



Newsletter

July 2019

Dear SCHA Member,

We would like to take this opportunity to introduce you to the current officers and trustees of the Scottish Catholic Historical Association. We are delighted to have a steering committee that consists of researchers, archivists, educators and a variety of academics in the fields of history, religion, literature, architecture and education.

Dr Linden Bicket (Assistant Editor), University of Edinburgh

Professor Dauvit Broun, University of Glasgow

Professor Gerard Carruthers (Convenor), University of Glasgow

Ms Siobhan Convery, University of Glasgow

Dr Bryony Coombs, University of Edinburgh

Dr John Reuben Davies (Editor), University of Glasgow

Mr Chris Docherty, St Ninian's High School

Dr Leonardo Franchi, University of Glasgow

Dr Paul Gilfillan, Queen Margaret University

Dr Cristina Gonzalez-Longo, University of Strathclyde

Dr Victoria Hodgson (Events Coordinator), University of Stirling; University of Highlands and Islands

Dr Miles Kerr-Peterson (Reviews Editor), Bridgwater Heritage

Fr Jim Lawlor, Diocese of Glasgow

Mr Andrew Nicoll (Treasurer), Historic Environment Scotland

Dr Iida Saarinen (Secretary), University of Dundee

Mr Kieran Taylor (Events Coordinator), University of Stirling

Ms Jo Thor (Publicity Officer), University of Edinburgh

The committee itself is non-denominational and all members are involved on a voluntary basis. We are excited to continue to promote the study of Scottish Catholic history through

our work in the committee. We will also have more information on the members of the committee on our new website.

Upcoming Event: 'Sources for Scottish Catholic History: A Symposium'

Save the date: 5th of October 2019 (afternoon, c. 12-5pm)

As our annual conference, the SCHA is organising an afternoon symposium on Scottish Catholic Historical Sources. The afternoon will focus on materials kept at the University of Aberdeen Special Collections and will combine talks by archivists and librarians caring for these collections as well as researchers who have made use of them.

Further details and booking will become available in due course and we will keep you informed via email. Keep an eye on our social media!

Past Events

The Rise and Decline(?) Of Anti-Catholicism in Scotland – A symposium'
18 May 2019, University of Glasgow

Report by Kieran Taylor:

On Saturday the 18th of May the Scottish Catholic Historical Association and the Saint Andrew's Foundation provided a stimulating symposium on the contentious issue of anti-Catholicism in Scotland. Professor T. M. Devine (Emeritus Professor of History, Edinburgh University) and Dr Michael Rosie (School of Social Sciences, Edinburgh University) together charted the changing phenomenon of bigotry in Scotland. These contributions from, a historian and a sociologist, provided historic and contemporary understandings of anti-Catholicism in Scotland.

Devine first provided a chronological account of Scotland's relationship with anti-Catholicism, noting particularly the ferocity of the Reformation. Suspicion towards Catholicism lingered, Devine articulated, 'politically' throughout 1700s on account of its association with Jacobitism. The arrival of the Irish, both Catholic and Protestant, in the mid-1800s in large numbers to the industrial heartlands of Scotland saw the 'importation of tribal hatreds', yet Devine noted that there were never as many anti-Irish disturbances in Scotland as there were in England. The sectarian crisis associated with the 1920s and the Church of Scotland's campaign on the Menace of the Irish 'came late' and was influenced by economic hardship, scientific racism and anger towards the state funding of Catholic schools. Discrimination against Catholics began, however, to decline following the Second World War. Devine argued the formation of the welfare state and the internationalisation of industry greatly reduced the most evident and pervasive forms of anti-Catholicism.

From here Dr Rosie provided an informative and compelling presentation which illustrated the decline in sectarianism in Scotland. In considering Catholic's life choices and life chances Rosie revealed that almost 47% of Catholics were married to non-Catholics and that Catholics are now well represented in almost all areas of the labour market. With regard to religious hate-crime, Rosie admitted that while Catholics were the majority target in hate crimes based on religion 95% of these were offences committed by young men, who were drunk and who did not know the religion of their victim. Rosie suggested that the nature of contemporary anti-Catholicism in Scotland was a complex concern and that hate crime figures had perhaps less sinister explanations than was reported by the popular press in Scotland.

In responding to Devine and Rosie's arguments, Dr Géraldine Vaughan (University of Rouen) and Dr Martin Mitchell (University of Strathclyde), challenged the speakers on several points. Vaughan argued that the significance of the rivalries of the Old Firm had been neglected from discussion and that these remained important in understanding contemporary manifestations of sectarianism. Moreover, Martin Mitchell additionally replied that anti-Catholicism could be found easily on the internet and social media.

The speakers' opinions, however, stimulated a number of questions and statements from the audience. These covered the importance of Protestantism to British national identity, the lived experience and discrimination many Catholics faced, debates over Catholic schools, the challenges of secularism and a perception of unfair treatment within the media when covering abuse.

As the symposium made clear, discussion of anti-Catholicism in Scotland remains contentious. It might be noted that on the same day in Glasgow Catholics came together to hold a silent protest against an Orange Walk which passed by a Catholic Church.

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Our new website will be live soon at www.scha.scot

Our journal, *The Innes Review*: www.eupublishing.com/loi/inr