



# Schola Regia



**Schola Regia** has been the mouthpiece of the Royal High School for around 125 years, recording, until the late 1960's, every extra-mural activity happening in the School. It also recorded the passage of two World Wars, faithfully and sadly recording the many casualties, but also saw happier times with special editions for a variety of occasions including the Royal Visit in 1958. Many budding poets and authors got the chance to exhibit their work, and that is one feature which has survived to this day. The advent of the internet and social media has overtaken many printed publications, but Schola Regia continues despite the electronic onslaught, with the last available edition printed in 2017.

The editors have access to a large number of editions, and if any reader wishes to access a particular edition or era of editions, please contact us – details are on the 'Contact' page. Our earliest edition is December 1897, and is Vol III No 2, indicating a start date for this edition of 1895. Earlier school magazines are quoted as being as early as the 1860's (q.v.)

John Barclay's 1974 School History (p 68) states "*Magazines in the School can be traced back to that written by hand in 1867. The first printed magazine was produced in 1879, but had a short life. Another existed from 1885-86 while yet another appeared in 1893. These early magazines nearly all passed away when the enthusiasts who produced them left School. In addition, there have been many class magazines, some of which showed considerable merit*".

## Topics included

1. History of the term Scola Regia, and of the magazine
2. Highlights from featured magazines
3. Front page of many editions, with a very high level overview of the contents.

## History of the term 'Schola Regia'

- 1595 – King James VI (the Scottish Solomon according to Bogie Ross) refers to the High School as 'Schola Regia' (1911 history p19); In 1598 he confers the title of Schola Regia Edinburgensis (or perhaps Edinensis?) – the 1849 history suggests 1578.
- 1716 – After the first Jacobite rebellion, the youth of Schola Regia showed anything like their wanted spirit... (1911 history p40)
- 1859 – 15<sup>th</sup> July, Prince of Wales in School being taught by the Rector of Schola Regia (1911 history p62)
- 1895 – Schola Regia Magazine (although some reports put it at 1892).
- 1925 – 100<sup>th</sup> Edition
- 1980-1990 – Magazine faltering
- 1997-1998 – Last edition in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century
- 2017 – Schola Regia resuscitated

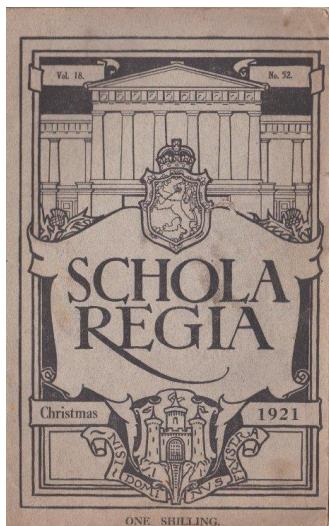
The 1974 History (p 68) shows an insight to the history of High School magazines prior to the formal editions of the 1890's.

*The School magazine, Schola Regia, began its current series in 1904. Along with the rector's reports it is the most valuable record of School activities and events. Magazines in the School can be traced back to that written by hand in 1867. The first printed magazine, 'High School Magazine' was produced in 1879, but had a short life. Another High School Magazine existed from 1885-86 while yet another appeared in 1893. These early magazines nearly all passed away when the enthusiasts who produced them left School. In addition there have been many class magazines, some of which have showed considerable merit.*

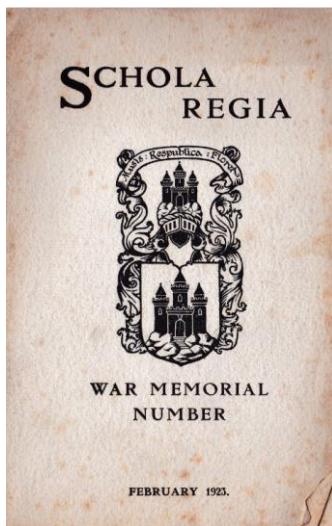
## Schola Regia editions – the wide variety of covers

The following pages includes more than thirty different covers, for one hundred years from 1898. The early ones were necessarily austere, but towards the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, colour started to appear. One continuous trend was for editors to miscount the editions, and declare theirs as a landmark, which in most cases was entirely wrong. One advantage of those errors was however was the creation of additional covers !

