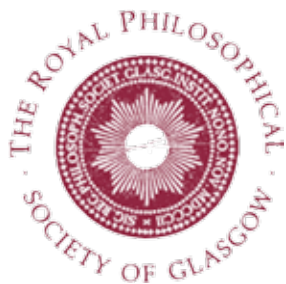


# THE ROYAL PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY OF GLASGOW

SCOTTISH CHARITABLE INCORPORATED ORGANISATION (SCIO) CHARITY NO. SC015557



## 215th Lecture Series 8th March 2017

**Professor Nigel Leask**

**As little known as Kamschatka: Thomas Pennant's Scottish Tours 1769-72**



### ABSTRACT

My lecture investigates the Welsh naturalist and antiquarian Thomas Pennant's pioneering tours of Scotland in 1769 and 1772. Pennant's tours represent the first systematic travel account of Scotland to include the Highlands and Western Isles, and the first to include full visual documentation: their popularity ensured that they became a standard guidebook for tourists in the following half century. Writing as a Welshman, Pennant offered a 'national description' of Scotland that sought to improve Anglo-Scottish relations in the century after union. Drawing on new research on Pennant's correspondence held in the NLS, the National Library of Wales, and the British Library, I discuss his meticulous preparation for the tours. The lecture will be illustrated with images of the Hebrides from Pennant's extra-illustrated copy of his tours held in the NLW, which have been seldom seen before in Scotland. This lecture is part of my ongoing research for my AHRC-funded collaborative research project 'Curious Travellers: Thomas Pennant and the Welsh and Scottish Tour, 1760-1820'.

### BIOGRAPHY

*Nigel Leask holds the Regius Chair of English Language and Literature at the University of Glasgow. He is currently writing a book entitled 'Stepping Westward: the Highland Tour 1720-1820. He is a Fellow of the British Academy and of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, and a Vice President of the Association of Scottish Literary Studies.*

### LINKS

<http://www.gla.ac.uk/schools/critical/staff/nigelleask/>

<http://curioustravellers.ac.uk/en/about-the-project/>

**All lectures take place in Lecture Theatre K3.25, John Anderson Building,  
University of Strathclyde, Rottenrow East, Glasgow G4 0NG.**

The John Anderson Building is in the pedestrianised area between Rottenrow and Rottenrow East. Free car parking is available behind the building. From High Street enter Rottenrow East at the Barony.  
*Refreshments will be served at 9.00pm.*

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