

**DESCRIPTION OF THE WESTERN
ISLES OF SCOTLAND, CALLED
HYBRIDES, WITH THE
GENEALOGIES OF THE CHIEF
CLANS OF THE ISLES**

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Description of the Western Isles of Scotland, Called Hybrides, With the Genealogies of the Chief Clans of the Isles by Sir Donald Monro

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SIR DONALD MONRO

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DESCRIPTION

OF THE

WESTERN ISLES OF SCOTLAND

CALLED HYBRIDES

With the Genealogies of the Chief Clans of the Isles

BY

SIR DONALD MONRO

High Dean of the Isles

WHO TRAVELLED THROUGH MOST OF THEM IN THE YEAR 1649

65

GLASGOW: THOMAS D. MORISON
LONDON: HAMILTON, ADAMS & CO.

1884.

The number printed of this work is strictly limited to
Two Hundred and Fifty copies.

DESCRIPTION

OF THE

WESTERN ISLES

1549.

EDITORIAL NOTE

THE earliest description of the Western Islands made from personal observation. The first printed issue of this extremely rare work was published in Edinburgh in 1774, and comprised the first portion of a small 12mo. volume containing several early works on the Western Islands. Of this volume only fifty copies were printed; it is now extremely rare, very few copies beyond those in three or four of the great public libraries being known to exist. The title in full, of the above curious volume is as follows: —“Description of the Western Isles of Scotland, called Hybrides; by Mr. Donald Monro, High Dean of the Isles, who travelled through the most of them in the year 1549, with the genealogies of the chief clans of the Isles, now first published from the MS. To which is added 1. An account of Hirta and Rona, by the Lord Register, Sir George M'Kenzie of Tarbat, never before published. 2. A Description of St. Kilda, by Mr. Alexander Buchan, late minister there. 3. A Voyage to St. Kilda, by M. Martin, gentleman.”

In addition to the issue referred to above, the work has also been included in, and forms a small

portion of one of the volumes of the *Miscellanea Scotica* published in four volumes. But unfortunately it appears there labouring under two serious disadvantages. The year in which the Dean travelled through the Isles is given as 1594, whereas it should be nearly fifty years earlier, namely 1549; and the "Genealogies" is omitted altogether, both matters of some interest and importance.

The present edition is a verbatim reprint with all the old curious spellings and names strictly retained. In these respects the work is so different from the modern renderings, that this, in itself, is a feature of exceeding interest. With regard to the genealogies, appearing as they do in two or three instances rather confusing, possibly the printer of the 1774 volume had some difficulty in making out the Author's MS, however, it is reproduced exactly as it appeared there. The number printed is strictly limited to two hundred and fifty copies.

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