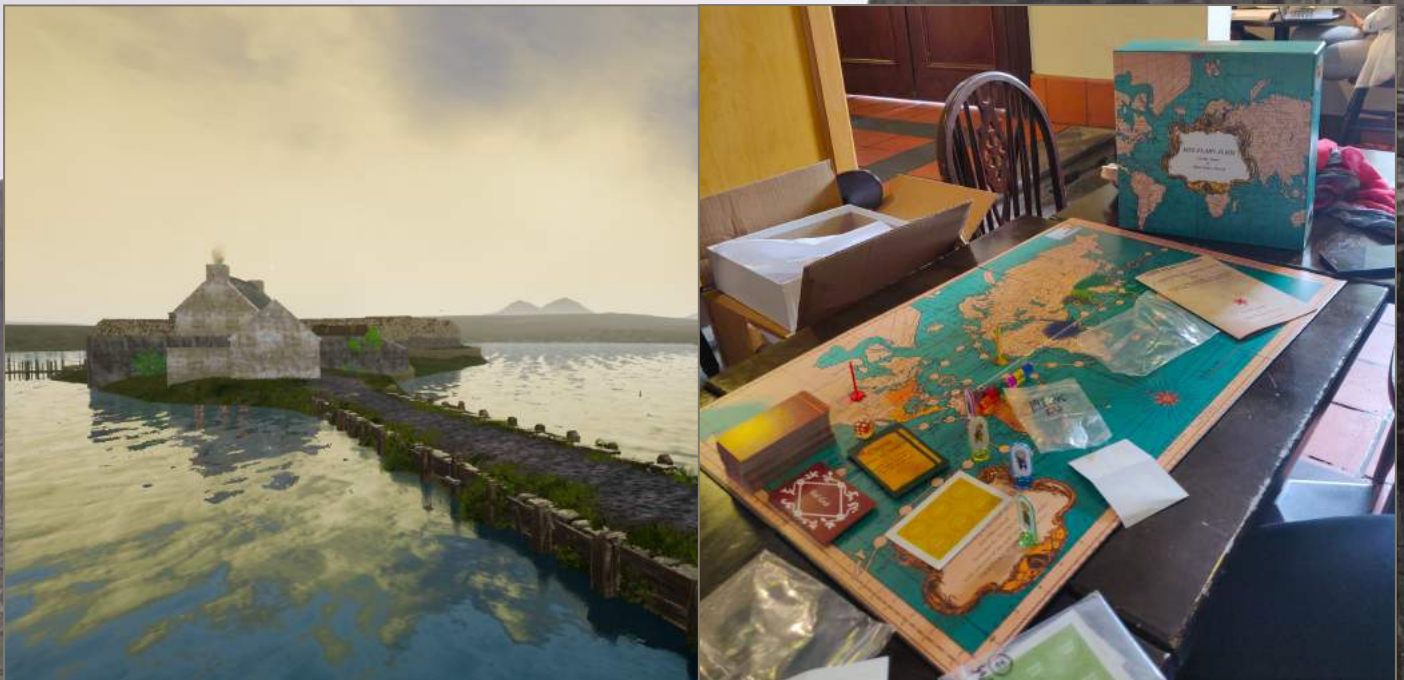


SUMMER EDITION

CONFERENCES, CATALOGUES, AND MORE



Left: Finlaggan causeway, Image Credit: Smart History; Right: Mer-Plant-Ilism, Photo Credit: Christin Simons

CONTENTS

2. Annual Burn Weekend

3. Board Game Launch

4. BBIH Report

5. Finlaggan Reconstruction

6-7. Recap: Dress & Decor 2019

8. Announcement: Older Scots Lang & Lit
Conference

9. Recap: IPPMSN

10. CFP: Hidden Histories



ISHR Reading Weekend 2019

Sarah Leith ('21), shares this year's adventures from the annual Burn Weekend

As in previous years, this year's ISHR Reading Weekend at The Burn, near Edzell, was full of fascinating papers covering all aspects of Scottish historical studies. Our Introductory Lecture, "Probably at no time in its history has the popularity of the regiment been so emphatically demonstrated": The Black Watch and Kitchener's New Army, 1914-15', was given by Dr Derek Patrick. This was an extremely interesting account of the Black Watch's volunteers at the beginning of the First World War.

