

# LAURISTON LECTURES 2010

LECTURE EXPERIENCES AND TOURS AT EDINBURGH'S  
MAGICAL LAURISTON CASTLE



LAURISTON CASTLE INVITES YOU TO A SERIES OF SPECIAL TALKS AND LECTURES

# LAURISTON LECTURES 2010

Lecture mornings cost £8, and include a special tour of the Castle with coffee and cakes. Our lecture experiences are truly unique and intimate, and you often get a chance to see parts of the Castle not on the guided tours.

**Our lectures are hugely popular. Pre-booking and advance payment are essential. To secure your place, call Margaret Findlay on 0131-529-3963. Please note that people do book very early for events, so if you fancy a particular event later in the year, book as soon as the programme comes out.**

Free car parking is available within the Castle grounds off Cramond Road South.

Lauriston Castle is easy to reach and is just minutes from the City Bypass. It sits between Davidson's Mains and Cramond. You can take buses to Davidson's Mains, or Silverknowes Terminus; both are around 10 minutes walk from Lauriston Castle. The lecture mornings last approximately 2 hours.

## LAURISTON CASTLE TOURS

Visit Lauriston Castle and see one of the most extraordinary Edwardian interiors in Scotland.

### TOUR TIMES:

#### Summer season

From 1 April-31 October 2.00pm every day except Friday

#### Winter season

From 1 November -31 March 2.00pm Saturday and Sunday only

### Admission charges

Adult ..... £5.00  
Concession..... £3.00  
Family..... £12.50 (2 adults +3 children under 16)  
Group rate..... £3.00 (for groups of 10 and over)  
Out of hours group visits are £8 Adult and £5 Concession.  
Refreshments can be provided.

## SPECIAL TOURS AND EVENTS

We have one daily 'no need to book' guided tour at Lauriston. Just turn up at the times outlined above. You can however book tours at other times by phoning Lauriston Castle. We also offer a range of pre-bookable themed tours on subjects like; Edwardian Social History, the Furniture of Lauriston, the History of the Gardens, and Servants' Lives.

Lauriston Castle is also the home of the Edinburgh Croquet Club. Free croquet taster sessions can be arranged by request. Why not combine a game of croquet with your visit to the Castle, along with afternoon tea? For croquet alone, phone **0131 443 1410** or go on line at [www.edinburghcroquetclub.com](http://www.edinburghcroquetclub.com).



For more information about the Castle, or to book a place on any of our regular organised tours:

☎ 0131 336 2060

✉ [lauristoncastle@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:lauristoncastle@edinburgh.gov.uk)

Lauriston Castle, 2a Cramond Road South Davidson's Mains, Edinburgh



Sunday 2 May and repeated Monday 3 May, 10.30 am–12 noon or 1 pm–2.30 pm or 3 pm–4.30 pm.

## GARDEN COTTAGE DIARIES

Challenged to prove her claim that an 18th-century diet was better than today's, for a full year, Fiona J Houston recreated the lifestyle of her 1790s rural Scottish ancestors in a basic one-roomed cottage, cooking from her garden and the wild. She learned lost crafts and skills, making nettle string, quill pens and ink as well as cheese and ale, lighting her fire with a tinder box, and dressing in hand-sewn period clothing, with nothing but an old range stove and candles for warmth and light. As a result of this experience Fiona wrote *The Garden Cottage Diaries: My Year in the Eighteenth Century* which tells her extraordinary story, and is packed with historical anecdotes, folklore, practical gardening info, seasonal menus, recipes, wildlife notes and more. During these sessions at Lauriston Castle, against the backdrop of the old kitchen, Fiona Houston will give us a resume of her extraordinary year. During the Sunday sessions she will demonstrate various cooking lessons and talk about the kind of food eaten in the 1790s. She will cook kail and batches of barley bannocks. During the Monday sessions she will demonstrate how to make rush lights.

