaneously, all Honours students within Atkinson's Department found themselves being taught and trained to the highest standards by some of the best British Hispanists of that period. Besides Atkinson himself and Ivy McClelland, there were a number of gifted younger lecturers that, in the course of his career, Atkinson had the insight and foresight to appoint, among whom were Donald Shaw, Beatriz Jost (the specialist in Portuguese Studies), Waldo Ross, Geoffrey Connell, and John Parker. A Brazilianist who was attached to the Institute of Latin-American Studies, Parker also taught certain courses within the Department. Students were taught, too, by outstanding native assistants, including Arsenio Pacheco, Antoni Turull, Laureano Bonet and Fernando Huerta.⁴⁴ They taught, naturally, the

43 Regarding the inauguration of the Institute on 3 March 1967, see W. C. Atkinson, 'Institute of Latin-American Studies', *Glasgow University Gazette*, 54 (June 1967), 9–11.

44 For information on Arsenio Pacheco and Antoni Turull, see above 'Introduction I. A *Festschrift* for William Atkinson', and note 10. Fernando Huerta went on to become a professor of Spanish literature, specialising in Spain's eighteenth century, at the Universidad Autónoma, Barcelona. Laureano Bonet made a name for himself as literary critic, journalist and creative writer. He held academic posts at the Universities of Cincinnati and McGill, and from 1970 until his retirement in 1998 he was a professor at the Universidad de Barcelona. A distinguished native assistant in Atkinson's Department at Glasgow at an earlier period (1939–1942) was the poet Luis Cernuda. For information on Cernuda's time at Glasgow, see Audrey Lumsden-Kouvel, Hugh Matthews & I. L. McClelland, 'Awaiting the Dawn: Luis Cernuda in Glasgow, 1941–43', *BHS* (Glasgow), LXXVI:2 (1999), 249–61; see especially, Lumsden-Kouvel, 249–52, and Matthews, '“Ni Glasgow ni Escocia me resultaban agradables”: Cernuda As University Teacher', 253–57.

Spanish language (and some Catalan) but lectured, too, on Spanish literature and history. Students had the additional benefit of hearing talks given by visiting guest lecturers of eminence, such as the philosopher and writer Ortega y Gasset. In the years that followed, there were many other distinguished visitors from abroad: usually scholars and creative writers; also plenty of diplomats and politicians from Latin America—there was even an ex-President of Costa Rica.⁴⁵

Many who graduated from Atkinson's Department went on to have distinguished careers, at home or overseas, in the Diplomatic Service, with the British Council, in education, in banking, commerce and industry. Having acquired that 'sense of dedication to intellectual pursuits for their own ends' which Atkinson himself possessed,⁴⁶ a noteworthy number of his graduates, opted to study for further and research degrees, for which, despite tough competition, assisted by his references, they were usually successful in gaining the necessary postgraduate scholarships and awards. Always assured of his support and encouraged by his favourite words of advice (to 'seek out problems not subjects'), they progressed into academic posts in universities.⁴⁷ Some, including Mervyn Lang, John McIntyre, Annella McDermott, Bernard McGuirk and Margaret Tejerizo, took up appointments in the UK. In the late 1960s no fewer than three of the nine permanent staff in the School of Hispanic Studies at the University of Liverpool (James Higgins, Ann Mackenzie and Giovanni Pontiero) were graduates of Atkinson's Department of Hispanic Studies at Glasgow.⁴⁸

45 For interesting observations on visitors to Glasgow University, see Atkinson, *Fragments of University Reminiscence*, Chapter 4, '1952–: Around and about a Quincentenary'. See also the last paragraph of this Chapter 4, and his comment: 'Visitors from Latin America were now a commonplace to Hispanic Studies'.

46 See William C. Atkinson, 'British and American Universities, Languages, and Area Studies', 3.

47 On Atkinson in his final years at Glasgow University, see Bernard McGuirk, 'Re-Writing the *Estado Novo*: Antonio Tabucchi's *Sostiene [Afirma] Pereira*', *passim*.

48 John McIntyre, Margaret Tejerizo, Bernard McGuirk and the late Giovanni Pontiero, besides myself, are contributors to this *Festschrift*. Mervyn Lang, a specialist both in the development of Modern Spanish and in the history of mining in colonial Spanish America (New Spain), taught for many years at Salford University; and Annella McDermott was a lecturer at the University of Bristol, specializing in nineteenth-century Latin-American literature and history. For information on careers pursued by Atkinson's students and graduates in the period 1955–1962, see McIntyre, 'Professor William C. Atkinson (WCA)'. On the late Giovanni Pontiero, see Ann L. Mackenzie, 'Foreword' to *The Poems and Aphorisms of Mário Quintana*, sel., trans. & intro. by Giovanni Pontiero (published here). On James Higgins, see *Studies in Latin American Literature and Culture in Honour of James Higgins*, ed. Stephen Hart & William Rowe, with an intro. by William Rowe, *BHS Special Issue* (Liverpool: Liverpool U. P., 2005), 1–5. On Ann Mackenzie, see Don W. Cruickshank & Victor Dixon, with C. Alex Longhurst, 'Introduction. Ann L. Mackenzie, Scholar and Editor', in *Theatre, Culture and History in Spain: Studies and Researches in Honour of Ann L. Mackenzie*, ed. by James Whiston & Ceri Byrne, Jeremy Robbins, *BSS*, XCII:8–10 (2015), 3–25.

Quite a number of others went to teach and research in universities overseas, usually in the United States, Canada and South America.⁴⁹ The influence which William Atkinson continued to exercise on the development of Hispanic Studies in the UK and worldwide through to the present century, has come about in large measure through the numerous students he trained in his Department who went on to become professional Hispanists and to inspire other students in their turn to follow the same career.

