

Union and Its Legacies. Poland-Lithuania since 1386

A Symposium to mark the 450th anniversary of the Union of Lublin
and the establishment of Aberdeen University's Research Centre
for Polish-Lithuanian Studies



University of Aberdeen

31 January–1 February 2020

Craig Suite, 7th Floor, the Sir Duncan Rice Library



Consulate General
of the Republic of Poland
in Edinburgh



EMBASSY OF THE
REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA
IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

The Research Centre for Polish-Lithuanian Studies.

University of Aberdeen

The Research Centre for Polish-Lithuanian Studies provides a unique focus for the study of the history, culture, and legacy of the Polish-Lithuanian Union. It aims to develop new approaches to research into the history and culture of east-central Europe and seeks to break down the predominant nationalist narratives of east European history through a transnational approach to the historical and cultural legacy of one of the longest-lasting political unions in European history.

The Symposium

This symposium celebrates the establishment of the Research Centre of Polish-Lithuanian Studies at the University of Aberdeen, 450 years after the Union of Lublin created the political framework for the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth, and 633 years since the 1385 Krewo Act opened the way to union between the kingdom of Poland and the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. The partitioning of this unique polity between 1772 and 1795 against the wishes of its citizens removed it from the map of Europe at the very moment that the French Revolution, by declaring that the people were sovereign, opened the way to modern nationalism, which views the nation state as the natural destination of political modernisation. The Centre opens a century after the Paris Peace Conference, whose attempt to solve the problems posed by the collapse of the partitioning powers was complicated by the demands of the self-appointed leaders of national groups that had formed the union, and who had developed competing versions of their common past. The siren call of national self-determination rang out across a vast area of Europe where it was impossible to draw neat borders between peoples who had never lived in nation states, and where the competing claims of national identities sundered families and communities that had lived together for generations, if not always in harmony. The failure to establish a stable settlement in the lands of the former union played a central role in the coming of the Second World War, in the course of which terror and total war changed these lands irrevocably. For four and a half decades after its end, the Communist establishments of the Soviet Bloc energetically sustained the negative visions of the union that had arisen in the nineteenth century. In the thirty years since the fall of the Berlin Wall, scholars have begun to challenge and reconsider the negative picture of the union, without losing sight of the problems it experienced. The Centre has invited scholars, diplomats, and museum specialists from across the world to discuss the Polish-Lithuanian union and the problems of its legacy at a time when the problems of political union and national sovereignty are as controversial and complex as they were a century ago. Its final roundtable continues a tradition of organising symposia and conferences with the Research Institute of Irish and Scottish studies that compare the Polish-Lithuanian Union with the British and Irish unions.

We are grateful to the sponsors of this symposium, the Embassy of the Republic of Lithuania in the United Kingdom, and the Consulate General of the Republic of Poland in Edinburgh.

Programme

Friday 31 January

5:30pm

Introduction (Robert Frost)

5:45: Formal Opening of the Centre

**His Excellency Arkady Rzegocki, Ambassador of the Republic of Poland
His Excellency Renatas Norkus, Ambassador of the Republic of Lithuania**

6:15 pm

Keynote Public Lecture

Chair: Robert Frost (Aberdeen)

Norman Davies (Oxford)	'Polish' Studies: Past, Present & Future.
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Reception

Sponsored by the Embassy of the Republic of Lithuania in the United Kingdom

Saturday 1 February

Keynote Lecture

9:30-10:30

Chair: Michael Brown (Aberdeen)

Robert Frost (Aberdeen)	Continuities and Discontinuities. The Polish-Lithuanian Union and its Legacy.
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10:30-11:00

Coffee

11-12:30

Session One: The Political Culture of the Union after 1569

Chair: Rytis Martikonis (Vilnius & Luxemburg)

Artūras Vasiliauskas (Vilnius)	The Union and the Political Culture of the Lithuanian Nobility, 1569-1648.
Anna Kalinowska (Warsaw)	British perceptions of the Polish-Lithuanian Union in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

12:30-1:15 Lunch

1:15–2:45 Session Two: Problems of Union

Chair: Karin Friedrich (Aberdeen)

Henryk Litwin (Warsaw)	The szlachta of Volhynia, Kyiv and Bratslav and the unions of Lublin.
Mindaugas Šapoka (Vilnius)	The Challenges of War: the Great Northern War (1700–1721) and the Polish-Lithuanian Union.

