



University
of Glasgow

Creating 'Burns Beyond Reality': VR for Literature and Memory

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Centre for Robert Burns Studies

Est. 2007



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 21st 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

Burns **SCOTLAND**
collections held in partnership



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

AHRC 'Beyond Text' Project (2010–11)

PI: Murray Pittock

CI: Christopher Whatley; Murdo
Macdonald

RA: 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.



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Memorialising Scottish Literature & Culture

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



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Edify Win-A-Lab

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

edify

#learnwithoutlimits

Funded!

My virtual lesson will be built by edify so I can teach in VR - remotely - this academic year!
Find out more at edify.ac/fundme

The graphic features a yellow background with a large circular image of a space shuttle launching from Earth. The shuttle is white with a black nose cone and is surrounded by a blue and white horizon. The background is divided into four quadrants by a yellow cross: top-left is yellow, top-right is red, bottom-left is dark blue, and bottom-right is red. The text is positioned on the left side of the graphic.

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



edity

Burns Beyond Reality: What Next

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



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