The next day, our first speaker, Matt Ylitalo, presented a paper about Dundee's nineteenth-century trade in Arctic animals. Who knew that a polar bear was once loose in the centre of Dundee? We then welcomed the University of Dundee's Dr Andrew McDiarmid who provided a model for understanding the Scottish Financial Revolution. Following a short break, Xiaoping Qi presented a paper about 'Scottish Regiments in France, 1633-1659' and Callum Woolsey spoke about 'The Tartan Army: Home and Away in the 1640s'. Graeme Millen and Anna Turnham of the University of Kent then presented papers about Major-General Hugh Mackay's Memoirs and the correspondence of Ralph Sadler and James Croft with the Lords of the Congregation. Lastly, Daniel Leaver spoke about the Wilson Governments, whilst Carol McKiven addressed obligations and reciprocity in Scottish working-class marriage.

Our last day began with James Inglis' paper about the commercialisation of the visible typewriter in Scotland, complete with typewriter prop! This was followed by Paul Malgrati's discussion of Robert Burns and the Welfare State. Following this, the After the Enlightenment Project's Dr Bill Jenkins spoke about 'The identities of David Brewster: The self-fashioning of a Scottish man of science, 1802-1838' and Dr Felicity Loughlin discussed 'Scotland's Infidels:

Freethinkers' Societies, c.1820-c.1850'. Many thanks to all who contributed to a very enjoyable weekend. See you there next year!

- Sarah Leith, PhD Candidate



Left: Dr Derek Patrick (University of St Andrews) giving the Introductory Lecture.
Photo credit: Sarah Leith



Introducing..... Mer-Plant-ilism!!!



Phd candidates Christin Simons (ISHR) and Elena Romero Passerin have shared an office in the Bute building since 2017. In 2018 they came up with the idea of creating a board game based on their PhD research. Combining the History of Botany and Maritime History resulted in a board game now funded by the Scottish Graduate School for Arts & Humanities. It will be shown for the first time at the Doctoral Showcase in Glasgow on 20 June 2019.

Mer-Plant-ilism is a strategy board game, in which players can play the character of a botanist from Spain, the Netherlands, Great Britain, France, Sweden, or Austria traveling with trading company ships to collect exotic vegetal specimens from all over the world. The game is set in the frame of 18th century mercantilism and considers historical events of the time.

Missions and event cards make the collecting of the plants a real challenge. The game can be played by up to 6 players. During the game players may trade with each other or form alliances, but beware, the odds can change within a single roll of the die!





The Lash-Bash Project 2007-2019

Since 2007, ISHR has co-ordinated the interestingly named 'Lash-Bash' project, a list of all newly published books and articles relating to Scottish History. Originally, the list was published in the *Scottish Historical Review*, though now it is managed by the Royal Historical Society (RHS) with funding from SHRT. The project, overseen by Dr Christine McGladdery, allows ISHR to employ a team of postgraduates to check the details of lists provided by the RHS for accuracy, relevance, and further details. Following a successful campaign in 2013, ISHR retained this funding, and, as of this year, fifteen postgraduates have been involved and have reviewed roughly 8000 entries.

The workload entails checking four lists sent out each year for return in October, January, April and August. This involves the verification or addition of such information as date ranges, book chapters, page references, name indexes, etc., in addition to checking entries for relevance and offering translations of, for example, Gaelic titles. The team may also exercise initiative in suggesting new records when they feel that a resource should be added to the database. Checked entries are then uploaded and incorporated into the Bibliography of British and Irish History (BBIH) database.

Those involved in the team acquire valuable skill development in bibliographical database compilation, and the remuneration reflects the team's commitment to meeting deadlines and delivering details that enhance the BBIH as a searchable resource for all entries relating to the study of Scottish history.

