My Term Abroad, Or, Adjusting My Great Expectations

By Alice Glaze
@CanongateTweets

Hello fellow Tri-U Historians! I am a third-year PhD student at University of Guelph studying 17th-century Scottish women’s history, and I am spending a research term in Scotland from September to December. I’ve been asked to write a bit about what my experience has been like so far, and I have to say that the biggest challenge has been tempering my (let’s say… overly ambitious) expectations as to what I could get done this term. I expected to barrel through all of my primary source research (all of it! Oh, Alice) and enter it into my newly created
database; to design the course I’ll be teaching next term and write up most of the lectures (in the evenings, presumably, after a day of data entry); to meet with the ‘big names’ in my field and discuss my project; and to maybe see a couple of castles (because hey, it’s Scotland).

My actual experience here has been very different, and far richer. Besides some data entry and lecture prep (a decent but not superhuman amount in both cases), I’ve also been able to attend lectures in my field, explore new ideas and even develop the ghost of a social life. Meeting with professors and students who work on similar topics has helped me question and re-frame my dissertation, and to realize what drives my curiosity of the subject; in a few instances the meetings even turned into opportunities to present my work at seminars, which, although they sucked up time I had expected to spend with my database, were far more helpful (and social). Being able to walk around the town that I study (now a neighbourhood of Edinburgh) has also helped me conceptualize the space in a way that hours of staring at the one relevant extant map could not (believe me – I have tried the latter option).
informs my work and identity as a Scottish historian as well. So perhaps I have not been productive in the ways that my naïve former self desired. But I’m reminding myself that in these few months I’ve come a long way in understanding both the metaphorical lay of the land of my topic and the literal lay of the land of the town I study, and in the end these are far more useful than my original, narrow expectations.

Alice Glaze is a PhD candidate at the University of Guelph.

The Tri-U in the News

Dr. P. Whitney Lackenbauer becomes second Honorary Lieutenant Colonel for 1 CRPG

At a ceremony in the Northwest Territories on September 29th 2014, the Professor of History at St. Jerome’s University at the University of Waterloo was formally installed as the newest Honorary Lieutenant Colonel (HLCol) of the 1st Canadian Ranger Patrol Group for a three year term. The unit press release states that “an honorary rank is granted to a person who has rendered distinguished service to the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF), or who, from an educational or administrative point of view, promotes the general efficiency of the CAF.” Dr. Lackenbauer’s work on the Canadian Rangers includes Vigilans: A History of 1 Canadian Ranger Patrol Group (forthcoming), The Canadian Rangers: A Living History (2013), and Canada’s Rangers: Selected Stories, 1942-2012 (2013).

An expanded story on the appointment from The Laurier Centre for Military and Disarmament Studies can be found here.

A Message from the Tri-University Graduate Students’ Association (TUGSA)

Hello Tri-University Community!

TUGSA was created in 2008 to help bring together the graduate students from the three universities of the Tri-U. We have three goals for our organization: foster the student community, maintain communication between the three departments and their students, and strengthen the connections between the three universities. We hold a variety of different social and academic events throughout the year. The events rotate between Waterloo and Guelph so that every student has an equal opportunity to attend.

(cont’d)
Wilfrid Laurier University historian and Director of the Laurier Centre for Military and Disarmament Studies (LCMSDS) has research featured in The Record

Recapping a lecture Dr. Mark Humphries delivered to the Confederation Club on November 20th 2014, The Record highlights research examining the difficulties of properly understanding “shell shock” - the psychological reaction to war, and the emotional legacy of the Great War.

University of Waterloo historian to hold research chair in public policy

Dr. Bruce Muirhead, Associate Vice President, External Research, and Professor of History at the University of Waterloo will develop a research program in public policy that relates to the current and future challenges faced by Canadian egg farmers, as well as providing the historical context necessary for the ongoing debate regarding the value of supply management in Canada. The new research chair is a partnership between the Egg Farmers of Canada and the University of Waterloo.

University of Waterloo historian interviewed on CBC Radio’s The Current

Historian of Canadian and digital History, Dr. Ian Milligan, participated in a discussion regarding the use of online data. The episode in its entirety can be found here.
Research Abroad and Thinking about Research

By Joshua Tavenor

Travelling to research is often a key component of completing a dissertation, particularly in history. While digitization has made a wealth of material available on the internet, much of the meat and potatoes of historical research, primary sources, are only available in archives and libraries, necessitating travel. In June 2014 I travelled to the United Kingdom to access five archives to do just this. Over the month I collected some 12,800 documents by photograph and took 100 pages of transcripts and notes, creating the source base for my dissertation. This was made possible by funding from the Lorimer Travel Scholarship, a Faculty of Graduate and Post-Doctoral Studies research scholarship and employment as a Research Assistant. In addition to collecting data, researching abroad was also a chance to think about my work and the importance of place for historical research and writing.

