

Portrait collections in Edinburgh, 17—18 September 2015

Thursday 17 September (optional evening event, all delegates are welcome to attend)

18.30-20.00 Informal drinks at the Library of the University of Edinburgh and chance to view a selection of medical portraits from the University's Thomson-Walker collection

Art Collections Curator Neil Lebeter will pull out a selection of the portrait prints bequeathed to the University by its alumnus Sir John William Thomson-Walker (1871-1937), surgeon and print-collector. The Thomson-Walker collection charts the international history of medicine from the seventeenth to the early twentieth century, comprising print portraits of eminent medics as well as clinical and vernacular healthcare practices. This small display will be arranged just for this visit, so won't be available to view the following day.

Friday 18 September

9.00-11.20 Morning refreshments, followed by tour of the Scottish National Portrait Gallery led by Imogen Gibbon (Chief Curator and Deputy Director), Meg Faragher (Families and Communities Learning Co-ordinator), and Lesley Stevenson (Senior Paintings Conservator)

The Scottish National Portrait Gallery's collection of over 30,000 images celebrates the achievements of those who have helped to shape Scotland and the wider world. This tour with key members of the curatorial, learning, and conservation teams, will include aspects of the *Portrait of a Nation* refurbishment project, and future plans for the building and public programme.

11.30—12.30 Tour of the portrait collection at the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh with Sibbald Librarian Iain Milne

Delegates will see the RCPE collection in its Edinburgh New Town home. Portraits of medical luminaries are hung in the Robert Adam-designed Georgian townhouse, Victorian Great Hall (with a frieze of profiles of medical greats), and 20th century conference centre. The portrait collection, focused on key members of the Scottish medical community, is particularly strong in Victorian and Edwardian sculpture, paintings and photographs. It also includes many examples of modern and contemporary portraits of College Presidents including recent work by Victoria Crowe and Keith Breeden .

12.40-14.00 Lunch at the Scottish National Portrait Gallery Café provided for all delegates

14.20-15.30 Tour of Archers' Hall, home of The Queen's Body Guard for Scotland, The Royal Company of Archers, with Lt Col Richard Callander, Secretary

The Royal Company of Archers was founded in 1676 as the King's Company of Archers and received its first royal charter from Queen Anne in 1704. It adopted its ceremonial body guard role with the visit of George IV to Scotland in 1822. Archers' Hall was built in the 1770s to house the offices, function rooms, and archery butts of the Royal Company, and its portrait collection spans the seventeenth to twenty-first centuries. Sitters are principally senior members of the Royal Company, with some early portraits of unidentified members in their distinctive uniforms. Among the artists represented are Henry Raeburn, Francis Grant, David Martin, John Watson Gordon, William Skeoch Cumming, Nick Bashall and Marie-Claire Kerr.

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Programme continued

15.40-17.20 Tour of the portrait collection at the University of Edinburgh with Art Collections Curator Neil Lebeter (with pause for refreshments)

Delegates will visit a range of venues in the University housing its extensive portrait collection. The tour will start in the Main Library building with a group of portraits of Protestant Reformers, followed by visits to the Fine Art Store, the Centre for Research Collections, and Paper Conservation Studio.

Applications for complimentary tickets, and travel funding

Places for this event are limited. Because of this, tickets will be allocated in a way which allows delegates from as many different collections as possible, as well as academics, independent scholars, conservators, etc, to attend. Please contact Caroline Pegum (cpegum@npg.org.uk) **by Friday 31 July 2015** to register your interest in attending.

Some funds are available to assist delegates with their travel costs. When applying for a place at this event, please state whether you require support, and provide details of the sum requested (this must be on the basis of the most cost-effective travel option). Where support is confirmed, delegates will make their own travel bookings and reimbursement *of the agreed sum* will be made after the event via BACS payment.

We will contact all applicants with the outcome of their application for tickets and funding support before Friday 7 August.



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