

BULLETIN

OF THE SOCIETY FOR RENAISSANCE STUDIES

SPECIAL GUEST LECTURE IN ROME
HARALD E. BRAUN

REGIONAL REPORT: SCOTLAND
SYRITHE PUGH

ALSO INCLUDES: SRS AT RSA 2019, CONFERENCE REPORTS,
CALL FOR PAPERS: BIENNIAL SRS NORWICH 2020, & MORE.

VOLUME XXXVI, NUMBER 1

APRIL 2019

LETTER FROM THE EDITORS

We are delighted to welcome you to the April 2019 edition of the *Bulletin*. This is our first issue since taking over as Editors at the start of the year, and its contents encapsulate many of the reasons we feel so fortunate to be part of the SRS and its vibrant and varied network of Renaissance scholars.

It is particularly gratifying to be able, in this issue, to share reports and features which highlight the international character of our society, and the links our members are forging within the Renaissance community worldwide. We are especially pleased at this moment in time to be able to celebrate our continued links with European colleagues and institutions, demonstrated here by Harald E. Braun's feature on his SRS Lecture at the British School of Rome, while the ongoing strengthening of our relationship with colleagues further afield is the subject of George Oppitz-Trotman's report on SRS at RSA 2019 in Toronto. The importance of SRS's connections across the British archipelago are evidenced by the cornucopia of past events detailed by Syrithe Pugh in her Scottish Regional Report, as well as by the upcoming Annual SRS Welsh Lecture, to be held at Brecon Cathedral at the end of this month, and which precedes our forthcoming Annual SRS Lecture and AGM in London in May.

Within the usual rich array of conference and fellowship activities recently carried out by SRS members, we are also buoyed by the fact that several of our reports this issue are written by members of our graduate and early career community, showcasing some of the exciting work they are doing across early modern studies, including the development of innovative public-facing events funded in part by the society's recently established Public Engagement Scheme.

At the centre of the current issue you will find the Call for Papers for the upcoming SRS Biennial Conference 2020, to be held at the University of East Anglia in Norwich. The organizing committee is already deep in preparations for what promises to be a rich and diverse few days of discussion and collaboration. We hope that as many of our members as possible will submit paper and panel proposals before the 1 September deadline.

Finally, we would like to express our thanks to the existing SRS Council members for welcoming us so warmly to their ranks. Our fiercest gratitude is due to the former Bulletin Editors, Prof. Matthew Woodcock and Dr William Rossiter, not only for their wonderful work on this publication over the past several years, but for their continual good humour, patience, and guidance as we take our own tottering footsteps after them.

**SOPHIE BUTLER &
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Lienzo de Tlaxcala, painted cotton-
cloth, mid-sixteenth century
(facsimile c.1890).

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LETTER FROM THE HONORARY CHAIR

LIKE MANY MEMBERS OF THE Society, I shall be attending the Renaissance Society of America Conference in Toronto. I always feel slightly heroic at these times, imagining myself voyaging off rather like Vasco de Gama, Walter Raleigh or, possibly, Columbus himself, given my anxiety about flying. Of course many people are nervous about being stuck in a metal tube several miles in the sky but I indulge in the marvellous Renaissance principle of 'copia', i.e., saying the same thing in slightly different ways at great length and as often as I can, to cope with the issue. Perhaps you should spare a thought for Richard Wistreich, who will have to endure the journey with me, although with his New Zealand and many other connections he is indeed a hardy traveller used to the challenges of moving long distances. Perhaps it really will be like being in *Don Quixote*...

Still, there is much to look forward to and we should all be grateful to Peter Mack, now enjoying a very well-deserved retirement after such an illustrious career, who established this SRS-RSA link some years ago. Richard and I will be meeting with Carla Zecher, the president of the RSA, to see where we might go in the future. We are delighted that Katherine Ibbett, winner of our book prize, has agreed to give the SRS lecture at the conference, 'Staying Afloat: At the Surface of the Water in New France', which promises to be a fascinating insight into early modern travelling by water (air travel had not yet been invented, I believe). I hope to see many of you there. We are also holding a reception which promises to be a nice event, a chance to meet old friends and make some new

ones, and, I hope, extend the reach of the society still further. All those attending will benefit the society too, producing yet more excellent work to follow on from what we experienced in Sheffield, and looking forward to Norwich next year. We have sponsored a number of sessions and it is great to see that so many colleagues are speaking on such a diverse range of subjects, from popular culture to authorship studies; from textual editing to race and class; from the records of provincial drama and ballads to court culture.

I have been extremely grateful to so many of the council members in the past year who have done such a great job of making the society function so well. I am delighted that Kevin Killeen has taken over as secretary after such excellent work over so many years by Jane Stevens Crawshaw; and Liam Hart has passed on the treasurer's duties that he did so well to James Cook. Societies are only as strong as the people they are able to include to run them and we have been fortunate to have so many people working so hard to ensure our continuing success. We all owe a great deal to Ana Debenedetti at the Victoria and Albert Museum, our museums and galleries representative, who has found us a splendid and suitable location for our meetings.

This year the annual lecture will be organised in conjunction with the V. & A. and will be given by Prof. Alison Wright (UCL) on 'Matters of Ornament in Early Renaissance Art'



in the Hochhauser Auditorium at the Museum at 5pm on 17 May 2019. It will be nice to experience a lecture on art history in an appropriate setting and to have a reception afterwards. It is also good to have an event that will link us to a new audience, building on our long-standing interest in Renaissance art history. We hope that this can be the start of a number of joint ventures and co-operations between the society and public institutions in the coming years.

Our aim is to build on the reputation we have developed within the academy and to connect with a wider public who have interests, some established, some rather less so, in the literature, culture and history of the Renaissance. I know that as my successor, Richard, is eager to oversee these developments and I can think of no one better to take the society forward in new and exciting directions while bearing in mind its history and significance over the last fifty years.

ANDREW HADFIELD

SRS NEWS

Prizes and Fellowships

SRS Postdoctoral Fellowships, 2019–20

The Society for Renaissance Studies invites applications for its Postdoctoral Fellowships, which support research in all aspects of Renaissance studies. There will be two Postdoctoral Fellowships awarded in the academic year 2019-20, each worth £9500.

Eligibility:

- Applicants must be graduates of British or Irish universities, and currently engaged in full-time research, part-time teaching or independent scholarship.
- Applicants must *either* already have been awarded their PhD (from a British or Irish university) no more than five years before 1 October 2019, *or* have been provisionally awarded their PhD by 31 May 2019, subject to no more than minor corrections. (These corrections must be due to be completed and accepted by the awarding university no later than 1 October 2019, and applicants applying before their PhD has been passed will need to provide evidence of the status of their PhD when applying).
- In normal circumstances, such Fellowships should not be held in conjunction with a postdoctoral or academic teaching post which is for more than 60% of a full-time post.

Conditions:

- The period of tenure is twelve months from 1 October 2019.
- Fellows are required to become members of the SRS and will be invited to attend meetings of the Society's Council.
- Fellows will be asked to present their findings at the end of the period of award, and to submit a written report for publication in the Society's Bulletin
- Fellows must name the Society for Renaissance Studies in their affiliation in any publications and

conference papers presenting the research.

- There are no specific residence requirements for successful applicants taking up a Fellowship.

Applicants should submit a **single document by 30 April 2019**, giving, in this order:

- Name and contact details (name, address, email address, telephone number).
- Project description (covering the research questions, existing debate in the areas, and how the applicant proposes to change this by their research). Maximum 1000 words.
- A CV (including a brief account of their research to date, publication list, and a statement of their proposed means of financial support during the year of the Fellowship). Maximum 1000 words.
- Name and contact details (including up-to-date email addresses) of two referees. The Fellowships committee will ask referees to provide references by **no later than 31 May 2019**. Applicants should ensure that their referees have submitted their references by this date.
- Proof of the status of the PhD, where not yet awarded, should be submitted as a separate document, where relevant.

To make an application go to <https://www.rensoc.org.uk/funding/fellowships/postdoctoral>

VICE-CHAIR NOMINATIONS

A new Society Vice Chair will be elected at the AGM (17th May 2019). We invite nominations. The candidate should be a member of the Society and should be open to serving for six

FUNDING & PRIZES

The Society funds a number of initiatives to support scholarship within the field of Renaissance Studies:

- Postdoctoral Fellowships
- Grants for conference organizers
- A biennial book prize
- The *Renaissance Studies* Article Prize
- An undergraduate essay prize
- A bursary scheme to promote research by curators, librarians and archivists in museums, libraries and archives in the UK and Ireland
- A public engagement scheme

Details of how to apply for these schemes will be advertised in this section of the *Bulletin* when the competitions open. For further information, please also see the Society's website:

<http://www.rensoc.org.uk/>

years, three years as Vice Chair and three as Chair. Forms should be signed by six members of the SRS and should reach the secretary by 26th April. (kevin.killeen@york.ac.uk).

Forms can be downloaded from the website 'member pages' - you need to be signed in, as a member, to access this: <https://www.rensoc.org.uk>

SRS Annual Lecture – 17 May 2019

by ALISON WRIGHT

THE ANNUAL LECTURE WILL take place in the Hochhauser Auditorium at the Victoria & Albert Museum, 5.00pm on 17 May 2019. It is to be given by Prof. Alison Wright (UCL), and its title is 'Matters of Ornament in Early Renaissance Art'.

Abstract

The South Kensington Museum was formed in a period when ornament was a ground on which profound aesthetic and societal controversies were debated. In our own moment, the V&A's representation of the materials of making speak to current debates on the materiality, agency and temporality of art. Thinking ornament and medium together, this lecture will draw on the museum's collections and comparative works to address Renaissance ornament in light of the discourse of materials. How was the generative and affective potential of ornament developed from the early fifteenth-century onwards, whether in terms of poetics and metaphor, or the capacities of metals, stone and clay?

