

# Scottish Catholic Historical Association

## Newsletter 2, May 2009

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### Contents

1. Welcome
2. Upcoming Conference
3. Contacts
4. The Innes Review
5. Seminar series
6. Seminar reports
7. SCA Projects: Scots College, Spain
8. Bookshop

### 1. Welcome

Welcome to the second newsletter of the Scottish Catholic Historical Association.

It is being planned to supplement the Innes Review and other activities of the Association. The past few months have seen increased activity for the Association, with the new series of evening seminars, based at the Scottish Catholic Archives, Columba House, Edinburgh. Reports on the last three are found in this newsletter.

The Association has also launched a website with the assistance of the Scottish Catholic Archives and it can be found by going to the SCA website at [www.scottishcatholicarchives.org.uk](http://www.scottishcatholicarchives.org.uk) and clicking on the 'Historical Association' link.

*S Karly Kehoe, Newsletter and Seminar Co-ordinator*

### 3. Contacts

#### Scottish Catholic Historical Association

Secretary: Dr Andrew Newby, School of Divinity, History and Philosophy, Crombie Annexe, Meston Walk, King's College, University of Aberdeen, Old Aberdeen, AB24 3FX

#### Scottish Catholic Archives

Columba House, 16 Drummond Place, Edinburgh EH3 6PL.

#### Membership and subscription to Innes Review

Edinburgh University Press, 22 George Square, Edinburgh, EH8 9LF

Let us know what you think of this newsletter and if you would like to see anything else included in the future – and feel free to pen short notes and queries if you wish!

### 2. Upcoming Conference

#### SCHA Annual Conference

*'Diaspora'*

13<sup>th</sup> June 2009

New College  
University of Edinburgh

Máirtín Ó Catháin (University of Central Lancashire) "Eulogising the Irish in Scotland"

S. Karly Kehoe (UHI Centre for History) "Highlanders and the Irish in Nineteenth-Century Ontario"

Andrew Nicoll (Scottish Catholic Archives) "The Diaspora Holdings of the Scottish Catholic Archives"

Elizabeth Ritchie (UHI Centre for History) "'Those nasty Uist people': Migration and Religion"

Alasdair Roberts (Independent Scholar) "MacDonalds at Home and Abroad"

#### Location and time:

New College, University of Edinburgh

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June 9:30-3:15

Enrolment form is included with this mailing.

For more information, please call 0131 556 3661

#### ***4. The Innes Review***

**Eila Williamson, editor of the Innes Review brings us an update on our journal, with useful information about the publication schedule and how to submit articles.**

Submissions of articles are always welcome, especially those that relate to the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries. Not only is the *Innes Review* a peer-reviewed, interdisciplinary journal, but it has the added advantage of not having a fixed word limit for articles. For further information about submissions, please contact the editor at Eila.Williamson@ed.ac.uk or c/o Scottish History, School of History, Classics and Archaeology, University of Edinburgh, 17 Buccleuch Place, Edinburgh, EH8 9LN.

Since 2007 the journal has been published online as well as in print format. Subscriptions are available for either format or for both. A welcome introduction by Edinburgh University Press is the student or unwaged subscription rate, currently £20 for print or online and £25 for print and online. To subscribe to the *Innes Review*, please see <http://www.eupjournals.com/journal/inr> for details.

*We have enclosed a leaflet with details of the Innes Review – please pass this to a friend or colleague you think might be interested in joining the Association and subscribing to the Innes Review.*

#### ***5. Seminar Series***

**This year launched the inaugural and successful seminar series of the Scottish Catholic Archives and the Scottish Catholic Historical Association.**

The seminars featured scholars and postgraduate students from respected universities and colleges and provided a comfortable learning and discussion forum for all who attended. It is hoped that this will continue and will help to expand the dialogue about the history and Catholicism and religion in Scotland. If you would like us to notify about next year's schedule, please ring the archives on 0131 556 3661.

#### ***6. Seminar Reports***

On the 27<sup>th</sup> of January 2009 the winter seminars kicked off with a postgraduate progress session. Andrew Smith (University of Glasgow) spoke on the work he has been doing on Border Abbeys and the charter evidence whilst Eleanor Todd (University of Stirling) discussed her work on Episcopalians in Georgian Edinburgh. The fruitful discussion that followed provided an excellent opportunity for the audience to connect with current research threads and allowed the students to discuss their ideas in a comfortable and supportive setting. Useful preparation for what lies ahead!

On 24 March 2009 **Dr. Matthew Hammond (University of Edinburgh)** gave a talk entitled *Changing Attitudes to the Saint in the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> century Scottish Monastaries: The charter evidence* wherein he argued that Scotland was not as disconnected from broader trends in European religiosity as might be assumed. He discussed the pre-eminence of saints in the charters in the early twelfth century and suggested that this was changing as the century progressed. A significant shift was a new devotion to the crucified Christ and Mary and Hammond suggested that this had to do with a more widespread loss of confidence in Scotland's insular and local saints. The increasing veneration of Mary was an interesting point and is suggestive of an evolving function for the feminine in the church since although she had always been important to the western church from this point she began to emerge as one of its key figures. This had important repercussions for Scotland and its national saints since Mary's started to usurp St Andrew's and St Columba's position as a protector of the nation. All of this was, according to Hammond, suggestive of a centralising force at play that was posing an increasing and serious challenge to local identities.