Preparing for the trip was an enormous task in and of itself. On top of practical concerns, understanding what and where sources were available, what I would need to access them, and how best to use my time was a major consideration. Sorting out these research issues made up the majority of my preparation with emailing archivists, comparing archival holdings and digital collections in Canada, and exploring the holdings of different archives across the United States.
Kingdom becoming a daily task. I eventually narrowed down to the National Archives and British Library in London, the University of Nottingham’s archives, the Plymouth and West Devon Record Office and the Devon Record Office in Exeter. Each of these archives held different types of materials, such as government records at the National Archives and business correspondence at Nottingham, allowing me to collect both a significant quantity and breadth of sources.

My main method of collecting archival material was photographing documents using a Canon point-and-shoot with no flash. I found that black and white photography on a low ISO setting (80-200) produced the best results. This method not only allowed me to collect an enormous amount of material, it also gave me the opportunity to explore documents that I would not have had the time to look at without the use of a camera. The results of this flexibility were significant; I was able to follow up on a series of documents leading to interesting and unexpected finds that I would have not had the time to investigate otherwise.

While gathering primary sources was the main goal of the trip, it was certainly not the only benefit. Visiting archives, particularly town record offices, was an excellent opportunity to experience the places central to my research. By coincidence, my time researching in Plymouth coincided with Lord Mayor’s Day, a holiday marking the merger of Plymouth with Stonehouse and Devonport as well as celebrating Plymouth’s place as a hub for English and Atlantic history. This was a great opportunity to see the city and learn more about it beyond the scope of my own research. Seeing how important this history was to locals helped me to view my own research as part of a broader cultural narrative, rather than just a historical question I am attempting to answer.

Joshua Tavenor is a PhD candidate at Wilfrid Laurier University.

Mark your calendars!

The 2015 Annual Tri-University Conference will be held on March 7th, 2015 at the Balsillie School of International Affairs in Waterloo, ON.

This conference of established scholars, emerging scholars, and graduate students is organized by the history departments of Wilfrid Laurier University, the University of Guelph, and the University of Waterloo. The theme of this year’s conference is “War, Memory, and Commemoration.”

While the call for papers has passed, plan to attend this annual showcase of Tri-University research!

The keynote address will be given by Sir Hew Strachan, Chichele Professor of the History of War at All Souls College, Oxford, UK.
Artifacts In Agraria

Symposium
University of Guelph, Ontario, Canada
17-18 October 2015

A pottery jug, rag rug, handmade nightdress, coal-oil lamp, plow, buggy, barn.... Some experiences of the agrarian past have escaped being put into language but survive long after the period under study as artifacts.

We invite proposals that begin with a material artifact of everyday life, either made or used, and explore it as a valid historical source that gathers meaning when understood in the context of surviving written records, family history, fashion trends and international commerce. How is the artifact conceived and used by particular groups? How does it connect aesthetic and cultural beliefs, symbolizes self-identity, affirm values, tell stories, purvey heritage and have meaning ascribed to it through display? We encourage papers that provide a better understanding of rural life in and beyond Canada, and that explore new methods or ways of viewing and contextualizing artifacts. Though organized by historians, we welcome ethnologists, archaeologists, art historians, cultural geographers, museum professionals and connoisseurs.

Please submit a 400 word proposal and 1 page CV to C. Wilson, cawilson@uoguelph.ca
For more information visit: www.uoguelph.ca/ruralhistory/

Deadline for proposals is 26 January 2015.

Sponsored by the Redelmeier Professorship in Rural History
The 26th Annual Canadian Military History Colloquium

8-9 May 2015
Wilfrid Laurier University
Waterloo, Ontario

Hosted by: Laurier Centre for Military Strategic and Disarmament Studies

The keynote address will be provided by Professor John Buckley from the University of Wolverhampton and author of Monty’s Men: The British Army and the Liberation of Europe 1944-5.

Submissions
Conference organizers invite submissions pertaining to all periods & aspects of Canadian military history and war and society. Given the hundredth anniversary of the Great War, we especially invite papers on the Canadian experience of war in 1916 which might be considered for a special issue of our journal Canadian Military History. Proposals are welcome from all scholars including faculty, independent researchers, MA and PhD students.

There is no registration fee or conference fee for graduate students presenting papers.

A total of fifteen travel bursaries of $500 each will also be offered to the top graduate student presenters from non-Ontario universities, provided they submit a 7500 – 10,000 word (including notes) article based on their conference presentation by 15 April.

To apply, please submit a 250-300 word abstract and a brief bio to: conference@canadianmilitaryhistory.ca
Applications are due on 1 February 2015.