That said, neither must we underestimate the effects which his own tireless efforts had in promoting both Iberian and Latin American Studies, to their lasting benefit far beyond the reaches of Glasgow and its University. For decades he travelled, visiting universities and countries in Britain and throughout the world in the interests of assisting, developing and promoting our discipline. He assisted many institutions as external examiner or assessor. He was on numerous appointing committees for senior posts, especially chairs. He served King's College London in that capacity in 1953, after Edward Wilson gave up the Cervantes Chair of Spanish Language and Literature, and moved to the professorship at Cambridge. Atkinson liked to recall with a chuckle meeting A. A. Parker in a corridor at King's College, as the latter waited anxiously to be interviewed for the Cervantes Chair. Jumping to the wrong conclusion, Parker exclaimed, in some dismay: 'Good grief! You aren't after it too, are you?' That same year, Atkinson himself was interviewed at Oxford University, but narrowly missed becoming King Alfonso XIII Professor of Spanish, when Peter Russell was selected in preference.

There were, especially, the major lecture tours which he undertook to Latin America, at least once in every decade from the mid 1940s through to the early 1970s, mainly under the sponsorship of the British Council. As Rockefeller Fellow (1957), he gave lectures at various Latin-American universities, and conducted research in libraries and archives. During his initial visit in 1946, lasting six months, he took in all twenty Latin-American countries. A further visit to Latin America happened in the

49 Murdo J. MacLeod (graduated from Glasgow University in 1958) completed his doctorate at the University of Florida in 1962. He taught at the Universities of Pittsburgh and Arizona, and then at the University of Florida, where from 2005 he has been Graduate Research Professor Emeritus. MacLeod has specialized in Central American socio-economic history. Among numerous studies, he has published an influential monograph on *Spanish Central America: A Socioeconomic History, 1530–1720* (Berkeley, Los Angeles: Univ. of California Press, 1973; revised ed., Austin: Univ. of Texas Press, 2008). To name just two others: James Maharg and John Walker both specialized in Latin-American literature and culture, and became Professors of Latin-American Studies, Maharg at the University of Illinois, Chicago, and Walker at Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario. Among their major publications are: James Maharg, *A Call to Authenticity: The Essays of Ezequiel Martínez Estrada* (University of Mississippi: Romance Monographs Inc., 1977); John Walker, *Metaphysics and Aesthetics in the Works of Eduardo Barrios* (London: Tamesis, 1983).

1950s; and there was another extensive lecture tour in 1960. Yet another visitation happened in the late 1960s. The final lecture tour he undertook, by no stretch the longest, enabled him, among other places, to visit Peru, Paraguay, Chile, Argentina, Venezuela and Brazil in 1971, just before his retirement. He used all of these lengthy lecture tours to establish important cultural and academic contacts, which were to prove invaluable to young Latin Americanists, particularly from Glasgow, but also from other universities in the UK, who were eager to explore South America for themselves, to do research in its libraries, and to teach or study in its universities.⁵⁰

A committed traveller abroad, Atkinson would also go to places outside Latin America, however distant, if opportunities were offered which were likely to advance the cause of Hispanism in any of its forms. In 1963, he spent a period as Visiting Professor of Portuguese Studies at what was then called the University College of Rhodesia and Nyasaland. Subsequently, he used the contacts he had established to send some of his postgraduates there to gain valuable teaching experience.⁵¹ By then he had already visited an impressive number of universities in the United States, where he established strong professional ties. In 1955, as Carnegie Research Fellow, he gave lectures at several leading universities in the States, not only on specific Hispanic topics but on broader subjects concerning Higher Education of interest to academics, educationists and their like. He delivered such a talk to the Special Graduate Faculty in Inter-American Studies at the University of Florida (16 May 1955), where he compared 'British and American Universities, Languages, and Area Studies'.⁵² His services to international Hispanism were recognized that same year, when he was elected Full Member of the Hispanic Society of America (he had been a Corresponding Member of that revered organization since 1937). Other richly deserved honours were to follow, among which was one he especially valued: in 1972, the year he retired, Portugal recognized his work on Portuguese literature and history, and his promotion of Portuguese Studies in the UK, Africa and elsewhere, by awarding him the title of Commander of the Order of Prince Henry the Navigator.

Of the many services which during his lengthy career Atkinson performed to safeguard and promote Hispanic Studies wherever these were being pursued, arguably the most important of all was the rescue-operation

50 For Atkinson's vivid recollections of his different visits to Latin America, see '1962—: Brave New World'; and his 'A Rolling Stone Bows Out'.

51 See the letters (reproduced below in facsimile) written by Atkinson to Ann Mackenzie, in which he refers to one of his postgraduates who, in the mid 1960s, went out to teach in Southern Rhodesia—his name was John Gillespie, and he died tragically young of a fatal disease, before he had time to secure for himself an academic career as a specialist on Portugal.

52 See Atkinson, 'British and American Universities, Languages, and Area Studies', published in the *South Atlantic Bulletin* that year.

