From Pictland to Alba, 789-1070
Alex Woolf

In the 780s, northern Britain was dominated by two great kingdoms: Pictavia, centred in north-eastern Scotland; and Northumbria, which straddled the modern Anglo-Scottish border. Within a hundred years, both of these kingdoms had been thrown into chaos by the onslaught of the Vikings, and within two hundred years they had become distant memories. This book charts the transformation of the political landscape of northern Britain between the eighth and the eleventh centuries. Central to this narrative is the mysterious disappearance of the Picts and their language, and the sudden rise to prominence of the Gaelic-speaking Scots who would replace them as the rulers of the North. The book uses fragmentary sources that survive from this darkest period in Scottish history to guide the reader past the pitfalls which beset the unwary traveller in these dangerous times. Important sources are presented in full, and their value as evidence is thoroughly explored and evaluated.

The Modernist Party
Kate McLoughlin (ed.)

Modernist literature likes a good party. Mrs. Ramsay drowns in anguish at the dinner-party she gives in Woolf’s To The Lighthouse. Death visits Mrs. Dalloway’s evening-party and Katherine Mansfield’s ‘The Garden Party’. For Eliot’s Prufrock, preparing to go to a tea-party induces intense performance anxiety. Politics and old memories sour the dinner-dance in Joyce’s ‘The Dead’. Cruelties and embarrassments are served up at Madame Verdurin’s soirées in Proust’s A la recherche du temps perdu. Extraordinary qualities are required to manage the deteriorating situation
at the breakfast-party in Ford Madox Ford’s Some Do Not.... Parties also played an enormous role in the intellectual culture of Modernism. A party thrown by Amy Lowell in London in 1914, attended by Ezra Pound, Ford, H.D., Richard Aldington and others, culminated in an argument over the nature of Imagism. In May 1922, Sidney and Violet Schiff brought together at a party at the Hôtel Majestic, Paris, Proust, Joyce, Picasso and Stravinsky: an unrepeatable interaction between modernism’s leading figures. In The Modernist Party, twelve internationally distinguished scholars explore the party both as a literary device and as a forum for developing modernist creative values, opening up new perspectives on networking, materiality, the everyday and concepts of space, place and time.