

Institute of Scottish Historical Research *Newsletter*



February 2020

Issue 7

Spring Term 2020

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Riches and Reform Book Launch



Roger Mason & Bess Rhodes

On Friday 24 January, there was a reception to celebrate the publication of *Riches and Reform* by Bess Rhodes. After being introduced by Bridget Heal, editor of the St Andrews Studies in Reformation History series, Bess gave a short speech on the journey from her doctoral research to this newest book. For instance, she talked about revisiting familiar sources from a new angle, in this case a financial one. The reception was capped off with a display of manuscripts from the University of St Andrews Library's Special Collections.

The chosen works reflected the scope of Bess's work, including her ongoing contributions to Smart History. Among the manuscripts were the infamous Black Book, containing the Holy Trinity church rental agreements, and a minutebook of the Hammermen's craft. The event was well-attended by friends and scholars from a range of departments, showcasing the impact of Dr Rhodes and her research.

Bess Rhodes, *Riches and Reform: Ecclesiastical Wealth in St Andrews, c.1520-1580*, St Andrews Studies in Reformation History, Volume: 15 (Leiden: Brill, 2020) xiv, 208 pp



Peryn Westerhof Nyman enjoying the special collections display



Upcoming Opportunities

Two Leverhulme-funded studentships

at the Universities of Stirling and Dundee as part of the Leverhulme Trust Research Project Grant for the project “The Scottish Privy Council, 1692 to 1708: Government from Revolution to Union”. These fully funded PhD studentships include both fees and student stipend for three years of PhD study and will commence 8 April 2020.

Closing date **28 February noon**, references by **4 March, 5pm**. Submit your application via email to fahgs@stir.ac.uk. For more info, see [here](#).



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Two Postdoctoral Research Fellowships

on a new AHRC-funded project at the University of Stirling, ‘Books and Borrowing 1750-1830: An Analysis of Scottish Borrowers’ Registers’, are currently being advertised.

Position 1: Fixed Term and Full Time for 3 years from 31 May 2020 to 30 May 2023

Position 2: Fixed Term and Part Time (0.5 FTE) for 1 year from 31 May 2020 to 30 May 2021 (start date by mutual agreement)

Closing date **1 March**. Principal Investigator, Dr Katie Halsey (katherine.halsey@stir.ac.uk). For more information, see [here](#).



Opportunities cont.

Alasdair Ross Prize

The Scottish History Society and History Scotland magazine invite entries for the annual Alasdair Ross Prize, which aims to support postgraduate students and early career researchers undertaking archival research on Scottish history and/or environmental history. The winning applicant(s) will be awarded a sum of up to £500 to assist with expenses incurred during archival visits. Anyone registered for any postgraduate degree at any university; anyone within five years of graduation with a postgraduate qualification.

The deadline for entries is **31 March**. Full details, and the application form, can be found [here](#).

Vallis Virtutis or the Vale of Vertu: The Charterhouse, the Carthusians & the City of Perth