Speaker

Professor Alison Wright is Professor of Italian Art c. 1300-1550 and Head of Department of the History of Art at UCL. She joined the Department in 1993, after a BA and PhD at the Courtauld Institute of Art, and a fellowship at the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Her overarching book project at the time resulted in *The Pollaiuolo Brothers: the Arts of Florence and Rome* (2005) and she has co-authored collected conference papers on Tuscan art and patronage and collaborated on the National Gallery exhibition 'Renaissance Florence: The Art of the 1470s'.

She curated 'Nameless: Anonymous Drawings of the 15th- and 16th-Century Italy' in 2010 and has since published on the rhetoric of the sculpted pedestal in Renaissance Italy, on sacrament tabernacles and on low relief sculpture, visibility and the sacred body. Her latest book,



Detail from the tomb of Benozzo Federighi by Luca della Robbia in S. Trinita, Florence
Image: Alison Wright

Frame Work: Honour and Ornament in Italian Renaissance Art was published by Yale University Press this year. It investigates the visual and ideological work of Renaissance framing in the context of ritual and the rhetoric of honour and ornament.

Her current research, addressing changing aesthetic and material economies of gold in Renaissance

art, continues to engage with issues of artistic practice, representation and power this time as part of a larger project on transformations of gold in western culture.

Prof. Wright's lecture will immediately follow the Society's Annual General Meeting, which begins at 4pm in the Hochhauser Auditorium at the V&A.

SRS Annual Welsh Lecture — 24 April 2019

by DAVID PEARSON

THE ANNUAL WELSH LECTURE will form part of the conference 'Reading, Writing, and Collecting: Books and Manuscripts in Wales, 1450-1850', to be held on 24-25th April 2019 at Brecon Cathedral.

The conference organisers wish to communicate their extreme gratitude to the Society for Renaissance Studies, the Welsh Branch in

particular, for their very generous support. The lecture will be given by Dr David Pearson on 'Book Owners in Early Modern Wales'.

Abstract

The history of book collecting in Wales, and of book ownership more generally during the handpress

period is still to be written. Apart from a chapter on country house libraries, the much-respected *A Nation and its Books* (1998), by Jones and Rees, has only passing mentions of owners and private libraries among its many essays which approach Welsh book history more from the perspective of what was printed or written. This talk cannot fill that gap but will offer some thoughts and pointers on evidence we may have to help complete the picture.

Speaker

Dr David Pearson retired in 2017 after a career of managing libraries and collections, most recently in the City of London but also taking in other national, academic and special libraries in London and elsewhere.

His books include *Provenance Research in Book History* (1994, new edition 2019), *English Bookbinding Styles 1450-1800* (2005), and *Books as History* (2008).

Dr Pearson is currently a Research Fellow at the Institute of English Studies, University of London, and his 2018 Lyell Lectures in Oxford focused on Book Ownership in Stuart England.

Registration

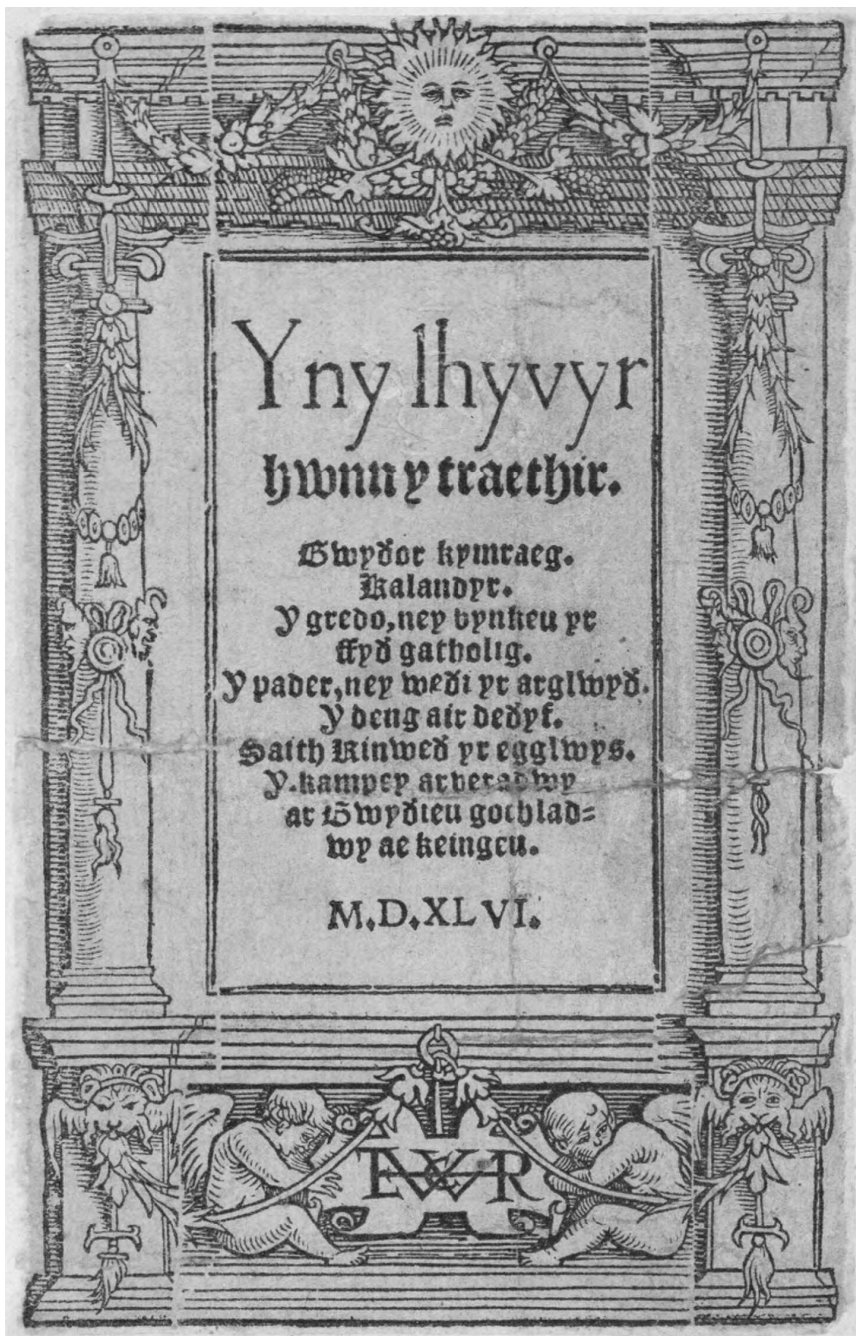
'Reading, Writing, and Collecting' is a free conference, but we ask that you book in advance. Please visit:

<https://booksmanuscriptswales.wordpress.com/srs-annual-welsh-lecture/>

Or

<https://bit.ly/2CHMLOC>

The lecture itself will take place on 24 April 2019, at 6.30pm, following a drinks reception at 6pm. The location is Brecon Cathedral, Cathedral Close, Brecon, LD3 9DP.



John Price, *Yny Lhyvyr hwnn* (1546). Title-page of the first printed book in Welsh. Image: National Library of Wales / Wikimedia

SRS Guest Lecture at the British School of Rome

Killing the Innocents: A Vignette from the History of Massacre

HARALD E. BRAUN



Augustin Hirschvogel, *The Massacre of the Innocents* (1545). Image: Metropolitan Museum of Art, Elisha Whittelsey Collection/Fund 1959

IN HER RECENT SERIES OF REITH LECTURES, the distinguished historian Margaret MacMillan reminds us that ‘it would be stupid to think we have moved on from war’. What some historians have come to call the ‘Long Peace’ – with a view to western Europe and North America mainly – does not represent a clear trend. The horrors of war might well return to our shores, MacMillan warns, though in new guises perhaps, and so we had better keep thinking about war.

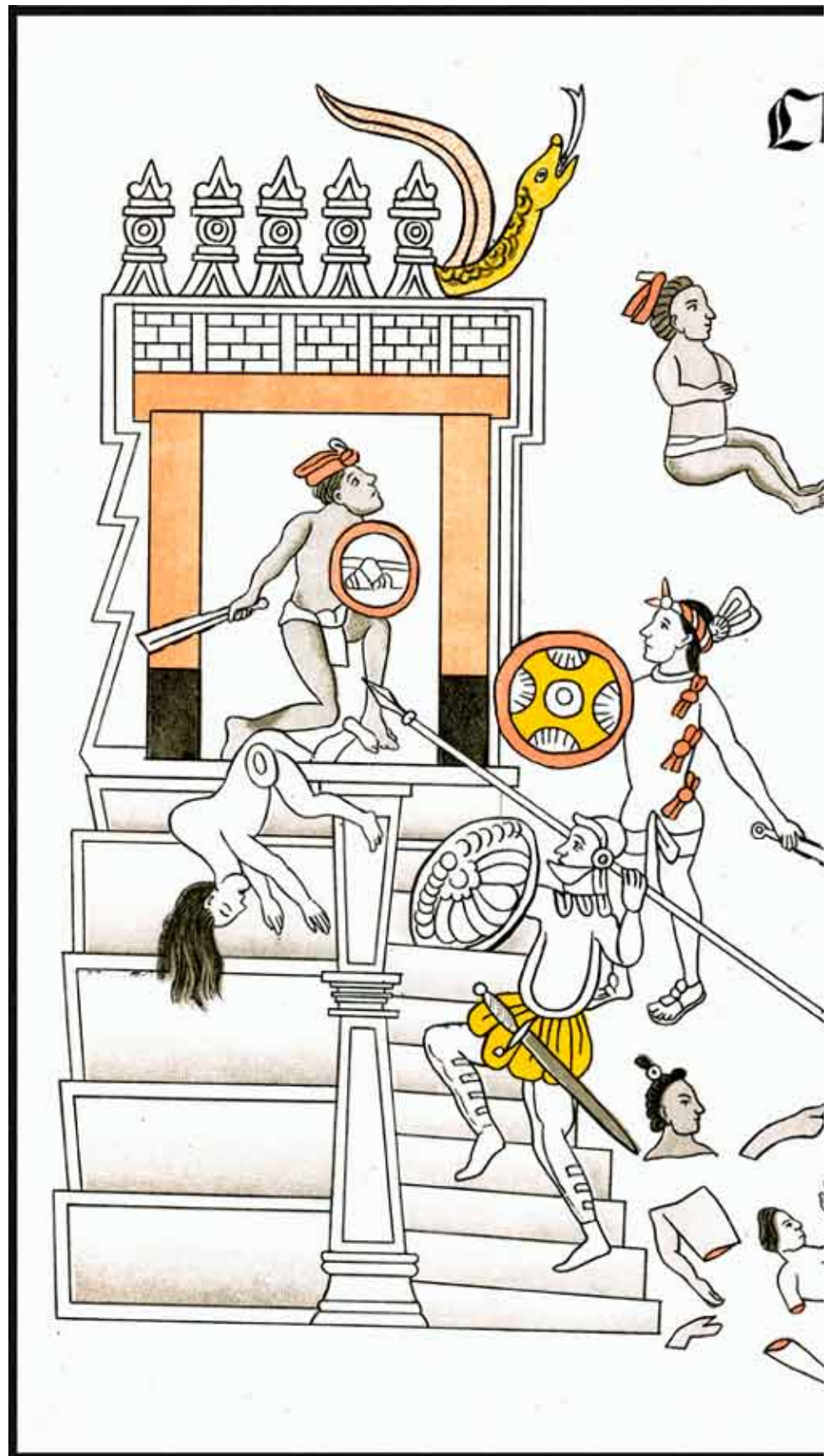
If we keep thinking about war, we also had better keep thinking about massacre. Just like war, massacres remain a depressingly enduring feature of human activity, from the Neolithic slaughter house of the Talheim Death Pit to the siege of Drogheda, from Nanking to Srebrenica. Whether or not a massacre takes place depends on a complex interplay of factors including individual choice, group dynamics, cultural practice and the relationship between legal and moral