2:45–3:30 Session Three: Forming the Legacy of the Union after the Partitions

Chair: Henryk Litwin (Warsaw)

Karin Friedrich (Aberdeen)	From Perilous Liberty to <i>Polnische Wirtschaft</i> . Royal Prussians and the Legacy of the Polish-Lithuanian Union.
Curtis Murphy (Nazarbayev)	Who Would Return to the “Kingdom of Anarchy”? Imperialists, Liberals and Revolutionaries Debate the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth in the Russian Empire.

3:30–4:00: Coffee

4:00–5:30: Session Four: Competing Visions of a Common Past

Chair: Curtis Murphy (Nazarbayev)

Tomas Balkelis (Vilnius)	In Search of the Common Past: Political Alternatives to Lithuanian and Polish Nationalism, from the 1890s–1918.
Ola Hnatiuk (Warsaw/Kyiv)	Representations of the 1920 Piłsudski-Petliura Alliance and Competing Visions of the common Polish and Ukrainian Past.

5:45–7:30

Public Roundtable

Chair: Robert Frost

Confronting a Common Past: National Museums and the Presentation of Political Union.

Robert Kostro, Director, Museum of Polish History, Warsaw; Jolanta Karpavičienė, Palace of the Grand Dukes of Lithuania, Vilnius; David Forsyth, National Museum of Scotland; Anna Groundwater, National Museum of Scotland; William Blair National Museums, Northern Ireland

Registration: [:https://www.eventbrite.com/e/union-and-its-legacies-poland-lithuania-since-1386-tickets-84729986671](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/union-and-its-legacies-poland-lithuania-since-1386-tickets-84729986671)

Speakers and Panel Members

<p>Tomas Balkelis is a research fellow at the Lithuanian Institute of History in Vilnius. He received his PhD from the University of Toronto in 2004 and then worked at the Universities of Manchester and Nottingham. From 2009 to 2013, he was a European Research Council Postdoctoral Research Fellow at University College Dublin. He also led a Lithuanian Research Council funded team of historians based at Vilnius University working on the international project 'Population Displacement in Lithuania in the 20th century' which focused on forced population transfers, refugee identities and experiences between the First World War and the end of the Cold War. He is the author of <i>The Making of Modern Lithuania</i> (Routledge, 2009) and <i>War, Revolution and Nation-Making in Lithuania</i> (Oxford, 2018). His articles have been published by <i>Past and Present</i> and <i>Contemporary European History</i>. He has a particular interest in the modern history of the Baltic States. His research fields include nation-building, national mythmaking, forced migrations, population displacement and paramilitary violence.</p>	<p>Ola Hnatiuk holds chairs at the University of Warsaw and the Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, after serving in the Polish diplomatic corps from 2006 to 2010. She is the recipient of numerous awards, including the Order of Polonia Restituta (the Republic of Poland's highest state award), the Antonovych Foundation Award for fostering Polish-Ukrainian cultural cooperation, and the Pruszyński Polish PEN-Club Award. Her recent book <i>Courage and Fear</i>, on the experiences of the city of Lviv/Lwów during the Second World War, was published in 2015, and has just come out in an English translation; it has received awards in Ukraine and in Poland.</p>
<p>William Blair has been Director of Collections at National Museums Northern Ireland since March 2017. He is part of the executive leadership team setting a new strategic direction for the organisation and has overall responsibility for curatorial, collections management, interpretation, audience development and programming. He joined National Museums NI in 2009 as Head of Human History and in that role curated the new <i>Titanic</i> exhibition at the Ulster Folk and Transport Museum and was author of its companion book <i>Titanic: Behind the Legend</i>. He led the re-development of the Modern History gallery at the Ulster Museum and more recently the new <i>Troubles and Beyond</i> exhibition, also at the Ulster Museum. He is currently Chairman of the Irish Museums Association. William was previously responsible for the development of the award-winning Mid-Antrim Museums Service in County Antrim (1998-2009). He holds a MA Hons degree in Politics and Modern History from the University of Edinburgh and a MA in Museum Studies from the University of Leicester.</p>	<p>Anna Kalinowska is an early modern historian, working mainly on diplomatic and news history in Poland Lithuania and Western Europe in the 16th and 17th centuries. Since 2006 she has been a member of the Institute of History, Polish Academy of Sciences (IH PAN). She was Head of Historical Research at the Royal Castle in Warsaw for four years, and currently is Head of the Publications and Digital Resources Department at the Museum of Polish History. She is a Fulbright Scholar, and has won awards from the British Academy, the Polish National Science Centre, the Royal Society of Edinburgh and the Brzezie Lanckoronski Foundation</p>
<p>Michael Brown holds a chair in Irish, Scottish and Enlightenment History at the University of Aberdeen. A graduate of Trinity College Dublin, where he studied history for his BA (Mod) and PhD, he has worked at the Centre for Irish and Scottish Studies and the Department of Modern History at Trinity and in the Combined Departments of History at University College Dublin. He is Co-Director of Aberdeen University's Research Institute for Irish</p>	<p>Jolanta Karpavičienė is Deputy Director of the Palace of the Grand Dukes of Lithuania in Vilnius, part of the National Museum of Lithuania, with special responsibility for cultural activities. She also teaches in the Department of Ancient and Medieval History at Vilnius University, of which she is a graduate. . She has held internships at the University of Würzburg, and Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg, and researches the history of cities and</p>