The students themselves see additional benefits. 'Looking through so many publications, you're exposed to all this information that you otherwise might have missed out on', remarks Chelsea Reutcke, one of the current interns. 'I think my favourite example is learning about the evidence of medieval timber trade present in St John's House'. Former intern and upcoming graduate, Andrew Carter, recalls the large number of non-academic entries, from pamphlets on old mines and football teams to family histories. 'It changed how I think about 'history' as a genre and where public interest is'. Finally, as intern Daniel Leaver points out, 'it's really helpful for this project to have the NLS on our doorstep, and as a lot of source material for my own thesis is stored there it's nice to spend time in Edinburgh working on a useful resource'.



The Latest from Smart History



ISHR member Dr Bess Rhodes shares the latest digital renderings from Smart History. This time, it's a virtual reconstruction of the fifteenth-century home of the Lords of the Isles (traditionally the MacDonalds) on Finlaggan, Islay. The reconstruction comprises a series of buildings on two islands connected by a causeway. The work is the result of the combined efforts of the University of St Andrews, the Finlaggan Trust, and the National Museum of Scotland and was guided by archaeological finds.

See <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-highlands-islands-48383144> for the full story (and more incredible images!)



Image Credits: Smart History
Top: general view of islands; Bottom: Great Hall interior



Conference Recap: Dress & Décor 2.0

On Tuesday 09 and Wednesday 10 April 2019, the second *Dress and Décor in Medieval and Renaissance Scotland* workshop and study day was held at the University of Glasgow. Following on from the previous instalment of Dress and Décor, held in 2018, this event was generously funded by Historic Environment Scotland, the University of Glasgow, and the University of St Andrews. We once more brought together scholars from academia, museums, and heritage for fruitful discussion on the topic of historic textiles in Scotland.

Our 2018 workshop, at the University of St Andrews, formed part of the Institute of Scottish Historical Research's tenth anniversary celebrations, and was attended by many members of the ISHR community. This year's workshop attempted to reach a further range of participants through partnership with the Dress and Textile Histories MLitt program at the University of Glasgow. Staff from the program were instrumental in putting the workshop together, and several MLitt students were also involved.

Our keynote speakers, Professor Maria Hayward of the University of Southampton and Dr Alice Blackwell of National Museums Scotland, both emphasised the importance of considering alternative or overlooked sources. Hayward, discussing the development of military uniforms in seventeenth-century Scotland, found marked differences between the records of Scotland and England, which had previously resulted in a lack of study, but showed that the Scottish evidence was nevertheless rich and varied. *continued on next page*

cont.

Blackwell, discussing the 'Treasure Trove' system of small finds recording and allocation in Scotland, showed how valuable this system could be to researchers, and emphasised the importance of discussion between historians, museum professionals, and archaeologists to further refine both the system itself and our understanding of how extant small finds relate to actual dress accessory use in Scotland. Our other speakers raised similar themes, with several speakers discussing the value of written resources in re-discovering lost textiles and textile use, in documents as varied as personal and building inventories, court cases, and the records of dramatic performance, while others used objects themselves to reconstruct material cultures that have left little or no written documentation. The workshop closed with an object viewing session at the Hunterian Museum at Kelvin Hall, where attendees were able to view both extant medieval objects and some items relating to heritage interpretation at Historic Environment Scotland's public sites. A full summary of the conference presentations may be viewed at <https://dressdecorconference.wordpress.com/2019-summary/>

This event was organised by Dr Morvern French (Historic Environment Scotland), Perin Westerhof Nyman (University of St Andrews), Dr Sally Rush (University of Glasgow) and Dr Sally Tuckett (University of Glasgow). Thank you to all speakers, chairs, and attendees.



Above: Brooch from Viking burial site at Knowe of Moan, Orkney (Hunterian, GLAHM:B.1914.864). Part of the Dress & Décor object session. Photo Credit: The Hunterian



Upcoming Conference:

16th International Conference on Medieval and Renaissance Scottish Literature and Language (ICMRSLL)

University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa, 27-31 July 2020



Above: Moundville Archeological Park. Photo courtesy of the Park website.