This Call for Papers is available at The Laurier Centre For Military Strategic and Disarmament Studies
Fall 2014 Event Roundup

A SELECTION OF EVENTS THAT OCCURRED IN THE TRI-UNIVERSITY COMMUNITY

The History Department presents

RURAL HISTORY ROUNDTABLE:

SPEAKER SERIES FALL 2014

CULTIVATING THE COURSE:
Golf Course Knowledge and Technology in Canada, 1873-1945
Elizabeth Jewett
PhD Candidate in the History Department at the University of Toronto
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2:30-4:00PM
Location: MacKinnon Building, Room 132, University of Guelph

MAKING GREEN REVOLUTIONS:
Ken Sylvester
Research Associate Professor, Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan,
co-editor of Historical Methods
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 24, 1:30-3:00PM
Location: MacKinnon Building, Room 132, University of Guelph

FOOD, GAS, LODGING, AND MORE:
The Roadside Economy in Rural British Columbia, 1920-1960
Ben Bradley
SSHRC Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Toronto
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 4:00-5:30PM
Location: MacKinnon Building, Room 231, University of Guelph

THE SOLDIERS OF THE SOIL AND YMCA WAR WORK
In Rural Canada during the First World War
Jon Weier
PhD Candidate in the History Department at Western University
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2:30-4:30PM
Location: MacKinnon Building, Room 132, University of Guelph
New Perspectives on the History of Medieval Western Monasticism

Dr. Isabelle Cochelin, Centre for Medieval Studies, University of Toronto

Ever since the Carolingian Renaissance and until very recently, the history of monasticism has been primarily written by monks. The work they have done, especially in copying and editing the texts from the past, has been phenomenal. However, we should be conscious that the history of monasticism they have written gives too much importance to great male figures, rules, and male monastic order(s). Too little has been said on the role of nuns—the first monks were probably nuns!—the very complex history of the role played by rules in Western Monasticism, and the relatively late appearance of monastic orders (not before the 12th century). As the co-editor of a book-project for Cambridge University Press that will regroup some 70 articles by multi-disciplinary specialists of Medieval Monasticism from all over the world, Dr. Cochelin has the incredible chance to see this one-thousand-year history from a very different standpoint.

Reception: 4:30 pm
Lecture: following Reception

St. Jerome’s University
Room 3027

Light desserts and beverages provided

Medieval Lecture Series

This series highlights the forty-six-year history of Medieval Studies on our campus

Brought to you by the Medieval Studies Program
St. Jerome’s University and the University of Waterloo
Dr. Steven Bednarski and Dr. David Porsena, Co-Directors

Join Steven Bednarski for a riveting look back at 14th century medieval women, female agency, kin networks, solidarity, sex, sickness, medicine, and law with his book

A POISONED PAST

October 23rd at 4:30 P.M.
Bookstore, SCH
The School of Business & Economics and the Faculty of Arts present

The Canadian Business History Workshop

A regular meeting of the network of Canadian scholars working on varied aspects of business history. We welcome all new participants.

Please join us to discuss papers on topics including military procurement, the environment and energy, and teaching business history.

12:45–1:45 PM | Keith Neilson (Royal Military College), The Imperial Munitions Board (IMB) in the First World War

2:00–3:00 PM | Mark Sholdice (University of Guelph) The Hydro-Electric Power Commission of Ontario and Conservation Debates in the United States, 1911–1921

3:00–4:00 PM | Matthias Kipping (Schulich School of Business, York University), Joe Martin (Rotman School of Management, University of Toronto), David Smith (Wilfrid Laurier University) Teaching Business History

NOVEMBER 14 | 12:45–4 PM
Ernst & Yonge Boardroom, RM 3220, School of Business & Economics building

Sponsored by the School of Business & Economics and the Faculty of Arts

wlu.ca
We welcome proposals from graduate students as well as emerging and well-established scholars. Please send inquiries or proposals (200-300 words) to Darren Mulloy at dmulloy@uwlu.ca by 7 November 2014. All proposals should be accompanied by a brief (50 word) biographical note.

Suggestions for presentation proposals include, but are not limited to the following areas:
- the centenary of World War I
- the politics of remembrance
- technology and commemoration
- the culture of war
- education and nationalism
- home fronts
- transnational perspectives
STANDING CALL FOR CONTENT

*The Triumvirate*, and the Triumvirate Blog exist to showcase and promote the Tri-University Community. Please contact Ian Muller at mull6820@mylaurier.ca if you have content you would like featured on the Tri-University's social media accounts, the Triumvirate Blog, and in future editions of *The Triumvirate*. Suggestions include:

- News and updates about faculty members and graduate students
- Lecture/seminar series
- Roundtables/conferences
- Awards, scholarships
- New programs/courses
- Workshops
- General announcements
- Publications
- Events
- Research
- Trips
- Any other relevant or notable information
THE TRIUMVIRATE

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