norms on the one hand and the will to enforce them in specific contexts on the other. I am particularly interested in the perpetrators of massacre and whether and how they justify their actions to themselves and a range of different audiences. Unlocking the dynamic of massacre from the perpetrator’s point of view helps us develop the awareness and the tools necessary to identify and obstruct that dynamic. My work is part of an international research project trying to establish the

dynamics, triggers and inhibitors of massacre in history.

The invitation to give the Society for Renaissance Studies Special Guest Lecture at the British School at Rome in March 2017 provided me with a wonderful opportunity and audience to explore and share some of my thoughts on the matter. Below, I offer a brief vignette from the lecture. A revised and expanded version of the Rome lecture will soon appear in volume three of *The Cultural History of Genocide* published by Bloomsbury.

For now I will focus on one event, a massacre which took place in Central Mexico in the year 1519. In early autumn of that year, several hundred Spanish conquistadors entered the city of Cholula in Central Mexico. At the time, Cholula was a sprawling, wealthy agricultural community, a religious and political centre, and a close ally of the Aztec empire, the dominant Mesoamerican power. The Spanish had not travelled alone. Thousands of indigenous porters and warriors from the allied cities of Tlaxcala and Cempoala, mortal enemies of the Cholulans, had boosted their number. These were not allowed into the city. The bloody events that unfolded in the streets and courtyards of the city soon after the arrival of the Spanish would become one of the iconic moments of the 'Conquest of Mexico'. Eyewitnesses and contemporary observers agree that several thousand people suffered a brutal death over the course of a few days that autumn in 1519. They do not agree on much else, though. Their accounts differ regarding the responsibility and rationale for the killing, the kind of violence or the profile, gender and number of the victims. In a letter to the Habsburg emperor Charles V, Hernan Cortés, the leader of this Spanish-Amerindian force, described the run-up to what became known as 'The Massacre of Cholula' (*opposite*). Cortés claimed that he had set out on the road to Cholula with the intention to use 'peaceful means' to make the city 'the vassal of his majesty', though his arsenal of 'peaceful means' included the threat of force and diplomatic subterfuge. Cortés traced his right to do so back to the famous



'La Matanza de Cholula', part of the *Lienzo de Tlaxcala*, painted cotton-cloth, mid-sixteenth century (facsimile c.1890). Detail: see cover image.

Requerimiento, a legal document that threatened any indigenous population that should refuse to submit to the Spanish crown and resist instruction in the Catholic faith with war,

destruction of property, and loss of freedom. By the time the Spanish entered Cholula, the legal, moral and theological validity of the *Requerimiento*, and with it the



Friedrich Peypus, map of Tenochtitlan (Nuremberg, 1524). From Hernán Cortés' *Tercera Carta de relación* (1522). Image: Wikimedia

conduct of conquistadors in the Americas generally, were already subject to fierce criticism from certain quarters of the Spanish Catholic church.

Cortés was aware that his actions would be intensely scrutinised by ecclesiastical post-holders, rival conquistadors and royal magistrates. He had launched his expedition in open defiance of the command of his one-time patron and business partner the governor of Cuba, and was tainted with the whiff of rebellion. He was keen to avoid giving cause for censure. His account of events at Cholula bears this out. In his letter to Charles V, Cortés alleged that the journey had been marred by obstruction and constant double-dealing on the part of the Cholulan leadership. Worse even, entering the city, the Spanish had walked straight into a well laid trap. Holed up in a set of buildings close to the temple of Quetzalcoatl, they could witness barricades being put up and routes of escape being closed, holes being dug in the streets and furnished with

spiked poles to kill the horses, and great numbers of warriors swarming about the place. Cortés also claimed that there were no women and children in the city, an observation he presented as a sure sign that an attack was imminent.

Cortés made great play of the fact that he and his comrades had not taken the decision to engage in combat lightly. They had gathered information from several independent sources, with crucial intelligence supplied by their native interpreter Malinche. They had established their situation and had been left in no doubt that retreat, their preferred option given the odds, had become impossible and that they would have to fight for their lives. They decided to strike before they were struck. They arrested the Cholulan dignitaries, told them their treachery had been revealed and would be duly punished, then threw themselves on the enemy and put the indigenous warriors to flight after several hours of vicious fighting.

Though the *Requerimiento*

seemingly entitled conquistadors to use force against native populations openly rejecting Spanish rule, Cortés was keen to describe the events at Cholula as a pre-emptive strike and a confrontation between warriors that did not involve or harm any civilians. Every other surviving testimony, from Spanish or indigenous sources, however, offers a different, often strikingly divergent account of events and underlying rationale. Taken together, these testimonies, despite considerable complexity concerning the contexts in which they were made, left Cortés's credibility in shreds.

Let me briefly recount just two of them. One of the other senior officers of the expedition, Andrés de Tapia (1498-1561), at some point in the 1540s corroborated as well as deviated from Cortés's narrative. Tapia stated that the confrontation took place when the Spanish were about to leave Cholula. Instead of the requested porters, fully armed warriors had poured into the plaza in front of the Spanish quarters. He



Aztec Maize Deity (Chicomecoatl), 15th–early 16th century.
Image: Metropolitan Museum of Art, 00.5.51

conceded that the battle was followed by the wholesale slaughter of defenceless men, women and children, widespread destruction and reckless pillaging that lasted over several days and spread across the vast community. This, he claimed, happened after the actual battle and was mainly effected by the conquistadors' indigenous allies.

Another officer, Bernadino Vásquez de Tapia (no relation to Andrés)

deviated even more from Cortés's account. There had been no preparation for ambush, he insisted; the Spanish had been given everything they demanded, and when the porters requested for the onward journey had assembled, Cortés ordered that they be slaughtered, between four thousand and five thousand lowly, terrified, unarmed men pleading in vain for their lives. The reason for this decision, Tapia

alleged, was the hope that such a cruel act would put a check on native resistance and help secure the voluntary subjugation of the mighty Aztecs.

The famous scourge of the conquistadors, fray Bartolomé de las Casas, though no eyewitness himself, summed up accounts critical of Spanish conduct at Cholula and issued them with a highly polemical edge. The conquistadors, he claimed, had

decided that the moment had come to organise a massacre - or punishment as they call it - to inspire fear and terror in all the people of the territory. This was, indeed, the pattern they followed in all the lands they invaded: to stage a bloody massacre of the most public possible kind to terrorise those meek and gentle peoples.

Why did Cortés make the effort to conceal what happened at Cholula? We will find a possible answer when we look a little more closely at the boundaries of violence or the early modern 'etiquette of atrocity' by which Cortés wished to abide or be seen to abide. Throughout his correspondence with Charles V, Cortés stressed the suffering and the heroism of Spanish men facing overwhelming odds. His letters abound with tales of Spanish bravery in battle. What the other witnesses had to tell about Cholula, however, did not fit into a narrative of chivalric conduct, legal propriety and Christian rectitude. The slaughter of unarmed men, whether at the hands of the Spanish or facilitated by the Spanish, contradicted the image of the conquistadors as Christian conquerors.

The killing of scores of women and children was even more problematic in this respect. Christianity had always been ambivalent about violence. For many teachers of Christian ethics, from Saint Thomas Aquinas to Francisco Vitoria, the deliberate or even collateral killing of women, children, and other vulnerable non-combatants in war could cross the line between lawful and unlawful violence.

In fact, their death could put into question the legitimacy of military action and political authority. Christian tradition provided a template for the critique of unlawfully violent authority. Every year on 28 December, Christians in the west celebrated the Feast of the Holy Innocents, commemorating the slaughter of the children of Bethlehem at the behest of King Herod as relayed in Matthew 2, 16-18. The intentional killing of innocent civilians could bring a perpetrator dangerously close to being identified as a “new Herod” or similar monster from biblical and classical antiquity. The etching by Hendrick Goltzius (*opposite, below*) depicting the biblical ‘Massacre of the Innocents’ (1584) is just one of many visual representations of authority tainted by the unlawful killing of innocents. Intended as an indictment of Spanish rule and conduct in the war against the rebellious Dutch provinces in the late 1560s and early 1570s, it depicts a Herod calmly supervising the massacre, oblivious to human suffering and the moral horror of his courtiers.