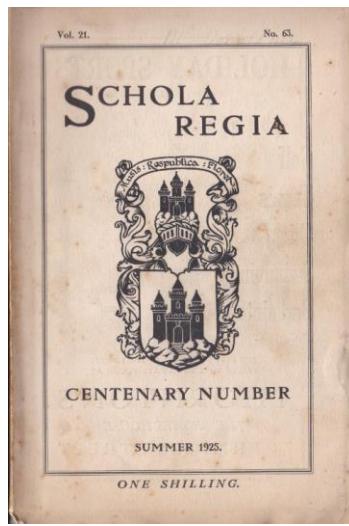
## Schola Regia magazine covers 1921 to 2017



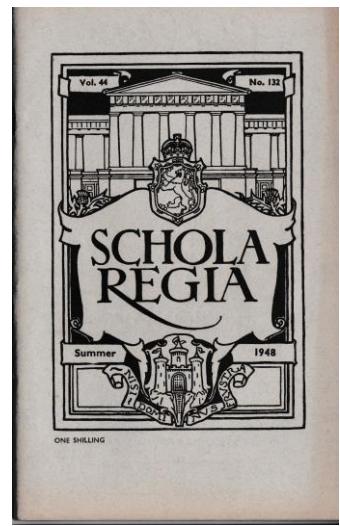
The Christmas 1921 edition. The logo is that of the City of Edinburgh.



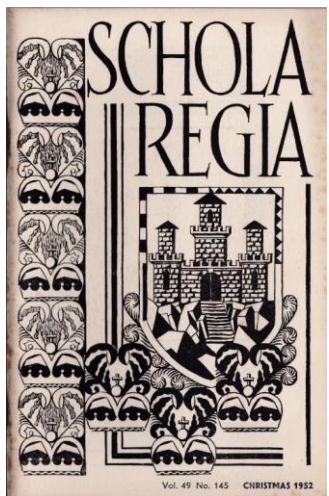
The February 1923 edition, honouring the many Great War casualties. The logo is that of the Royal High School



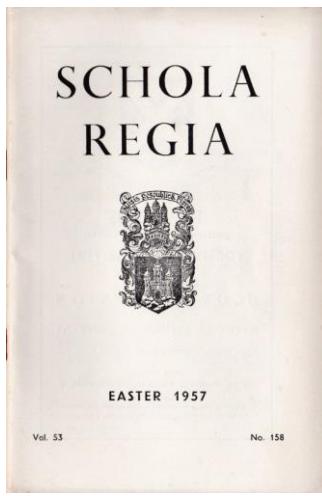
The Summer 1925 Edition, the 100<sup>th</sup> since its founding in 1892



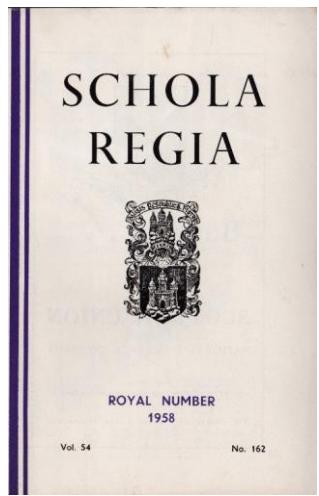
The 1948 Summer edition. The logo has reverted to the City version.



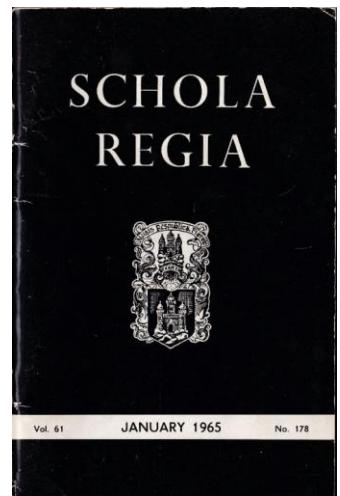
Christmas 1952 featured a somewhat gaudy design, which didn't last for long



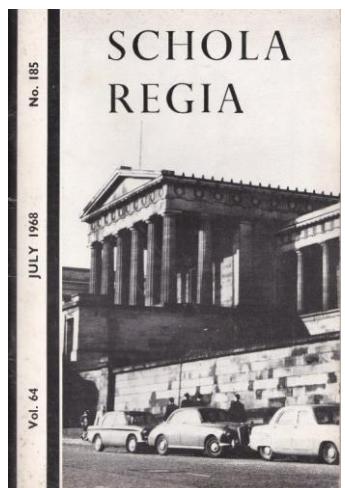
Easter 1957 saw the emergence of an austere cover design, perhaps announcing the era of minimalism