**Please note this event is free but PRE-BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL.**

Tuesday 29 June, 10.30 am

## CLASSICAL TEMPLES IN EDINBURGH

There are several classically inspired monumental 'temples' in Edinburgh, including the Burns Monument and St Bernard's Well. The former was designed by Thomas Hamilton from architectural source books, but Alexander Nasmyth literally drew inspiration from monuments in Italy on his 'Grand Tour' for the latter.

The talk will explain aspects of these circular monuments and show the restoration work on the Burns monument, and the conservation survey of St. Bernard's Well.

**Paul McAuley is a Conservation Officer who works with museums and monuments in the care of the City of Edinburgh Council. He is involved with various monumental conservation projects, notably the Twelve Monuments project, a collaboration with Edinburgh World Heritage.**

Wednesday 30 June, 10.30 am

## SELF-PORTRAITURE AND THE 19TH CENTURY WOMAN ARTIST

This lecture explores the world of the professional woman artist in the 19th century when improved access to training, exhibition and selling opportunities meant that women in

increasing numbers managed to achieve a professional artistic career. Women also became a more visible part of the art world than had ever before been possible. This visibility brought with it new questions - What was the professional woman artist meant to look like? How should she define herself? How should she project herself to her audience in a modern day, capitalistic art market? The lecture sets out to explore these questions through the work of such artists as Angelica Kauffman, Emily Osborn, Berthe Morisot and Louise Jopling. **Dr Patricia de Montfort teaches in the History of Art Department at the University of Glasgow. Her teaching and research interests include 19th century women artists, the life and work of James McNeill Whistler and the 19th century London art market.**

Wednesday 21 July, 10.30 am

## GOOD HOUSEKEEPING - LOOKING AFTER YOUR PRECIOUS THINGS

All old artefacts need special care and attention, to keep them in good condition and preserve them for the future. Using practical examples from the collections, **Dorothy Marsh, Senior Conservation Officer, will show you good, simple, everyday ways to clean and care for your antiques.**

Monday 26 July, 10.30 am

## SIR JOHN CLERK, WILLIAM ADAM AND MAVISBANK - SCOTLAND'S GEORGIAN MASTERPIECE

**James Simpson, conservation architect and architectural historian**, will tell the unfinished story of Mavisbank, Scotland's greatest conservation 'cause celebre' of the last half century, placing it and its creators in the context of the architecture of early Georgian Scotland.

Monday 2 August, 10.30 am

## A CARTOGRAPHIC JOURNEY THROUGH TIME

**Maps, Plans and Views of Edinburgh, Lauriston and Environs over Five Centuries.**

From the earliest detailed representations of Edinburgh for military purposes in the 1540s, to modern Ordnance Survey maps in the present day, the mapping of Edinburgh

and Lauriston provides a fascinating story of changing geographical shapes and details over time. However, by looking at the purposes behind these maps, who surveyed and produced them, and the changing historical influences behind them, these maps provide key insights into a range of contrasting ideological, cultural and social values.

**Chris Fleet is Map Collections Manager at the National Library of Scotland.**

Tuesday 10 August, 10.30 am

## WHY DID EDINBURGH TRANSFORM ITSELF INTO ATHENS?

What was so bad about Scottish culture that between 1810 and 1830 the Scots rejected it for an Athenian one? The English didn't. **Professor Charles McKean is professor of Scottish Architectural History at Dundee University and leads the Centre for Research into Scottish Architectural History there.** Charles has published widely on Edinburgh and on Scottish architecture generally, and is working on a book 'Unbuilt Scotland' - including 'unbuilt Athens', and is chairman of Edinburgh World Heritage, and Honorary President of the St Andrews Preservation Society.



Wednesday 18 August, 10.30 am

## A CAPITAL SYSTEM

### The Development of Rail Travel in 19th century Edinburgh

Robin Barnes will discuss aspects of the development of rail travel in and around Edinburgh, illustrated by his own enchanting watercolours and entertaining anecdotes.

**Robin is an author, historian and railway artist.**

Monday 23 August, 10.30 am

## THE SMELL OF HISTORY

### From Silverknowes to Seafield

In 1901 there were complaints about strong odours wafting around Leith. The Provost said "I wish there were more of them - doesn't our port prosper as a result of these smells?" And what a selection: whale blubber, shortbread, soap, whisky, sailcloth, lime cordial, tea and timber. In this lecture you will get a real chance to experience some of the whiffs of the waterfront and learn about the port's colourful history.