<p>and Scottish Studies, and Dean for Research Governance and Cultural Strategy. He lectures and has published widely on Irish, Scottish, British, and Enlightenment history, including studies of Frances Hutcheson and John Toland. His major study of the <i>Irish Enlightenment</i> was published by Harvard University Press in 2016. He is now working on British identity formation in the eighteenth century, and writing a textbook for Routledge entitled <i>A Cultural History of Europe, 1688-1914</i>.</p>	<p>towns in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania in European context, the reception of Magdeburg law in east-central Europe, and the Social History of the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. In 2012 she was awarded the Eike-von-Repgow-Preis for her research on the reception of Saxon-Magdeburg Law in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania.</p>
<p>Norman Davies is one of Britain's leading public historians. He is Professor Emeritus of History, University of London, Fellow of St Anthony's College, Oxford, and a life Fellow of Clare Hall, Cambridge. Until 2012, he was UNESCO Professor at the Jagiellonian University, Krakow. He has received many honorary doctorates, is an honorary citizen of four Polish cities, and in 2012 was granted Poland's highest honour, membership of the Order of the White Eagle. He was educated at Magdalen College, Oxford (MA), the University of Sussex (MA) and the Jagiellonian University, where he wrote his PhD. His reputation was made initially by <i>God's Playground</i>, his panoramic history of Poland, which caused a great sensation on its publication in 1981, not least in the Polish Peoples Republic, where it rapidly became a bestseller on its translation into Polish. He has published many bestselling works of history aimed, including widely-acclaimed histories of Europe and the British Isles.</p>	<p>Robert Kostro is a Polish historian and journalist. In the 1980s, he joined the opposition Young Poland Movement (Ruch Młodej Polski). In the 1990s, he worked as a journalist for several papers and magazines. In 1997 he was appointed director of the Department of Foreign Relations in the Prime Minister's Office. He was later chief of staff for the minister of culture. In 2001, he was appointed deputy director of the Adam Mickiewicz Institute. He has been the founding director of the Polish History Museum since 2006. He is a member of advisory boards of several cultural institutions, including European Network Solidarity and Remembrance, the Ossolineum Library, the European Solidarity Centre and the Ulma Family Museum. He has published articles in numerous periodicals, including <i>Życie, Rzeczpospolita, Gazeta Wyborcza</i> and <i>Przegląd Polityczny</i>. He is the editor of many publications including a collection of essays entitled <i>Pamięć i odpowiedzialność</i>, which deals with the politics of memory and <i>Polska od-nowa. Nowe narracje historii i muzealne reprezentacje przeszłości</i> on historical narratives and historical museums.</p>
<p>David Forsyth is Principal Curator, Modern and Contemporary History in the Department of Scottish History and Archaeology at National Museums Scotland. Until June 2019 he had oversight of the Museum's Renaissance and Early Modern collections and curators. He was lead curator of the widely-acclaimed 2017 exhibition Bonnie Prince Charlie and the Jacobites, for which he also edited the catalogue, a reprise of the twin roles which he performed for the Mary, Queen of Scots exhibition held at the National Museum of Scotland in 2013. In 2014 he co-curated the exhibition Common Cause: Commonwealth Scots and the Great War, also co-authoring the book of the same name which continues his interest in the of juxtaposition of material culture and history.</p>	<p>Henryk Litwin is a Polish historian and diplomat. He studied history at Warsaw University, and wrote his PhD on the migration of Polish nobles to the Ukrainian palatinates after 1569 at the Institute of History of the Polish Academy of Sciences, where he worked until 1991, when he joined the Polish diplomatic service, with a particular responsibility for relations with eastern Europe. He served as Polish consul in Lviv (1991–4); deputy head of mission in the Polish embassy in Moscow (2002–5); ambassador to Belarus (2007–10) and ambassador to Ukraine (2011–16). He is currently responsible for relations with Polonia and Poles abroad in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Warsaw. He remains a working historian, having defended his habilitation dissertation in 2014, and teaches the history of eastern Europe at Warsaw University</p>
<p>Karin Friedrich is Professor of Early Modern History at the University of Aberdeen. She was awarded her PhD at Georgetown University under the supervision of Andrzej Kamiński. She has published on Polish</p>	<p>Rytis Martikonis is a Lithuanian diplomat and European civil servant. He graduated in International Law from Vilnius University after pursuing studies in the US, Denmark and the</p>

