Institute of Scottish Historical Research

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700th Anniversary of St Andrews Cathedral + Autumn Conferences

Robert the Bruce arrives to consecrate the Cathedral in a pageant celebrating its 700th anniversary
Photo credit: Chelsea Reutcke

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This summer saw historians, religious groups, and local residents celebrate the 700th anniversary of the consecration of St Andrews Cathedral on 5 July 1318. The great or ‘new’ Cathedral was the largest building in medieval Scotland, and its official blessing by Bishop William Lamberton was a major national ceremony attended by King Robert the Bruce. To mark the anniversary BBC Radio Scotland broadcast a Time Travels episode on the Cathedral’s consecration (with contributions from the Institute for Scottish Historical Research’s Professor Michael Brown and Dr Bess Rhodes). Meanwhile town and gown created a range of events in St Andrews comprising guided walks, lectures, exhibitions, and a display of extant manuscripts associated with St Andrews Cathedral from the University of St Andrews Library’s Special Collections.

A highlight of the commemorations was a historical pageant held in the ruins of St Andrews Cathedral, put on by local residents and members of the university (including staff and students from ISHR), and attended by about five hundred people. Using costumes provided by the Kate Kennedy Trust, a series of characters interpreted the story of the Cathedral from its legendary origins in the early Middle Ages through to John Knox’s notorious incitement to remove ‘all monuments of idolatry’ in the summer of 1559.
For another event, Dr Rhodes, with the support of Fife Pilgrim Way, led a tour of the historic religious spaces of St Andrews, following the medieval pilgrimage route. Dr Rhodes was joined by Peryn Westerhof Nyman, who brought further context to the event, dressed as a relatively wealthy burgh dweller c.1340-50.

The week also saw religious services in the grounds of the Cathedral, including a Catholic mass and procession in which a relic of St Andrew was carried, and an ecumenical service with Latin plain-song – reminders of the ecclesiastical traditions which once defined St Andrews’ identity.

- Dr Bess Rhodes
Following the success of the first event in September 2017, the second of our 'Scotland and Ireland' conferences took place on 1 June 2018. Generously supported by the Institute of Scottish Historical Research, the conference sought to shed greater light on the murky subject of English nationalism from Home Rule to Brexit. During this one-day event, an impressive range of speakers explored the often neglected question of Englishness and its impact on Irish and Scottish historical, political, and socio-cultural ties.

This highly topical conference provided a provocative, interdisciplinary analysis of the complexities and controversies of 'Brexit', focusing on a historical period marked by imperialism, unions (and disunions), and contesting notions of nationalism. Speakers discussed a wealth of topics - from Anglophobic letters within Scottish national newspapers during the Second World War to the impact of an essentially British nationalism on the 'Anglo-Irish' Treaty.

Our keynote speaker, Professor Colin Kidd of the University of St Andrews provided a daring and thought-provoking introductory paper, courting controversy in observing a 'Protestant Sinn Fein' within the 'un-English' articulations of Ulster Unionism. Subsequent papers offered fascinating insight into the varieties and vagaries of nationalism within Britain and Ireland from the later nineteenth century. A particular highlight was Dr Paul Corthorn’s (University of Belfast) fascinating discussion of the Enoch Powell’s political career in Northern Ireland. Dr Fiona Simpkins (Université Lumière Lyon 2) also provided an intriguing discussion of the 'English dimensions' within the Conservative attitudes in post-Devolution Scotland - a topic which was nicely complimented by Robert Cairncross Johnson’s (University of Edinburgh) discussion of Margaret Thatcher - an 'English revivalist' in Scotland.

Professor Ewen Cameron of the University of Edinburgh offered some final observations on the day's events, providing an insightful conclusion to the conference and disclosing a developing fascination for Eamon DeValera

- Dr Sean Murphy
UPCOMING EVENTS

Joe Corrie (1894-1968): Miner, Poet, Playwright Anniversary

Wednesday 3 October 2018,
Auditorium of the Byre Theatre, Abbey St, St Andrews.

