

MAY 2010

SCHA Newsletter

60 years of the SCHA

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The Committee of the Scottish Catholic Historical Association early on! Figures such as Fr William James Anderson and Mgr David McRoberts. If anyone recognises others, please do let us know.

'The 2nd seminar series, which ran between October 2009 and April 2010, was a great success with an increasing number of new speakers and guests'

Newsletter Editorial

This newsletter is a supplement to the *Innes Review* and the other activities of the Association. The second seminar series, which ran between October 2009 and April 2010, was a great success with an increasing number of new speakers and guests. Confirmed speakers for next year's series include Professor Elaine MacFarland of Glasgow Caledonian University, Mr Bryan Glass of the University of Texas, Dr Elizabeth Ritchie of the UHI Centre for History and Alasdair Roberts, independent scholar.

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 and clicking on the 'Historical Association' link.

S Karly Kehoe, Newsletter and Seminar Co-ordinator

SCHA

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Scottish Catholic Archives

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

Membership

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

Seminars 2009-2010

2010 Conference

"Liturgy and the Nation"

Saturday 12 June 2010, 9:30-4:00

Faculty of Education,

University of Glasgow, St Andrew's
Building.

Greta-Mary Hair (University of
Edinburgh), *"The Cults of St Andrew
and St Kentigern, Patron Saints of
Scotland and Glasgow"*

Alan Macquarrie (University of
Strathclyde), *"The Need for a new
Edition of the Aberdeen Breviary"*

Rachel Butter and Simon Innes
(University of Glasgow), *"The
Glenorchy Psalter and
Gàidhealtachd Liturgy"*

Stephen Holmes (University of
Edinburgh), *"The Scottish liturgy, from
the twelfth to the sixteenth century"*

James MacMillan (Composer),
*"Liturgy and Nation in 21st-century
Scotland: a composer's view"*

REGISTRATION £15 (£9
students/OAP/unwaged) includes
coffee and lunch

For more information or to register
please contact the Scottish Catholic
Archives Columba House, 16
Drummond Place, Edinburgh
EH3 6PL.
0131 556 3661

Dr Iain MacDonald (University of Glasgow), "God Bless You!": George Lauder, Donald Balloch and the Auchinleck Chronicle"

This paper focused upon two major events surrounding the Lowlander George Lauder, bishop of Argyll (1427-73) in 1452. It was in two parts: the first section investigated a violent encounter between the bishop and two of his Gaelic cathedral clergymen at Lismore in 1452. Setting it within the ecclesiastical context of the time, it argued that it is wrong to depict this simply as a confrontation between Highlander versus Lowlander, but as the consequence of the ecclesiastical policies pursued by the bishop and exacerbated by ongoing political problems in Lorn. The second part challenged the authenticity of the tale, widely found in the existing historiography, of a violent attack upon Bishop Lauder by Donald Balloch, lord of Dunivaig and the Glens of Antrim, at the culmination of the latter's great raid along the Clyde Estuary in 1452.

Dr. Andrew Newby (University of Aberdeen), "The Approaching Consolidation of the Aurora Borealis': Scotland and the Roman Catholic Polar Mission, 1855-1870."

The background to this project lies in the existence in the Scottish Catholic Archives (SCA), Edinburgh, of a large number of documents relating to the 'Prefecture of the Arctic Mission' ('Polar Mission'/'Nordpolsmisjonen'). Initial research demonstrated that very little work had been done on an apparently fascinating episode in the religious and social history of Northern Europe. Subsequent investigations revealed that, in addition to the primary material held at Columba House, there were considerable holdings of manuscript and printed sources at the Archives of the Propaganda Fide (Rome), and Danish Catholic Archives (Copenhagen), as well as the Shetland Archives, Lambeth Palace Archives and various repositories in Norway. The Polar Mission was an attempt by the Roman Catholic Church to bring its doctrines to a broadly defined circumpolar population. In 1854 a Russian Priest, Djunkowsky, was sent to northern Norway in order to establish a presence for the mission, and over the next two decades it grew to encompass Norwegian and Swedish Lapland, the Kola Peninsula, Iceland, Greenland, the Faeroes, Shetland, Orkney and Caithness, on mainland Scotland. The main headquarters were at Alta (Alten), in Finnmark, and Wick, in northern Scotland. We do not seek to overstate Scotland's role in the mission, but to redress a lack of recognition that the north-east of Scotland is geographically central to a 'circumpolar' definition of Norden. Furthermore, although some research has been undertaken on the mission's impact on Norwegian Catholicism, it has generally been undertaken by academically-inclined Catholic priests, and we believe that the sources allow for a much wider discussion of the nature of 'the North' in the mid-nineteenth century, attitudes to Roman Catholicism, links between religion and business, and in particular links in the North Atlantic region between Scotland, Norway, Iceland and the Faeroe Islands. How much was the mission simply aimed at saving souls, and how much was their an economic imperative? The 1880s missions to the Polar Regions by Protestant missionaries, for example, were intimately connected to exploration and the whaling industry. In terms of Scottish History, it is also interesting and potentially significant that 1860 saw the 300th Anniversary of the Protestant Reformation, and so the Catholic activities in Caithness, Orkney and Shetland were subjected to particularly close scrutiny, and often hostility.