that he masterminded to save the *Bulletin of Hispanic Studies* from extinction when its founder-editor and mainstay died in December 1952. At that time, the *Bulletin* which Peers had founded in 1923, and had supported with his own funds, was still the only journal in the United Kingdom dedicated to Hispanic Studies. Fortunately for the *Bulletin* and for the good of Hispanism everywhere, one of the UK-based members of the *Bulletin*'s Editorial Committee which Peers had set up in 1949, was William Atkinson. He took over the running of the *Bulletin* at that time of crisis and edited it from Glasgow throughout 1953, until a new editor (Albert Sloman) was in place. What is more, he did so anonymously. The first of the issues Atkinson prepared as interim editor was a 'Memorial Number' (January–March 1953), to honour the *Bulletin*'s founder-editor. He introduced the Number with a tribute to Peers which, self-effacingly, he left unsigned. In that tribute, titled simply 'In Memoriam', he pointed to the very qualities in Peers which, sixty-five years later, the editors of another *Bulletin* memorial volume, its contributors and its subscribers, recognize and honour in Atkinson himself: his 'sustained devotion to the cause of Hispanic studies', his 'record in pure scholarship [...], more than sufficient, for any one reputation' and 'the deep humanity of the man beneath the scholar'.⁵³ Not until the year in which he retired, did Hispanists generally come to learn of the debt owed to Atkinson for safeguarding the *Bulletin of Hispanic Studies*. For in an 'Editorial Note' in that year, the *Bulletin*'s Editor, Geoffrey Ribbans, published the fact that 'at a critical juncture in its existence, after the death of Professor E. Allison Peers, he assumed, anonymously, the editorship and thus ensured its survival'.⁵⁴ By then the *Bulletin* had become one of the leading research journals in its field internationally—a status which it has not only maintained but enhanced, as it begins from 2018 to consider how best to celebrate its centenary, in 2023.

At Glasgow, Atkinson's primary concern never ceased to be to develop teaching and research in the Department he headed and in the new postgraduate and research Institute of Latin-American Studies of which from 1966 he was first Director.⁵⁵ But somehow he still found time to play a leading role in the management of the University. Clearly, he shared Peers' keen interest in the methods and aims of higher education in Britain; for he wrote a large number of articles in which he posed and answered questions such as, 'What is the True Purpose of a University?' and 'What are Universities For?' and wondered 'Can the University

53 See Anon. [W. C. Atkinson], 'In Memoriam' [of E.A.P.], *BSS*, XXX:117 (1953), 1–5 (pp. 1–2, 4).

54 See Geoffrey Ribbans, 'Editorial Note', *BHS*, LIX:4 (1972), 432.

55 For an account of the activities of the Institute of Latin-American Studies in its first years, under Atkinson's headship, see W. C. Atkinson, 'Institute of Latin-American Studies', 9–11.

Survive?’ He wrote about ‘The Examiners Examined’. He debated connections between ‘The University and Society’ and whether ‘University Expansion Brings Academic Decline’.⁵⁶ He took the view that it was not the responsibility of universities to train students in how ‘to hold down a job’. Their duty, as he saw it, was to stimulate students’ curiosity concerning the world about them and to teach them how ‘to learn to develop their mental powers’.⁵⁷ In tune with Peers, he firmly believed, too, that ‘that university is the best university, even for teaching purposes, where the spirit of research is most active’.⁵⁸ He did what he could to ensure that Glasgow was the type of university he advocated by playing a leading role as Dean of the Faculty of Arts at a particularly challenging period (1944–1947). Down the decades, he made his mark at numerous meetings of the University’s Senate, and as a member of the University Court; and he influenced for the better many of the deliberations of Faculty and University committees.

Understandably, when special effort and additional support were needed, he used his knowledge and influence in the cause and to the benefit of Modern Languages at Glasgow. Not only did he play an important part in ensuring that the new Modern Languages Building, situated at the end of University Gardens, was completed in 1960, but he made certain that it was supplied on its top floor with an excellent library equipped for the needs of undergraduates in the modern foreign languages—especially French, German, Spanish, Portuguese and Italian. He also led fellow professors in insisting that the large lecture hall on the ground floor was designed to serve, when required, as a well-equipped theatre. So when, on 11 February 1960, the French Ambassador inaugurated the Modern Languages Building he was treated to a fine performance of Anouilh’s *L’Alouette* staged by the students of the French Department.⁵⁹ Not just Hispanic Studies, Modern Languages and the University, but the city of Glasgow and Britain as a whole, were to benefit from the part Atkinson

⁵⁶ See William C. Atkinson, ‘What is the True Purpose of a University’, *The Fortnightly* (June 1952), 83–85. ‘Can the University Survive?/La Universidad—¿puede sobrevivir?’ (lecture delivered during his final tour of Latin America in 1971) is preserved in an unpublished, typescript copy, dated 3 August 1969 in Glasgow University’s Archives. See also ‘What Are Universities For? Some Comments’, *The Fortnightly* (March 1952), 170–78; ‘The Examiners Examined’, *The University Review*, 5:2 (1933), 101–06; ‘The University and Society’, *The Fortnightly* (January 1949), 1–7; ‘University Expansion Brings Academic Decline’, *Glasgow Herald*, 20 November 1972. See, too, his ‘Letter to the Editor’, *Universities Quarterly*, 8:1 (1953), 1–5, regarding the trend among undergraduates to take paid employment during vacation time. His students in 1957–62 had a different point of view on that subject (see McIntyre, ‘Professor William C. Atkinson [WCA]’).

⁵⁷ For these quotations, see Atkinson, ‘British and American Universities, Languages, and Area Studies’, 4.

⁵⁸ For this quotation, see Atkinson, ‘The University and Society’, 6.

