

Society of Antiquaries
of Scotland



RHIND LECTURES 2015



British Archaeology: its progress & demands

SETTING AN AGENDA FOR
21ST CENTURY ARCHAEOLOGY

24-26 April | FREE and open to all

All lectures held at The Royal Society of Edinburgh,
22-28 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 2PQ

The Rhind Lectures commemorate Alexander Henry Rhind of Sibster who bequeathed money to the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland to endow an annual lecture series. Since 1874 the Rhind Lectures have been delivered by eminent historians and archaeologists.

To find out more visit www.socantscot.org/events

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With thanks to



Society of Antiquaries of Scotland
c/o National Museums Scotland
Chambers Street
Edinburgh EH1 1JF
Tel: 0131 247 4133
Email: info@socantscot.org
Web: www.socantscot.org
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RHIND LECTURES 2015

In 1858 Alexander Henry Rhind set out his thoughts on the future direction of archaeology in a book entitled 'British Archaeology: its progress and demands'.

Taking Rhind's seminal publication as a starting point, panels of experts and leading lecturers will present and discuss topics aimed at setting an agenda for 21st century archaeology.

Please join us for a fascinating weekend of sessions as we celebrate Rhind's interests and capture his vision for archaeology.

The Rhind Lectures are also the Society's signature Dig It! 2015 event, a year-long celebration of archaeology encouraging the discovery of Scotland's stories.



Friday
24
April



5.45pm 'British Archaeology: its progress and demands'

Dr David Caldwell, President, Society of Antiquaries of Scotland

An introduction to Rhind, his bequest, and an overview of this seminal book.

6.00pm Keynote Lecture: Identity and Archaeology

Professor Audrey Horning, Queen's University Belfast

A look at how archaeology explores the complexities of identities, past and present. How do identities explored through archaeology interact with those of the present? What does archaeology contribute to contemporary debates? Do the politics of the past, or the present, create barriers or opportunities? And what lessons are there for the future?

Followed by a Drinks Reception.

Saturday
25
April



11.00am Archaeological Resilience

Professor Ian Baxter, University Campus Suffolk

Resilience is a recurring theme in the archaeology of past communities - their ability to adapt and survive. But how resilient is archaeology itself? Are the demands of the profession met by its structures, its training systems and its legislation? And how resilient is archaeology given current challenges such as the economy, climate change, warfare, and illegal trafficking?

2.00pm Panel Discussion: Archaeology and Genetics

Professor Mary Bownes, University of Edinburgh, chairs an international panel, including Professor Keith Dobney, University of Aberdeen, Dr Greger Larson, University of Oxford, Dr Eva-Maria Geigl, CNRS University Paris 7, and Professor Ian Barnes, Natural History Museum.

Genetics is providing new areas of research for archaeology. But how should we engage with both the process and the resultant data? Do the traditional archaeological approaches to individuals and groups, mobility and adaptation, and above all, identity, readily combine with genetics? Are current archaeological field techniques, skills and infrastructure fit for purpose? How should archaeology constructively interact with this brave new world?

Sunday
26
April



1.30pm Storytelling

Dr Jacqui Mulville, Cardiff University

An exploration of how archaeology tells the story of the past. As archaeologists become ever better at recovering data, how do we communicate what we find? How should archaeology present itself? In what ways can people engage with archaeology and the stories that we hold?

2.00pm Alexander Henry Rhind and Archaeology

Margaret Maitland, Curator of the Ancient Mediterranean, National Museums Scotland

A look at how Rhind's work in Scotland informed his pioneering work in Egypt, advocacy for the protection of antiquities in both Scotland and Egypt, and his role in devising the original displays of British, Scottish, and Egyptian artefacts at the National Museum of Antiquities.

3.00pm Panel Discussion: Future Archaeology

Dr Alan Leslie, Northlight Heritage, and Dr Rebecca Jones, Historic Scotland

Archaeology has long been on the edge of innovation. Working in an archaeological context can push methodologies and techniques of analysis, interpretation and presentation to the limit. What will the archaeology of tomorrow look like? Join us to find out.

4.15pm Discussion: Archaeology's progress and demands

An opportunity for audience questions and discussion.

4.45pm Vote of Thanks

Professor Richard Bradley, University of Reading

A round up of the weekend sessions and discussions. Have Rhind's aspirations been fulfilled? If he rewrote 'British Archaeology: its progress and demands' today, what would it include?

5.15pm Ends

