CALL FOR PAPERS

10th Anniversary Conference 2021
hosted by

in Perth, Scotland – 29 June-2 July 2021

Royal Patronage: Material Culture, Built Heritage & the Reach of the Crown

‘Material artefacts with their multifarious meanings, their innate opaqueness and their difficult heuristic nature remind us that history is always producing but has still a great deal more to do before covering all the corners of the human experience’

Giorgio Riello (2009)

This conference seeks to engage with patronage in the widest sense of the word, with a particular focus upon material culture and built heritage. The spaces and objects of monarchies throughout history provide more than the backdrops and props for human activities. Rather the built environment and material culture of royalty had/ have the agency to shape political, social, and cultural events, and some even played a part in the transformation of men and women into kings and queens. Monarchies and rulers throughout the world and across the centuries have sought to invest in patronising the creation of the material trappings of royalty and authority, as well as furnishing themselves with courtly entourages of musicians, artists, poets, scientists, and alchemists, to name just a few. This conference will bring together scholars and practitioners from across a range of disciplines to explore the multi-faceted idea of patronage.
The Centre for History at the University of the Highlands and Islands are working with partners Historic Environment Scotland and Culture Perth and Kinross on this 10th anniversary conference. We want to bring together scholars from different disciplines – particularly history, archaeology, anthropology, art history, architectural history and fashion history – and heritage professionals, museum curators, archivists, and others who focus on royal patronage in all its forms. Topics include, but are not limited to:

- Regalia and objects of ritual
- Dressing royal and courtly bodies: clothing, jewellery, and accessories
- Gift-giving practices and customs
- Building, renovating and even destruction of royal palaces and castles
- Commissioned works of art and sculpture by or for monarchs
- Royal monastic and religious foundations
- Interpretation and representation of royal material and built heritage in the present
- Royal festivals, entries, ceremonial, and performance
- Kings, queens, heirs, and spares as patrons driving cultural change
- Patronage networks within and beyond the royal court
- Economics of royal patronage

We are interested in receiving proposals for research posters, papers and panels addressing all aspects of royal patronage in any geographic location or chronological era. We are particularly keen to receive work from postgraduate researchers and early career scholars/professionals. Abstracts for individual papers or posters should be 250 words and panel abstracts should be 500 words, and these should be accompanied by a brief CV or bio. Proposals for posters, 20-minute papers, or panels of three papers grouped by theme or subject should be emailed to kingsandqueens10conference@gmail.com

The deadline for submitting your proposals is 15 January 2021.

Our intention is to hold the conference in-person at Perth College campus of the University of the Highlands and Islands, as well in Culture Perth and Kinross sites in the city and a day at a Historic Environment Scotland royal site. In addition, this will be a hybrid conference with online content (including some live streaming or recording of sessions etc.) to make sure everyone can take part whatever their situation. We will be monitoring the COVID-19 situation carefully and, if necessary, we will run an entirely online conference and we will keep people updated as plans unfold.

Perth – the Fair City or St Johnstone – was a prominent royal burgh in medieval Scotland and until the fifteenth century was a proto capital, and arguably a more important royal centre than Edinburgh. It sits more centrally in Scotland and within a couple of miles of the ancient inauguration/coronation site of Scone, and the city was a prominent political and economic hub that has recently reclaimed city status in the present. We look forward to welcoming you to Scotland!