

Institute of Scottish Historical Research *Newsletter*



University of
St Andrews

May/June 2021

Issue 8

Looking Back & Looking Ahead

SUPER EDITION

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Upcoming Events

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO AN EVENING WITH MALCOLM CANMORE

An online event on Tuesday 8th June 2021 5-6pm



William Brassey Hole, *The Landing of St Margaret at Queensferry AD 1068* (Scottish National Portrait Gallery, 1899)

To mark the publication of *Máel Coluim III 'Canmore'* by Neil McGuigan, the first full study of this pivotal king and his reign (published by Birlinn on 3rd June) the Institute of Scottish Historical Research (University of St Andrews) is holding a discussion of Malcolm's life, reign and afterlife between Neil McGuigan (University of St Andrews), Dauvit Broun (University of Glasgow), and Alex Woolf (University of St Andrews).

To join the event please paste the following link into your browser:

<https://bit.ly/30oKAvA>

The legendary Scottish king Máel Coluim III, also known as 'Malcolm Canmore', is often held to epitomise Scotland's 'ancient Gaelic kings'. But Máel Coluim and his dynasty were in fact newcomers, and their legitimacy and status were far from secure at the beginning of his rule. Máel

Coluim's long reign from 1058 until 1093 coincided with the Norman Conquest of England, a revolutionary event that presented great opportunities and terrible dangers. Although his interventions in post-Conquest England eventually cost him his life, the book argues that they were crucial to his success as both king and dynasty-builder, creating internal stability and facilitating the takeover of Strathclyde and Lothian. As a result, Máel Coluim left to his successors a territory that stretched far to the south of the kingship's heartland north of the Forth, similar to the Scotland we know today.

The book explores the wider political and cultural world in which Máel Coluim lived, guiding the reader through the pitfalls and possibilities offered by the sources that mediate access to that world. Our reliance on so few texts means that the eleventh century poses problems that historians of later eras can avoid. Nevertheless Scotland in Máel Coluim's time generated unprecedented levels of attention abroad and more vernacular literary output than at any time prior to the Stewart era

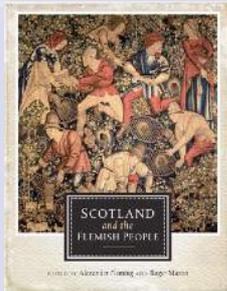


NEIL MCGUIGAN



Scotland and the Flemish People Project

The research project developed under ISHR's umbrella on Scotland's relations with the Low Countries in the middle ages led to the publication of a multi-authored and widely admired book edited by Alexander Fleming and Roger Mason *Scotland and the Flemish People* published by Birlinn Ltd of Edinburgh and a great buy at £20!



[Scotland and the Flemish People | Birlinn Ltd - Independent Scottish Publisher - buy books online](#)

This book examines the nature of Flemish settlement in Scotland, the development of economic, diplomatic and cultural links between Scotland and Flanders, and the lasting impact of the Flemish people on Scottish society and culture.

The book also inspired the well-known Scottish writer and broadcaster Billy Kay to produce a two-part series for BBC Radio Scotland. Tune in on **31 May and 1 June at 1.30pm** to hear many past and present ISHR voices as well as a range of experts besides.



[BBC Radio Scotland - Scotland and the Low Countries, Will Ye Go tae Flanders?](#)

Billy Kay explores the historic links between Scotland and Flanders and celebrates its cultural legacy in Scottish society.



Opportunities

AHRC Studentship - The Elect and the Damned: The Material Culture of Belief in Post-Reformation Scotland, 1560 to 1750

The University of Edinburgh and National Museums Scotland are pleased to announce the availability of a fully funded Collaborative Doctoral Partnership (CDP) studentship from September 2021 under the AHRC's Collaborative Doctoral Partnership Scheme.

'The Elect and the Damned' examines the material culture of religious belief in post-Reformation Scotland, from c.1560 to c.1750.

Deadline: 4 June

https://www.eca.ed.ac.uk/scholarship/ahrc-collaborative-phd-studentship-elect-and-damned-material-culture-belief-post?utm_source=Jobs.ac.uk&utm_medium=listing&utm_campaign=ECA-PhDs-April-2021&utm_content=HistoryofArt

Administrative/Editorial Assistant

The Association for Scottish Literary Studies (ASLS) is seeking to appoint an assistant to undertake general office and editorial duties in support of the work of the Association. The successful candidate will be expected to engage in tasks that include updating subscription databases, preparing mailing lists, assisting conference organisation, and website maintenance and social media. There will also be opportunities to carry out proofreading, copy-editing, and other editorial tasks for the Association's publications. The work is normally based in our office in Glasgow, but in the first instance it is likely that the successful candidate will be required to work remotely from home.

Deadline: 14 June 2021

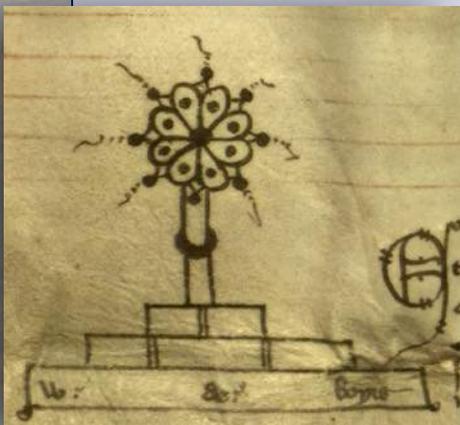
<https://www.jobs.ac.uk/job/CGH798/administrative-editorial-assistant>



Exciting Research!