Attention all ISHR members! Mark your calendars next year for this international conference in Older Scots Language & Literature. The conference is organised by Tricia A. McElroy, Associate Professor of English and Associate Dean for Humanities and Fine Arts at the University of Alabama, and will be held at the Bryant Conference Center on campus. The conference will feature a series of special events including a morning excursion to Moundville Archeological Park, a flourishing Mississippian community in the 14th century! The Tuscaloosa area contains several areas of natural beauty and historical importance from the 1300s to the present.

Keep an eye out for the official CFP this summer!



Conference Recap: **International Postgraduate Port and Maritime Studies Network (IPPMSN)**



Above: Conference attendees in front of the HMS Discovery. Photo Credit Christin Simons

Who were the wild cats in Maritime History? What role does a pirate's mother play? And why is there a polar bear in my shop? These were only some of the questions raised at the fourth annual conference of the *International Postgraduate Port and Maritime Studies Network (IPPMSN)*. Organized by ISHR member and St Andrews PhD student in Scandinavian Maritime History, Christin Simons, together with Scott Carballo (University of Strathclyde), this event

took place on 24-25 April 2019 at the University of Dundee. It was funded by the Economic History Society and the University of Strathclyde.

The two-day conference started with a guided tour through the HMS Unicorn, and attendees completed their daily sports programme by experiencing the 'carpenter walk'. The conference featured both an international academic audience (ranging from Scotland to Estonia and France) as well as an interdisciplinary one, including an editor of the *Mariners Mirror Journal*, conservators, and museum associates. ISHR student Jack Abernathy, in his paper 'Exiles from the Covenant: Aberdeen, Amsterdam and the Dutch West India Company', explored the outcome of occupation, strict maritime policy, and the burgeoning marine community in Aberdeen in the years of 1639 to 1641. The result was a wave of maritime immigration, with 25 Aberdonian mariners ending up in the Dutch West India Company. As one of the keynote speakers, Professor Steve Murdoch (St Andrews) gave an insight into the importance of Fife ports in the internal maritime setting of the 18th century.

Dundee's rich maritime history was on display in the materials showcased by the University Archives of Dundee and a maritime walk guided by St Andrews PhD student Matthew Yltao. Under his lead the attendees visited several important maritime monuments like the HMS Discovery and the hidden treasure of the Dundee International Submarine Memorial and listened to some poetry by William McGonagall, once designated as the worst poet in British history (I recommend googling 'The Famous Tay Whale poem').

- Christin Simons



Call for Papers:

HIDDEN HISTORIES

Friday 15 November 2019, University of Dundee

The Scottish Records Association is pleased to partner with the Centre for Scottish Culture at the University of Dundee in inviting proposals for papers for its annual conference. This year we are asking researchers and archivists to submit paper proposals related to the use of Scottish archives to uncover stories usually obscured by the records: hidden histories. Speakers from any academic or archival career stage are welcome, and bursaries may be available to support postgraduate students. Individual 20-minute paper proposals, panels of three speakers and pairs of speakers seeking a third panellist are all welcome.

The thrust of the conference remains methodological and archival (we want to know how you found it as well as what you discovered!) and within this we are interested in paper proposals addressing the full range of topics in this area, which might include but are not limited to:

- Diverse histories in Scottish archives (gender, race, sexuality, disability and class are our starting points, but we are open to other areas)
- Silences in the archives – how do we cope with accidental or deliberate archival omissions?
- Catalogues for the 21st century – how can finding aids conceal as well as reveal?
- Reading records against the grain – and getting beyond the voice of the record-creator

DEADLINE: 31 August 2019

Paper proposals and enquiries should be submitted to the conference organiser Dr Amy Blakeway at sraconference2019@gmail.com



Don't forget to submit your news, stories, & images to

Email: ishrmail@st-andrews.ac.uk

Facebook: [Institute of Scottish Historical Research, University of St Andrews](#)

Twitter: [@ISHRStAndrews](#)

Instagram: [@ISHRgram](#)

Website: <http://ishr.wp.st-andrews.ac.uk/>

Newsletter edited by Chelsea Reutcke