Cortés insisted, contrary to the testimony of most eyewitnesses, that there were no women and children present at Cholula and that the violence involved only armed combatants on both sides. He clearly was aware that the killing of civilians, even the pagan, cannibalistic ‘innocent’ could transgress contemporary boundaries of legitimate violence. Cortés had many enemies, great ambition, and thus many reasons to avoid moral opprobrium and political controversy. He hoped to deceive his European audiences by pretending to have respected the moral, legal and religious norms he, we must assume, had deliberately and consciously violated.

While such concerns did not prevent Cortés and his companions from perpetrating mass murder of defenceless people at Cholula and later in the conquest, they were present in their minds. Cortés and some of his co-perpetrators made conscious efforts not merely to justify their actions, but to distort events in order to avoid moral and

political censure. As it turned out, they were right to be concerned. Spanish atrocities committed during the conquest of Mexico were met with immediate condemnation, especially by members of the ecclesiastical community and most notably by the already mentioned Fray Bartolomé de Las Casas. Cortés’s conduct raised suspicions in the Madrid court and lastingly damaged his reputation.

What happened in Cholula and in other places across the Americas during the early sixteenth century provoked Spanish theologians into re-think the boundaries of just conduct in war and find ways to provide better protection for civilians during war, at least in theory. Today, the study of Cholula and similar events allows us to take a deeper

look into the mind of the perpetrators of massacres and to explore the triggers and inhibitors of mass killings across various historical and cultural moments.

*On 1 March 2017 the SRS Special Guest Lecture was delivered at the British School at Rome by Dr Harald E. Braun, Reader in European History at the University of Liverpool. Dr Braun would like to express his gratitude to the BSR, the SRS, and colleagues on the project *En los límites de la violencia (II): la larga sombra de las masacres modernas en contexto global*(HAR2017-82791-C2-2-P) funded by FEDER/Ministerio de Ciencia, Innovación y Universidades-Agencia Estatal de Investigación.*

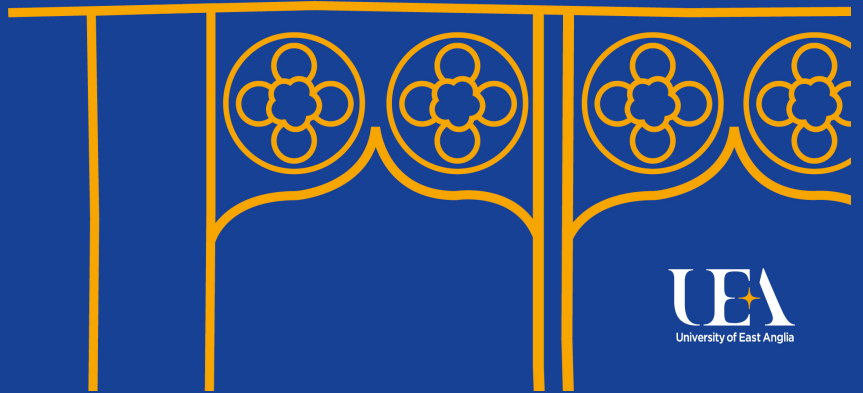


Hendrick Goltzius, *The Massacre of the Innocents* (1585).
Image: The National Gallery of Art

SOCIETY FOR RENAISSANCE STUDIES

9TH BIENNIAL CONFERENCE

7–9 July 2020



The Society for Renaissance Studies' Ninth Biennial Conference will take place at the University of East Anglia, Norwich, between Tuesday 7th and Thursday 9th July 2020.

The confirmed keynote speakers are Dr John-Paul A. Ghobrial (Oxford), Dr Jan L. de Jong (Groningen), Professor Suzannah Lipscomb (Roehampton), and Professor Jessica Wolfe (UNC Chapel Hill).

Themes and Proposals

The conference committee welcomes proposals for panels and individual papers from any field of Renaissance and early-modern studies. Panels and papers are invited to engage with any of the following themes:

- Archives and the History of the Book
- Cities, States, Regions
- Music, Play, Festivity
- Scholars, Patrons, Collectors, and Natural Philosophers
- Religion, Devotion, Confession
- Border crossings, Communications, the New World

We welcome submissions that are interdisciplinary or multidisciplinary in scope, and papers/ panels should feel free to combine elements of the above themes together. The conference will also feature an open strand for papers which engage with themes other than those listed above. We also encourage panel submissions organised by scholarly societies or submissions which emerge from research projects broadly relating to Renaissance and early-modern studies.

Proposals for panels (90 minutes, including discussion) and individual papers (20 minutes) should be sent to srs.2020@uea.ac.uk by **1 September 2019**. For each paper proposal: please provide the paper title and an abstract of 250 words. For each panel proposal: please provide the panel title, details of the panel chair and any respondent, and abstracts of 250 words and full contact details for each presenter. In your submission, please indicate which conference theme or themes are most relevant to your panel/paper (or whether your submission is part of the open strand).

The conference committee aims to make decisions about panels and speakers during October. Any questions about the format of conference panels should be directed to srs.2020@uea.ac.uk.

The Society is eager to encourage postgraduates working in any field of Renaissance or early-modern studies to offer papers or organize panels; a number of bursaries to cover travel, registration, and accommodation will be available. (Details of how to apply for a bursary will be made available in October.)

The SRS Annual Lecture—given by Dr John-Paul A. Ghobrial—and AGM will also take place during the conference.

SRS Public Lecture

2020 sees the inauguration of the SRS Public Lecture, which will be presented by Professor Suzannah Lipscomb and takes place on the evening of 6 July 2020 in St Andrew's Hall in Norwich city centre. While the conference registration and panels take place between 7-9 July, the committee is aware that a large number of conference participants will arrive in Norwich beforehand, and they are warmly invited to attend the public lecture. The event is free to attend for SRS members and non-members alike, but ticketed to control numbers. SRS members will have priority access to tickets, which can be reserved when the registration website goes live. This event, delivered by one of our foremost public-facing scholars, has been instituted to reflect and confirm the Society's commitment to the public dissemination of our research.

Conference Mentoring

The committee will also be facilitating a conference mentor/buddy system, pairing up early career researchers with more experienced or senior colleagues. Each pair will make contact over the course of the conference to discuss career strategies and advice. The SRS is committed to postgraduate and early career development, and the committee hopes this system will facilitate further integration of our colleagues within the Society. If you are interested in taking part in the buddy system, either as an early career researcher or mentor, please indicate this when you submit your proposal.

Further information about how to apply for a bursary, of the conference buddy system, and how to book tickets for the Public Lecture, will be disseminated in the October Bulletin. We look forward with great anticipation to receiving your proposals and welcoming you to early-modern England's second city.



Regional Report: SRS in Scotland

SYRITHE PUGH

SCOTLAND HAS SEEN A VIBRANT array of Renaissance-related conferences and events over the last three years, and I am delighted that the Scottish branch has often been able to offer financial assistance, boosting the support provided by the national grant-schemes of the Society for Renaissance Studies.

The three-year cycle got off to a magnificent start with the great success of the SRS Biennial conference hosted by Glasgow University in 2016. Dr Tom Nichols organized this major event together with a team of colleagues reflecting the wide cross-disciplinary range of the society's interests: Prof. Laurence Grove (French), Dr Rob Maslen (English), Dr Victoria Price (Theatre Studies), Dr Steven Reid (History), and Drs Debra Strickland and John Richards (History of Art).

This approach bore fruit in the impressive interdisciplinary range of the papers presented over the three days of the conference, 18th to 20th July. More than 160 papers were delivered, organized into ten themed strands: 'Conflict and Resolution'; 'Textual Studies/ Print Culture/ Translation/ Reading'; 'Reformations and Recusants'; 'Visual Art/ Word and Image'; 'Beasts'; 'Theatre/ Shakespeare'; 'Milton/ Davenant'; 'Imaging the Nation'; 'Anachronisms'; 'Music'. Many were given by postgraduate researchers, often enabled to attend by SRS bursaries. Stimulating plenary lectures were given by Prof. Neil Rhodes (St. Andrews), who discussed ideas of 'the common' in sixteenth-century literature, Prof. Evelyn Welch (KCL), who spoke on depictions of skin in Renaissance art, and Prof. Wily Maley (Glasgow), who addressed perceptions of Presbyterianism in seventeenth-century Ireland. All three lectures, in the words of Tom Nichols' report for an earlier edition of the *Bulletin*, 'ultimately suggested the artificiality of boundaries between the disciplines' in Renaissance Studies, reconfirming 'the wider value of a multi-disciplinary conference such as



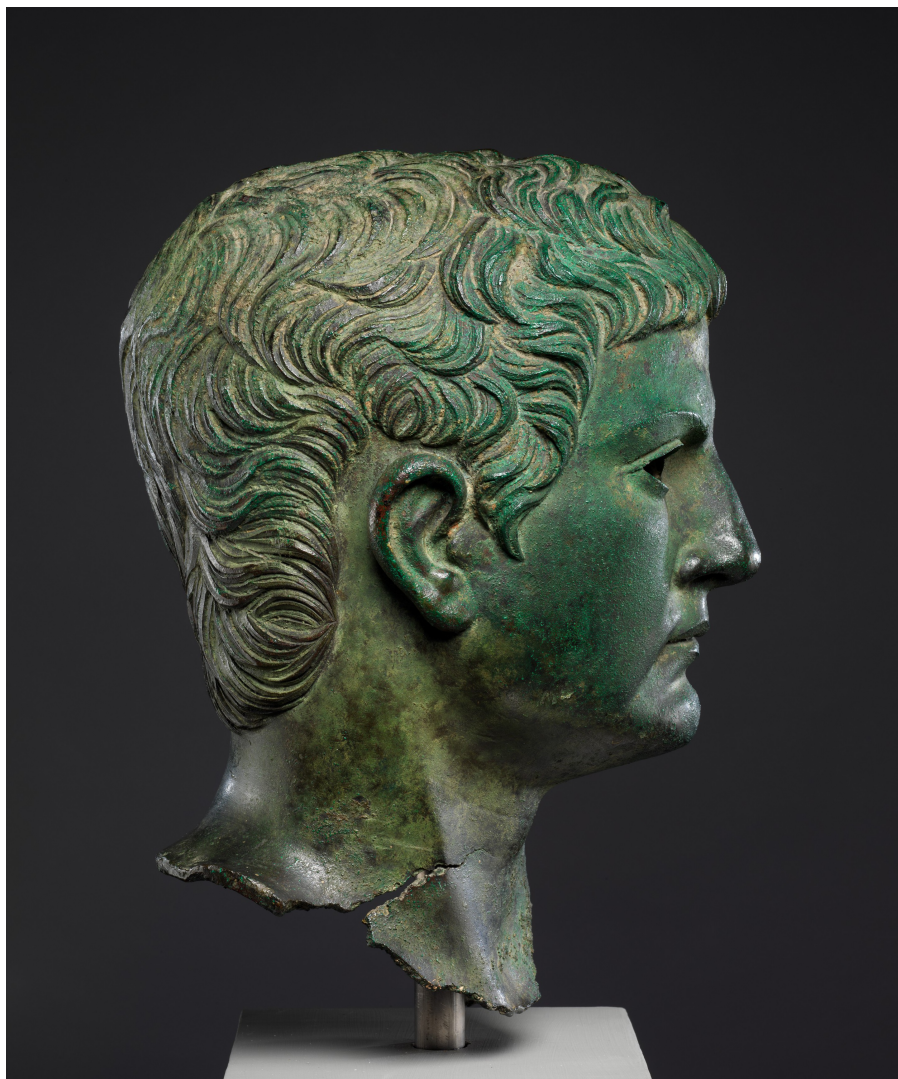
Joan Blaeu, *Scotia Regnum cum insulis adjacentibus* (1654).
Image: Koninklijke Bibliotheek