Database of Scottish notaries

Margaret Connolly and Rachel Hart received a **grant from the Geoffrey Barrow Fund** in late 2019 to begin work on a pilot project on early Scottish notaries. The ultimate aim is to create a freely accessible online searchable database of medieval and early modern Scottish notaries. This will contain images of their notarial marks and samples of the documents they wrote, accompanied by biographical profiles and maps showing the geographical range of their operation. The Barrow award will fund the development of a prototype using images from St Andrews Special Collections. Unfortunately the arrival of Covid has so far frustrated attempts to get this project off the ground, and it has not been possible to acquire images of the documents because of the prioritising of digitisation requests for teaching. Nevertheless Margaret and Rachel spoke about the aims of the project at the 64th Conference of the Scottish Medievalists on 9 January 2021 (via zoom), where there was much interest in the project. They have also been invited to speak at the Scottish Legal History Group's annual day conference in October 2021 when hopefully it will be possible to report some progress!



Notarial mark



Medieval & Early Modern St Andrews



Photo Credit: Open Virtual Worlds

Despite the disruptions of the past year, efforts to research St Andrews' medieval and early modern past continue. In December 2020 a new reconstruction showing Market Street as it may have appeared in the sixteenth century was released by the University's Open Virtual Worlds team. The representation was inspired by the Geddy Map (of about 1580) and rooted in research into property records undertaken by Dr Bess Rhodes, Dr Perin Westerhof Nyman, and Dr Chelsea Reutcke. A brief video of the project can be seen at: <https://vimeo.com/488090403>

The University Special Collections' extensive property and administrative records also provided the basis for recent work on the Regality of St Andrews at the end of the Middle Ages (presented by Bess Rhodes at a workshop in Mainz just before the first lockdown, and at the virtual Scottish Legal History Group during the autumn). Regalities, that is areas where most of the legal rights normally held by the crown were delegated to another organisation or individual, received a bad press from many nineteenth and early twentieth century scholars. Yet findings from St Andrews suggests that they could function effectively, providing local and accessible justice.

Cont. on next page



Medieval & Early Modern St Andrews cont.

St Andrews' extraordinary religious history continues to be explored – not least as part of the Sacred Landscape project, an interdisciplinary effort (led by the School of Divinity) to research the Christian heritage of coastal Fife from the early Middle Ages until the present. This ongoing project is revealing the vast impact of religious activity on the buildings and environment of Fife, including many sites which are facing changes. The complex history of Fife's religious heritage was a theme also touched on in Bess Rhodes' recent lecture 'Ruined Magnificence: St Andrews Cathedral after the Reformation', which was virtually presented to Abertay Historical Society and can be viewed online at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TN_qPeWnULM

Enthusiasts for St Andrews' history will be excited to discover that Michael Brown and Katie Stevenson's *Medieval St Andrews: Church, Cult, City* is now being released in paperback. This groundbreaking volume provides the first modern overview of the medieval burgh of St Andrews and its multi-faceted role in Scottish history. The power, the glory, and the problems of medieval St Andrews will also be explored in an upcoming exhibition at the University's Wardlaw Museum, now due to open in 2022 – assuming that no further lockdowns afflict the United Kingdom.

If the pandemic does wreak further havoc, perhaps we can reflect that lockdown restrictions are unlikely to get as punitive as they were during 1529 and 1530. That winter the plague was 'richt vehement' in St Andrews, and the authorities in Edinburgh forbade contact with 'ony maner of persone duelland beyond the watter of Forthe' under pain of death. A reminder of the relative moderation of modern governments!

- Bess Rhodes



Photo Credit: Open Virtual Worlds



There are a number of confirmed papers that may be of interest to the ISHR community, including a paper on the masculinization of early 19th century Scottish periodicals.

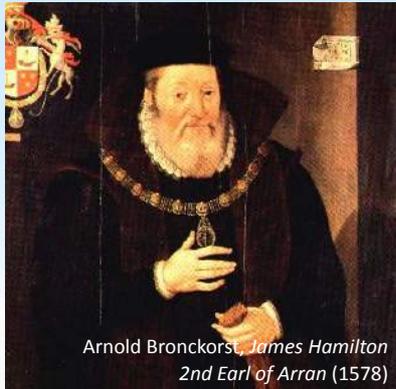
Gender has always played a role in the history of the book. Whether explicitly acknowledged or implicitly assumed, considerations of gender have shaped the printed book and its subsequent study. Important research has drawn attention to women's work in the manuscript and printed book trades across and beyond Europe. Work that tackles questions of masculinity and the book trades, meanwhile, remains conspicuously scarce, even as male subjects remain the default for many bibliographers.

This conference seeks to discuss possible frameworks for analysing the critical relationship between gender and book history while confronting the binaries that have structured the historiography. It will bring together academics, librarians, archivists and antiquarian booksellers working across periods to build a more inclusive bibliography and explore new directions in the study of gender and the history of the book.

Online registration will open on 5 May, and will be announced on social media and linked at www.ustc.ac.uk/conference. It will be **free of charge** and available to all. The conference will take place from **16-19 June 2021**, in a fully virtual format.

Provisional draft papers will be circulated to participants three weeks before the conference. In panels, each speaker will have the opportunity to give a 10-minute discursive introduction, on the assumption that everyone present will have read the pre-circulated version. Time will be given both for the other panelists to respond to their paper in roundtable form, and for questions from the general audience.

For any questions please feel free to contact Elise Watson (egw2@st-andrews.ac.uk), Jessica Farrell-Jobst (jjfj@st-andrews.ac.uk) or Nora Epstein (njne@st-andrews.ac.uk).