⁵⁹ Concerning that new Modern Languages Building, see William C. Atkinson, ‘The Groves of Academe. Modern Languages in University Gardens’, *The College Courant (The Journal of the Glasgow University Graduates Association)* (Whitsun 1960), 125–29 (p. 129).

played in ensuring that Salvador Dalí's now world-famous painting of *El Cristo de San Juan de la Cruz* found a permanent home in Scotland—where, a short walk from the University precinct, it now hangs in Glasgow's Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum. Nor should we overlook what Atkinson achieved for Russian Studies, not just at Glasgow but in the United Kingdom generally. Both in print and through his contacts at Whitehall, he stressed the need for greater critical and academic contacts with the USSR, and, as a result, was sent as leader of the first Scottish Cultural Delegation to the Soviet Union in 1954.⁶⁰ This visit opened the way for exchange arrangements to be put in place, so that from 1955 university students, initially from Scotland, and in due course from throughout the UK, were able to spend time in the Soviet Union whose language and culture they were studying; while Russian students, in various disciplines, had the advantage of improving their English through living and studying for a period in Britain. In this Ulsterman who made 'the Hispanic World his lifelong passion', there was, as Nick Round has observed

a man who, in the chilliest passage of the Cold War, could pioneer change with Soviet Russia [...], who, in the 1950s, could persuade an ancient Scottish university of no very radical temper that its new Modern Languages Building could not call itself complete unless it included a theatre. There is a boldness and an unexpectedness here which any commemoration of him ought to bring to the fore.⁶¹

In view of the teaching and administration he had to carry out within Glasgow University, the other professional engagements he had to fulfil throughout the UK, and the extended lecture tours he undertook to South America, not forgetting the trips he made as visiting professor to the USA, Africa and elsewhere, it would have been understandable if, after the War, Atkinson had not found the time to publish as much as he had done previously. But this was by no means the case. He pursued his interests in both medieval and Golden-Age Spanish literature, writing articles or review-articles in the *Bulletin of Hispanic Studies* and in other leading journals on subjects such as the *Chanson de Roland* in French and Spanish medieval literature, poetic theory in Spain, Renaissance poetry and Golden-Age prose.⁶² Revealing a profound knowledge of Cervantes, he produced an

60 Atkinson gives some account of this visit to Russia, his role in bringing it about, and its outcomes in his '1932–: Glasgow and a Chair'. See also his article, 'On Friendship with Russia', *The Fortnightly* (July 1954), 27–33; and his letter, in 'Letters to the Editor', *The Times*, 17 August 1954, p. 7.

61 See Ann L. Mackenzie & Nicholas G. Round 'William Christopher Atkinson (1902–1992)', *BHS*, LXX:4 (1993), 435–40; see Round's tribute, Part II, 438–40 (p. 439).

62 See William C. Atkinson, 'Le Royaume des Ombres fuyantes' [review-article on Jules Horrent, *Le 'Chanson de Roland' dans les littératures française et espagnole du moyen âge*], *BHS*, XXVIII:112 (1951), 231–43; 'Orpheus with His Lute', *BHS*, XXVI:103 (1949),

essay on 'The Enigma of the *Persiles*', included in the *Cervantes Quartercentenary Number* of the *Bulletin of Spanish Studies*. He followed it up, in the *Hispanic Review*, with 'Cervantes, El Pinciano and the *Novelas ejemplares*', in which, while saying much of interest about most of the *novelas*, he argues persuasively that the '*Celoso extremeño* is by far the best short story Cervantes ever wrote, and [...] it is the only one which achieves a satisfying ending'.⁶³ Insights into Cervantes shine through, even when he is writing on other topics. Thus, in the chapter on 'Comparative Literature' which he contributed, earlier in his career, to *A Handbook to the Study and Teaching of Spanish*, he observes:

The story of literature is one of cross-fertilisation, of constant give-and-take. [...] Spain's borrowings belong in the main to the formal, and her lendings to the creative, order, [and] these two operations will rarely coincide. [...] In nothing is the uniqueness of Cervantes better attested than in the fact that he is at once a focus of reception and of diffusion.⁶⁴

His broader postwar interests in both Latin-American Studies and Portuguese Studies are evident in a number of publications. In 'The Significance of Latin America', his lecture delivered to the Royal Philosophical Society of Glasgow, he offers a wide-ranging but well-informed survey, which reveals his keen awareness of that vast area's economic importance, since it was 'the last great source of raw materials on any comparable scale to remain free from the domination of a Great Power'. He sums up Latin America as being 'to-day' [i.e., 1947] 'one vast laboratory of political, social, racial and economic experiment'. In this same year, he also published on 'The Idea of Latin America' and on 'The British Council in the Field'.⁶⁵ He was knowledgeable too, about the culture, history, politics and society of each one of the twenty distinctly individual countries that made up Latin America. His lecture on 'Miranda, His Life and Times', delivered in 1950 at Canning House, London on the bicentenary of Miranda's birth, and published in the same year, illuminates the history of late eighteenth-century Venezuela, as well as relations more generally

153–63; 'Cervantes, El Pinciano, and the *Novelas ejemplares*', *Hispanic Review*, XVI:3 (1948), 189–208.

63 See William C. Atkinson, 'The Enigma of the *Persiles*', *Cervantes Quartercentenary Number*, *BSS*, XXIV:96 (1947), 242–53; 'Cervantes, El Pinciano, and the *Novelas ejemplares*', 204.

64 See William C. Atkinson, 'Comparative Literature', in *A Handbook to the Study and Teaching of Spanish*, ed. Peers *et al.*, Part II, Chapter X, 151–67 (pp. 151–53).

65 See William C. Atkinson, 'The Significance of Latin America', 21, 23. See also 'The Idea of Latin America', *The Fortnightly* (August 1947), 81–88; 'The British Council in the Field' [Latin America], *The Nineteenth Century and After* (February 1947), 92–98; and 'Latin America and the Search for Expression', *The Nineteenth Century and After* (August 1949), 121–29.

between Britain and South America during the French Revolution and in Napoleonic times.⁶⁶ In the pamphlet issued through the British Council in 1945 which he titled *British Contributions to Portuguese and Brazilian Studies*, he not only traces the developing relations (cultural as well as political) down the centuries between Britain and Portugal (Part I) and between Britain and Brazil (Part II), but discusses the ‘contemporary’ interests of academics in both Portugal and Brazil, characteristically giving strong support to the growth of Portuguese and Brazilian Studies in British universities. This pamphlet was well received, and had such lasting relevance that a revised version was published, again through the British Council, nearly thirty years later.⁶⁷ Another publication which confirms his interest in Luso-Brazilian studies is his essay on ‘Institutions and Law’, contributed in 1953 to a volume titled *Portugal and Brazil*.⁶⁸