the SRS Biennial'.

Conference delegates also enjoyed supporting events which highlighted Glasgow's Renaissance treasures and keen local interest in the period, with an exhibition of fine Renaissance prints from the Hunterian Art Gallery, a concert of Renaissance music by the Cantainn vocal ensemble, organized by Dr Luca Guariento, and a visit to the sixteenth-century royal palace of Stirling under the expert guidance of Dr Sally Rush.

The summer of 2017 saw two

conferences supported by the SRS in Scotland. The first of these, 'The Uses of Euhemerism', which I organised, took place at the University of Aberdeen on 17th to 18th July. The purpose was to bring together specialists from Classics, History, Religious Studies and mediaeval and Renaissance literary studies to gain a fuller perspective on this essentially interdisciplinary topic. Though it has long been acknowledged that euhemerism (the idea that the gods of the Greco-Roman pantheon were



Bronze portrait of a man, 1st century AD.
Image: Metropolitan Museum of Art, Rogers Fund 1914, 14.130.2

historically mortal men and women, worshipped as gods in their life-time or after their death) was widespread in the Middle Ages and Renaissance, the implications of this extraordinarily iconoclastic belief for Renaissance Studies have received surprisingly little attention, and there has been no dialogue between the various disciplines concerned, each of which has taken a different approach to the legacy of Euhemeros, the elusive Hellenistic author of the lost text from whose fragments the tradition springs. Our conference succeeded in fostering vigorous dialogue and debate, and I am now editing a volume of papers, including many based on those delivered at the event, which will be published by Routledge in the SRS monograph series in due course: it will be of particular interest to fans of Boccaccio, and to those interested in the vexed topic of 'political theology'.

Later the same year, the University of Edinburgh hosted a joint

conference with St. Andrews on 'Pamphleteering Culture, 1558-1702', organized by two enterprising postgraduate researchers Rebecca Hasler (St. Andrews) and Ben Rogers (Edinburgh), and facilitated by a Small Conference Grant from the SRS. An array of speakers from across and beyond the UK presented papers organized into themed panels on 'Reception and Influences', 'Wonders, Witches and Rogues', 'Royal Representations', 'Satirical Pamphleteering' and 'Religious Oppositions'. The papers addressed topics ranging from Anglo-Scottish pamphleteering on the French Huguenots in the 1560s, through English Civil War pamphlets as 'Historical Evidence, Alternative Facts or Fake News?', to the binding together of pamphlets on the sieges of Vienna (1683) and Derry (1689), and paid attention to religious and political controversy, humour, illustration and printing, and the shaping of national identities. Prof. Joad Raymond (Queen

Mary University, London) as Keynote Speaker, rounded the conference off with a thought-provoking lecture on 'Scepticism and News-Reading in Early-Modern Europe'.

Edinburgh also hosted a workshop, in June 2018, on 'Women, Weapons and War'. Organized by Prof. Stephen Bowd and Dr Sarah Cockram, both of the History department, the workshop brought together speakers from several disciplines and countries to explore the intersection of gender and warfare from the perspectives of history, archaeology, art history, literary studies and classics. The SRS again provided financial assistance enabling postgraduate and early career researchers to participate in the event.

The Scottish branch has also pledged financial support for an upcoming conference at St. Andrews, on Renaissance academic drama and the popular stage, which is being organized by two postgraduate researchers: Jonathan Gardner and Elena Spinelli. Aimed at thinking about the convergence and interaction between two traditions which have usually been treated by modern scholars as if they were quite discrete and independent, this conference will be a welcome contribution to the burgeoning field of Renaissance neo-Latin studies, and promises to remind us that a fully historicist grasp of drama's role in early modern society requires attention to the classical learning and intertextuality which was so vital a part of contemporary culture. I hope that many of our readers will be able to attend. (I certainly plan to be there myself!)

Lastly, I'd like to take this opportunity to remind those readers based in Scotland that the Scottish branch has its own funds, to help postgraduate and postdoctoral scholars resident in Scotland travel to conferences, and to assist with research events in the region—more limited than the funds available through the national organization's grant schemes, but nevertheless there to be used! (See <http://www.rensoc.org.uk/local-branches/scotland> for full details.) Please contact me (at s.m.pugh@abdn.ac.uk) if you have plans which you think we could help you with, and continue to encourage your postgraduate students to do likewise.

The Society at RSA 2019 in Toronto

GEORGE OPPITZ-TROTMAN

E QUINDI USCIMMO A RIVEDER LE STELLE— ‘Thence we came forth to rebehold the stars’. Emerging in March from the Sheraton Centre Hotel in Toronto’s financial district after the RSA’s annual fest, it was hard not to think of that beautiful conclusion to Dante’s *Inferno* as the cold air streaming off Lake Ontario at last filled out my lungs. Below the hotel in which many of us slept: the conference centre in which we had all sat or stood enrapt for most of the three previous days. It consisted of foyers, concourses, ballrooms, anterooms, corridors, lecture halls — an overwhelming kaleidoscope of trippy beige convenience. Rooms were named for trees, as if the conference centre had once been a vast underground wood.

With up to forty parallel panels each session (a top-speed of about 120 papers per hour), the RSA annual conference is a bamboozling scene. Sprouting off the venue allegorically, almost twenty miles of subterranean tunnels crept fungus-like in nearly every direction, much like the decision tree of a curious early modernist at an event on this scale. ‘PATH’ is reckoned the largest underground shopping complex in the world. The effort of perusing the conference programme as if it were not merely an arcade of optional snacks or canapés could be wearing, especially when the venue itself merged like this into shopping lanes. One quickly learned to live with the

regret of having missed *x*, and *y*, *z*, and *n*, to sate oneself on *a* and *b*.

In fact one was in the presence of a freeze-frame on global early modern studies, its main highways, country roads and bridlepaths realised as a series of connected vaults where actual people were talking to each other. The murmur of the discussion next door was reassuring. With the morning horde of scholars having inevitably plumbed the coffee provision before the first interval of the day, one would later come across bewildered colleagues, who, having ventured too far into the warren in their hunt for the black treasure, had become hopelessly lost. Clubbing together like blind stragglers, you would make it back just in time for ‘Critical Plant Studies’ or ‘Marvell and Bureaucracy’.

On the Sunday morning after my arrival from London, and after dropping in rather sleepily on a dazzling array of papers concerning Michelangelo’s doodles, I found myself clutching a precious coffee and standing in ‘Peel’, a small, packed room hosting the session ‘Class in Early Modern Britain’. It was an SRS panel in all but name, with the council well-represented in the audience and our chairmen Andrew Hadfield and Richard Wistreich both giving serious papers. That evening, in the Birchwood Ballroom, the Society hosted a bustling and good-humoured wine reception, with everyone looking forward to our

conference next year in Norwich.

Katherine Ibbett of Trinity College, Oxford, delivered the SRS Plenary Lecture on the final day of the conference. Prof. Ibbett was the winner last year of the Society’s Book Prize, for her *Compassion’s Edge: Fellow-Feeling and its Limits in Early Modern France*. Her lecture, entitled ‘Staying Afloat: At the Surface of the Water in New France’, was revelatory. It virtuosically combined the *topos* of colonial encounter with the epistemology of surfaces and waterways, to describe an emerging ‘literature of buoyancy’: the preservation of the western self dramatised often by the immersion of actual western selves in the indigenous waters of ‘New France’.

Looking out across the sparkling surface of Lake Ontario the following morning, I imagined Jesuits plunging and bobbing. It was too cold to join them so I went back to the hotel to collect my luggage. I found a new wave of hard-faced conference delegates settling in, to talk about insurance. I wonder if they had as good a time as we did — and whether Plutus let them leave.

The RSA held its Annual Conference in Toronto, 17-19 March 2019. The RSA will in turn be represented next year at our biennial conference: Norwich, 7-9 July 2020. Prof. Jessica Wolfe (UNC Chapel Hill) will give the RSA Plenary lecture there.

FELLOWSHIP REPORT

Late Medieval and Renaissance Gaeltacht/Gàidhealtachd

SIMON EGAN

OVER THE COURSE OF THE later Middle Ages (c.1300-c.1500), the western section of the Atlantic archipelago underwent a profound geopolitical recasting. A combination of factors including (but not limited to) the impact of the Bruce Invasions (1315-18), the cooling of the climate (i.e., the so-called ‘Little Ice Age’), and the demographic disaster of the Black

Death saw royal power in Ireland and Scotland retreat at an incremental rate. In Ireland, the English colony which had once encompassed over two-thirds of the island became increasingly confined to the island’s more Anglicized eastern seaboard. In Scotland, the structures by which the earlier Canmore and Bruce kings had ruled the Highlands and Islands were uprooted with Scottish royal authority

(not unlike English colonial power in Ireland) becoming centred in the more densely populated Lowlands. This process, commonly referred to as the Gaelic ‘resurgence’ or ‘recovery’, saw nearly half the landmass of Ireland and Britain fall under the control of Gaelic-speaking dynasties.