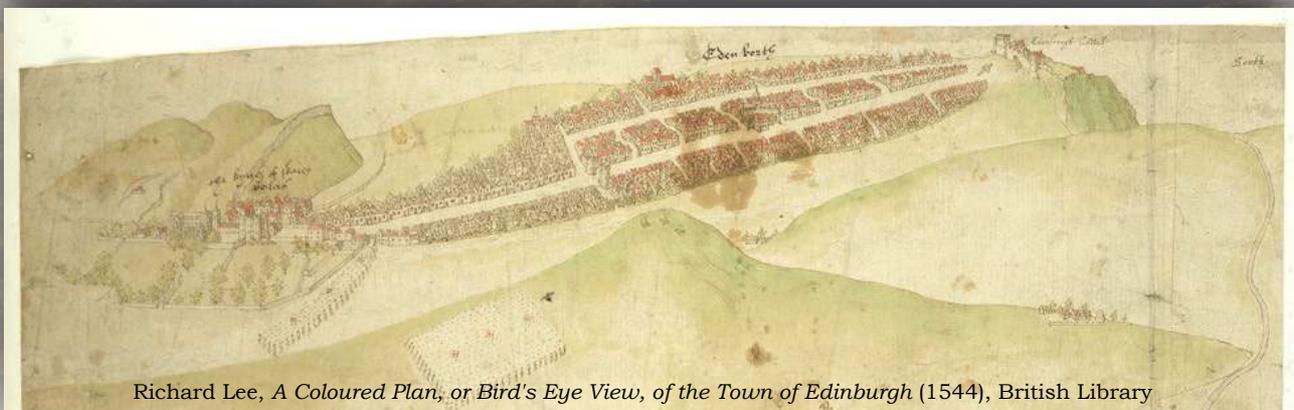


Arnold Bronckorst, *James Hamilton*
2nd Earl of Arran (1578)

'Flodden Gap' Workshop & Conference

Despite a flourishing field of scholarship on early sixteenth-century court culture, Scotland's government in the period between Flodden and the Reformation Rebellion remains chronically under-studied. This scholarly omission is not only surprising in view of the excellent sources for the time, but has skewed discussions of governmental development and change to the post-reformation period, problematically conflating Protestantism and Early Modernity, as well as structurally discouraging cross-period scholarly dialogue.

In an effort to encourage such cross-period late medieval and early modern scrutiny of Scottish crown bureaucracy and governance during the 'Flodden gap', over the **2021-22 academic year Amy Blakeway and Michael Brown will be organising a small workshop (1st September 2021) followed by a larger conference (at some point in 2022)** to approach the period through pre-Flodden and post-Reformation perspectives as well as building on emergent scholarship exploring this period on its own terms.



Richard Lee, *A Coloured Plan, or Bird's Eye View, of the Town of Edinburgh* (1544), British Library

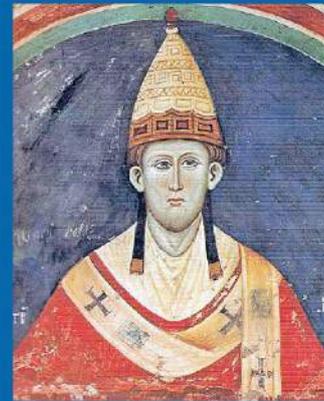


'The Papacy and the Periphery, c.1050-c.1300'

University of St Andrews (ONLINE),
21st-23rd October 2021

In association with the University of Glasgow

Call for Papers



University of
St Andrews



University
of Glasgow

Despite their peripheral location, Christendom's frontier kingdoms and outer-regions were arguably far from peripheral in importance. These peripheral kingdoms acted as a counter-balance to those powers located at the core of Christendom and they were fundamental to the papacy's conception of Europe and its hierarchy. By considering the periphery we can appreciate 'reform' in a more nuanced manner, comprehending the papacy's approach in different geographical locations. It is the intention of this conference to bring together PhDs, ECRs, and academics working on the papacy and the periphery across Europe from the eleventh to the end of the thirteenth century, to increase dialogue and exchange, in order to help better understand the centrality of the periphery for the papacy.

We invite papers on all topics relating to the papacy and the periphery, with particular regions of interest being: England, Scotland, Ireland, Scandinavia, eastern Europe, the Levant, and Iberia. Consideration of one or comparison between different regions are equally valid approaches. We also invite papers from those who may wish to address the periphery theme from a non-geographic perspective, for instance focusing on peripheral groups of people.

Keynotes:

Anne Duggan (KCL): 'Sicut ex litteris vestris accepimus...Papal rescripta and responsa: the links that bound the regions to the papal centre'

Kriston Rennie (UNBC): "'Building up the Body of Christ": Consolidating Papal Authority in the Eleventh Century'

Rebecca Rist (Reading): 'The Papacy and its Relationship to Religious Minority Groups (Jews, Muslims and Heretics) in the High Middle Ages'

Mark Philpott (Oxford): 'Problematising Peripheries: Some Canterbury Perspectives'

Expressions of interest should be sent to Callum Jamieson c.jamieson.1@research.gla.ac.uk by 5pm on Friday **30th July 2021** with a short abstract of **250 Words** for a paper of **20 minutes** in length.



