



**Scottish Literacy and the Scottish Identity:  
Illiteracy and Society in Scotland and Northern  
England, 1600-1800 (Cambridge Studies in  
Population, Economy and Society in Past Time)**

*R. A. Houston*

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Scottish education and literacy have achieved a legendary status. A campaign promoted by church and state between 1560 and 1696 is said to have produced the most literate population in the early modern world. This book sets out to test this belief by comparing the ability to read and write in Scotland with northern England in particular and with Europe and North America in general. It combines extensive statistical analysis with qualitative and theoretical discussion to produce an important argument about the significance of literacy and education for the individual and society of relevance not just to the Scottish experience but to a far broader social and geographical area.

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