My doctoral research (completed at University College Cork in 2016)

traced the resurgence and establishment of some of those dynasties in both Ireland and Scotland. It provided me with a narrative framework for exploring this Gaelic-speaking world (Gaeltacht in modern Irish; Gàidhealtachd in Scottish Gaelic). The Postdoctoral Fellowship awarded to me by the Society for Renaissance Studies focused on the dynastic structures underpinning the establishment and consolidation of some of these families.

One of the major findings of my recent thesis was that many of them displayed a remarkable capacity for coordinating their military activities during the fifteenth and early sixteenth centuries. For example, the O’Neills of Tyrone seemed to enjoy a range of connections with the other main Irish houses. Over the course of the fifteenth century, the O’Neills forged a series of military alliances with powerful Irish families such as the O’Connor Donn kindred of Roscommon, the Burkes of Clanrickard, the O’Briens of Thomond, and the MacMurrough-Kavanaghs of Leinster.

The O’Neills also signed treaties with the Butler earls of Ormond (among the English crown’s most important intermediaries in Irish affairs during the early fifteenth century) and the FitzGerald earls of Kildare (who later inherited the Butlers’ Irish responsibilities). Beyond Ireland, the O’Neills were also firm allies of the MacDonald lords of the Isles. A large body of material was consulted during the course of this project – my sources included material from the wider Gaelic world (annals, bardic poetry, genealogical histories) as well as governmental and chronicle records from England and Scotland. At the heart of my research was the concept of dynastic lordship. I traced the various military, familial, and marital links between each of the main dynasties in order to determine their relationships to one another and, where applicable, the English and Scottish crowns.

The fellowship allowed me to present some of my findings at two large, international conferences. In July 2018, I gave a talk at the Irish



Abraham Ortelius, *Map of Ireland (1592)*, detail
Image: Wikimedia

Conference of Medievalists, held at University College Cork, Ireland, in which I discussed ‘Gunpowder Weaponry in the Late Medieval Gaelic World’. Although James O’Neill has recently investigated the impact of the ‘Military Revolution’ in Gaelic Ireland during the late sixteenth century, very few scholars have examined the role of early gunpowder weaponry in Ireland (or indeed the wider Gaelic world). During the later fifteenth and early sixteenth centuries, a number of Irish dynasties came into possession of black powder weapons; I observed that there appeared to be a correlation in the expansion of certain dynasties and the acquisition of these weapons.

The O’Donnells are perhaps the best example of such a dynasty. Having been crushed in 1433 by a combined O’Neill-MacDonald invasion, the O’Donnells bounced back in the late fifteenth century. Their alliance with the expanding Renaissance Stewart monarchy appears to have been a central factor in their recovery and there is evidence to suggest that the O’Donnells looked to Scotland for both fighting men and military hardware. The O’Donnells seem to have been using some form of handgun (possibly an arquebus) in the late fifteenth century (c.1487); by the

early sixteenth century they were using large field guns sourced from Scotland. Further down the west coast, the O’Briens of Thomond also appear to have acquired a large Portuguese cannon (possibly sourced from a Portuguese ship or, indeed, shipwreck?). The Butlers of Ormond, by comparison, hired an Italian gunner from the Florentine military Portichello dynasty (pointing to Ireland’s connection with the wider Renaissance world).

In a second paper, given in August 2018 at Queens University Belfast, I explored the extent to which developments in Ireland (and Scotland) posed a challenge to the fledgling Tudor dynasty in England. Special attention was devoted to exploring the resurgence of the O’Donnells and their links with Edinburgh – particularly their role in supporting the Yorkist Pretender, Perkin Warbeck (d.1499) and Aodh Dubh O’Donnell’s treaty with James IV (d.1513) in 1513 (an event which foreshadowed the disastrous Flodden campaign later that summer). ‘Richard II and the Wider Gaelic World: A Re-assessment’ was published in the *Journal of British Studies* (April, 2018). Using a series of case studies, focusing on the O’Neills, the O’Donnells, and their respective allies, it traced the emergence and consolidation of alliance networks within Gaelic-speaking world. The piece also demonstrated how developments in the Gaelic west could exert a magnetic ‘pull’ upon the political ‘centre’ of the archipelago: chiefly the kingdoms of England and Scotland.

Following my SRS Fellowship, in October 2018 I began a two-year Marie-Sklodowska Curie Postdoctoral Fellowship at the University of Glasgow. My current project builds both upon my doctoral research and the recent SRS fellowship; it explores the developing relationship between Ireland and Scotland during the turbulence of the sixteenth century. It is concerned with the extent to which the advent of the Reformation undercut pre-existing relationships between Ireland and Scotland.

Dr Simon Egan is a Research Fellow at the University of Glasgow. He held an SRS Postdoctoral Fellowship 2017-18.

CONFERENCE REPORTS

Living in a Magical World: Inner Lives, 1300-1900

JAMES BROWN

HISTORIANS HAVE LEARNED TO appreciate the supernatural as integral to past lives. No longer are magical beliefs anachronistically condescended to as ‘superstitions’, entertained only by a credulous minority and ancillary to everyday existence. Instead, the near-constant presence of unseen yet powerful forces – benevolent as well as malign, across domestic, communal, and cosmic environments – now seems central to a subtle and pervasive worldview held by sane, intelligent people whose outlook on the universe was no less sophisticated than our own. At the same time, occult theories and practices were unstable, inconsistent, and contested. Taking these insights as a starting point, and drawing in particular on recent methodological and interpretative impulses within the history of the emotions, this three-day conference explored the everyday ramifications of living in a magical world, with special reference to its complex relationship to the interior lives of our forebears, from the late medieval to the modern period.

Across two broad strands – one focussing on witchcraft, the other on different types of magic – fifty-two scholars from multiple disciplines and all career stages explored interactions between the supernatural, the emotions, and selfhood, in geographical contexts ranging from early medieval Iceland to early modern Bermuda to twentieth-century Cameroon, and using sources varying from late medieval astrological diagrams to early modern witch trial testimonies to extant standing stones. While aware of the limitations of their sources – visual, textual, and material – as entry points to the inner worlds of historical people, especially to their actually endured/enjoyed feeling states, speakers generally evinced optimism about the possibilities of their raw materials for genuine affective reconstruction beyond mere representation. As such, they tended to complement the forensic intellectual histories of particular emotional concepts and vocabularies



traditional within the history of the emotions with full-blooded, empathetic, and in many cases emotionally charged accounts of supernatural mentalities and experiences.

Many contributions foregrounded the inner lives of magical practitioners and witches, both accused and self-defined. Magicians, in the late middle ages in particular (when ecclesiastical authorities became increasingly anxious about magical practices), were seen as psychologically conflicted between the need for religious humility and obedience on the one hand, and their striving for occult power on the other. In the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, magical objects and texts interacted uneasily with sermons and confessional handbooks, and the concept of *superstitio* (or superstition) emerged as a ‘discourse of order, authority, and constraint’ (Fabrizio Conti); however, it was also a time of growing confidence, self-awareness, and intentionality on the part of many practitioners, such as purveyors of medieval Kabbalah. Other speakers read the heartrending confessions of accused witches – including a seventeenth-century Moorish slave, an eighteenth-century Tuscan prostitute, and a Pietist prophetess from nineteenth-century Germany – for their understandings of and

languages for their paranormal identities, including the cultivation and inhabitation of sophisticated fantasy worlds, albeit recognising that such documents were complex, gendered, and highly mediated triangulations between witches, interrogating magistrates, and scribes in which power was unevenly distributed. Accusers of witches in nineteenth-century France themselves used such allegations to frame new identities, and to ‘explore new models of mind, body, and feeling’ (Will Pooley).

Speakers also considered the special ability of magic and witchcraft to induce particular emotional states. Several explained how, in the

All of the conferences featured in this section of the *Bulletin* received Society for Renaissance Studies conference grants.

To find out more visit:
www.rensoc.org.uk/funding-and-prizes/conference-grants

widespread context of love magic, magical words and deeds could be used to bend hearts as well as minds: potions, charms, and spells could both bind objects of desire to admirers and mitigate the agonising ‘erotic melancholies’ of love-sickness (Al Cummins), while astrology, scrying, geomancy, and other forms of prognostication were also applied to amorous affairs, from the identification of potential marriage prospects to the determination of the depth and authenticity of romantic feeling. However, even here (where, in seventeenth-century Russia, ‘the emotion most closely associated with marriage was dread’ — Valerie Kivelson), adverse passions were never far below the surface, and other speakers explored the negative ‘emotional engines’ (Johannes Dillinger) that drove witchcraft accusations in particular. These ranged from characterisations of the accused in Germany, Scandinavia, and the Baltic States as profit-oriented and therefore avaricious — leading to counter-accusations that their accusers were themselves envious — to the profound and graphic states of anger, terror, and grief engendered by malefic acts, from the disruption of fertility in fifteenth-century Denmark to the wreaking of large-scale environmental havoc in nineteenth-century Ireland.

The conference also navigated the fantastical netherworld of dreamscapes and visions. We learned that nightmares, night terrors, and related nocturnal episodes were a recurring element of witch trial narratives in both early modern Sweden and Spain, while in medieval Sweden and Iceland dreams reported in Old Norse were understood not to originate within the psyche of the sleeper but to instead be external communications from otherworldly mound-dwellers and wraiths. Other speakers interrogated the visionary experiences of medieval monks, and the psychopathology of fairy and ghost encounters in early modern Scotland, the latter related subtly and sympathetically to modern therapeutic literature on sleepwalking, fantasy-proneness, hallucinations, and imaginary friends.

