

The **RHIND LECTURES**, a series of six lectures delivered annually on a subject pertaining to history or archaeology, by eminent authorities on the subject, have been given since 1876. They commemorate Alexander Henry Rhind of Sibster who bequeathed money to the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland to endow the lectures which perpetuate his name.

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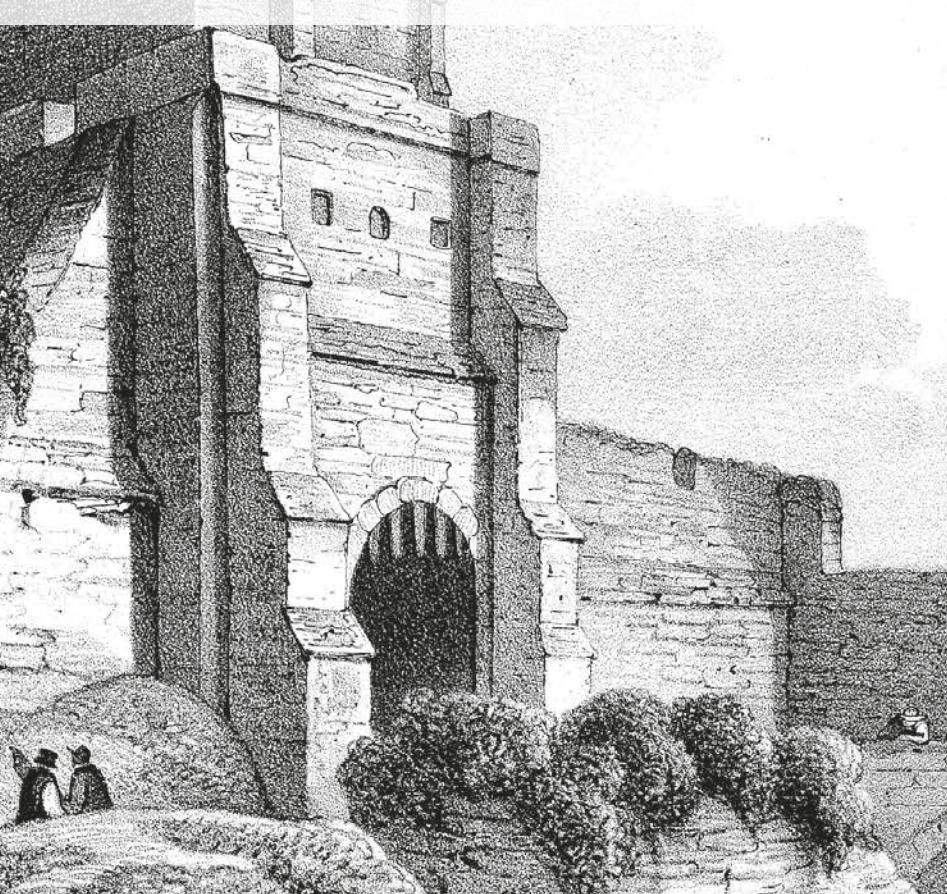


