





#### **Centre for Robert Burns Studies**

## Teaching:

 MOOC (launched 2014): 'Robert Burns: Poems, Songs & Legacy' 28,045 learners to-date on Futurelearn platform.

BOLD (launched 2016): Robert Burns Online



### **Centre for Robert Burns Studies**

Major Research Projects:

- Robert Burns: Inventing Tradition & Securing Memory, 1796-1909 (2010-11, PI: Murray Pittock)
- Editing Robert Burns for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (2012-2016, PI: Gerard Carruthers)
- Editing Robert Burns's Correspondence & Poetry (2017 Present, PI: Gerard Carruthers)



#### **Burns Scotland**

The National Burns Collections 'held in partnership'.

'Recognised' by Museums Galleries Scotland







# Robert Burns: Inventing Tradition and Securing Memory, 1796-1909

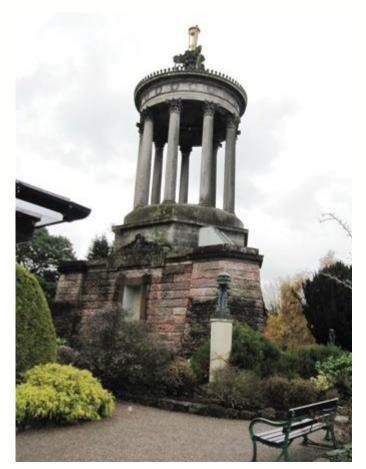
AHRC 'Beyond Text' Project (2010–11)

PI: Murray Pittock

Cls: Christopher Whatley; Murdo

Macdonald

RAs: Pauline Mackay; Katherine McBay



Burns Monument, Alloway



# Robert Burns: Inventing Tradition and Securing Memory, 1796-1909

- Provided a model for the relationship between literary and material culture;
- Established that the choice of means of commemoration (eg. through particular objects or depictions of the poet) has had an effect on the reputation of individual poems and approaches to the writer's life;
- Considered whether literary and material culture diverge or converge in the significance they grant the reputation of a poet.



## Memorialising Scottish Literature & Culture

- Honours Course
- Culture & Heritage Placement
- Innovative Assessment: Culture and Heritage Project



# **Edify Win-A-Lab**

Burns off the beaten track: Tam o' Shanter Beyond Text





## **Learning Objectives**

To enable students to:

- Interpret a range of cultural materials and media in order to understand the construction of cultural memory;
- Use a range of skills drawn from digital humanities, book history and curatorial and archival practise to demonstrate features of the memorialisation of Scottish culture.



# **Key Teaching Points**

- Material culture and geographic location, beyond text, play an essential part in the commemoration of literature and literary figures;
- The memory of an author and their work can be transformed and regenerated by material culture, beyond the initial literary text;
- Material culture can have a significant effect upon the reputation and reception of an author and/or individual literary works.

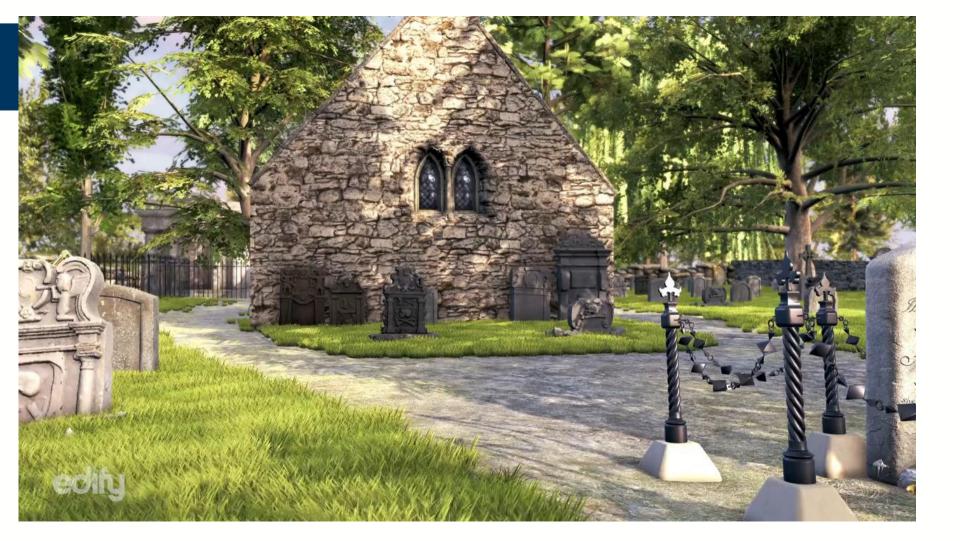


# Creating the 'classroom'

- Establishing core environment and functionality;
- Defining VR 'Super-powers';
- Stretch goals;
- Adjusting to VR;
- Learning how to teach using edify.



Pen & Ink Snuffbox held at NTS Robert Burns Birthplace Museum





# **Burns Beyond Reality: What Next**

- Tamfest 'Tam o Shanter Beyond Reality' (16<sup>th</sup> October)
- Memorialising Scottish Literature & Culture Hons (January 2022)
- Research funding application(s)
- VR/XR 'Land of Burns'!!!