ROYAL STUDIES NETWORK

Registration
open until
18 June

10th Anniversary Conference

Royal Patronage: Material Culture, Built Heritage & the Reach of the Crown

Perth College, University of the Highlands and Islands Perth, Scotland

29 June - 2 July 2021

This conference seeks to engage with patronage in the widest sense of the word, with a particular focus upon material culture and built heritage. The spaces and objects of monarchies throughout history provide more than the backdrops and props for human activities. Rather the built environment and material culture of royalty had/ have the agency to shape political, social, and cultural events, and some even played a part in the transformation of men and women into kings and queens. Monarchies and rulers throughout the world and across the centuries have sought to invest in patronising the creation of the material trappings of royalty and authority, as well as furnishing themselves with courtly entourages of musicians, artists, poets, scientists, and alchemists, to name just a few. This conference will bring together scholars and practitioners from across a range of disciplines to explore the multi-faceted idea of patronage.

The Centre for History at the University of the Highlands and Islands is kindly hosting this online conference on behalf of the Royal Studies Network. With our heritage partners at Historic Environment Scotland and Culture Perth and Kinross, we will be adding a Scottish flavour to our online proceedings and including many local features and events for you to enjoy. While we are sad not to meet you all in person, we are greatly looking forward to hosting this event and welcoming you 'virtually' to Scotland!

<https://www.royalstudiesnetwork.org/registration>



Awards

Scottish Records Association Tunnock Prize

Congratulations to Heather Curtis (hbc) for winning the Scottish Records Association Tunnock Prize in 2020 for a study of pre-Reformation St Andrews. Heather's entry, "Transactiones pro animabus: rent charges and the economics of salvation in late mediaeval St Andrews", was based around ms37752, a pittance writ from 1481, and developed work that she had done for a palaeography assignment on ME5106 whilst she was an MLitt student in 2019-20. Heather is now a doctoral student supervised by Ana del Campo.

The deadline for this year's competition is 1 September 2021; for details see <https://www.scottishrecordsassociation.org/the-tunnock-prize>



ms37752

2020 Ross Roy Medal

Last year, Paul Malgrati received the Ross Roy Medal for his thesis, 'Robert Burns in Scottish Politics (1914-2014)'. The award is granted to 'the best thesis submitted on a subject relating to Scottish literature'. It is the first time this prestigious award has been granted to a PhD candidate from the School of English.

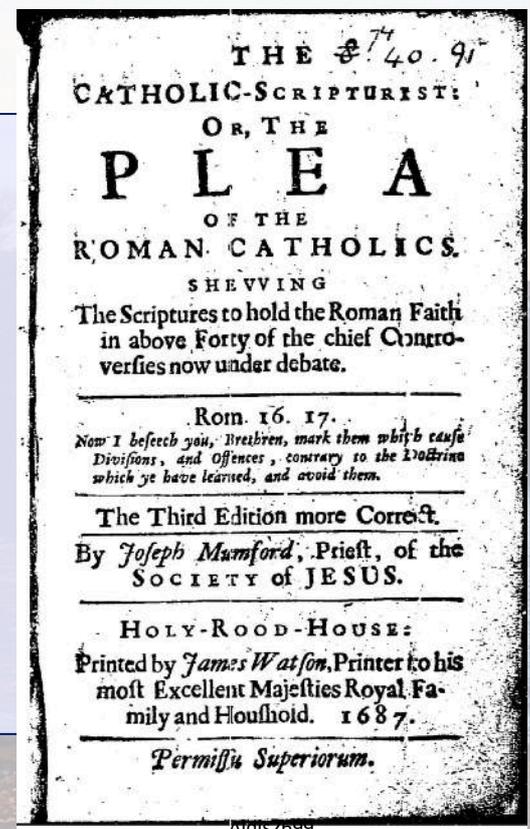


Paul Mellon Centre Research Support Grant

In November 2020, PhD student Nora Epstein was awarded a Research Support Grant from Yale's Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art. The grant is to support the research costs for her thesis 'Visual Commonplacing: The Transmission and Reception of Printed Religious Images in Reformed England', supervised by Prof Bridget Heal and Prof Andrew Pettegree.

SCHA & CRS Early Career and Independent Researcher Fund

In April 2021, Chelsea Reutcke was awarded a grant from the *Scottish Catholic Historical Association* to carry out research for an article on the Catholic press activities taking place at Holyroodhouse Palace between 1685 and 1688. In October 2020, she also received a grant for this work from the *Catholic Record Society*. The project aims to look at Holyrood's 'household printers', their output, and the relationship of the press to both Scotland and to James VII & II's three-kingdom print strategy.



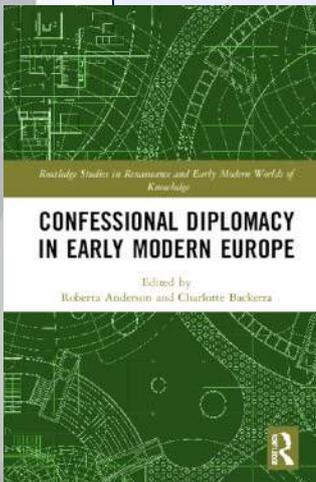
2021 Burnby Bursary

Emily Betz is a PhD student at the University of St Andrews. Her research focuses on early modern British medicine, particularly conceptualizations of mental illness and identity in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Her paper 'Francis Bernard: A Seventeenth-Century Apothecary and Physician' was awarded the 2021 Burnby Bursary from the British Society of the History of Pharmacy.