Given his concern to study Spain’s Golden Age in literature, it does not seem surprising that he wrote, too, about the great figures of the Renaissance in Portugal. An article he contributed to a *Festschrift* in 1950, on ‘*Comedias, Tragicomedias* and *Farças* in Gil Vicente’, reaches the thought-stimulating conclusion that

for all their shortcomings, Vicente’s farces alone of his works had in them the seeds of dramatic development, and it was his and Portugal’s tragedy that Vicente the author of comedies and tragicomedies, having wilfully stifled Vicente the writer of farces, should have proceeded to bury the corpse beneath the weight of his prestige as master of Court entertainments.⁶⁹

But the key contribution Atkinson made to our understanding of the Portuguese Renaissance is his translation of Camões’ *Os Lusíadas*, which appeared in 1952, and is believed to be the first translation of Portugal’s great epic into English prose.⁷⁰

As it happens, Atkinson’s most eloquent expressions of admiration for Camões, and for *Os Lusíadas*, are to be found not in the Introduction he

66 William C. Atkinson, *Miranda, His Life and Times* (London: Venezuelan Embassy, 1950). See also his articles on ‘Francisco de Miranda’, *The Fortnightly* (April 1950), 218–27, and on ‘Bogotá, 1948’, *The Fortnightly* (June 1948), 375–84.

67 Atkinson, *British Contributions to Portuguese and Brazilian Studies*, revised edition, 1974 (for full reference see above, note 33).

68 See William C. Atkinson, ‘Institutions and Law’ [in Portugal], in *Portugal and Brazil: An Introduction, Made by Friends of Edgar Prestage and Aubrey Fitz Gerald Bell ‘in piam memoriam’*, ed. Harold V. Livermore, with the assistance of William J. Entwistle (Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1953), 87–106.

69 See William C. Atkinson, ‘*Comedias, Tragicomedias* and *Farças* in Gil Vicente’, in *Miscelânea de Filologia, Literatura e História Cultural à memória de Francisco Adolfo Coelho, 1847–1919, Boletim de Filologia*, X–XI (1949–1950); 2 vols (Lisboa: Centro de Estudos Filológicos, 1950), II, 268–80 (p. 280).

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

wrote to his translation of that epic masterpiece, but in his chapter ‘An Introduction to Portuguese’, contributed fourteen years previously to *A Handbook to the Study and Teaching of Spanish*; and in the section concerned with ‘Literature and the Arts—II’, in his *A History of Spain and Portugal*, which came out eight years after he translated *The Lusiads*. In *A Handbook* (1938) he commented:

When, however, with the Renaissance, there came a new heroic age of discovery and conquest and Spain, too, experienced once more the epic urge, the one masterpiece resulting fell to Portugal. A century of Spanish failures throws into higher relief the wealth of new life with which Camoens (c.1524–80) imbued the Virgilian framework. *Os Lusíadas* (1572) sings [of] more than arms and the man; if it carries more mythology than a post-Renaissance age can savour, the interweaving of the nation’s story against illimitable horizons is instinct with a modern spirit and vibrant above all with the pride of a poet who had helped to make the stuff of his poetry.

In *A History of Spain and Portugal* (1960), he wrote:

In Luis de Camoens (c.1524–80), the age’s epic urge found at last its perfect expression. Discovery and conquest in the east had already inspired a distinguished line of chroniclers, Barros, Couto, Corrêa. Camoens raised the theme to the level of high poetry, and with it interwove, following Virgil, the nation’s whole story, which Portugal ever since has studied in his pages.⁷¹

His ‘admirable translation’ of *The Lusiads* steers ‘with great skill between “poetic prose” and prosiness’, as an appreciative reviewer wrote. ‘[N]ew light [is] shed on many obscure passages by a scholar deeply versed in Camonian criticism’, one who succeeds in interpreting ‘to the English reader this story of the epoch-making achievement of England’s oldest ally, a joint-heir with her in the European tradition’.⁷²

Atkinson had been intensely interested in the theory and practice of translation since the first years of his career. He completed while still in his first academic post at Armstrong College, Newcastle, verse-translations of Zorrilla’s *Don Juan Tenorio* and Espronceda’s *El estudiante de Salamanca*, unfortunately never published and now lost.⁷³ In one of the two chapters he contributed on translation to *A Handbook to the Study and*

71 See William C. Atkinson, ‘An Introduction to Portuguese’, in *A Handbook to the Study and Teaching of Spanish*, ed. Peers *et al.*, Part IV, Chapter XVI, 268–81; see (iii) ‘Literature’, 276–81 (pp. 278–79); and Atkinson, *A History of Spain and Portugal. The Peninsula and Its Peoples: The Pattern of Their Society and Civilization* (Harmondsworth: Penguin Books, 1960; reprinted 1961, 1965, 1967, 1970 & 1973); see Chapter 11, ‘Literature and the Arts—II’, 204–14 (p. 211).