**Ian Lutton is a wildlife artist, and was the founder of Granton History Group.**

Wednesday 8 September, 10.30 am

## "COCKY NIT, COCKY NIT; COME AND BUY, HA'PENNY THE BIT"

### Life on the Streets of Old Edinburgh

The small, humped back figure and shrill cry of Coconut Tam made him one of the most familiar figures in Victorian Edinburgh. This talk explores some of Edinburgh's more colourful street characters, from the 'Tronmen' and 'Leeries' to the resplendent Newhaven fishwives and the exotically named 'Old Malabar'. These distinctive characters were captured by artists such as David Allan, Walter Geikie and Ned Holt, himself a well-known city showman.

**David Patterson is curator of the City's fine art collection.**

Monday 13 September, 10.30 am

## DESPERATE ROMANTICS

### The True Story of the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood

"Some artists want lasting fame. Some want money. Others want sex. The Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood wanted all of it." The PRB were described in a recent BBC drama as 'a bunch of young, punk iconoclasts'. However, to what extent did this group of seven young artists (not three!) seek to overthrow the Royal Academy and revolutionise art? Was Hunt really



such a religious fanatic and Rossetti such a poor artist and irrepressible womaniser? What about the female artists in the group? What was the nature of their relationship with Ruskin? This talk looks at the 'truth' behind the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood, and more importantly at the art that scandalised their contemporaries. **Dr Joanna Meacock is an art historian based at the University of Glasgow. Co-author of A Rossetti Family Chronology (2007), she is currently Data Editor for the Mapping Sculpture 1851-1951 project and Glasgow Coordinator for the Public Catalogue Foundation.**

Monday 20 September, 10.30 am

## 'ALL MY MIND IS WITH THE DRAWING'

### Artists from the Highlands c1745-c1910

While visual artists' engagement with the Highlands from the eighteenth century onwards would appear to be well documented, the perceived view is that there have been very few artists from this period emerging from the Highlands. This lecture provides an outline of some of the key figures from this group. From James Alves who left Inverness in the mid eighteenth century to undertake a trip to Italy, to Finlay Mackinnon, crofter from Poolewe, who was to become known as the 'archetypal Scotsman in London' in the late nineteenth and early twentieth century. **Lesley Lindsay is a Research**

**Fellow on the Window to the West Project, an AHRC funded collaboration between Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design (University of Dundee) and Sabhal Mòr Ostaig (University of the Highlands and Islands).** The project is to be the focus of a major exhibition at the City Art Centre, Edinburgh in autumn 2010 and spring 2011.

Wednesday 29 September, 10.30 am

## JANE AUSTEN - HER LIFE AND WORK

Jane Austen was born on the 16th December 1775, into a large family, at the Rectory in Steventon. She started writing very early in her life but it was not until 1809, while living at Chawton cottage, now known as Jane Austen's House that the most fulfilling period of Jane Austen's writing career began. Jane Austen died in her sister's arms on the 18th July 1817 and is buried in Winchester Cathedral. **Sharron Bassett is the Treasurer of the Scottish Branch of the Jane Austen Society and also is a serving member on the Jane Austen National Committee. She is a Library Assistant and works in Dunfermline Library.**

Monday 4 October, 10.30am

## FROM BARBERS TO BAKERS AND BOOKSELLERS TO BOOTMAKERS

**a look at the Edinburgh Trades of the eighteenth century through the eyes of John Kay (1742-1826)**

**Sheila Szatkowski is a writer, historian and lecturer based in Edinburgh.** Her research interests are eighteenth and

nineteenth century Scotland and the life and work of John Kay (1742-1826), the Edinburgh barber and miniaturist who caricatured many characters of the Scottish Enlightenment. Sheila is a graduate of the Universities of Edinburgh and Stirling and a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland. Her recent publications include *Capital Caricatures* and *The Scottish Enlightenment Diary*.

