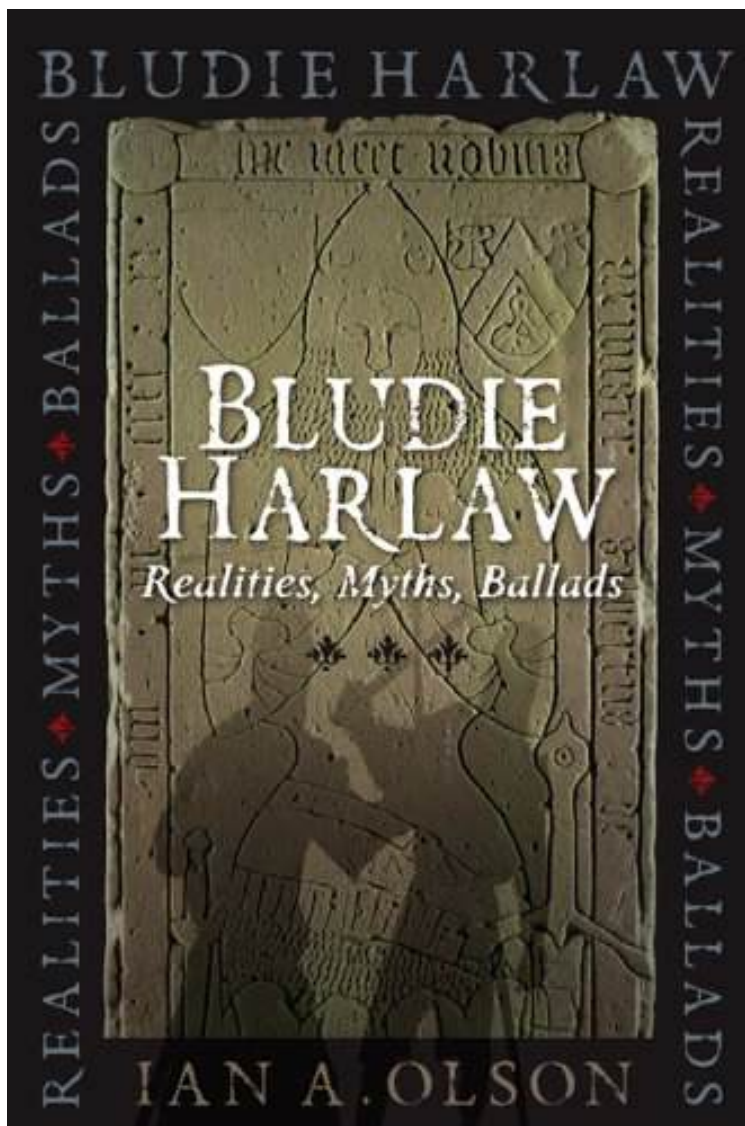


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## Bludie Harlaw: Realities, Myths, Ballads

*By Ian A. Olson*

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In the summer of 1411 the ageing Donald of Isla Lord of the Isles invaded mainland Scotland with a huge battle

hardened army only to be fought to a bloody standstill on the plateau of Harlaw fifteen miles from Aberdeen a town he had threatened to sack One of the greatest battles in Scottish history described by hardened mediaeval chroniclers as atrocious Reid Harlaw left some 3 000 dead and wounded Dismissed by Scott as a Celt v Saxon power struggle it Olson sets out to detonate the myths scrape away crusty layers of propaganda and misinformation that have obscured the truth The result is an accomplished addition to the literature of Scotland s history which illuminates with startling clarity some of the

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