72 Quoted from N. J. Lamb’s review of the translation, *BHS*, XXIX:114 (1952), 115–17.

73 See ‘Introduction I. A *Festschrift* for William Atkinson’, note 22 [?].

Teaching of Spanish (1938) he discusses how best to produce versions in English of works from Spanish literature.⁷⁴ However, it was from the 1950s onwards, that he published his own accomplished translations of literary and historical works. Besides his already mentioned prose-translation of Camões' epic issued through Penguin and intended for a wide public, he completed several translations for a selected readership, which were produced in handsome limited editions through the Folio Society. His English version of *The Conquest of New Granada* by Juan Rodríguez Freile (1566–c.1642) appeared in 1961.⁷⁵ Three years beforehand, he had published through the Folio Society, *The Remarkable Life of Don Diego*, a scholarly translation of the *Vida* of Diego de Torres Villarroel (1693–1770); 'the odd product of an odd age'; his was 'apparently the first translation of this book in any language'.⁷⁶ He published one further translation for the Folio Society in 1977. *The Happy Captive* turned into English the first part of the *Cautiverio feliz* by Francisco Núñez de Pineda y Bascuñán (1607–1682). A previously neglected source for the history of colonial Chile, *Cautiverio feliz* narrates its author's adventures and imprisonment while fighting in wars ('guerras dilatadas') against native tribes.⁷⁷

The most widely consulted of Atkinson's books, *A History of Spain and Portugal*, published in the series *The Pelican History of the World* (1960), was re-issued many times, was translated into numerous languages, and continued for decades to be a trusted work of reference. More than twenty-five years previously, he had written *Spain: A Brief History*, but it had long been out of print. In any case, that earlier history book fulfilled a more

74 Atkinson, 'Translation from Spanish', in *A Handbook to the Study and Teaching of Spanish*, ed. Peers *et al.*, Part I, Chapter VI, 88–101.

75 Originally titled *Conquista y descubrimiento del Nuevo Reino de Granada de las Indias Occidentales del Mar Océano, y Fundación de la ciudad de Santafé de Bogotá, primera de este reino donde se fundó la Real Audiencia y Cancillería, siendo la cabeza se hizo su arzobispado*, this work was known by the popular title of *El Carnero*, and written c.1636–1638. Atkinson's translation (see Juan Rodríguez Freile, *The Conquest of New Granada*, trans., with an intro., by William C. Atkinson, with engravings by Harold Bennett [London: Folio Society, 1961]), was reviewed by J. S. Cummins in *BHS*, XXXIX:1 (1962), 68.

76 See *The Remarkable Life of Don Diego, Being the Autobiography of Diego de Torres Villarroel*, trans., with an intro., by William C. Atkinson, with engravings by Harold Bennett (London: Folio Society, 1958); 'Introduction', 7–25 (p. 7). For the second quotation, see Peter Russell's review of Atkinson's translation, *BHS*, XXXVIII:2 (1961), 181. The Spanish title of this work is *Vida, ascendencia, nacimiento, crianza y aventuras del Dr Don Diego Torres Villarroel, escrita por él mismo*, and it was first published in 'trozos', between 1743 and 1758.

77 I borrow the phrase 'guerras dilatadas' from the work's original title, which is: *Cautiverio feliz del maestro de campo, general Don Francisco Núñez de Pineda y Bascuñán, y razón individual de las guerras dilatadas del reino de Chile*. For Atkinson's translation, see Francisco Núñez de Pineda y Bascuñán, *The Happy Captive*, trans., with an intro., by William C. Atkinson, with vinyl-cuts by John Lawrence (London: Folio Society, 1977); the translation was evidently based on a nineteenth-century edition (Santiago: Imprenta del Ferrocarril, 1863) of the *Cautiverio feliz*.

limited purpose: to provide 'English readers with the short but authoritative introduction needed for the understanding of Spanish affairs'.⁷⁸ Since that first 'Brief History', its author's cultural and historical interests had significantly broadened until they covered the whole of Iberia and beyond. In *A History of Spain and Portugal*, Atkinson was 'concerned to present an analytical account of the formation and evolution of the two peoples' of Iberia.⁷⁹ What is more, he did not restrict himself to matters factual and historical but included three chapters on 'Literature and the Arts' in Spain and Portugal down the ages. Using his inimitable style of expression, Atkinson compresses an extraordinary amount of information and insight into this 'history of Spain and Portugal, from pre-historic times to our own day'. The book was deservedly well received by fellow scholars and historians as 'one of the best introductions to Spanish and Portuguese history yet published in this country'.⁸⁰

In view of his extensive interests in Spain, Portugal and all the countries of Latin America, reaching deep into their histories, as well as their languages and literatures down many centuries, it is hardly surprising that Atkinson was in demand as a contributor to reference books and encyclopaedias (including, of course, the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*); and that he was sought after as an informed reviewer of books by major scholarly journals, such as the *Modern Language Review*, *International Affairs* and, of course, the *Bulletin of Spanish Studies* and *Bulletin of Hispanic Studies*. Writing reviews was an occupation he especially enjoyed, so much so that he found in it a form of mental recreation, and he liked to refer to going 'on busman's holidays, book reviewing'.⁸¹ He was certainly 'one of the most punctilious and judicious of the *Bulletin's* reviewers';⁸² and during more than forty years (1926–1968) he wrote upwards of 160 reviews for the *Bulletin of Spanish Studies* and, from 1949, the *Bulletin of Hispanic Studies*.⁸³ Besides, naturally, reviewing numerous books about literary authors, works and periods, he evaluated histories, travel books, anthologies, encyclopaedias, bibliographies, dictionaries, histories of literature and of language, and other reference-works. The books he assessed were not restricted to those written in English, Spanish and Portuguese, for he could and did review books in Catalan, French, Italian and German.

78 William C. Atkinson, *Spain: A Brief History* (1934); the comment quoted is from Metford, *British Contributions to Spanish and Spanish-American Studies*, 56.

79 Atkinson, *A History of Spain and Portugal*; see 'Introduction', 11–13 (p. 12).

80 Quoted from the review by H. G. Koenigsberger, *BHS*, XXXVII:4 (1960), 245–46.

81 Quoted from the back-cover blurb of Atkinson's *A History of Spain and Portugal* (1960).

82 See Geoffrey Ribbans, 'Editorial Note', *BHS*, LIX:4 (1972), 432.

83 In the detailed catalogue of Atkinson's publications she compiled for this *Festschrift*, Ceri Byrne has included as many of his reviews as she was able to trace. Despite her best endeavours, she would not wish to claim that her list comes close to being complete.