Dr. Carmen Mangion (Birkbeck College, University of London), "Dr Agnes McLaren, nun-doctors and the Catholic medical missions, 1900-1936."

Since the twelfth century, Catholic women religious were forbidden from performing surgical and obstetric work. This social regulation of women religious reflected centuries old ideas about women's sexuality and, in particular, the sexual purity of women religious. This canonical prescription became a source of tension in both the domestic and foreign mission fields.

This ban was finally reversed in 1936 when the decree *Constans ac sedula* not only allowed women religious to perform surgical and obstetric work but also encouraged women religious to obtain medical and nursing degrees. This paper examined some of the issues that were voiced in the early twentieth century regarding women religious as medical doctors. In particular, Scottish-born Dr Agnes McLaren (1837-1913) was pivotal in campaigning to obtain permission for women religious to obtain medical training for work in the missions. In the year of her death, 1913, Rome appeared as intransigent as ever regarding this matter. Yet, her influence remained present even after her death; she remained in the words of Dr Anna Dengel (1892-1980), founder of the Medical Mission Sisters, 'the pioneer, the forerunner; she gave the first impulse'. [SC-V /2/4, *The Catholic Medical Mission to Indian Women and Children The Holy Family Hospital, Rawal Pindi 1936*, Annual Report, first section written by Anna Dengel, SCMM and titled 'Te Deum Laudamus': twenty-five years of struggles and blessings', p. 8.]

Dr. S. Karly Kehoe (UHI Centre for History), "Scottish Catholic Nationalism, 1850-1930."

The presence of a large Irish-born and Irish-descended Catholic population in Scotland meant that during the nineteenth century there was an increasing exchange of ideas between grassroots intellectuals in Scotland and Ireland about nationalism and Home Rule. Irish Home Rule inspired many Catholics in Scotland to engage with questions about national identity, but more broadly it was something that asked Scots to look more closely at their own identity within Britain. Many Catholics in Scotland saw themselves as loyal British subjects, as nation builders and as ambassadors of an imperial ideal. The talk investigated the relationship between Scottish nationalism and Catholicism during the period 1850 to 1930, a period of intense national self-reflection, and proposed that ideas about the Scottish nation and national identity were intimately linked with the development of modern Catholicism. Kehoe suggested that despite the presence of a peripheral sensitivity to Ireland and an intellectual curiosity with the Home Rule movement, Catholic identity in Scotland was closely aligned to the British union. She emphasised that understanding how Catholic identity was defined and how far this influenced, or was influenced by, the construction of a Scottish national identity is crucial to appreciating the inherent complexities of nationalism in Scotland.

Dr. Linda Flemming (Napier University), "Jeanie the Jew: Women in the story of Glasgow's Jews."

This talk highlighted the experience of Jewish women in Glasgow between 1870 and 1950. The history of Scottish Jewry has tended to become the history of Glasgow Jewry because of this group's numeric dominance. In 1939 the population hit a high of 15,000 in the city and Flemming explained that the second wave of Jewish immigration to Scotland had started from the 1870s and was concentrated in the Gorbals, a multi-ethnic community with significant Irish Catholic and Italian populations. Flemming highlighted the significant amount of interaction that occurred between these groups at street level and showed how oral testimony is helping scholars to better understand these relationships. Emphasis was placed on the earning power of Jewish women and Flemming stressed that historians need to be more aware of this and of the centrality of gendered representations. Jeanie the Jew was the generic name for the woman who played a central and defining role in the economic and social life of the community. Women were crucial to identity preservation and Flemming called for increased research in the area of gender in the periphery.

Monumental Inscriptions in Moray and Banff

A rather interesting set of publications have gratefully been received at the Scottish Catholic Archives from the good offices of the Moray Burial Ground Research Group. Monumental inscriptions (headstone inscriptions) from Downan and Buiternach Burial Grounds; Glenrinnis Burial Ground; Chapelton Churchyard; Tombae Churchyard; St Ninian's, Tynet with St Peter's, Buckie and St Gregory's, Preshome; Bellie Churchyard and New Cemetery and Elgin Cathedral have been expertly recorded and produced in book format for researchers.

Family historians will be immediately impressed by the quality of the information found and be thankful for the comprehensive nature of the recording undertaken by the MBGRG; however, those interested in a wider history must also see the value in these source books which provide essential information for discovering the post-reformation Catholic communities in the Moray and Banff areas of Scotland.

