Kailyard money: nation, empire and speculation in Walter Scott's letters from Malachi Malagrowther

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Abstract
This essay re-reads Scott's three letters from Malachi Malagrowther in the context of the 1825 banking crisis. It suggests that these letters have a complex relationship to British imperialism as it was constituted at that time. First, it shows how far Scottish capital was connected to financial speculation in the Americas as part of British expansionist ambitions in the wake of the Napoleonic Wars. Second, it indicates how Scott's letters contains a curious series of images of Amerindians that positions Scots as a colonised nation. It tries to read this imagery back into Scott's novels to consider how far this allows his letters to disguise class interests beneath a veneer of nationalism.

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Sir Walter Scott, 1st Baronet FRSE FSA Scot (15 August 1771 – 21 September 1832) was a Scottish historical novelist, poet, playwright, and historian. Many of his works remain classics of both English-language literature and of Scottish literature. Famous titles include The Lady of the Lake (narrative poem) and the novels Waverley, Old Mortality (or The Tale of Old Mortality), Rob Roy, The Heart of Mid-Lothian, The Bride of Lammermoor, and Ivanhoe. Discover Walter Scott famous and rare quotes. Share Walter Scott quotations about heart, heaven and life. "O, what a tangled web we weave when..."  

Marry in haste, repent at leisure. Walter Scott, Letters of Malachi Malagrowther on the Currency, in Miscellaneous Prose Works of Sir Walter Scott, ed. Robert Cadell (Edinburgh: Cadell, 1836), 373. Google Scholar. 97. Daniel Dreadnaught, Familiar Epistles, Letter the First: Addressed to Malachi Malagrowther, Esq. (London: Griffiths, 1826), 11. Google Scholar. 98. • Kailyard Money: Nation, Empire and Speculation in Walter Scott's Letters from Malachi Malagrowther more. by Liam Connell. This paper tries to place Scott's three letters as Malachi Malagrowther into their historical and economic context. It pays especial attention to the way that these letters offer metaphoric comparisons between Scots and colonised subjects more. This paper tries to place Scott's three letters as Malachi Malagrowther into their historical and economic context. It pays especial attention to the way that these letters offer metaphoric comparisons between Sco...