Publications

In the past year, **Steve Murdoch** has been a publishing machine, including a chapter in *Confessional Diplomacy in Early Modern Europe* published in 2020 as part of the Routledge Studies in Renaissance and Early Modern Worlds of Knowledge. His chapter, '**Scottish Calvinists and Swedish diplomacy, 1593-1632: the case of Sir James Spens of Wormiston**', focusses on the subject of confessional diplomacy and espionage, and in particular the role of Scottish Calvinists in the diplomatic corps of Lutheran Sweden. Swedish and Finnish histories often state that it was illegal to be a Calvinist in Sweden after the 1593 Uppsala 'Statement of Faith' (Uppsala Môte). The present chapter re-evaluates the myth surrounding this famous document through close textual analysis of surviving copies. Building on this opening section, the chapter uses the case study of Sir James Spens of Wormiston to conclusively demonstrate that not only was it acceptable for a Calvinist to continue in their confession in Lutheran Sweden, but that many such individuals were cultivated and valued in their employment to the Swedish Vasa monarchy. As a successful general, spymaster and ambassador, his service opened the way for other Calvinists from Scotland and the Netherlands to work for the expanding Swedish empire in the early modern period.



<https://www.routledge.com/Confessional-Diplomacy-in-Early-Modern-Europe/Anderson-Backerra/p/book/9780367532260>

His additional publications include:

'[Margaret Forratt \(d.1653\)](#)', *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*. Co-authored with Kathrin Zickermann

'[Martha Stuart \(1590-1670\)](#)', *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*. Co-authored with Kathrin Zickermann

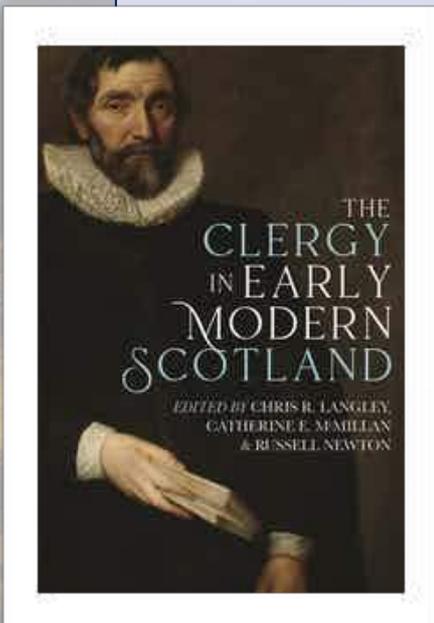
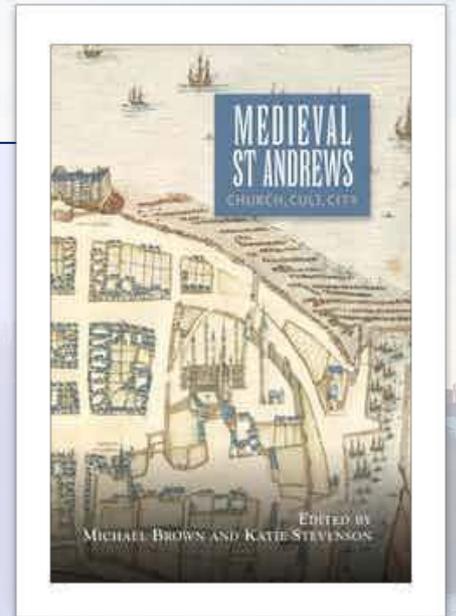
Keep an eye out for his chapter on the Scots in the French Army during the Thirty Years' War finally coming out in May 2021 after publishing delays due to Covid.



St Andrews Studies in Scottish History

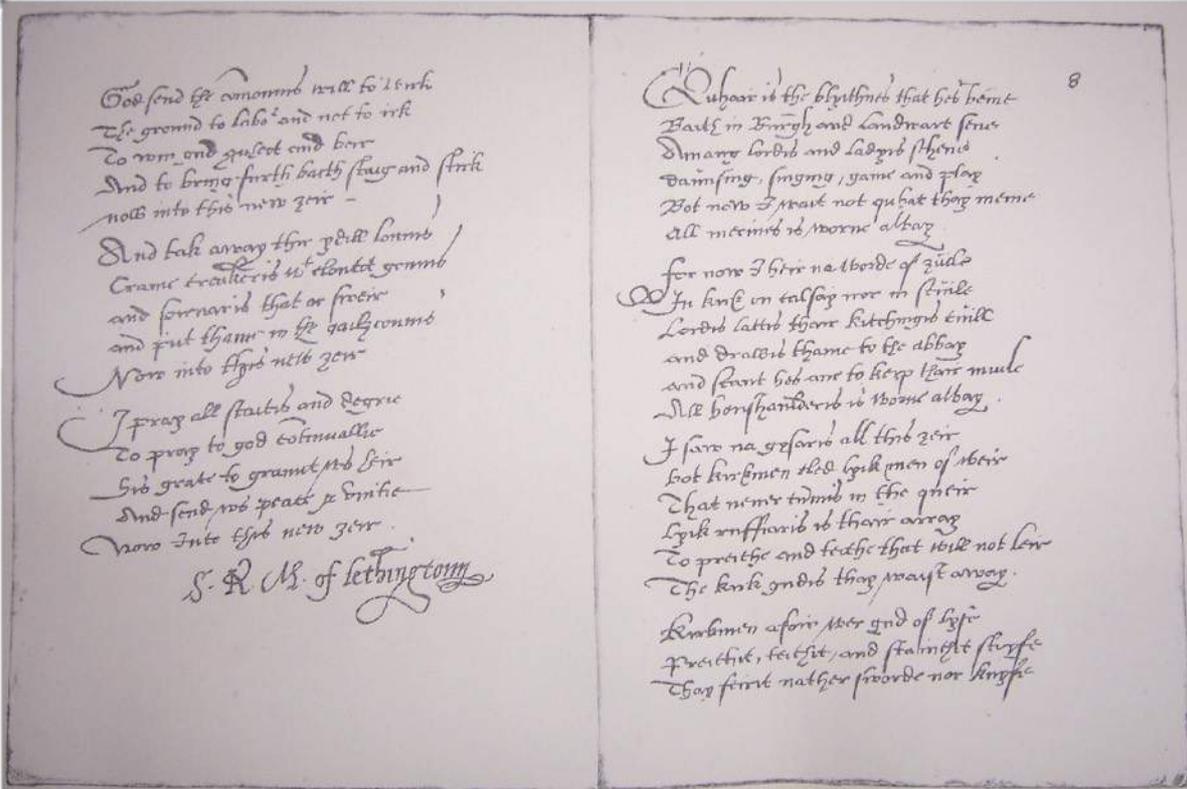
The Institute's book series, published by Boydell & Brewer, is going from strength to strength with lots of goodies in the pipeline.