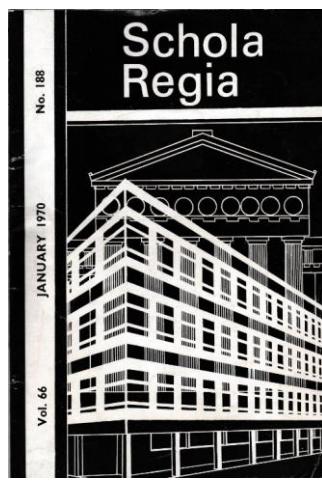
The 1958 Royal Number featured a purple and black stripe, presumably in recognition of Her Majesty



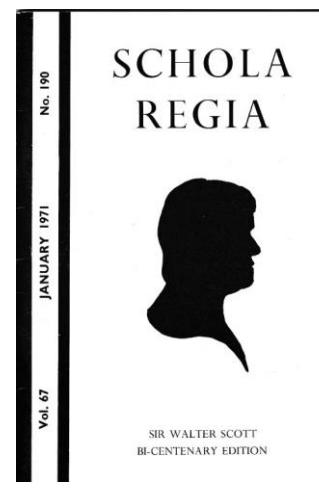
January 1965, and the artwork designers are at it again. The all black look also didn't last long



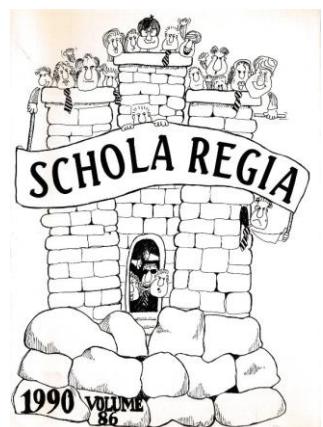
July 1968 edition. Some splendid motors in front of the edifice. This is the last from Regent Road – the School had moved a couple of months previously to Barnton



January 1970, and the memory of Regent Road is (literally) fading, replaced by the Brutalism of Barnton



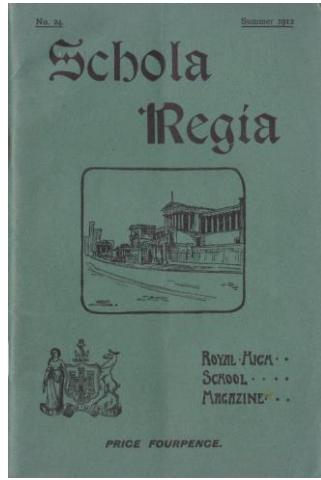
January 1971, and a return to the more austere variety, with Sir Walter Scott being heavily featured in the Bi-Centenary edition



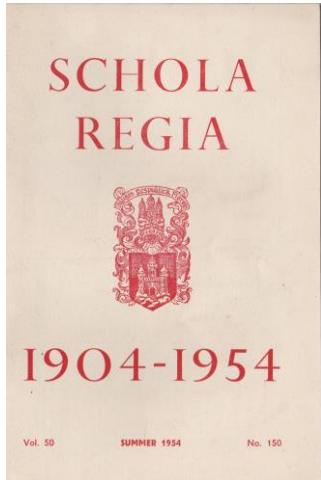
The 1990 edition featured a cartoon image, leaving behind the prosaic covers of the past.



One of the very early editions – June 1898, Vol 3, No 5, implying SR was founded in 1895



Fetching military green for this once off cover of 1912



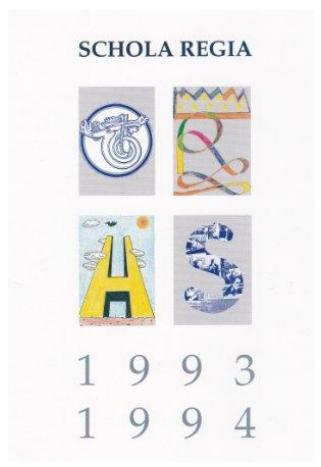
The 1954 edition wrongly supposed that that was the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary



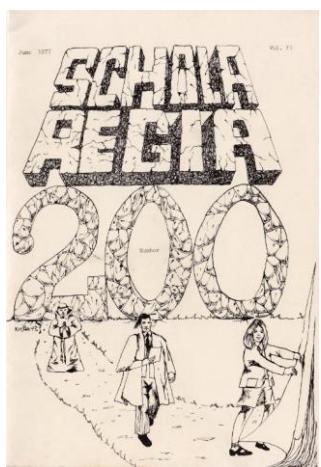
June 1978: Girls had now been admitted for 5 years so had to be acknowledged



1984 saw a photomontage of School characters



This is the Editor's pick for the most stylish cover – created by Kate Wheaton



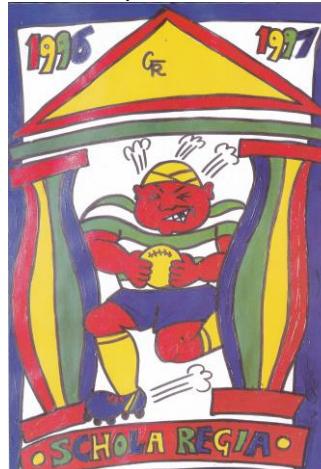
The alleged 200<sup>th</sup> edition in 1977, with the cover by Kenneth McBeth



The 1997/1998 edition with the cover created by Lydia Brotherton



The splendid slightly anarchic front page of the 1996-97 edition, recent rediscovered in Jock Dewar's archives



The back page of the 1996-97 edition, both front and back designed by Gemma Rundell

## Highlights from some of the magazines

**Christmas 1921** – Adverts included Dancing classes for pupils by Mr MacLennan in Shandwick Place, at a cost of £1 1 shilling for 10 lessons, Chemicals for boys from Andrew Baird of Lothian Street (hopefully not for explosives), and Plus Four suits for RHS Pupils, Scottish homespun at a cost of 75 shillings from Manclark of 63 South Bridge (these are seen in some of the images in the ‘Clothing through the Ages’ section). There is also reference to the first edition of Schola Regia in 1892, conflicting with other reports suggesting 1895 was the date.

#### February 1923 – War Memorial Edition –



This issue covered Remembrance of the Great War, including;

- Dedication of the Athletic field at Jocks Lodge, 4<sup>th</sup> June 1921
- Dedication and unveiling of the Memorial Porch, 26<sup>th</sup> January 1923
- Tabular lists of the 182 fallen
- An account of the Memorial Scheme
- The Memorial Fund general committee and Trustees

Between 1921 and 1923, the magazine logo changed – from Nisi Dominus Frustra to Musis Respublica Floret – reflecting firstly the City of Edinburgh, and secondly the Royal High School

**Summer 1925, The Centenary Edition** – Dunbar’s aerated Waters were still the ‘best drink for athletes’, and ‘Complete violin outfits’ were available for 35 shillings from Paterson’s of 27 George Street (now Office suites next to All Bar One). There’s a photo of King Edward VII receiving an address from the Masters and Boys in 1903, while they stayed in their carriage outside the School. There’s a photo of the bust of Prince Albert Edward (later Edward VII) who was taught at the School by Rector Dr Schmitz. Tickets for the RHS Club dinner, held in the North British Station Hotel (now the Balmoral) cost 12 shillings and sixpence. Photographs included those of the Royal visits of 1919 (Prince of Wales later King Edward VIII) and 1921 (Crown Prince Hirohito of Japan).

**Summer 1948** – Patrick Thomsons had the largest advert, as Skerry’s ‘cramming’ college in Nicholson Square had the best UK results for the ‘Boy Messenger’ exams. ‘The Authors of Mischief’ by Karl Miller, a recreation of the Baillie McMorran shooting premieres on the stage of the Junior School. Miss Jessie P Young’s class of 1942-43 held a reunion at her flat at 137 Warrender Park Road. ‘Jessie P’ was treated in her time with the same reverence as Badger. Photographs included several sports, including golf, basketball and cricket.

**Christmas 1952** – Future Dux Tony Inglis bemoans the structure of the Higher Leaving Certificate (HLC), being thankful he had already achieved it! (those were the days when students had to pass all their exams in order to achieve the HLC). There was an Obit to former Rector King Gillies, and the list of prefects extended to just sixteen, a big change from modern times. St Andrews Day was celebrated by breaking out the Saltire over the portico, and the lesson being read from a version of the New Testament in the Scots language. There are learned letters from FP’s at Oxford and Cambridge, and Club photos included images of Chess, Literary and Debating and the Scouts.

