



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 an edition printed in 2017 (sadly not available to this history).

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.)

Topics included

1. History of the term Schola 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 – 15th 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 – 100th Edition
- 1980-1990 – Magazine faltering
- 1997-1998 – Last edition in the 20th Century
- 2017 – Schola Regia resuscitated (and an edition was also created in 2019)

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.

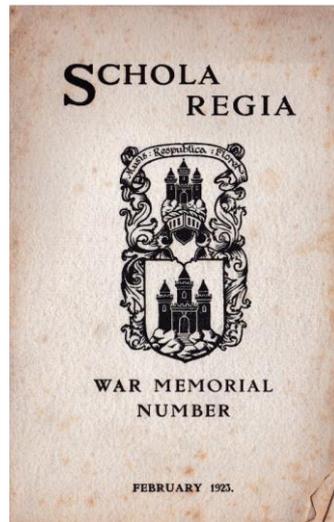
Schola Regia editions – the wide variety of covers

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 20th 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 !

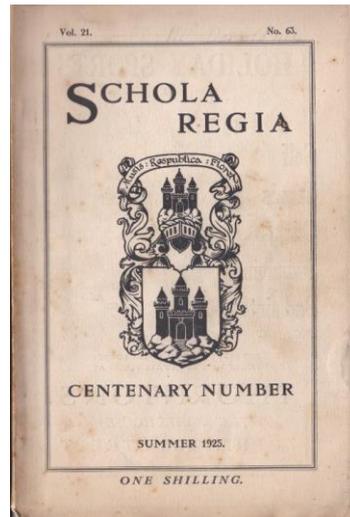
Schola Regia magazine covers 1921 to 2017



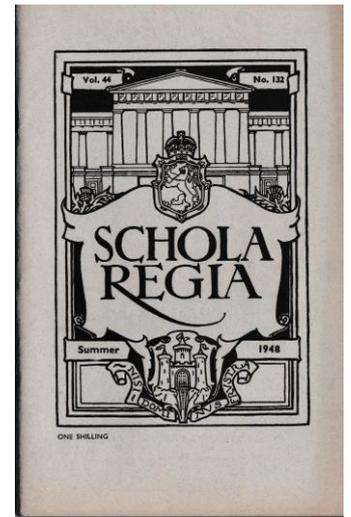
The Christmas 1921 edition. The logo is that of the City of Edinburgh.



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



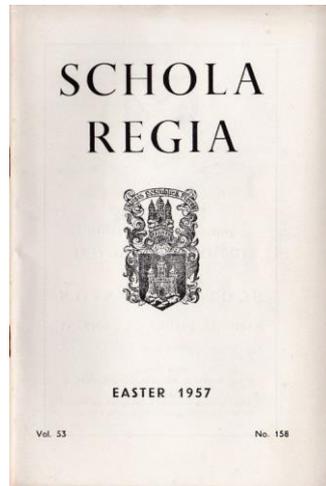
The Summer 1925 Edition, the 100th since its founding in 1892



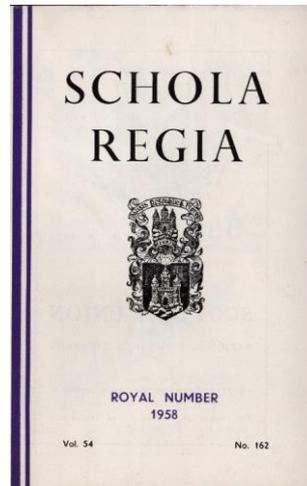
The 1948 Summer edition. The logo has reverted to the City version.



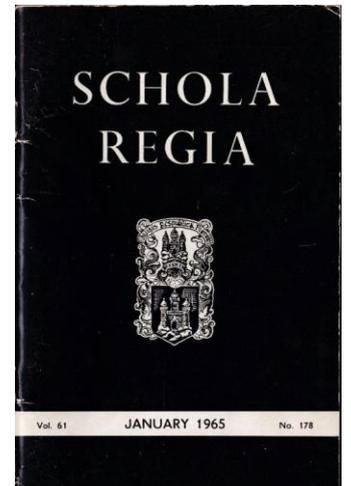
Christmas 1952 featured a somewhat gaudy design, which didn't last for long



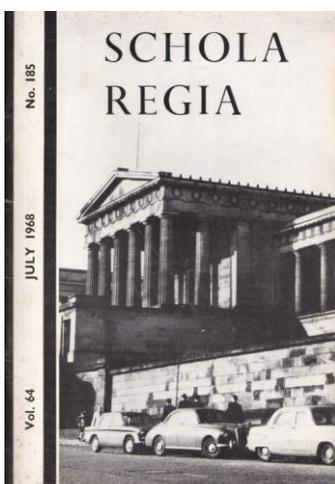
Easter 1957 saw the emergence of an austere cover design, perhaps announcing the era of minimalism