He was a judicious reviewer of many books on the history and literature of Spain's Middle Ages and Golden Age. His first review, which was of *Dramatic Theory in Spain*, ed. H. J. Chaytor (1925), demonstrated, at only twenty-three, his profound knowledge of Golden-Age dramatic theory.⁸⁴ His particular interest in that great author meant that he enjoyed assessing major books on Cervantes, among which were Casaldueiro's *Sentido y forma del 'Quijote'* (1949) and Hatzfeld's *El 'Quijote' como obra de arte del lenguaje* (1949).⁸⁵ Of the history books he reviewed on Early Modern Spain and its Empire, Fernand Braudel's *La Méditerranée et le monde méditerranéen à l'époque du Philippe II* (1949) stands out; it impressed him greatly because of 'the amplitude of historical conception, the vast sweep of the canvas, the technical equipment and patient erudition that have not merely assimilated the entire field of previous scholarship but delved to infinite profit in the MS. archives of country after country'.⁸⁶

Mostly written while the war was still in progress, his reviews of books on the Spanish Civil War (John Langdon-Davies, *Behind the Spanish Barricades*; Franz Borkenau, *The Spanish Cockpit*), were commendably balanced and impartial.⁸⁷ He also reviewed books on modern Spanish literature; but, generally speaking, he showed less appreciation for the novels of writers like Baroja, Sender and Valle-Inclán than he did for the prose masterpieces of Cervantes. On the other hand, he had a sure grasp of modern Spanish philosophy, as his review of Julián Marías, *El método histórico de las generaciones* (1950), 'intellectually an exciting book', reveals.⁸⁸ He was knowledgeable, too, about the works and ideas of Ortega y Gasset, with whom he compares Julián Marías, in the review just mentioned. In reviewing Ortega's *España invertebrada* (1921), when it appeared in English translation (1937), he commented that '[i]f it raises more problems than it solves, we would number this precisely among its merits.' It was thanks largely to Atkinson's recommendation that Ortega received an honorary degree from Glasgow University, in 1951.⁸⁹ Among books he informatively reviewed on Catalan and Catalonia were: Antonio Griera, *Dialectología catalana* (1949), Francisco de B. Moll, *Gramática*

84 Reviewed by Atkinson in *BSS*, III:11 (1926), 144.

85 Atkinson reviewed Joaquín Casaldueiro, *Sentido y forma del 'Quijote' (1605-1615)*, in *BHS*, XXVI:103 (1949), 180-82; for his review of Helmut Hatzfeld, *El 'Quijote' como obra de arte del lenguaje*, see *BHS*, XXVII:106 (1950), 113-15.

86 See Atkinson's review of Braudel's book, in *BHS*, XXVIII:111 (1951), 209-12 (p. 209).

87 See John Langdon-Davies, *Behind the Spanish Barricades*, reviewed in *BSS*, XIV:54 (1937), 107-09; Franz Borkenau, *The Spanish Cockpit. An Eyewitness Account of the Political and Social Conflicts of the Spanish Civil War*, reviewed in *BSS* XIV:56 (1937), 211-13.

88 Reviewed by Atkinson in *BHS*, XXVII:105 (1950), 48-50 (p. 50).

89 See his review of Ortega y Gasset, *Invertebrate Spain*, trans. Mildred Adams, *BSS*, XV:57 (1938), 74-75 (p. 75). For his comments on Ortega y Gasset in person see Atkinson, '1952-: Around and about a Quincentenary'; and see its notes 4-5.

histórica catalana (1952) and Joan Ruiz i Calonja, *Història de la literatura catalana* (1954).⁹⁰

As his interests broadened, increasingly he reviewed works dealing with Portugal and with colonial and modern Latin America, among which are prominent Joseph H. D. Allen's edition of *Two Old Portuguese Versions of the Life of Saint Alexis* (1953) and Charles R. Boxer's *Salvador de Sá and the Struggle for Brazil and Angola 1602–1686* (1952), a history which Atkinson justifiably regarded as 'far-reaching in scope and impressive in its documentation'.⁹¹ Other books he reviewed on diverse Latin-American subjects included Enrique Anderson Imbert, *Historia de la literatura hispanoamericana* (1954), R. A. Humphreys, *William Robertson and His 'History of America'* (1954) and George Pendle, *The Land and People of Argentina* (1957).⁹² In a sensitive assessment of Helen Caldwell's *The Brazilian Othello of Machado de Assis. A Study of 'Dom Casmurro'* (1960), he acutely perceives that *Dom Casmurro* 'is entitled to rank as a masterpiece and its author as a master'.⁹³

After retirement, Atkinson was fortunate to enjoy twenty years of further good health, during nearly all of which he continued to live with his wife, Eve, in Bearsden outside Glasgow, in their imposing house named 'Andorra'. With its excellent library and the College Club (for its academic staff to lunch, dine and socialize in), the University of Glasgow was as accessible to him after retirement as it had always been. Had he wished, he could have continued much as before with his scholarly activities and collegial contacts. Instead, he preferred to sell or donate most of the Hispanic books in his impressive personal library;⁹⁴ and to distance himself, apart from special occasions, from Glasgow University, its Modern Languages Building, the Latin-American Institute and, with a few exceptions, from the staff he had worked with. His Armstrong Siddeley motorcar, for so long an unmistakable presence, ceased to frequent University Gardens.⁹⁵ His withdrawal from academic life and most university-related events, as Nick Round has perceptively observed, resulted in part from 'a deep conviction that the years of his retirement

90 For these reviews by Atkinson, see, on Griera, *BHS*, XXVII:108 (1950), 261–62; on Moll, *BHS*, XXIX:116 (1952), 235–36; on Ruiz i Calonja, *BHS*, XXXII:4 (1955), 242–44.