**Easter 1957** – Distinguished guests included legendary Irish rugby stand off Jack Kyle, David Murray whose Ecurie Ecosse team had just won the 1956 and 1957 Le Mans 24 hour races, and the Moderator of the Church of Scotland, the latter two of whom were pictured. The now-usual set of poems was counter-pointed by an extensive list of sporting successes. Simpson Bell advertised a portable typewriter for ‘ambitious young men’.

**1958 Royal number** – This edition had a purple stripe on the front cover – in honour of Her Majesty perhaps? There was a lengthy account of the visit, accompanied by many photographs. Another prominent event was the unveiling of the Fergusson memorial tablet on 24<sup>th</sup> June 1958. A Saltire was used for the ceremony. Your editor remembers this occasion fondly as a half-day holiday ensued. There was an article about travels in Cataluna in the Scots language by Lorimer Mackenzie (identified from his initials), where he described the ‘La Catedral de Sacrada Familia (the now well-known Gaudi cathedral) as ‘Kirk o the Haly Faimly’. He also said ‘...central spire o’ the great Kirk, which when it is built (??) will measure three times oor Embro Bard’s monument’. In FP Notes, the President alludes to a chair and table, along with a lectern. Sadly the photo he mentions is not present, but this a timeline of these items.

The official FP Rugby Club blazer, complete with silver wire badge was 11 guineas, while the humble school blazer started at 59/6d (nearly £3).

**January 1965** – Baillie ‘T’ Ruthven, newly arrived features large. Sandy Forsyth left only to return a few years later, and a tabular analysis of a number of juvenile magazines including the Eagle, The Beano, Wham and the Beezer produced an astonishing result considering the date. Among the classifications were ‘Violence against Adults’, ‘Violence against Children and dumb animals’, ‘Romance and Love interest’, and ‘Race Prejudice’. Very forward, but then the Beatles had just been discovered. As an aside, the Eagle cost 6d (2 1/2p), the Beano 3d, and the Boyfriend (?) the most expensive at 9d. Othello was fronted up by a heavily made-up Brian Lang, later Principal and Vice Chancellor of St Andrew’s University. Photos include one of Norman McCaig (accompanying an account of his schooldays), a visit to a brewery and the school first form photo of 1914, fifty years on.

**July 1968** – This was the issue timed with the move to Barnton. There are extensive reports about the Calton Hill environment, and the changing curriculum between 1827 and 1968. Prior to 1827, very little was on offer apart from Classics. Even after that, the senior classes still concentrated on Classics, but younger pupils were offered Science, Gymnastics, Geography and Mathematics. The future of the building was suggested as Conference Centre, Art gallery, or ‘whatever’. A total of around 30 pages is devoted to poetry and prose, while Sports and activities pages included the Orchestra, table-tennis and Angling.

In this issue, the Police were recruiting – a constable would earn around £965 including a rent allowance, while the Chief Constable got £5000!

**January 1970** – The cover shows the stark comparison between the new and old buildings – Brutalist versus Classical. A film was made of a re-enactment of the Battle of Hastings. The Boarding House closed – the proceeds were to be invested to finance Prizes and Bursaries. Suave Dave Somerville left for a Principal’s job, Mrs Swanson (1942 – 1969) left after nurturing generations of juniors, while Mary Erskine girls were imported to enable the mixed ‘New Society’. It was to be a further 3 years before girls were integrated.

Graham Tiso was advertising for probably the first time, from his new store in Rodney Street.

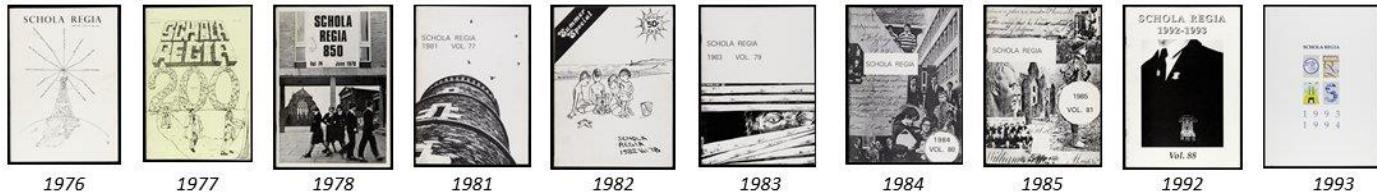
**January 1971** – Sir Walter Scott Centenary. 14 pages of assorted articles including one by young teacher Jim Noble. Big Mac the Commando, and Fred Scott the terrier left, promotion and retirement respectively. Modern pursuits documented included War-gaming and Squash, also the publication of the Edinburgh Pub Guide by 1965 leavers Allen Peden and Arthur Bell.

