

**THE BALLADISTS;  
FAMOUS  
SCOTS: SERIES**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649760978

The balladists; Famous scots: series by John Geddie

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

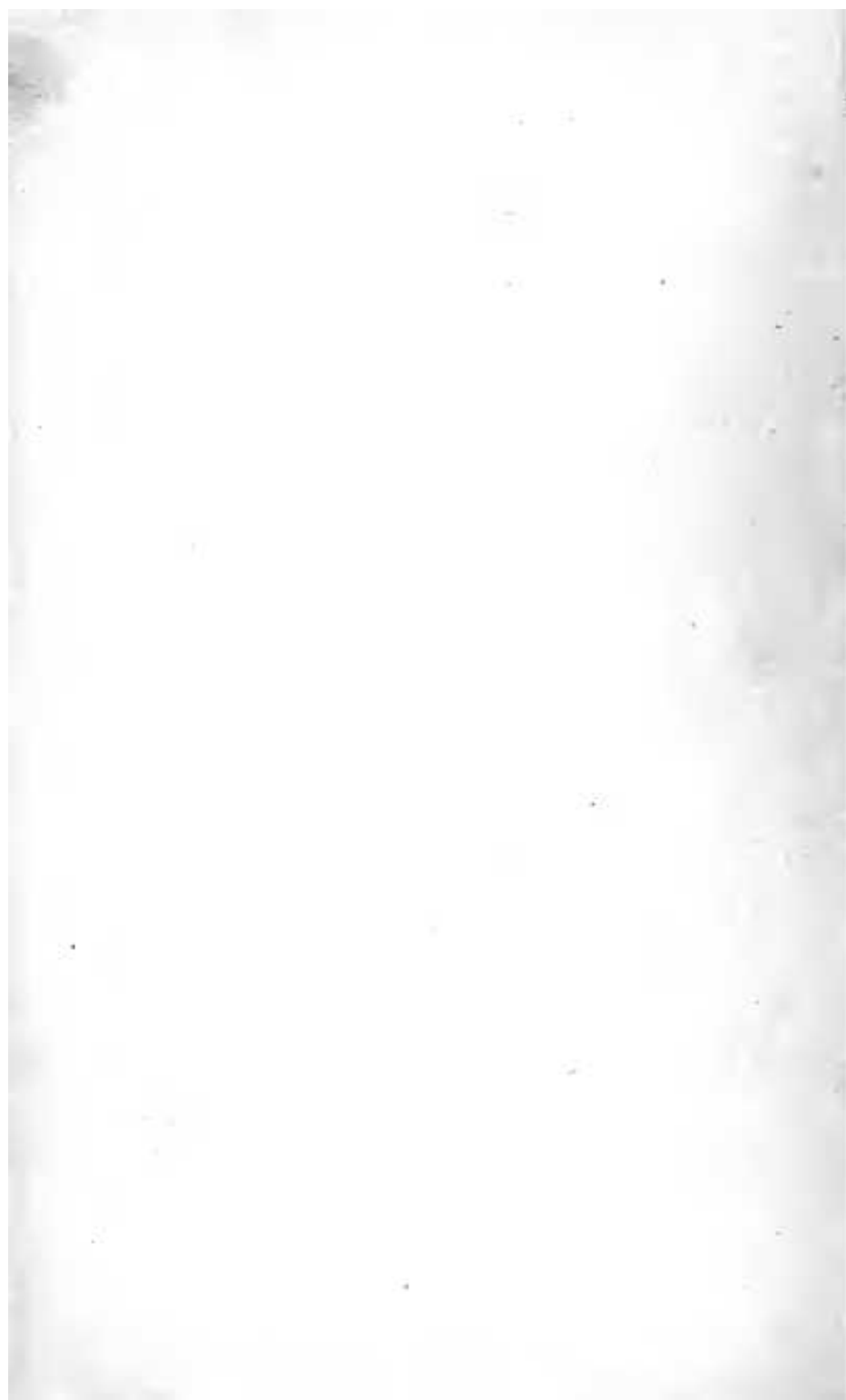
[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

**JOHN GEDDIE**

**THE BALLADISTS;  
FAMOUS  
SCOTS: SERIES**



THE  
BALLADISTS








# THE BAL: LADISTS

BY  
JOHN : :  
: GEDDIE

FAMOUS  
SCOTS:  
SERIES



PUBLISHED BY   
OLIPHANT ANDERSON  
& FERRIER·EDINBURGH  
AND LONDON  

K5  
267b

The designs and ornaments of this  
volume are by Mr. Joseph Brown,  
and the printing from the press of  
Messrs. T. and A. Constable, Edinburgh.

12, 5/11

17/3/1900



## P R E F A C E

NOT much more has been attempted in these pages than to extract the marrow of the Scottish Ballad Minstrelsy. They will have served their purpose if they help to awaken, or to renew, a relish for the contents of the Ballad Book. To know and love these grand old songs is its own exceeding great reward; and it is also, alas! almost the only means now left to us of knowing something concerning their nameless writers.

Questions involving literary or critical controversy as to the age and genuineness of the ballads have been, as far as possible, avoided in this popular presentation of their beauties and their qualities; and in case any challenge may be made of the origin or authenticity of the passages quoted, I may say that, in nearly every case, I have prudently, and of purpose, refrained from giving the authority for my text, and have taken that which best pleases my own ear or has clung most closely to my memory.

J. G.

*July 1896.*



# CONTENTS

## CHAPTER I

BALLAD CHARACTERISTICS . . . . .	PAGE 9
----------------------------------	-----------

## CHAPTER II

BALLAD GROWTH AND BALLAD HISTORY . . . . .	24
--	----

## CHAPTER III

BALLAD STRUCTURE AND BALLAD STYLE . . . . .	43
---	----

## CHAPTER IV

THE MYTHOLOGICAL BALLAD . . . . .	58
-----------------------------------	----

## CHAPTER V

THE ROMANTIC BALLAD . . . . .	83
-------------------------------	----

## CHAPTER VI

THE HISTORICAL BALLAD . . . . .	108
---------------------------------	-----

## CHAPTER VII

CONCLUSION . . . . .	128
----------------------	-----