The fifth seminar of the series was held on 24<sup>th</sup> February and **Dr. Annie Tindley (Glasgow Caledonian University)** spoke on *The Crofter's War, 1880-1895: Land reform and the Clearances*. Tindley discussed the Napier Commission and emphasised that it caused deep divisions within the management structure of the estate. Notoriously associated with the worst of elements of the clearances, the Sutherland Estate was in the late nineteenth century, fighting a public relations battle in an attempt to improve its image. As a result of the negative publicity generated by this legacy and by the Napier Commission (1883-4), the third Duke of Sutherland put pressure on his resistant Factors to lower rents and grant more leeway to the crofters whom he feared were in a position to damage his reputation and that of the estate. The power that many of the Factors held was deemed to be morally corrupting by many, including Free Church clergymen who were active in late nineteenth-century Highland land agitation. This talk, which generated a great discussion afterwards, was tremendously valuable because it engaged with a number of myths and challenged the dominant post-clearance narrative.

## **7. SCA Projects: Scots College, Spain**

Some exciting exploratory work has been happening on the archives of the Scots College, Madrid that emphasises just how valuable its holdings are for those interested in the relationship between Scotland and Spain around the time of the Reformation and its immediate aftermath.

The on-site volunteer, Clarissa Savluchinske Feio, a native Grenoble, France, (but hailing from Portugal more recently) and archive intern, outlines the extent of the college's holdings on Colonel William Semple, a Scottish Catholic who worked for the Spanish crown and founded Scots College in Madrid. She explains that the first part of the collection consists of documents dating from 1554 to 1632 and that whilst there are some miscellaneous documents, the majority of the material relates to Semple and fits into three main categories.

- 1) Semple's personal life: payment letters, receipts, his will, information about his military activities, autobiography and one illustration of his coat of arms with a detailed explanation. Interestingly, one of the payment letters is a receipt for a slave.
- 2) Status of Catholics in Scotland, England and Spain: the earliest material for Scotland dates from 1554 and is a letter to Pope Julius III outlining the changes taking place in England and Scotland. He also talks about the efforts launched by Catholics to retain their authority and through this we catch a glimpse of the lives of a number of influential individuals and their connections (financial as well as religious) with Spain and Phillip IV. Priests write of their lives in Scotland and their persecution. Others talk of the relationship between James VI and the Spanish crown.
- 3) Scots College: includes documents relating the history of the college itself, including material relating to the acquisition of buildings and the purpose such a college would serve for the church in Scotland and in Spain.

## **8. Bookshop**

We are pleased to be able to offer a number of items for sale at the Scottish Catholic Archives. Some are published by *The Aquhorties Press*, our in-house publishing unit; and others by the Blairs Museum - our sister institution situated in the former St Mary's College, Blairs. Order forms can be downloaded from the Scottish Catholic Archives website - <http://www.scottishcatholicarchives.org.uk> Postage is charged at £2 per order.

Remember that back-issues of the Innes Review are still available to purchase from the Association.



**Regensburg and the Scots by Alasdair Roberts £2.00**

Regensburg in Bavaria has had links with Scotland and Ireland since the 12th century at least. This booklet traces the history of the Scots Benedictine Abbey in Regensburg, illustrating individuals and the shared history of the two communities through to the nineteenth century and beyond.



**Scalan: Glenlivet's Hidden College, 1717-1799 by Alasdair Roberts £2.00**

The seminary at Scalan was instrumental in the development of the post-reformation Church in Scotland. Alasdair Roberts ably edits the work of Mgr Alexander MacWilliam and brings forward the history of this small building found deep in the hills of Glenlivet in Moray.



**The Scottish Sword of State by Charles Burns OBE £5.00**

This history of the Scottish Sword of State was produced in 2007 to mark the 500th anniversary of the presentation of the Scottish Sword of State by Pope Julius II to King James IV. The anniversary was marked with a reception hosted by the First Minister of Scotland and allows us to recall the historic links that Scotland had with the Papacy and continental Europe. It is well illustrated with colour plates of the Honours of Scotland.



**Scotland and the Holy See £2.00**

This booklet gives a number of short chapters covering areas such as Christianity in Scotland from Roman Times to St Margaret; Scotland and the Papacy in the Middle Ages and Renaissance; Reformation and Catholic Survival; Emancipation and Catholic Revival, 1793-1878 and the Catholic Church in Modern Scotland. Produced for the exhibition of the same name in 1982, it still provides valuable commentary on Scotland's relationship with the Holy See.



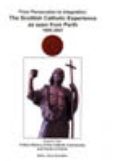
**Blairs College: Past and Present £5.00**

This DVD takes you on a memorable journey through the history of Blairs up to the exciting recent day events. This includes final footage of the old buildings as well as new interviews with former Blairs pupils, among them Archbishop Mario Conti, and former rector Cardinal Keith Patrick O'Brien, now Archbishop of St Andrews and Edinburgh. This unique presentation includes previously unseen cine film recordings of Blairs during its prime and looks at the recent decision to rescue and regenerate the Blairs Estate. This DVD is available in PAL format, and is not suitable for most North-American DVD players, but should play on all home pcs. NSTC format can be supplied, please contact the Archive if required.



**From Persecution to Integration £5.00**

The Scottish Catholic Experience as seen from Perth, 1685-2007. Volume One: Catalogue of the Exhibition in St. John the Baptist's Roman Catholic Church



**From Persecution to Integration £3.50**

The Scottish Catholic Experience as seen from Perth, 1685-2007. Volume Two: A New History of the Catholic Community and Parish of Perth.