Robert Burns in Global Culture

The Royal Society of Edinburgh is organising a major one-day conference on ‘Robert Burns and Global Culture’ in 2009. The conference will reflect on issues such as the global reputation of Burns, the translation and reception of Burns in world literatures, the influence of Burns on the image of Scotland abroad and the continuing celebration of Burns in global culture in statues, music and Burns Supper events. As Scotland’s National Academy, the Royal Society of Edinburgh will host this conference on Scotland’s national bard as one of a series of global events to commemorate Burns on the 250th anniversary of his birth.

There will be contributions by leading Burns scholars from around the world and there will be plenty of scheduled time for discussion as well as a session on the latest research on Burns. Sheena Wellington & Kirsteen McCue will perform at a musical lunch, and an optional Burns Supper with a leading after-dinner speaker is planned for the evening before the conference when there will be an opening lecture by Neal Ascherson. The leading Scottish composer Dr James MacMillan CBE FRSE will introduce a new piece with contributions featuring a performance by the Haydn Trio Eisenstadt at the closing concert.
22 JANUARY- DAY 1

15.30 AHRC Global Burns Network Meeting (Members Only)

17.00 Opening Evening Lecture at the Royal Society of Edinburgh
   Mr Neal Ascherson, author and cultural commentator

19.00 Burns Supper- venue tbc

23 JANUARY- DAY 2

09.00 Conference at the Royal Society of Edinburgh
   Registration/ Morning Coffee

09.30 RSE Welcome/Chairman’s Welcome and Overview
   Prof. Murray Pittock FRSE, University of Glasgow

09.40 Theme 1: Reception of Burns in Global Culture
   Prof. Nigel Leask, University of Glasgow
   Prof. Ronald Jack FRSE, University of Edinburgh

10.45 Tea and Coffee Break

11.15 Theme 2: The Influence of Burns On The Image of Scotland Abroad
   Prof. James Chandler, University of Chicago
   Prof. Martin Prochazka, Charles University, Prague

12.30 Lunch and Music
   Dr Kirsteen McCue and Ms Sheena Wellington

14.00 Theme 3: The Performance Of Burns in Culture
   Prof. Robert Crawford FRSE, University of St Andrews
   Prof. Leith Davis, Simon Fraser University, Vancouver

15.15 Tea and Coffee break

15.45 Theme 4: Graduate Students and Burns Federation Round Tables
   Convened by Dr Gerry Carruthers, University of Glasgow

17.00 Close

19.30 Concert: Dr James MacMillan CBE FRSE and the Haydn Trio Eisenstadt featuring Lorna Anderson (Soprano) and Jamie MacDougall (Tenor) at St Cecelia’s Hall, University of Edinburgh