One Day Conference - Saturday 16 May 2020

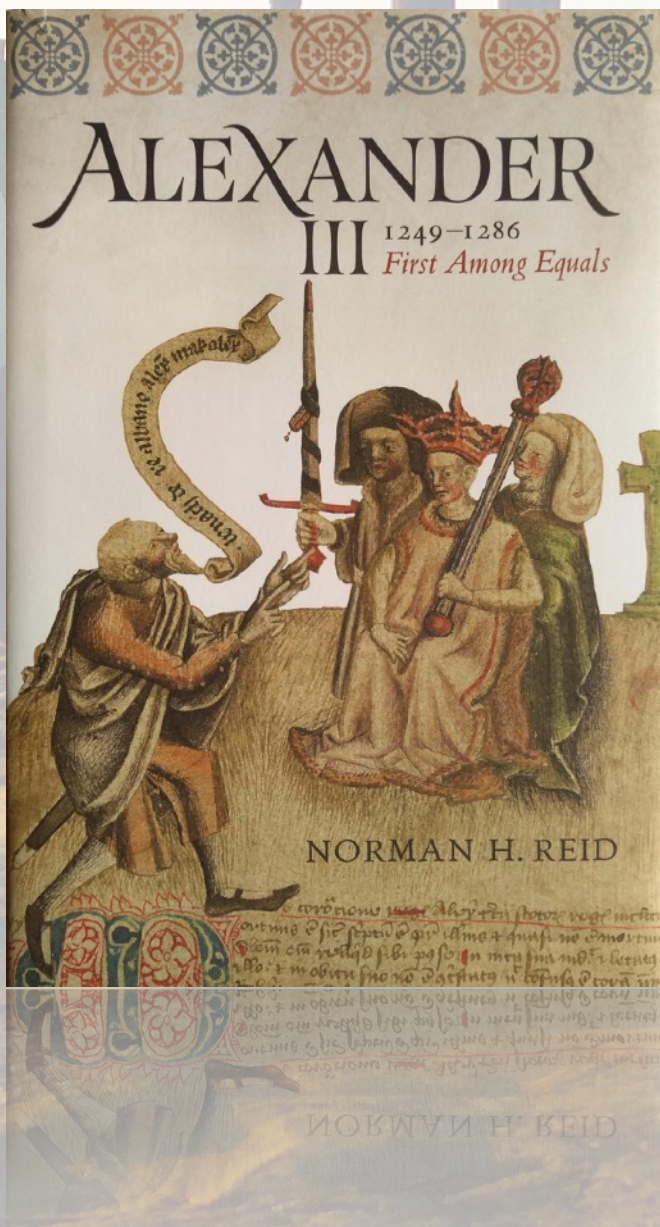
The Perth Charterhouse Project is exploring the central role of the city of Perth as a royal political, economic, cultural and religious centre in later medieval Scotland. The project team, led by Prof Richard Oram, University of Stirling, and with the kind support of Culture Perth and Kinross are organising a one-day conference, which will be open to the public, to explore what is known so far about Perth's Charterhouse. This conference will include discussions of the foundation's connections to the Stewart monarchy, its role in Perth society and memory, its connections to the motherhouse at Mount Grace, its place in the Carthusian order in the British Isles and much more.

Lucy Dean (Highlands and Islands) and Richard Oram invite scholars, particularly early career scholars and postgraduate students, who wish to contribute to this event by offering a 20-minute paper to contact Lucy Dean on lucy.Dean@uhi.ac.uk with a title, abstract of 150-250 words, and a short (1-2 page) academic CV by **Friday 28 February 2020**.



PRIZES:

Saltire Society Best History Book of the Year, 2019



Congratulations to Norman Reid, whose book *Alexander III*, won the Saltire Society's annual award for Best History Book of the Year. This honor, supported by the Scottish Historical Review Trust, was presented at their Literary Awards ceremony held on St Andrews night at the National Museum in Edinburgh.



Special Collections Appreciation



Margaret Connolly took MLitt and PhD students from the School of English to see 16th- and 17th-century printed books at the Carnegie Libraries and Galleries in Dunfermline on 6 November 2019. Dunfermline's little-known collection, much of which was gifted by the industrialist and antiquarian George Reid, includes some important early modern Scottish books such as the Bassandyne Bible, the first bible printed in Scotland. The Local Studies Officer Sara Ann Kelly was very accommodating and would welcome visits from other groups; she is contactable at sara.kelly@onfife.com.

Link to write-up about the visit on School of English webpage with pictures: <https://www.st-andrews.ac.uk/english/news/title-71537-en.php>



New Exhibition on Medieval St Andrews

This summer will see a major exhibition on medieval St Andrews at the university's newly reopened Wardlaw Museum. With items loaned from across the UK, the exhibition highlights the importance of St Andrews in the centuries before the Reformation – a period when it was regarded as ‘the lady and mistress of the whole kingdom’. The splendour of the medieval burgh is recaptured through surviving objects (including sculptures, jewellery, ceramics, and manuscripts), and digital reconstructions of historic sites. Several objects will be on loan from collaborating partners. The exhibition is rooted in recent research undertaken within the Institute for Scottish Historical Research (in particular Michael Brown and Katie Stevenson’s *Medieval St Andrews* and Bess Rhodes’ *Riches and Reform*). The exhibition runs from June to late September and will be accompanied by a series of public lectures and community events.