Wednesday 13 October, 10.30 am

## SIR EDWARD ELGAR - HIS LIFE AND WORKS

The composer, Elgar was born in Lower Broadheath near Worcester in 1857, and the house of his birth is now used as a museum dedicated to his life and music. Elgar's father was the owner of a music shop and a piano tuner, and the young Elgar, astonishingly, almost entirely taught himself to compose music, using the books and instruments in his father's shop. He is perhaps best known for his *Enigma Variations* (including "Nimrod") and for "Land of Hope and Glory" but in fact he also wrote church music, part songs, oratorios, concertos, chamber music and symphonies. This fully illustrated lecture uses original photos of Elgar and his contemporaries and many varied examples of his music recorded by famous conductors and orchestras and even by Elgar himself. **Paul Bassett is Chairman of the Scottish Branch of the Elgar Society.**





Monday 18 October, 10.30 am

## A WINDOW TO THE WEST

### Highland Art in Context

Highland art is one of the defining currents of Scottish Art. That is true whether one looks back to prehistoric art such as the standing stones of Calanais in Lewis and the carved rock surfaces of Achnabreck in Argyll, or to major works of the Scottish Gaidhelatachd such as the *Book of Kells* and the great crosses of Iona and Islay, or to William McTaggart, the Gaelic speaker who pioneered modern art in Scotland. The aim of this talk is to expand perception of this fascinating area of visual culture and to draw attention to recent developments. **Murdo Macdonald is Professor of History of Scottish Art at the University of Dundee and leads the Window to the West Project, an AHRC funded collaboration between Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design (University of Dundee) and Sabhal Mòr Ostaig (University of the Highlands and Islands).** The project is the focus of a major exhibition at the City Art Centre, Edinburgh in autumn 2010 and spring 2011.

Tuesday 26 October, 10.30 am

## VICTORIAN WOMEN WRITERS

### Between Convention and Radicalism

Aileen Christianson will talk about 19th century women writing both for publication and in private letters and the ways in which they could suggest radical criticism of women's position without necessarily being radical themselves. She will concentrate on Scottish writers such as Jane Welsh Carlyle, Margaret Oliphant, Ellen Johnston and Christian Watt, but reserves the right to stray south of the border. **Aileen Christianson is a senior lecturer in the English Literature department at the University of Edinburgh, specialising in Scottish women's writing.** She is also senior editor of *The Collected Letters of Thomas and Jane Welsh Carlyle*, Duke-Edinburgh edition, published by Duke University Press, Durham, North Carolina. She has written many essays on the writings of Jane Welsh Carlyle, Willa Muir, Muriel Spark and Liz Lochhead.

Monday 1 November, 10.30 am

## THE GREAT EDWARDIAN LITERARY EMPORIUM

### Books and Bookselling the Edwardian Era

The remarkable and rapid development of modern technology during the Edwardian period was mirrored by a similarly radical change in the literary world. Books in this era became cheaper, more colourful, and more readily accessible to a wider potential readership. For the child in the nursery, the football fan, the motorist, the gardener, the cook, the handicraft maker, or the armchair traveller, the great Edwardian literary emporium now had just the book that was required. **Dr Jonathan Wild is lecturer in Victorian Literature at the University of Edinburgh.** He is the author of *The Rise of the Office Clerk in Literary Culture, 1880-1939* (Palgrave, 2006), and a number of articles on the literature of that era. In addition, he is the Deputy Director of the Centre for the History of the Book at Edinburgh, and a member of the editorial team for the *Collected Letters of Thomas and Jane Welsh Carlyle*.