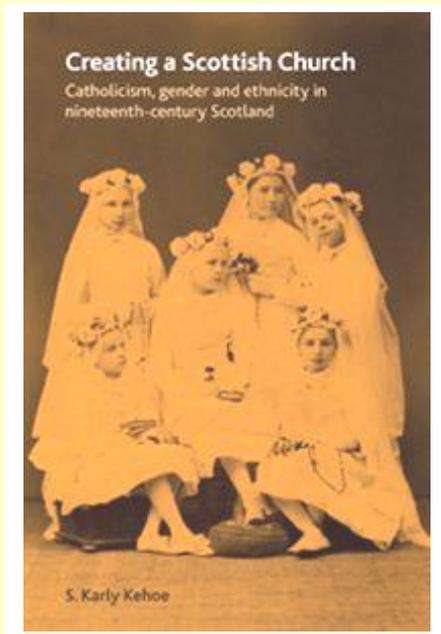
Further information can be found on the website: www.mbgrg.org



Calendar of Papal Registers Now Complete

The Calendar of Papal Registers relating to Great Britain and Ireland is now complete. These 14 volumes cover the period 1198 to 1492, and thus the papacy of Innocent III through to that of Innocent VIII. The volumes provide a detailed insight into the relations of the papacy with Great Britain and Ireland in the medieval period. For more information, please have a look at the following website: <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/place.aspx?gid=150®ion=7>

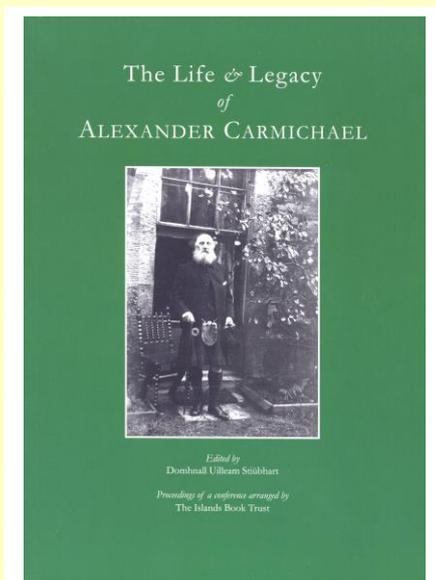
New publications



S Karly Kehoe, *Creating a Scottish Church: Catholicism, gender and ethnicity in nineteenth-century Scotland*. Manchester, Manchester University Press, 2010.

Creating a Scottish Church considers Catholicism's transition from an underground and isolated church to a multi-faceted institution that existed on a national scale. By challenging the dominant notion of Scotland as a Presbyterian nation, this study represents a radical departure from traditional perceptions. Included in this journey through nineteenth-century industrial urbanisation are the roles of women as well as the effect of Irish migration that initiated a reappraisal of the Church's position in Scottish culture and society. In taking a more critical look at gender and ethnicity, Kehoe investigates the myriad ways in which Scotland's Catholic population enhanced their experiences of community life and acquired a sense of belonging in a rapidly evolving and modernising nation. Introducing previously unseen material from private collections and archives, Kehoe also considers how the development of church-run social welfare services for the Catholic population helped to support the construction of a civil society and national identity that was distinctively Scottish. The book's primary focus on gender, ethnicity and religiosity introduces a deeper understanding of religion and culture in modern Britain, thus providing a significant contribution to existing historiography. *Creating a Scottish Church* will be read by scholars and students interested in history, gender, diasporas, ethnicity, religiosity and national identity in Britain and Ireland as well as appealing to those with a more general interest in the history of the British Isles. (£60 hardback, 208 pp)

<http://www.manchesteruniversitypress.co.uk/catalogue/book.asp?id=1204666>



Domhnall Uilleam Stiubhart, ed., *The Life and Legacy of Alexander Carmichael*. Lewis, The Islands Books Trust, 2008.

This important volume, 'The Life and Legacy of Alexander Carmichael', contains papers presented at a very successful conference held in Benbecula in July 2006, and arranged by the Islands Book Trust. The academic impetus for the conference was supplied by the Carmichael Project currently being undertaken at the University of Edinburgh, by the Department of Celtic and Scottish Studies and Edinburgh University Library. The Project's Principal Researcher, Dr Domhnall Uilleam Stiubhart, has edited the volume meticulously. Alexander Carmichael's labours as the collector of the material in the six-volume work, *Carmina Gadelica*, are well known, but also highly debatable. Speakers at the Benbecula conference examined the controversial issues surrounding Carmichael's legacy, as well as his motives, the background to his activities, and the methods and processes that shaped his overall collection and, in particular, *Carmina Gadelica*. This very handsome book (price £15.00), which contains finely reproduced illustrations, is available from: The Islands Book Trust, 10 Callicvol, Port of Ness, Isle of Lewis, Western Isles HS2 0XA Tel. 01851820946