91 For these reviews see, on Allen's edition, *BHS*, XXX:118 (1953), 122; and, on Boxer, *BHS*, XXX:120 (1953), 235–36 (p. 235).

92 For these reviews, see, on Anderson Imbert, *BHS*, XXXII:1 (1955), 55–57; on Humphreys, *BHS*, XXXII:2 (1955), 123; on Pendle, *BHS*, XXXV:1 (1958), 60–61.

93 For his review of Caldwell's book, see *BHS*, XXXIX:3 (1962), 199–200 (p. 200).

94 Most of his books went to Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, where one of his former students, John Walker, was Professor of Latin-American Studies.

95 McIntyre recalls Atkinson's Armstrong Siddeley in his article 'Professor William C. Atkinson (WCA)'; see below.

belonged to his family';⁹⁶ and, indeed, from 1972 onwards he spent most of his time in the company of his wife, his son and three daughters and his grandchildren, fulfillingly engaged in family-related activities, duties and celebrations.

Not long before he retired, he began to write his memoirs. What he produced for posterity were five brief chapters he called *Fragments of University Reminiscence*, which are published for the first time in this *Festschrift*. Through these five chapters he selectively documented the five decades of his academic career, from his postgraduate year in Spain in 1924–1925 up to his last session as Stevenson Professor of Hispanic Studies (1971–1972), several months of which he spent on a final lecture tour to Latin America, to say farewell to that 'Brave New World'.⁹⁷ Given the quality and interest of their content, it is greatly to be regretted that he did not subsequently turn these autobiographical writings into a much more ample book of memoirs. Perhaps he took too much to heart what he had written about the eighteenth-century Spanish writer and professor whose *Life* he had translated. Appended to his translation of Torres Villarroel's *Vida*, is an Epilogue in which he summarized that author's 'declining years'. He chose to begin the Epilogue as follows: 'The lives of Professors do not lend themselves to autobiography as such, being rarely more than the tales of years of faithful service'.⁹⁸

After decades of 'faithful service' to Hispanic Studies, to the University of Glasgow, and to his deeply loved and loving wife and family, William Christopher Atkinson died of a heart attack aged 90 on 19th September 1992 in Shipton-under-Wychwood. Some two years previously, after Eve's death in 1990, he had moved to West Oxfordshire, to be nearer to where most of his family were settled. He was still fit enough to play croquet with his grandchildren the Christmas before he died. A Memorial Service, held in Glasgow University Chapel on 2 November 1992, in thanksgiving for his life, was attended not only by his close family, but by many former colleagues and students. Some had come from distant parts of the UK to be present, and one previous member of his staff in the Department of Hispanic Studies, Dr Beatriz Jost, had travelled from as far away as

96 See Mackenzie & Round, 'William Christopher Atkinson (1902–1992)'; see Round, Part II, 439.

97 His memories of Latin America, as previously noted, are recorded in '1962–: A Brave New World' and in 'A Rolling Stone Bows Out', an essay focused particularly on his farewell lecture tour in 1971. Atkinson also recalled his career in a talk titled 'Charla de despedida de un hispanista' which he gave on the radio for the BBC Spanish Service; the annotated typescript of this talk, recorded 30 April 1974, is preserved in Glasgow University's Archives.

98 Quoted from *The Remarkable Life of Don Diego*, trans. & intro. Atkinson. See Atkinson, 'Epilogue: Summary Account of the Author's Declining Years', 209–23 (p. 209).

Switzerland to pay her last respects. Their presence testified to the enduring influence of his work as teacher, professor and scholar.⁹⁹

On 27 October 1971, the then Secretary of the University Court, Dr Robert Hutcheson wrote to William Atkinson, since he was 'due to retire', to tell him, 'as one of the sad duties' he had yearly to perform, that the University would shortly advertise to find his replacement. The soon-to-be former Stevenson Professor of Hispanic Studies replied with equanimity that this was 'no occasion for sadness'. He added:

I have had a better run than most, have enjoyed it all, and need now only hope that the University finds a better man, or men, to carry on.¹⁰⁰

With characteristic precision, Atkinson brought to a close his far-too-brief *Fragments of University Reminiscence* by summing up his career in six words: 'It has been a good life!'

99 Two tributes were delivered at this 'Service of Thanksgiving': one by Ann L. Mackenzie, then Senior Lecturer in Hispanic Studies at Liverpool University, and a former student of Atkinson; the other, read by Paul Donnelly, Senior Lecturer in Hispanic Studies at Glasgow University, was written by Atkinson's successor in the Stevenson Chair of Hispanic Studies, Nicholas G. Round. The tributes were subsequently revised and published in the *Bulletin of Hispanic Studies* (see above, note 61).

100 In suggesting that two 'men' could be needed to replace him, Atkinson reminded the Secretary to the University Court that he was retiring not only from the Stevenson Chair of Hispanic Studies but also as Director of the Institute of Latin-American Studies. It did not seem to occur to Atkinson (and in 1971 why would it?) that his successor, or successors, might not be a 'man, or men'. Dr Hutcheson's letter and Atkinson's reply (dated 28 October 1971) are preserved in Glasgow University's Archives.

Interestingly, in a postscript to his letter to Hutcheson, Atkinson recalls that in 1932 his competitor for the Stevenson Chair of Spanish (as it was then known) had been Edward Wilson (who at the time was only twenty-six!) He mentions, too, that Wilson was due to retire from the Chair of Spanish at Cambridge one year after him—i.e., in 1973.