

The History of Women Religious of Britain & Ireland Annual Conference



MATERIALIZING THE SPIRIT:

SPACES, OBJECTS AND ART IN THE
CULTURES OF WOMEN RELIGIOUS

Programme
6th-7th September, 2013



INSTITUTE
OF HISTORICAL
RESEARCH

University of London
School of Advanced Study

Generously supported by the Golden Bottle Trust and an anonymous donor

Thursday Sept 5th

Victoria & Albert Museum

2.00 - 3.30

WOMEN RELIGIOUS AND THE ARTS

Tessa Murdoch (Acting Keeper of Metalwork, Sculpture, Ceramics and Glass, V&A) will lead a tour of the museum's collections. Places are limited. Further information on registration.

Friday Sept 6th

Woburn Suite, Senate House, London

9.00 - 9.30

Registration and Refreshments

9.30 - 9.45

Welcome and Introduction

9.45 - 11.15

SESSION I

PLACE AND PURPOSE

Chaired by **Caroline Bowden** (QMUL)

Roderick O'Donnell FSA 'The Pugins' Houses of men and women contrasted'

Michael O'Boyle (Bluett & O'Donoghue Architects) 'The nature and character of convent buildings in Ireland in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries'

Sue Acheson RSCJ 'Space for the Heart: Representing Devotion in the Chapel of the Sacred Heart, Roehampton'

11.15-11.30

Refreshment Break

11.30-1.00

SESSION II

PATRONS AND SUBJECTS

Chaired by **Dominic Janes** (Birkbeck)

Tim Knox (Fitzwilliam Museum) 'A Soldier and a Nun: two 'Ancestral Portraits' of English Sitters by Pietro-Tommaso Labruzzi'

Patricia Harris CJ 'The Mystery of the 'Painted Life' of Mary Ward'

Anselm Nye (QMUL) 'Artistic & comic: the cartoon as historical memory amongst the English Dominican Sisters'

1.00 - 2.00

Lunch

2.00 - 3.00

SESSION III
MATERIAL & IMMATERIAL

Chaired by **Carmen Mangion** (Birkbeck)

Susan O'Brien (Cambridge) 'A Spirituality Represented: Images of the Holy Child in the Society of the Holy Child Jesus, England since 1846.'

Helen Hills (York) 'Making Religion Matter?'

3.00 - 3.15

Refreshment Break

3.15 - 5.00

Teaching and Publishing Session

"...[N]uns are a remote reality, detached from the world". The Challenges of Teaching and Researching Female Religious Life (Session sponsored by History Lab Plus, IHR & Higher Education Academy)

5.00 - 5.15

Refreshment Break

5.15 - 6.15

KEYNOTE I

Mary Schoeser (President, The Textile Society)
'Fair and beautiful to behold'

6.15 - 8.00

Reception

H-WRBI Annual Meeting

8.00

Conference Dinner

Saturday Sept 7th

9.00 - 9.30

Registration and Refreshments

9.30 - 11.00

SESSION IV
SPACE AND CONTEXT

Chaired by **Lynne Walker** (IHR)

Ellie Pridgeon (Leicester) 'Space and Location: The Cloister Paintings at Lacock Abbey'

Deirdre Raftery (UCD) "Cover the earth with houses": the form and function of the convents of the Society of the Sacred Heart in nineteenth century Ireland, North and South'

Brenda King (The Textile Society), 'Stitch and Stone'

11.00 - 11.30

Refreshment Break

11.30 - 12.30

SESSION V

SYMBOLISM AND DEVOTION

Chaired by **Jane Hamlett** (RHUL)

Kate Jordan (UCL) 'Artists hidden from human view: mysticism and art in the Victorian convent'

Ayla Lepine (Yale) '"The Story of a Life": Nuns at the Epicentre of Modern Visual Culture'

12.30 - 1.30

Lunch

1.30 - 3.45

SESSION VI

HERITAGE AND PRESERVATION

Chaired by **Emily Gee** (English Heritage)

Abbot Geoffrey Scott (Catholic Archives Society) 'The archives and collections of English nuns deposited at Douai Abbey'

Frederick O'Dwyer (Conservation architect) 'Historic Irish Convents, Redundancy and Reuse'

Sophie Andreae (Vice Chair, Bishop's Conference Patrimony Committee) 'Important Artefacts: Some Recent Case Studies'

Emily Gee (English Heritage, Head of Designation) 'Reflections on the Heritage Landscape'

3.30 - 4.00

Refreshment Break

4.00 - 5.00

KEYNOTE II

Julian Luxford, (St Andrews)

'Nuns, art and patronage in later medieval England'

5.00 - 5.15

Closing remarks

5.15 - 6.15

Closing reception

Registration & further details:

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& **Ayla Lepine** (ayla.lepine@yale.edu)

<http://materializingthespirit2013.eventbrite.co.uk>