Please join us for a one-day conference marking the 50th anniversary of the death of Joe Corrie, the West Fife miner whose plays, poetry, and fiction give him a prominent place in Scottish working-class writing. His best-known play, In Time o’ Strife, which depicts the hardships of a Scottish mining community during the 1926 General Strike, was revived by the National Theatre of Scotland in 2013. Five years later, we are pleased to host the first academic conference devoted to Corrie and his work. This interdisciplinary event brings together poets, playwrights, historians, and scholars of literature. A written version of each presentation will be published in 2019 on a special Joe Corrie website to be produced by the Digital Humanities and Research Computing team of St Andrews University Library.

This project is sponsored by the Institute of Scottish Historical Research.

Attendance at this conference is free; however the number of places is limited. Please, email Paul Malgrati to book a seat: peam@st-andrews.ac.uk
Joe Corrie (1894-1968): Miner, Poet, Playwright Anniversary Conference

9.00 – 9.30 Coffee and Welcome
9.30 – 10.30 Local and international perspectives on Joe Corrie

William Hershaw (Cowdenbeath High School), ‘Joe Corrie’s Bairns, A Role for Joe Corrie in the Curriculum for Excellence’.

Dr. Tom Hubbard, (Association of Scottish Literary Studies), ‘From Montsou to Bowhill: Joe Corrie’s Antecedents’.

10.30 – 10.45 Tea and Coffee
10.45 – 12.15 Joe Corrie, working-class writer

Dr. Gavin Bowd, (University of St Andrews), ‘A Lazy Lout: Joe Corrie and the Heroism of Labour’.

Dr. Anindya Raychaudhuri (University of St Andrews), tbc.

Sarah Leith, (University of St Andrews), 'Now playwrights could be got from the ranks of the working class': Joe Corrie and the 1951 Edinburgh People’s Festival.

12.15 — 1.15 Lunch
1.15 — 2.00 Joe Corrie’s Songs, performed by the ‘Bowhill Players’
2.00 — 3.00 In Time O’ Strife

Dr. Malcolm Petrie, (University of St Andrews), ‘Popular Politics and the Radical Left: The Political Context of In Time O’ Strife’.

Prof. Zinnie Harris, (University of St Andrews): ‘A Playwright’s response to In Time O’ Strife’.

3.30 — 3.45 Tea & Coffee
3.45 — 4.45 Joe Corrie and poetry

Paul Malgrati, (University of St Andrews), ‘Pits and Plough: Joe Corrie and Robert Burns’.

Prof. Robert Crawford, (University of St Andrews), ‘The Image o’ God’.

4.45-5.00 End
Professor Charles Withers (University of Edinburgh)

'Geographies of the Prime Meridian: Ruling the World - from St Andrews, Paris, Washington...'

The Prime Meridian is the point at which the world’s longitude is set at 0 – the calculative origin for measurement of the world’s time and space. Since 1884, we have had only one Prime Meridian, at the Royal Observatory, Greenwich. Before then – but also for a long time afterwards – numerous different prime meridians were at work in the world. Astronomers used different observed prime meridians from the measured prime meridians employed by geographers; navigators might use one, several or none in determining their position on the high seas. Different countries used more than one: eighteenth-century France had two – Ferro in the Canaries, and Paris; the United States continued to use two (Washington and Greenwich) for decades after 1884. The result, world-wide, as one eighteenth-century commentator put it, was ‘geographical confusion’. This richly-illustrated lecture examines why and where different prime
A Conference in Honour of Roger A. Mason, Professor of Scottish History

The Institute of Scottish Historical Research is pleased to announce the hosting of a one-day conference in honour of Professor Roger Mason. Featuring contributions from leading scholars, this conference will examine how we define and date these two movements in Scotland, particularly as a result of Professor Mason’s extensive work on Scottish renaissance culture, and intellectual and textual history. The major themes to be discussed on the day include political thought in Scotland; new ways of looking at the renaissance and reformation in Scotland; Knox, Buchanan and James VI; the intersection of politics, history and literature; and renaissance literature and iconography.