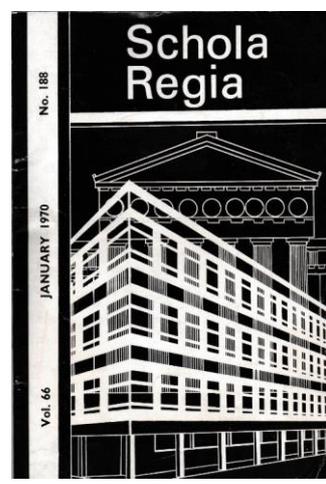
The 1958 Royal Number featured a purple and black stripe, presumably in recognition of Her Majesty



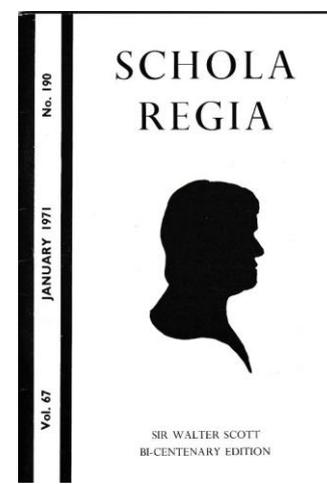
January 1965, and the artwork designers are at it again. The all black look also didn't last long



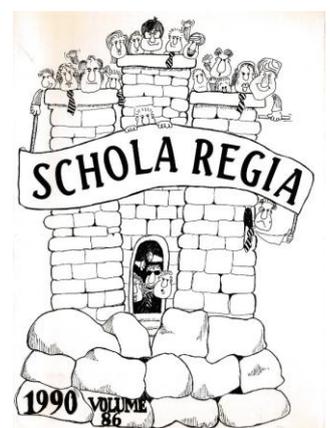
July 1968 edition. Some splendid motors in front of the edifice. This is the last from Regent Road – the School had moved a couple of months previously to Barnton



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



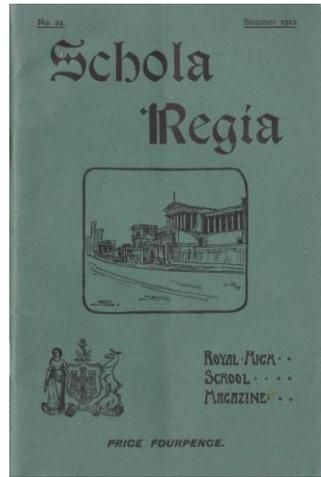
January 1971, and a return to the more austere variety, with Sir Walter Scott being heavily featured in the Bi-Centenary edition



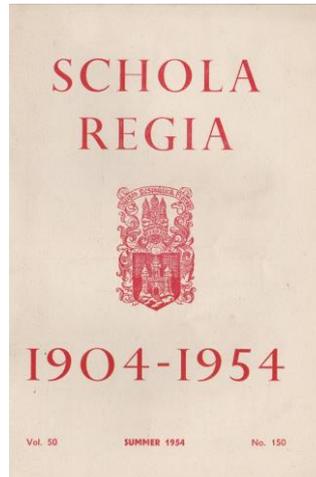
The 1990 edition featured a cartoon image, leaving behind the prosaic covers of the past.



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



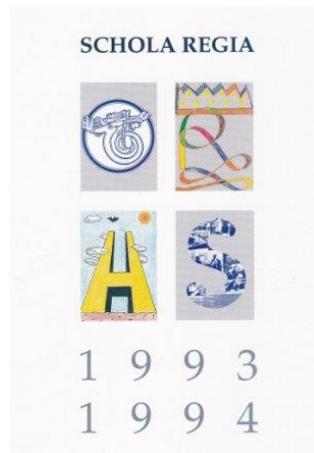
The 1954 edition wrongly supposed that that was the 50th Anniversary



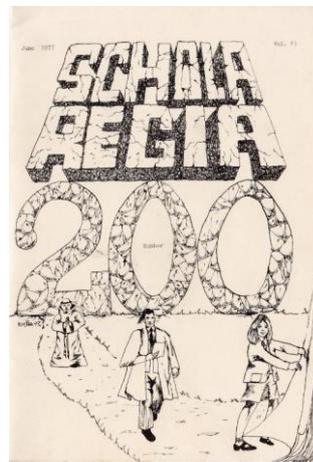
June 1978: Girls had now been admitted for 5 years so had to be acknowledged



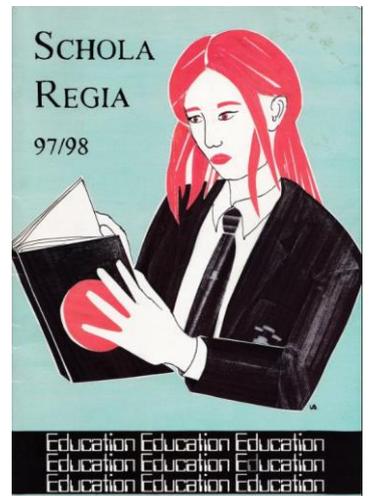
1984 saw a photomontage of School characters



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



The alleged 200th edition in 1977, with the cover by Kenneth McBeth



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

This version of the Scola Regia article is an extract from the RHS digital history, and contains only high-level information and a variety of magazine covers. The digital history version contains a summary of, and links to each of twenty-seven fully digitised editions.

Alastair Allanach March 2021