We learned how diagrams within Latin astrological treatises became instruments for forging identity and facilitating spiritual change, and of the powerful talismanic potential of a wide variety of artefacts, from gems in renaissance lapidaries to cauls in the nineteenth-century to the ubiquitous love locks of the present day (a conference field trip to the project’s Spellbound exhibition at the Ashmolean Museum of Art and Archaeology further underscored the enduring magical significance of

material and visual culture). Other speakers charted enchanted landscapes, such as the ‘shared imaginarium’ of a ‘world below’ in the early modern witchcraft confessions of the Moray Firth in Scotland (Diane Purkiss), or the Year Walk tradition in modern Sweden, a sinister perambulation involving prophesying visions and a phantom pig called Gloson. Indeed, the burgeoning sub-field of animal studies was represented by several other papers. Medieval veterinary care, especially for horses, was revealed to be as reliant upon astrology and miracle as surgery and pharmacology, while other speakers explored the complex inter-species relationships between witches, their accusers, and their mammalian and reptilian familiar spirits.

Dr James Brown is a Senior Research Associate at the University of East Anglia, working on the Leverhulme Trust project ‘Inner Lives: Emotions, Identity, and the Supernatural, 1300–1900’ (<https://innerlives.org>). ‘Living in a Magical World: Inner Lives, 1300–1900’ was the project’s concluding conference. It was held at St Anne’s College, Oxford, 17–19 September 2018, with generous financial support from the SRS, the UEA, the University of Hertfordshire, the Leverhulme Trust, UCL, and Palgrave Macmillan.

BritGrad 2018

CORINNE FURNESS

CELEBRATING ITS TWENTIETH anniversary, the British Graduate Shakespeare Conference continues to provide a friendly, supportive environment for graduate students to share research with their peers.

Once again, ‘BritGrad’ welcomed a mixture of those giving their first ever conference paper and returning delegates. Whilst the anniversary gave us an opportunity to celebrate BritGrad’s history, with founder Peter Holland (Notre Dame) delivering a plenary lecture, as befits a graduate conference the theme remained forward-looking, motivated always by the question: ‘What’s next?’

Whether dealing with Shakespeare’s

contemporaries, fan fiction, or current performance practices, recurrent ideas emerged in the responses to this question, as delegates explored connections with contemporary politics, the need to find space for marginalised voices, and how creative responses might allow us to engage more deeply with our research.

Complementing delegate contributions, this year’s plenaries addressed areas which have historically been somewhat underrepresented at BritGrad, with Islam Issa (BCU) speaking on Milton and Wikipedia, Tracy Irish (Warwick) on Shakespeare and cultural intelligence, and Emma Frankland and

Andy Kesson (Roehampton) on directing John Lyly’s *Galatea*.

The twentieth British Graduate Shakespeare Conference took place at the Shakespeare Institute, Stratford-upon-Avon, from 31 May–2 June 2018. The Society for Renaissance Studies funded five fee bursaries for postgraduate students.

If you are a graduate student and would like to be involved in the future, visit our website:

<http://britgrad.com>

Early Modern Global Soundscapes

EMILIE MURPHY



William Hogarth, *The Enraged Musician* (1741), detail.
Image: Wellcome Collection

ON 25-26 JANUARY 2019, forty interdisciplinary scholars from institutions across the UK, Europe and North America met at the University of York for a workshop to discuss early modern global soundscapes. Sound studies is a flourishing field of scholarly enquiry, as epitomised by dedicated journals, book series, and various handbooks and readers. Yet there are several significant unresolved issues when asking questions about historic sounds that this workshop intended to start conversations around.

The workshop therefore had two main aims. The first was to consider how sounds shaped the lives of ordinary historic individuals and their communities; the second was to explore conceptual issues associated with studying past soundscapes. Bringing together both early career

and senior researchers from the disciplines of History, Music, Art History, English, Theatre, Film and Television, and Ethnomusicology, the workshop addressed its objectives via a series of fruitful discussions.

Over the course of the two days we focused on various important questions. What is a soundscape, and is the answer dependant on your disciplinary perspective? Is there a collective way that all scholars can and should conceptualise soundscapes? We explored topics such as the relationship between sound and silence, how sounds connect more broadly to sensory experience, and whether it is problematic artificially to separate the senses by focusing exclusively on 'hearing'.

This is particularly pertinent when we consider the history of sensory disability, especially deafness.

The workshop also raised issues about the benefit of comparative studies that juxtaposed scholarship of (for example) eighteenth-century England and eighteenth-century South Asia. Occupying a significant proportion of time were conversations surrounding the profitability of practice-led approaches such as musical performances and digital reconstructions. A provocative discussion arose following the suggestion that recreations were more important for public engagement than for understanding the historical questions arising within the field.

A highlight of the workshop was a decatyche of brief presentations given by PhD students and other early career scholars whose attendance at the workshop had been supported by the Society for Renaissance Studies and the Past & Present Society. Themes that

were touched on included: sound, conflict and punishment; music and confessional identity; the creation of stereotypes through sound; how soundscapes were 'controlled' by various individuals and institutions; sound effects, and the acoustic politics of various types of boundary construction.

Overall the workshop made plain that the field calls for much more investigation, and that more research along some of these lines would eventually impress on scholars of the early modern period the importance of soundscapes to a full understanding of the past. It was generally agreed that a clear definition of how early modernists should approach the term 'soundscape' is also needed.

Fortunately, these are the chief aims of an AHRC-funded international research network which was also announced at the workshop. The network, entitled 'Soundscapes in the Early Modern World', will run events from March 2019 to July 2020. It is led by Rachel Willie (LJMU) and Emilie Murphy (York). The network will bring scholars from multiple disciplines together to ask how we might develop new approaches to hearing the sounds of the early modern world, reflect on how we engage with historical soundscapes, and consider the multifaceted relationship between meaning and hearing. For more information on the events and how to participate please see the project website:

www.emsoundscapes.co.uk

The organisers would like to thank the SRS, the Past & Present Society, and CREMS (York) for funding the workshop, enabling us to furnish the bursaries that supported the attendance of a large number of PhD students and early career scholars.

Rituals and Revels: Everyday Life in England

ERICA ASKEW-JONES & ANNA-LUIZ GILBERT

Thanks to the generous support of the SRS Public Engagement Scheme, a small team of postgraduates from the University of Exeter was able to host a public engagement event at one of the oldest buildings in Exeter, St Nicholas Priory. Founded in 1087 as a Benedictine monastery, the priory was dissolved by Henry VIII in 1536, and was eventually converted into an Elizabethan townhouse. From 1575 to 1602, the priory was occupied by the Hursts, a prominent merchant family. The building is currently owned by the Exeter Historic Buildings Trust and is used as a museum, furnished as the house of the Hurst family.

Our event, 'Rituals and Revels', was an interactive historical tour about life and death in Tudor and Stuart England. Members of the public were invited to step into the world of an

early modern household, with postgraduates from the Exeter Centre for Early Modern Studies and undergraduates from the Exeter Shakespeare Society to guide them. Visitors were shown through the priory by undergraduate actors representing the Hurst family, and these actors explained the history of the family and the building as part of the tour. Postgraduates were stationed in each room of the priory, where they presented short talks on their research.

Visitors were introduced to research on changing death cultures over the Reformation, early modern reading and the creation of parish libraries, the working lives of early modern women, and practices of will making amongst seventeenth century women. Immersive characters were stationed in each room, in order to represent aspects of the talks. At the

end of the tour, visitors were entertained with a performance of the play-within-a-play from *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

'Rituals and Revels' was attended by visitors of all ages and backgrounds, including families with children, students, retirees, history societies and other people from the local area. All of the feedback was extremely positive, and visitors were especially happy to see the university students engaging with the local area and history.

Feedback highlighted how the event brought the history to life, gave insight into the everyday lives of local people in the past, was entertaining and made good use of the beautiful historic space. We have already been asked to host future public engagement events at St Nicholas Priory and at other locations, so watch this space!

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

Shadow Agents of War Workshop

4 June 2019
Old College, Edinburgh

This workshop, which will comprise discussion of pre-circulated papers, will cover such topics as: doctors and heralds, refugees, armourers and gun-makers, amateur spies, peasant militia, and engineers.

Postgraduate participation has been made possible by the SRS.

For further information about this event, please contact

Stephen.Bowd@ed.ac.uk, or
Sarah.Cockram@ed.ac.uk, or
john.gagne@sydney.edu.au.

Space for attendance is very limited so please contact the co-organisers to book a place. See the workshop website:

<https://research.shca.ed.ac.uk/shadow-agents-of-war/>

The Early Modern Inns of Court and the Circulation of Text

14-15 June 2019
King's College London

Registration is now open: £80/£35
Delegates may purchase a concession ticket to *The Misfortunes of Arthur*, which is returning to Gray's Inn for the first time since 1587.

The two-day event includes plenary addresses from Prof. Arthur Marotti and Prof. Michelle O'Callaghan, a performance of *The Misfortunes of Arthur*, and an exhibition.

Supported by SRS Postgraduate Bursaries, and the SRS Public Engagement Scheme.

To register, please visit:
<https://bit.ly/2UanM19>

Queries can be sent to
romola.nuttall@kcl.ac.uk, or
julian.neuhauser@kcl.ac.uk

The Art of Authority: Thomas Wentworth, Chief Governor of Ireland (1632-41)

22 June 2019
Bedford Hall, Dublin Castle

Areas covered include: politics and administration; William Laud; Van Dyck's portraits; James Shirley; architecture; and a plenary lecture by Raymond Gillespie on 'Wentworthian Dublin, 1632-88'.

The conference will be held in association with the Office of Public Works, University College Dublin, and the Society for Renaissance Studies.

It will be followed by 'Viceregal Revels' in the evening.

Admission is free.

