



SCOTLAND AND RUSSIA CULTURAL PERCEPTION SINCE 1900



RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF IRISH AND SCOTTISH STUDIES
UNIVERSITY OF ABERDEEN
10-11 APRIL 2015

PART OF THE 'SCOTLAND AND RUSSIA: CULTURAL ENCOUNTERS SINCE 1900' PROJECT
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10 APRIL

14:00 WELCOME – Dr Anna Vaninskaya (Edinburgh)

14:30 – 15:30 PLENARY

Prof Andrei Rogatchevski (Tromsø), 'Scotland and Russia Today: Russian Views of the 2014 Scottish Independence Referendum'

15:30 – 16:00 COFFEE

16:00 – 18:00 SESSION 1: CULTURAL MEDIATORS

Prof Michael Hughes (Lancaster), 'Stephen Graham: An Anglo-Scot in Search of Himself'

Prof Patrick Crotty (Aberdeen), 'Hugh MacDiarmid and Russia'

Dr Oksana Morgunova (International Migration and Gender Study Institute, Brussels), 'The Crucible of Empires: Elena Tamara and David Talbot-Rice in Life and Work'

Lt Cdr Dairmid Gunn (Scotland-Russia Forum, Edinburgh), 'From Cold War to Peace - Changing Perceptions of Russia'

18:00 – RECEPTION

11 APRIL

10:00 – 10:30 COFFEE

10:30 – 12:00 SESSION 2: POLITICAL PERCEPTIONS

Prof Anthony Cross (Cambridge), 'Scotland at the Russian Front in World War I: Robert Scotland Liddell, War Correspondent and Photographer'

Dr Murray Frame (Dundee), 'Scotland and Russia in the Writings of R. H. Bruce Lockhart'

Dr Billy Kenefick (Dundee), '"More Red than Glasgow"? Aberdeen and the Impact of War and Revolution c. 1914-1920'



THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH

Research Institute
of Irish and Scottish Studies



ABSTRACTS

ANDREI ROGATCHEVSKI, 'SCOTLAND AND RUSSIA TODAY: RUSSIAN VIEWS OF THE 2014 SCOTTISH INDEPENDENCE REFERENDUM'

The ruling elite's official position, as well as the social media's reaction and mass media reports and analyses will be put in a historical perspective.

MICHAEL HUGHES, 'STEPHEN GRAHAM: AN ANGLO-SCOT IN SEARCH OF HIMSELF'

Stephen Graham was one of the best-known British 'experts' on Russia in the years before 1917, but his search for 'Holy Russia' cannot be understood apart from his own biography, shaped as it was by his estrangement from the humdrum world of Edwardian Britain. Graham was born in Scotland, to a Scottish mother and an Anglo-Scottish father, P. Anderson Graham, who had a keen interest in the culture of the borderlands. Throughout his long life, Graham fitfully played with the idea of himself as a 'Scotsman' – an identity he typically 'tried on' at times of personal crisis. The paper will ask whether his interest in 'Holy Russia' and in questions of national identity more broadly was shaped by his failure to make himself 'at home' in the world he inhabited.

PATRICK CROTTY, 'HUGH MACDIARMID AND RUSSIA'

Hugh MacDiarmid's interest in Russian literature long predated his espousal of the Soviet model of communism. The paper will look at the poet's response to Russian literature and politics, and will argue that he tended to read the politics through the literature rather than – as is customarily assumed – the literature through the politics.

OKSANA MORGUNOVA, 'THE CRUCIBLE OF EMPIRES: ELENA TAMARA AND DAVID TALBOT-RICE IN LIFE AND WORK'

(Elena) Tamara Talbot-Rice (nee Abelson, 1904-1993) was a Russian émigré and a British scholar of Russian and Byzantine art. In the early 1920s Tamara and her future husband David Talbot Rice were part of Herbert E. 'Doggins' Counsell's salon in Oxford, which allegedly provided the inspiration for Evelyn Waugh's *Brideshead Revisited*. But from 1934 Tamara's life became closely linked to Edinburgh and the University of Edinburgh. The paper will consider Tamara and David Talbot-Rice's 1958 Edinburgh exhibition 'Masterpieces of Byzantine Art' – the first exhibition on Byzantine Art in Britain.

DAIRMIID GUNN, 'FROM COLD WAR TO PEACE - CHANGING PERCEPTIONS OF RUSSIA'

Dairmid Gunn will analyse his perceptions of Russia from an early encounter with the Russian language at the Royal Naval College, Dartmouth, his experiences of living in the Russian émigré community in Paris in the 1950s and his service as a naval attaché in the British Embassy in Moscow in the 1960s, to a long and close relationship with such 'bridge building' organisations as the GB-USSR Association and the Scotland Russia Forum. Currently, he is a vice president of the Forum.

ANTHONY CROSS, 'SCOTLAND AT THE RUSSIAN FRONT IN WORLD WAR I: ROBERT SCOTLAND LIDDELL, WAR CORRESPONDENT AND PHOTOGRAPHER'

The paper is concerned both with the role of the British war correspondent in Russia as well as with the question of Scottish presence more generally during World War I. It will, however, concentrate on the little-known and elusive figure of Robert Scotland Liddell, author of three books about Russia, member of the Red Cross, war correspondent and Russian army officer.

MURRAY FRAME, 'SCOTLAND AND RUSSIA IN THE WRITINGS OF R. H. BRUCE LOCKHART'

The paper will consider R. H. Bruce Lockhart's perceptions of Russia and his experiences in the Russian Revolution, focusing on the extent to which his Scottish background influenced the way he wrote about the events in which he was caught up. It will also ask whether his Russian experience shaped the way he wrote about Scotland.

BILLY KENEFICK, '"MORE RED THAN GLASGOW"'? ABERDEEN AND THE IMPACT OF WAR AND REVOLUTION C.1914-1920'

The Russian Revolution had a profound impact on a broad swathe of the Scottish population, coinciding as it did with a growth in popular radicalism and the politics of the 'Red Clydeside' at the time of the Great War. The 'revolutionary storm centre' and the 'Petrograd of the north' was the city of Glasgow, thought to have the potential to ignite a Soviet-style revolution in Scotland. However, William Leslie, a delegate to the Comintern Congress in Moscow, returned to the northeast of Scotland in 1920 in the firm belief that relative to the size of the population 'Aberdeen was more red than Glasgow'. Yet before 1914 no one would have considered Aberdeen a leading regional centre of radical proletarian politics. So what had changed in the intervening period? By focusing on the city of Aberdeen, this paper examines the wider social and political impact of war and revolution in Scotland beyond the confines of west Scotland and the activities of the industrial proletariat of Clydeside.