Meanwhile, don't miss out on the recently published paperback edition of *Medieval St Andrews* edited by our own Michael Brown and Katie Stevenson and featuring a stellar cast of contributors - a snip at £25: [Medieval St Andrews \(boydellandbrewer.com\)](https://www.boydellandbrewer.com)



You can also pre-order *The Clergy in Early Modern Scotland*, a must for all Reformationists, featuring a range of innovative perspectives on early modern ministers and their families: [The Clergy in Early Modern Scotland \(boydellandbrewer.com\)](https://www.boydellandbrewer.com)

The full book series can be found at <https://ishr.wp.st-andrews.ac.uk/st-andrews-studies-in-scottish-history-sassh/>



Maitland Quarto Manuscript

Check out ISHR alum **Ashley Douglas's** (MLitt, 2016) essay on a sixteenth-century lesbian poem composed in Scots. It is one of the earliest examples in Europe of this type in any language. Her essay is featured on the NLS Wee Windaes website and is written in Scots!

<https://wee-windaes.nls.uk/the-maitland-quarto-and-poem-49/>



Congratulations to all the ISHR PhD students who have graduated or submitted this past year!!!

In 2020, Alastair Ayton completed his PhD, 'Politics, policy and power : the Marcher lords and the English crown in the March of Wales, 1254-1272', supervised by Michael Brown. His thesis is a study of Marcher lords between 1254 and 1272. It assesses the extent to which their territorial concerns determined their contribution to events within the March and England during a period of widespread volatility. The main aim here is to highlight the increased and evolving role of the crown in the March in the late Thirteenth Century, and to demonstrate the extent to which developments in the March were interwoven with events in England. Overall, this thesis contributes to studies concerned with borderlands. It does this because of the understanding that in studying a society's peripheries alongside its centre, the outer fringes of its border zones alongside its localities, a better understanding of that society is achieved.

- Alastair Ayton

Paul Malgrati's thesis, supervised by Prof Colin Kidd and Prof Robert Crawford, explores the contested legacy of Robert Burns, from Great War jingoism to interwar modernism, 1940s socialism, and contemporary nationalism. It contends that Burns's memory, once channelled by Victorian elites in support of British unity and social stability, has now come to embody Scotland's class and constitutional conflicts. This thesis, entitled 'Robert Burns in Scottish Politics (1914-2014)', was awarded the 2020 Ross Roy Medal for 'the best thesis submitted on a subject relating to Scottish literature'. Since finishing his PhD earlier this year, Dr Malgrati has joined the Centre for Robert Burns Studies at the University of Glasgow, where he now works as a post-doctoral research assistant researching the history and present developments of Burns Suppers in Scotland and across the world.

- Paul Malgrati



In July 2020, Morag Allan Campbell graduated with her PhD in Modern History in the first of the virtual graduations. Her research explores the history of women in medicine and healthcare in Britain during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Her thesis, 'This distressing malady': Childbirth and mental illness in Scotland 1820 – 1930', was supervised by Prof Aileen Fyfe and Dr Sarah Easterby-Smith and supported by the Strathmartine Trust. It examined medical, family and community narratives, and the care and treatment of women suffering from mental illness associated with pregnancy and childbirth, looking more specifically at the experiences of women in Dundee, Fife and Forfarshire between 1820 and 1930. In 2017, she curated the exhibition, 'Face to Face: Stories from the Asylum' at the University of Dundee. She is now serving as an editorial assistant for the *Journal of Social Policy* at the University of Edinburgh.

- Morag Allan Campbell

Chelsea Reutcke completed her PhD in Reformation Studies this past fall, graduating in December 2020. Her thesis, supervised by Dr Jacqueline Rose, explored the Catholic print networks of the Restoration, 1660-1688. Combining religious and book history techniques, she looked at how commercial, familial, confessional, and spatial relationships overlapped and worked together to enable the open secret of the illicit Catholic trade. Despite focusing on the English book trade, Chelsea has been a warmly welcomed member of ISHR since her MLitt in Early Modern History (2014), and served as its student intern in 2017 to 2018. For the past few years, she has also worked on the LASH-BASH project within ISHR, checking entries for the Bibliography of British and Irish History. You might also catch her at Open Virtual World's 'Heritage at Home' events, alongside fellow alums, Bess Rhodes and Perin Westerhof Nyman. With help from two grants, she is currently working on an article on the Catholic Holyroodhouse Press of 1685 to 1688, expanding upon initial findings from her thesis.