Digital recreation of St Salvator's Chapel
Image courtesy of Open Virtual Worlds



The Scottish History Society Presidential Lecture and AGM 2020

**Saturday 7 March
10:40 – 15:30**

The Scottish History Society is delighted to host its 2019-20 Annual General Meeting and Presidential Lecture. The day will start with presentations from editors and the winner of the Alasdair Ross Prize. Lunch and the AGM will follow. We will finish with the second Presidential Lecture of Dr Catriona M. M. Macdonald, beginning at 2pm.

SCHEDULE:

10.40 Doors open

11.00 Welcome

11.10 Talk by Dr Rebecca Mason on 'With Her Consent? Married Women, Property and Law in Early Modern Scotland'

11.30 Talk by Ciaran Jones on 'An Account of a Confession of Raising the Devil at Irvine on 10 February 1682'

11.50 Talk by Dr Martha McGill on 'Angels, Ghosts and Journeys to the Afterlife: The "very rare and memorable" Stories of James Cowan (1707-10)'

12.10 Presentation of the Rosebery Prize

12.15 Annual General Meeting

13.00 Lunch (in the McMillan Room, Old Medical School)

14.00 Presidential Lecture by Dr Catriona M. M. Macdonald on 'Presidents and Precedents II: The Politicians: Rosebery, Buchan and Johnston'

Attendance is free, but [advance registration](#) is requested to help with numbers for catering.

Meadows Lecture Theatre
Old Medical School, Teviot Place
University of Edinburgh
Edinburgh EH8 9AG



Events:

Annual ISHR Reading Weekend

The annual and ever popular ISHR Reading Weekend will be held at the Burn, Edzell, 10th-12th April. Speakers are in the process of being finalised and more details should be reaching email inboxes as this newsletter goes to press

- Daniel Leaver, ISHR intern & Burn organizer



Abbotsford Book of Deeds

Margaret Connolly will be speaking at the Edinburgh Sir Walter Scott Club on Thursday 5 March 2020, 7pm. The title of her talk is: 'A very curious collection: the Abbotsford Book of Deeds'.

Tickets £15 each (including wine and canapés)
Advance pre-booking preferred but for last minute tickets call the Treasurer.



Photo courtesy of Margaret Connolly

Sixth Annual John Durkan Memorial Lecture

Presented by the Centre for Scottish and Celtic Studies at the University of Glasgow, on Tuesday 24 March 2020 at 5.30pm, Michael Lynch will speak on 'Revisiting the Scottish Reformation: a search for answers or for the right questions?'. The lecture will be preceded by tea/coffee, available from 5pm, outside the lecture theatre; and followed by a wine reception.

Event is free, but please [register](#) in advance.
Lecture Theatre (Rm 208), Sir Alexander Stone Building
16 University Gardens, University of Glasgow



ISHR Fall 2019 Seminar Dates

5:30pm in the New Seminar Room, St John's House, 71 South St, St Andrews

Semester Two

Thursday 27 February (week 5)

Dr Alex Woolf (University of St Andrews)

Pictoscepticism and the Rise of the House of Alpin

Thursday 12 March (week 7)

Dr Alison Cathcart (University of Stirling)

James VI and I and his empire of islands: the view from the periphery.

Thursday 9 April (week 9)

Karie Schultz (Queens University Belfast)

The reception of Catholic scholastic legal theory in Samuel Rutherford's Lex, Rex (1644)

Thursday 25 April (week 11)

Dr Adrián Maldonado (National Museums Scotland)

Making a nation: an artefactual history of Scotland AD 800-1200

Other Events

Thursday 5 March - 7pm, The Edinburgh Sir Walter Scott Club

Margaret Connolly

'A very curious collection: the Abbotsford Book of Deeds'

Saturday 7 March - 10.40 – 3.30pm, University of Edinburgh

Scottish History Society Presidential Lecture and AGM

Friday 10 - 12 Sunday April - The Burn, Edzell

ISHR Reading Weekend!!

Thursday 30 April - 5.15pm, New Seminar Rm, St John's House

Christopher Langley (Newman)

'Cultures of Care: Rethinking charity in early modern Scotland'

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

Contact Information

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