Ferranti, The Army and the Clydesdale Bank were chasing recruits.

**1990 (allegedly volume 86)** – 40 of the 47 pages in this issue are devoted to poetry and prose, with just 5 pages describing sport, a couple about politics and music, and none describing any other School activity, formal or extra-curricular.

The Army was still offering Scholarships – so the School was still being targeted.

Volumes are held for 1976, 1977, 1978, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1992 and 1993. Descriptions of these volumes will be made in future history editions; in the meantime you’ll have to do with a banner of the front pages...



**1996-97** School uniform under attack (sweat shirts proposed – it was to be 25 years before that actually came to pass), the School Wind band highlighted - and not to be outdone there’s also a Rock Music update from Planet School, A day in the life of the Grubby, Wee Mac’s obituary, Scott Hastings interviewed, German exchange trip to Munich, and French exchange trip to Lyon. Great Beano-style front and back covers by Gemma Rundell.



Aitken and Niven provided the advertising revenue.

**1997-98**



Editor Sara Mills said "This is probably the hardest thing that I've ever had to do..." Among the comings and goings was Rector Matt MacIver, off to be the Depute at the Scottish GTC. Baillie Ruthven's death was announced. The Secret Policeman's Ball (in aid of Amnesty International) was organised by messers Baciarelli and Sneddon. Ms Gage's clothing was described as Hippy and Glam Rock, while Mr Dempsey majored in shell suits, Beatles-style and Punk. A list of 21 never-to-do items was listed, four rock bands introduced, and the edition concluded with 17 pages of class photographs. Phew...

**2017**

The old thunderer re-emerges as a 46 page colour magazine, edited by Ross Nisbett, who confesses that he had been unaware of its previous existence, only revealed to him when his Granny gifted copies of his late Grandfather's magazines. He was fascinated by the content and sentiment, and resolved to re-establish the magazine. Articles include:

- Your horoscope revealed
- Colours, National and District representation
- Rector's report
- Ruffetybuffs – Frank Laggan's creation
- FP report
- WWI Battlefield trip
- Contemporary dance
- Duke of Edinburgh award
- Midsummer Night's dream performance
- Romanian 'Habitat for Humanity' project
- Departmental reports
- Competition to identify ten current teachers from photographs taken when they were very young



**2017** - the latest of many Schola Regia covers: colourful and optimistic, also slightly wrong with the establishment date

**2018**

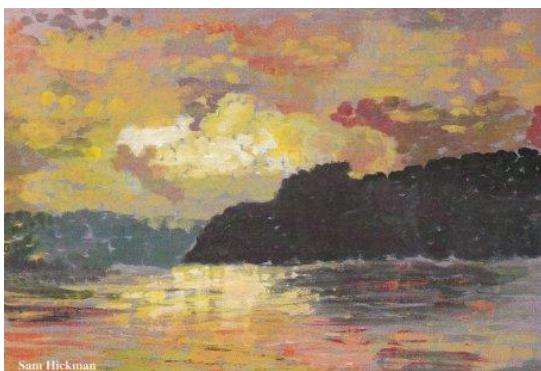
Report of a 2018 edition are hopeful, with October being mooted as the publish date. Watch this space!

### Artistic endeavour

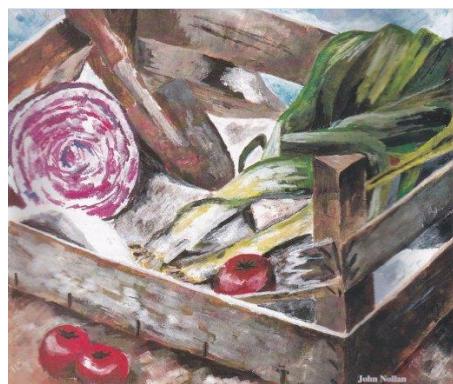
Many editions bear illustrations, some striking, some simplistic, some of evident quality. The six featured below, all from the 1994 edition, may well fall into the last category...



*Cramond by four artists - Schola Regia 1994*



*Sam Hickman – Skye at twilight - Schola Regia 1994*



*Still Life by John Nollan, Schola Regia 1994*