<p>and Prussian history of ideas, religion, identity and urban culture. Her books include <i>The Other Prussia. Royal Prussia, Poland and Liberty</i>, which was awarded the 2001 Orbis book prize for Polish Studies, and a History of Brandenburg-Prussia. She is currently working on a study of Bogusław Radziwiłł as a supra-national aristocrat, and has just been elected President of the German History Society.</p>	<p>Netherlands. He joined the Lithuanian foreign service in 1992 and has held many positions pertaining to European affairs in Vilnius and Brussels ever since – he helped steer Lithuania’s EU membership as Director of the European Integration Department from 1999 until 2001 and as Deputy Head of the Lithuanian EU accession negotiation team from 2001 to 2004. From 2002 to 2003 he represented the Lithuanian government in the Convention on the Future of Europe, and was Ambassador and Permanent Representative to the EU from 2005 to 2010. Since 2011 he has served as Director General of Translation Service in the European Commission.</p>
<p>Robert Frost holds the Burnett Fletcher chair of history at the University of Aberdeen, where he is Director of the new Research Centre in Polish-Lithuanian Studies. He has an MA (Honours) from St Andrews University, and a diploma in Polish Language and Culture from the Jagiellonian University. He wrote his doctorate under the supervision of Norman Davies at London University, and taught at King’s College London before moving to Aberdeen in 2004. His books include <i>The Northern Wars</i> (2000) and <i>The Making of the Polish-Lithuanian Union, 1385–1569</i>, the first volume of his <i>Oxford History of the Polish-Lithuanian Union</i>, and a study of the supposed portrait of Bonnie Prince Charlie in Polish dress for Palgrave USA. Volume 1 of the <i>Oxford History</i> was awarded the 2017 <i>Pro Historia Polonorum</i> prize.</p>	<p>Curtis G. Murphy is assistant professor in the Department of History, Philosophy, and Religious Studies at Nazarbayev University in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan. He received his PhD. from Georgetown University in 2011, and he is the author of <i>From Citizens to Subjects: City, State, and the Enlightenment in Poland, Ukraine and Belarus</i>, and several articles on eighteenth-and-nineteenth-century East Central Europe and the Russian Empire. Currently, Dr. Murphy is working on a project on the myths and realities of Polish-native anti-imperial collaboration along the Russian Empire's Eurasian frontier.</p>
<p>Anna Groundwater is a social and cultural historian of early modern Scotland and Britain. She taught at the University of Edinburgh for ten years until recently transferring to National Museums Scotland, where she is Principal Curator of Renaissance and Early Modern History. She publishes on Scottish and British history, particularly on the government of James VI and I, the Union of the Crowns, and the Anglo-Scottish Borders region. Her most recent book is <i>Connecting Scotland’s History: a Scottish History timeline linked into 2000 years of world history</i> (Luath, 2017). Her current research interests include early modern cultural and mercantile exchanges between Scotland and northern Europe, in particular the United Provinces and Poland-Lithuania.</p>	<p>Mindaugas Šapoka is researcher at the Lithuanian Institute of History in Vilnius. He is a historian of early modern Eastern and Central Europe, especially Poland and Lithuania. He received his Ph.D. in History from the University of Aberdeen under the supervision of Prof. Robert Frost in 2015, after having completed master’s and bachelor’s degrees in History at Vilnius University. His book <i>Warfare, Loyalty and Rebellion: The Grand Duchy of Lithuania and the Great Northern War</i> was published by Routledge in 2018. He is currently working on a history of the Great Northern War, to be published by the Lithuanian Institute of History in 2021.</p>