- Chelsea Reutcke

Joseph Wagner graduated with his PhD, supervised by Prof Steve Murdoch, in 2020. His thesis – 'Scottish Colonisation Before Darien: Opportunities and Opposition in the Union of the Crowns' – focuses on Scottish colonisation in the seventeenth century. This includes Scottish involvement in English colonial ventures as well as attempts to found Scottish colonies. One of the aims is to update, revise, and expand upon George Pratt Insh's seminal book on this topic, his 1922 *Scottish Colonial Schemes, 1620-1686*. Scoto-English relations and the role of royal patronage and policy are interrogated throughout the thesis, as are questions relating to identity, sovereignty, jurisdiction, and state-formation in seventeenth-century Britain. He has a number of peer-review articles either published or at the press, including 'John Browne's Transatlantic Enterprise: Scottish Sugar Manufacturing, Caribbean Commerce, and the Colonisation of St Vincent in the 1660s', accepted by the *Scottish Historical Review*.

- Joseph Wagner



Perin Westerhof Nyman started her PhD in medieval history in 2016, and will graduate this summer. Her thesis, supervised by Prof. Michael Brown and Dr Katie Stevenson, is entitled 'Livery and Dule: Dressing Life and Death in the Late Medieval Scottish Royal Household', and considers the meaningful use of both everyday and ceremonial dress in the Scottish royal household and court from the early fourteenth century up to 1543. She is currently editing a special issue of the Scottish Historical Review with fellow ISHR alum Dr Morvern French, focusing on dress and décor in Scotland up to 1700. This follows on from the 2018 'Dress and Décor' conference, which was sponsored by ISHR at the University of St Andrews. Perin is also currently involved with Open Virtual Worlds/Smart History in the School of Computer Science, where she is working to create accurate historical characters that users can interact with in digital reconstructions of Scottish historic sites. She is looking forward to being allowed to visit those historic sites again soon!

- Perin Westerhof Nyman

After a challenging final PhD year of limited access to archives and libraries, Christin Simons submitted her PhD thesis in January 2021 with the title "The Law is open on both sides." The contrasting British and Swedish interpretations of the Law of Nations and its impact on the role of perceptions and reputations in the East India trade of the 1730s-1740s.' Her thesis focuses on the legal strategies of the Swedish East India Company (SOIC) and the special role of the Scot Colin Campbell (1686-1757) as a director of the SOIC, and how his knowledge of British law was a key component of Swedish success in the East India trade. Condemned as an 'interloper' by British legislation, his presence, viewed as hostile by other British subjects, naturally generated a response from Great Britain and the Honourable East India Company (EIC). The conflict culminated in the so-called Porto Novo affair of 1733, in which a 600-strong Franco-British force attacked the Swedish warehouse in the neutral town of Porto Novo on the Coromandel Coast. The ensuing eight-year-long lawsuit demonstrates the struggle between British exceptionalism and Swedish sovereignty, leading to the question: who owns the sea?

- Christin Simons

**Congratulations as well to the
Scottish History MLitts:**

Tom Fairfax & Jim Reilly



ISHR in the Public

Jonathan Gibson, Mastermind Champion (and new record setter), on his win

When I first filled in the ‘Mastermind’ application form – in that unimaginably distant epoch pre-Lockdown – my expectations extended no further than the avoidance of embarrassment. I had been a compulsive viewer of the show for at least fifteen years, and for about a year I had been holding my own against some of the best in the country on the wider UK quizzing circuit (yes, such a thing does exist, although the First Rule of Quiz Club prevents me from talking about it). However, the experience of ‘Mastermind’ proved, in every way, to be more than I’d bargained for. More in terms of the sheer amount of work it required – particularly in trying to learn every conceivable fact about three specialist subjects, all three of which, I’m surprised and delighted to say, remain as interesting to me now as they were before I started digesting them into thousands of flashcards. More in terms of the emotional extremes of the studio: from the near-paralysing anxiety of waiting for your name to be called – as you frantically rummage through your ‘mind palace’, trying to remember every single fact that you’ve ever known – to the euphoric clarity and relief when (thankfully!) you hit a run of correct answers and feel yourself gathering momentum. So much more in terms of the incredible response to the broadcasts from family, friends, colleagues, strangers, and the occasional minor-league celebrity on Twitter – in such an isolating year, the random messages of support and congratulation from so many friends old and new have been perhaps the most enjoyable part of the whole experience. And, obviously, to be able to look up as I write this and see the Mastermind trophy sitting on top of my chest of drawers is more than even the five-year-old Jonathan, who first fell in love with shouting answers at the telly, could have pictured in his wildest dreams. It took a lot of work, as well as a fair bit of luck, but I wouldn’t trade any part of the experience for the world.





ISHR in *History Scotland*

Well done, **Tom Fairfax** (MLitt 2020), who had an article published in the March/April 2021 edition of *History Scotland*: ‘Karl Hudson - Scotland’s Viking King?’. In it, Tom considers the issues with using sagas as historical sources.



Tom Fairfax’s article, Mar/Apr 2021



Cover of *History Scotland*, Mar/Apr 2020 issue

Steve Murdoch had two articles appear in *History Scotland* in 2020 addressing different aspects of the Thirty Years’ War:

‘Providing for widows and orphans is pleasing to Almighty God’: Scottish Widows of the Thirty Years’ War (1618-1648) (May/June 2020, pp. 29-32)

‘It started off in Fife, it ended up in tears’: Scotland and the Thirty Years’ War (Mar/Apr 2020, pp. 24-29)

You can find the digital and print versions of the magazine here: <https://www.historyscotland.com/store/back-issues/history-scotland>



The sound of Scottish history

Historia Mortis: A podcast about life, death, and the rest is history

ISHR alumna, **Kimberly Sherman**, has a new podcast all about the lives and deaths of early Americans. This new series reveals how early Americans dealt with the presence of death and how cultural deathways emerged to produce society's beliefs about death and the afterlife, burial practices, mourning customs, and more.