Tuesday 16 November, 10.30 am

## PLAYFAIR'S INTERIORS

The lecture will review William Henry Playfair's exacting approach to architecture which embraced not only interiors but furniture design as well and, while little survives, this same care was extended to his fitting up of Lauriston for the Rutherfurds. **Ian Gow is the Chief Curator for the National Trust for Scotland.**

Thursday 2 December, 10.30 am

## INVISIBLE AND SUBTERRANEAN CREATURES

### Fairies in Scottish Literature

JM Barrie's Peter Pan is perhaps the Scottish 'fairy story' most readily conjured up in our minds, but Scottish fairies have a rich literary history. This lecture will explore some of the ways in which Scotland's writers and artists have been fascinated by these dark, elusive, and magical beings, from their origins in the medieval period. **Sarah Dunnigan is Senior Lecturer in the Department of English Literature, University of Edinburgh.** She has published widely on many aspects of Scottish literature, and is writing a book entitled *Enchanting Scotland. Fairies, Fairy Tales, and the National Imagination.*

Monday 6 December, 10.30 am

## PAGES FROM A VICTORIAN SCRAPBOOK - THE RANDOM SURVIVAL OF EPHEMERA

The Georgians and Victorians loved compiling scrapbooks and albums.

Hidden away in these pages are an amazing variety of items including pierced paper embroideries, lace-paper Valentines, embossed scraps, engravings, fashion plates, tinsel prints, silhouettes, poems, drawings and photographs. Discover more about these fascinating survivals and see practical demonstrations of how to recreate their fragile beauty alongside original examples. **Tessa Asquith-Lamb is an artist specialising in etchings, which often incorporate beautiful old objects from her collection of Victoriana.** She has a passion for recreating Victorian Crafts as authentically as possible, and teaching others to try them for themselves through practical classes.



# CHRISTMAS LECTURES

Wednesday 1 December, 10.30 am

## SHADOWS OF WINTER

Winter landscapes were a challenge for artists working out of doors in the late nineteenth century, and some devised ingenious ways of keeping out the cold. Taking the art critic John Ruskin's definition of a snowdrift as its starting point, this talk will focus on snow scenes by British and French 'impressionists' from Monet to McTaggart. **Dr Frances Fowle is Senior Curator of French Art at the National Gallery of Scotland and Senior Lecturer in History of Art at the University of Edinburgh.**

Tuesday 7 December, 10.30 am

## CHRISTMAS TALES AND TRADITIONS

Share in some seasonal tales. Take a look at the roots of our Christmas customs, whose influences and inspirations range far and wide; they include Scandinavia, France, the USA and the Roman Empire. **Carol Stobie is a lecturer, trainer and events organiser.**

Wednesday 8 December, 10.30 am

## PAINTING THE CHRISTMAS STORY

The events surrounding the birth of Jesus have been retold by artists down the centuries. This talk interweaves readings from the biblical accounts with images by some of the best known artists from the 15th century onwards, including Fra Angelico, Rembrandt, William Dyce, John Duncan, Stanley Spencer and others. **David Patterson is curator of the City's fine art collection.**



Friday 10 December, 10.30 am

## CHRISTMAS IN THE EDWARDIAN KITCHEN

Ivan Day will guide you through the splendid array of treats served in most Edwardian Kitchens in the lead up to Christmas - from stunning jellies to ornamental raised pies. You will also get a chance to see a range of interesting implements straight from Ivan's historic kitchen. **Ivan Day is a Food historian, curator and author. He specialises in recreating period food in its original setting.**

Wednesday 15 December, 10.30 am

## THE FIRST CHRISTMAS

**Medieval and Renaissance Arts Depicting Nativity-related scenes in Glasgow Museums' Collections**

Glasgow Museums' Medieval and Renaissance collections feature a wonderfully rich selection of scenes from the Christmas story. As well as several iconic painted images of the Holy Family, the collections include rich tapestries, brilliant stained glass and fascinating sculptures showing events relating to the birth of Christ.

**Patricia Collins is Curator of Medieval and Renaissance European Art in Glasgow Museums.** She is based at The Burrell Collection, and at present is working with an international team of experts engaged in preparations for the publication of an up-to-date academic catalogue of Sir William Burrell's outstanding collection of medieval tapestries.



## HAPPY TO TRANSLATE

ترجمے کے لئے حاضر آماندوں سہجے انুবاد کررر

بسعنا اوفیر للترجمة MOZEMY PRZETŁUMACZYĆ 很樂意翻譯

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