RHIND LECTURES 2016

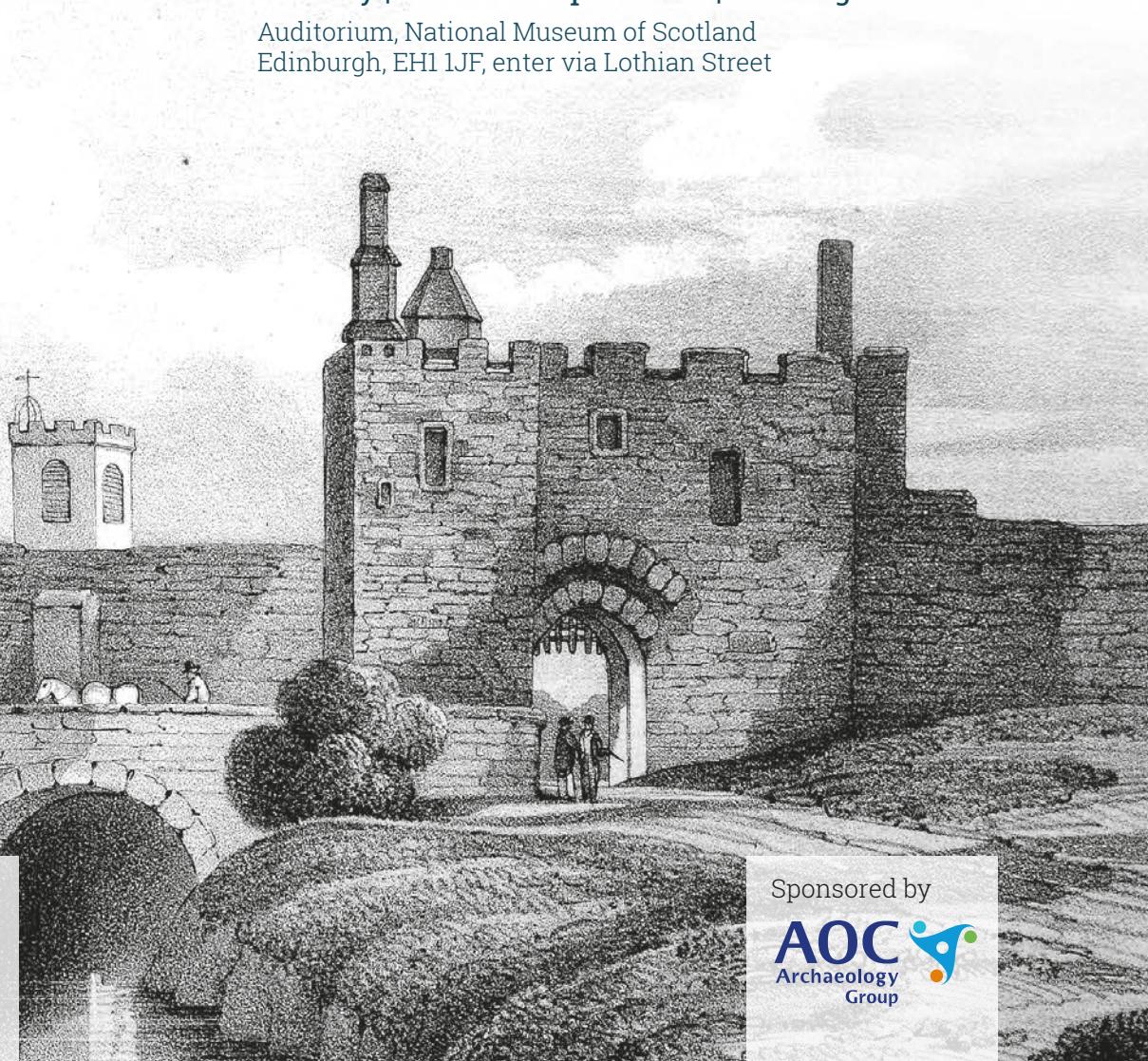
Antiquaries, archaeologists and the invention of the historic town c.1700-1860

6-8 May | FREE and open to all | booking advised

Auditorium, National Museum of Scotland
Edinburgh, EH1 1JF, enter via Lothian Street



Cover image: The Half Moon Battery, Carlisle from M.E. Nutter, *Carlisle in the Olden Time* (Carlisle, 1835). Inside image: plate of Roman antiquities from *Old England: A Pictorial Museum of Regal, Ecclesiastical, Baronial, Municipal and Popular Antiquities*, 2 vols (London 1845). All images reproduced by kind permission of Special Collections, University of Leicester.



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RHIND LECTURES 2016

Antiquaries, archaeologists and the invention of the historic town c.1700-1860

Professor Roey Sweet

The historic town today is a clichéd mainstay of tourism and place-branding; its credentials go back to the eighteenth century when antiquaries first began seriously to study the physical remains of the past and to single out towns as of particular historical interest. These lectures will explore how the antiquaries and archaeologists of the 18th and 19th century developed their understanding of the material and textual remains of the urban past and in the process both invented the familiar category of the historic town and contributed to a distinctively urban narrative of British history.



This year's lectures are sponsored by AOC Archaeology Group and are part of the Year of Innovation, Architecture and Design 2016 (#IAD2016).



FRI
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6.00pm Lecture 1: The Antiquarian World 1700-1860

An introduction to the antiquaries and archaeologists who described and preserved the antiquities of British towns and cities over the period 1700-1860.

Followed by a drinks reception.

11.00am Lecture 2: Making the Romans urban

Since the early modern period the Roman occupation of Britain had been seen as simply a military occupation. So when and why did antiquaries and archaeologists become interested in the urban and domestic life of Roman Britain and its relationship to the modern city?

2.00pm Lecture 3: Domesticating the Saxons

Many eighteenth-century commentators had viewed the Saxons as barbarian invaders who had driven out the last remnants of Roman civilization. This lecture will show how antiquaries combined the evidence of archaeology, material culture, manuscript illuminations, poetry and numismatics to construct an alternative narrative of Anglo-Saxon urbanism and domesticity.

3.30pm Lecture 4: Ancient bulwarks and pleasant walks

Walls had traditionally defined a city but over the course of the eighteenth century they ceased to have a practical function. This lecture will explore the process by which city walls were transformed from being expensive infrastructure to sites of leisure and prompts to the historical imagination.

2.00pm Lecture 5: The architecture of 'olden time'

The half-timbered house with ornate gables and projecting storeys is a defining image for cities such as Chester or York, but in the eighteenth century such buildings had been almost entirely disregarded. When and why did antiquaries and architects start to become interested in domestic, vernacular architecture and what was its appeal?

3.30pm Lecture 6: Heritage and the historic town

Narratives of the rise of heritage tend not to give much thought to the period before 1860, but questions of preservation relating to the urban fabric were often debated. Why were particular buildings accorded historical importance and what sort of arguments, and with what success, were made to preserve them?

The lectures are free but booking is recommended:
www.socantscot.org/events/rhind-lectures-2016