If you're looking for a good place to start, current PhD student, **Emily Betz**, joins her for the episode 'Hunting Ghosts and Seeing Apparitions'.

<https://historiamortispodcast.com/>



If you're on the lookout for a new podcast as we go into the summer, check out **Amy Blakeway** and **Bess Rhodes** in the BBC Sounds podcast **Time Travels**.

You can hear Bess talk about a 'pivotal moment' for the Scottish Reformation in 'Contraception Clinics and Statue Smashers'. Amy can be heard in 'Burning Questions', discussing the 'darker side' of James V's Renaissance reign. She also appears in 'Port Riots and Dogs' Lives' talking about women in the 'Rough Wooing'. Friend of ISHR, Dr Mikki Brock, can also be heard in 'Bubonic Plagues and Highland Murder'.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/brand/b094d4hl>



In the episode 'Depicting Disability' of the BC Radio 3 podcast **Free Thinking**, PhD student **Jessica Secmezsoy-Urquhart** speaks about depictions of disability in Tudor history.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000p02b>





‘Everything we know on raids of the high seas can be traced to a 1700s book’. So begins an interview of **Steve Murdoch** by The Moon (children’s supplement to the Sun). In the article, Steve explains how *A General History of the Pyrates* from 1725 codified how we think about and describe pirates as well as the relationship between the Jacobite cause and the ‘golden age’ of piracy of 1715-c.1720.

Check out the print article below!

A HISTORY expert says a book written hundreds of years ago has influenced every story ever told about pirates.

Professor Steve Murdoch, who specialises in piracy and privateers, says you can trace just about every novel and movie about swashbuckling at sea back to *A General History of The Pyrates* from 1725.

The book, contains accounts of court cases involving crimes on the high seas and has never been out of print since it was published nearly 300 years ago.

Prof Murdoch, from the University of St Andrews, said: “That book defines the golden

age of pirates, which was from 1715 until the 1720s.

“Some of the Scottish pirates, like John Gow — the worst pirate of them all — made it into the second or third edition.

“That’s where you get Edward Teach, Blackbeard — now he was a pirate.

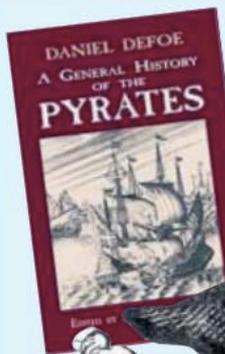
“Everything you see in *Pirates of the Caribbean* or any of these films is all drawn on that book. That’s where it all stems from.”

Prof Murdoch said many of the real lawless pirates operated out of the Caribbean and the East and West Indies. This is because a law changed which forced many

law-abiding sailors into crime. He said: “The golden age is a moment in piracy history when the English government, which became the British government in 1707, introduced laws which made people pirates who maybe had no desire to be pirates.

“They said anyone who was still loyal to King James, operating under authority of him or Louis 14th of France to be at sea were going to be treated as pirates and made them illegal.

“That forced a lot of people who would otherwise have been Jacobite sailors or people who wanted to serve in the



Buckle up ... iconic book on privateers &, below, famous Blackbeard

French Navy, pirates under law. They dispersed to the Caribbean and the Indies.”

It was out of this region one of the worst pirates of them all operated — Blackbeard.

He is thought to have been a privateer — a sailor hired by the Crown to fight on their behalf — before turning to crime. He became a

renowned pirate, capturing ships, and his nickname came from his thick, black beard.

Meanwhile, Gow, who was raised in Orkney, plotted the successful mutiny of a ship he was worked on as first mate and led his crew on a thieving spree off Europe.

Prof Murdoch said another of the renowned pirates to feature in the book, Edward England,

came face-to-face with Ayrshire-born James Macrae — who managed to evade a grisly end.

He said: “Macrae went in alone to take on three pirate ships as his ship was blown to pieces and the other ships with him ran away.

“He ended up in the jungle for three days and the pirates, led by Edward England, were waiting for him on the beach.

“He basically says ‘give me the wreck of one of your ships and I’ll take a third of the cargo and let you be on your way’. He was in no position to make this bargain. But some of the pirate crew recognised him.”

Because of his amazing efforts facing a renowned pirate, Macrae was then fitted out as a privateer with the East India company.

And the professor said it all goes back to that one book.

The book was published under the name Captain Charles Johnson, but was later thought to have actually been written by the author Daniel Defoe, who wrote *Robinson Crusoe*.





ISHR Summer/Fall Dates

31 May & 1 June

Billy Kay

BBC Radio Scotland - Scotland and the Low Countries, Will Ye Go tae Flanders?, 1:30pm

8 June

Neil McGuigan, Dauvit Broun, Alex Woolf
An evening with Malcolm Canmore, 5-6pm

16-19 June

USTC Conference - Gender & the Book Trade

29 June - 2 July

Kings & Queens Conference - Royal Patronage: Material Culture, Built Heritage & the Reach of the Crown

1 September

'Flodden Gap' Workshop

Deadline: Scottish Records Association Tunnock Prize

Additional Note

Please make a note in your diaries that the new date for *Reading Scotland before 1707* is **6-8 May 2022**. The symposium, organised by Margaret Connolly, Rhiannon Purdie, Jane Pettegree and Harriet Archer, was to have taken place this spring but has been postponed due to Covid, and in the hope that it will be possible to meet in person in 2022. This will be the Folger-sponsored symposium to be held outwith the US. St Andrews-based speakers include Michael Brown, Sally Mapstone, Roger Mason, and Andrew Pettegree.

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