Enquiries to
archives@christchurch.ie

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: AGENDA

Agenda for the Annual General Meeting: 17 July 2019 at 5.15pm
Victoria & Albert Museum

1. Apologies
2. Acceptance of Minutes
3. Publications
 - a) Report from Wiley
 - b) *Renaissance Studies* (JR)
 - c) Report on the new SRS Monograph Series (HB)
 - d) *Bulletin* (SB and GO-T)
4. Matters Arising
5. Major Matters for Discussion (incl. 2020 biennial (TR))
6. Report of Vice-Chair (RW)
7. Secretary's Report (KK)
8. Treasurer's Report (JC)
9. Membership Secretary's Report (TS)
10. Web Editors's Report (Rachel W)
11. Conference Fund Report (SP)
12. SRS Prizes and Awards
13. Reports, from Officers and Council members with portfolios, to be taken as read
14. Postdoctoral Fellows
15. AOB and Date of Next Meeting

MINUTES OF THE 2018 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

University of Sheffield, HRI (at Biennial Conference)
Thursday 5th July 2018, 5.15pm

Chair

Professor Andrew Hadfield

Vice Chair

Prof Richard Wistreich

Secretary

Dr Jane Stevens Crawshaw

Treasurer

Dr Liam Haydon

1. Acceptance of Minutes
The Minutes of the AGM 5th May 2017 were accepted.
2. Matters Arising
No matters arising
3. Report of the Chair.
 - a. The chair thanked the organising committee of the 2018 biennial conference for hosting the event, noting how excellent it had been, its smooth running and the hard work that had been put in by the organising team, both before and during the conference.
 - b. The Society Book Prize
The SRS book prize has been awarded to Katherine Ibbett, of the University of Oxford, for her work *Compassion's Edge: Fellow-Feeling and its Limits in Early Modern France* (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2018)
The Runner-up prize has been awarded to Susanna Berger, of the

University of Southern California, for her work *The Art of Philosophy: Visual Thinking in Europe from the Late Renaissance to the Early Enlightenment* (Princeton University Press, 2017)

c. The Society's two postdoctoral fellowships for 2018-19 have been awarded to: Amy Lidster, KCL, 'Challenging authorship and authority in early modern paratexts' and Eleanor Chan, Cambridge, 'Reading through style: Conscious lines in European vocal polyphony and visual culture c.1600'.

d. The Journal Prize has been awarded to Sarah Cockram (University of Glasgow) for her essay 'Interspecies understanding: exotic animals and their handlers at the Italian Renaissance court'. A commendation was awarded to Stefano Dall'Aglio (University of Leeds), 'Voices under trial. Inquisition, abjuration, and preachers' orality in sixteenth-century Italy'

e. Next conference
The chair confirmed that the 9th SRS biennial conference will be held in Norwich, at the University of East Anglia, from 7 - 9th July, 2020.

f. Public Events. The chair noted

the public events that the society has staged this year, around the country, as part of the SRS@50 celebrations. These included two public lectures; on John Donne and the sense of smell in Dublin (13 September) and on Silent Shakespeare in York (6 October), as well as sponsoring the launch of The Anne Boleyn Music Book at the Royal College of Music (24 September).

4. Publications
 - a) The chair reported, in the absence of the Journal editor, on *Renaissance Studies*, its very impressive recent issues and the success of our ongoing collaboration with Wiley Blackwell. JS-C reported to the AGM that the new Associate Editor of the *Journal Renaissance Studies* is the historian Markku Peltonen (Helsinki)
 - b) Harald Braun reported on the healthy state of the SRS Monograph Series with Routledge, noting that one of the publications has been awarded a book prize. He noted also the impressive range of disciplines covered and our appetite to extend this.
 - c) The chair thanked the outgoing editors of the *Bulletin*, Matthew Woodcock and William Rossiter for

their tenure as editors, and the transformation in format and style they had overseen. He announced the new Bulletin editors, Sophie Butler (UEA) and George Oppitz-Trotman (Cambridge). WR reported the copy deadline of 15 August for the next issue.

5. Report of Vice-Chair (RW)
 - a) Richard Wistreich thanked the officers of the Society for their hard work and the voluntary effect put into the running of the society. He noted in particular the outgoing secretary of the Society, Jane Stevens Crawshaw, and thanked for her longstanding service to the SRS.
 - b) The Vice Chair noted how the Society plans to extend its activities, in the area of knowledge exchange, public engagement and the opportunities in this area, particularly for younger scholars involved in the Society. He noted plans for forthcoming events to encourage collaboration between non-academic organisations, including media, television and cultural institutions, and the SRS.

6. Secretary's Report (J C-S)
 - a) Five colleagues were nominated to council (each requires the support of three SRS members). Since our total number of vacancies was greater than five, these individuals stand unopposed and are, therefore, duly elected to Council:
 Anna Contadini (SOAS)
 Emily Michelson (St Andrews)
 Victoria Moul (KCL)
 Hannah Saunders Murphy (KCL)
 Tim Shepherd (Sheffield)
 - b) Changes of Portfolio: we require each to be proposed and seconded by Society members in attendance at the AGM:
New Trustee – Rachel Willie (Proposed R. Wistreich, seconded H. Braun)
Fellowships Secretary – Matthew Woodcock (Proposed R. Willie, seconded A Hadfield)
Honorary Secretary – Kevin Killeen (Proposed M Woodcock, seconded H. Braun)



Pieter Breughel, *Bezahlung des Zehnten* (c.1620), detail. Image: Wikimedia

7. Treasurer's Report (LH)
 The treasurer noted that the finances of the Society remain in very good shape, with the finer details of this available in the accounts. As a result, the Society has increased the number and scope of its charitable activities. The Charity Commission requires that our financial activities are independently scrutinized and audited on an annual basis and the treasurer proposed that we re-appoint our current accountant. This was seconded by Rachel Willie.
8. Reports, from Officers and Council members with portfolios, to be taken as read.
9. AOB and next meeting.
 A discussion on the future direction of the society was initiated by the Vice Chair, soliciting ideas, comments and 'provocations'. Among the key responses were the following:
 - The importance of social media for both our profile and for communicating our events was noted, along with the desirability of creating links to the SRS website

from related organisations. The forthcoming upgrade of the website was noted.

- The webmaster, Rachel Willie, encouraged and solicited web-blogs, particularly from Early Career Researchers (ECR), noting how we were keen to feature aspects of their writing and research that would fit the format.
- Rachel Stenner (Sheffield organising team) noted that there was a lot of interest among ECRs in hearing opinions about best practice and principles in many areas of academic life. The models of the Royal Historical Society, University English, and the Royal Musical Association were noted, by various attendees of the AGM.
- Rachel Willie noted a parallel need to providing advice about the use and desirability of a PhD beyond academia.
- Will Rossiter spoke about how these ideas might be incorporated into the design of the next SRS conference in Norwich.
- A discussion of the visibility of the SRS in Europe and internationally, the need to ensure continued European collaboration, began with the suggestion that we might hold a conference in continental Europe, where the SRS is not as well known as it might be. Previous discussions along these lines were noted, as were our current links to the British School at Rome. The potential difficulties for British Cultural Institutions on the European mainland, and their desire to create partnerships was noted, and that we should continue with outward-facing events and the sponsorship of activities beyond the university sector.
- Tom Rutter (Sheffield organising team) gave a closing note of thanks to Cathy Shrank, as the driving force behind the conference.

Proceedings closed at 5.50 p.m.

The next AGM is due to take place on 17 May 2019 at the Victoria and Albert Museum, London.

SOCIETY FOR RENAISSANCE STUDIES ANNUAL LECTURE

SRS members and non-members are warmly invited to attend the Society's Annual Lecture, which will take place following the AGM.

The lecture will be delivered in the Hochhauser Auditorium at the Victoria & Albert Museum, London, on 17 May 2019 at 5pm,

by

Professor Alison Wright
(Professor of Italian Art, University College London)

The lecture will be followed by a drinks reception.

THE SOCIETY FOR RENAISSANCE STUDIES

Founded 1967

COUNCIL (April 2019)

Prof. Andrew Hadfield (Hon. Chair)	Dr George Oppitz-Trotman (Co-Editor, <i>Bulletin</i>)
Prof. Richard Wistreich (Hon. Vice Chair)	Dr Debra Strickland (Exhibition Reviews Editor, <i>RS</i>)
Dr James Cook (Hon. Treasurer)	Dr Scott Nethersole (Exhibition Reviews Editor, <i>RS</i>)
Prof. Kevin Killeen (Hon. Secretary / Associate Editor, <i>RS</i>)	Dr Harald Braun (SRS Monographs Editor)
Dr Tim Shepherd (Membership Secretary)	Dr Ellie Chan (SRS Postdoctoral Fellow)
Prof. Matthew Woodcock (Fellowship Officer)	Dr Amy Lidster (SRS Postdoctoral Fellow)
Dr Syrithé Pugh (Scottish Rep. / Conference Co-ordinator)	Dr Thomas Roebuck (SRS Conference Representative)
Dr Eoin Price (Welsh Representative)	Prof. Anna Contadini (Elected Council)
Dr Jane Grogan (Irish Representative)	Dr Emily Michelson (Elected Council)
Dr Ana Debenedetti (Museums & Galleries Officer)	Dr Victoria Moul (Elected Council)
Dr John Gallagher (Public Engagement Officer)	Dr Regina Poertner (Elected Council)
Dr Rachel Willie (Web Editor / Book Reviews Editor, <i>RS</i>)	Dr William Rossiter (Elected Council)
Prof. Jennifer Richards (Editor, <i>Renaissance Studies</i>)	Dr Hannah Saunders Murphy (Elected Council)
Dr Sophie Butler (Co-Editor, <i>Bulletin</i>)	Dr Jane Stevens-Crawshaw (Elected Council)

Membership of the Society is open to anyone interested in Renaissance studies and to institutions. All members receive issues of the *Bulletin*, which is published twice yearly, in April and October. Membership is also a precondition of attending the biennial conference and applying for the various prizes and funding schemes. Details of how to join the Society can be found on our website: http://www.rensoc.org.uk/join_us. The annual subscription is £20 for individual members, £35 for institutions, £25 for overseas members and £15 for students. Copies of back issues of the *Bulletin* are available to members from the Editors at £2 each.