Please see the programme on the following page for the full schedule. The event is free and a buffet lunch will be provided, but places are limited. If you would like to attend, please email Dr Malcolm Petrie (mp49@st-andrews.ac.uk) by Friday 5 October to register.
Re-thinking the Renaissance and Reformation in Scotland:
A Conference in Honour of Roger A. Mason, Professor of Scottish History

Saturday 13 October 2018
Parliament Hall, University of St Andrews

09.15-09.45 Registration and Coffee
09.45-10.00 Sally Mapstone (Principal and Vice-Chancellor, University of St Andrews)
   Foreword
10.00-10.45 Dauvit Broun (Professor of Scottish History, Glasgow)
   ‘Rethinking medieval Scottish regnal historiography’
10.45-11.00 Coffee
11.00-11.45 Nicola Royan (Associate Professor in Older Scots, Nottingham)
   ‘Talking for Scotland: another use of early Scottish humanism’
11.45-12.30 Jane Dawson (John Laing Professor Emerita of Reformation History, Edinburgh)
   ‘James and John: the stormy relationship between Regent Moray and Knox’
12.30-13.30 Lunch
13.30-14.15 Bess Rhodes (Research Fellow, St Andrews)
   ‘“The Tyme of Reformatione”: Early Modern Protestants’ memories of religious change’
14.15-15.00 Esther Mijers (Senior Lecturer in Scottish History, Edinburgh)
   ‘The Dutch in Scotland: The diplomatic visit of the States General upon the baptism of Prince Henry (1594)’
15.00-15.15 Coffee
15.15-16.00 Catriona MacDonald (Reader in Scottish History, Glasgow),
   ‘Walking the scores and scoring points: a perambulation with Hay Fleming, Lang and Mason’
16.00-16.45 The ‘Lightning Round’: Ali Cathcart (Senior Lecturer in History, Strathclyde), Katie Stevenson (Assistant Vice-Principal, Collections, St Andrews), Jamie Reid-Baxter (Honorary Research Fellow, Glasgow),
   Steven Reid (Senior Lecturer in Scottish History, Glasgow)
16.45-17.00 Closing remarks: Roger responds
17.00 Wine Reception
ISHR Spring 2018 Seminar Dates
5:30pm in the New Seminar Room, St John’s House, 71 South St, St Andrews

Semester One

Thursday 20 September (week 1)
Dr Mary-Anne Constantine (University of Wales)
‘The Many Voices of Thomas Pennant: Writing Travel in Late 18th Century Britain’

Thursday 4 October (week 3) Annual Smout Lecture
NEW ARTS LECTURE THEATRE, 5.30PM
Professor Charles Withers (University of Edinburgh)
‘Geographies of the Prime Meridian: Ruling the World - from St Andrews, Paris, Washington...’

Thursday 18 October (week 5)
Professor Michael Brown (University of St Andrews)
‘Leading the Realm’s Estate: Royal Authority and the transformation of fifteenth-century Scotland’

Thursday 8 November (week 8)
Dr Jemma Field (Brunel University)
‘The Political Wardrobe: Anna of Denmark and the uses of Clothing and Jewellery at the courts of James VI and I’

Thursday 22 November (week 10)
Dr Alison Duncan (University of St Andrews)
‘Social Position - networks, status and the physical city in Georgian Edinburgh’

Other Events

Wednesday 3 October
Joe Corrie (1894-1968): Miner, Poet, Playwright Anniversary Conference

Saturday 13 October
Re-thinking the Renaissance and Reformation in Scotland

http://ishr.wp.st-andrews.ac.uk/seminars/

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