

# Blended Learning at Masters Level

## People, Prelates and Purgatory: Religious Perspectives in Late Medieval Scotland



### 1. Digitisation in partnership with EU Library

In collaboration with Special Collections, Edinburgh University Library excerpts from a total of 24 late medieval manuscripts and incunabula were digitised for use on the Masters' course. The beautifully-illustrated, 15th century Book of Hours of the Blessed Virgin and St Ninian [EUL MS 42] was digitised in its entirety, creating a major research resource and forming part of a national Scottish heritage. The images are being made available via Insight.

### 2. New course resources

WebCT was used to host the course website giving students access to course information, a discussion forum, study skills advice, a database of Scottish ecclesiastical images and transcriptions of source documents. A Treasure Hunt was designed for use at the beginning of the course to familiarise students with the wide range of external websites hosted by museums and libraries holding important material for the study of the period.

### 3. Blended learning in action

The project aimed to enrich the learning experience of postgraduate students both by giving them access to a specialist corpus of historical evidence and by promoting collaborative research. Each week the Masters' students completed an individual research task and then shared their findings using a discussion forum. The preparation of the written comments helped them focus their research and informed the discussion during the subsequent face-to-face seminar. This blend of online and traditional working patterns proved to be a positive experience for staff and students when the course first ran in the Autumn Semester 2004. A final revision of the course is being made after the evaluation stage of the project. The examples below relate to the 7th week of the course "Saints, guilds and pilgrimage" when students preparing their comments were directed to the NLS, the newly-digitised EUL material and SCRAN, in addition to traditional background reading.



#### Week 7 - themes

1. Scottish saints
2. Guilds
3. Pilgrimage centres

#### Research tasks:

- Online
- Scottish saints in Books of Hours e.g. St Ninian, St Andrew St Duthac [WebCT Images]
- Pilgrimage centres e.g. Whithorn, Tain, St Andrews, Dunfermline
- Standing crosses in the Highlands e.g. Oransay Priory; Kilchoman Islay; Campbeltown.
- Healing wells [many throughout Scotland] e.g. St Maelrubha Well, Ross-shire, Well on Gigha Island, Argyll.
- Costrel Pilgrim flask [SCRAN]
- Pilgrim badges e.g. St Andrews
- Indulgence for visit to Compostella [WebCT Image]
- The Monymusk Reliquary or Breccbenach ['the speckled or peaked one'] 8th century shrine of St Columba carried into battles [NMS]
- Guthrie bell shrine and Crozier [Quigrich] of St Fillan [NMS]

#### Documents in full on WebCT

- Sir David Lindsay's Satire of the Three Estates
- 9. 'Hale Sterne Supreme' poem by William Dunbar, 1456-1513
- 13. Memorial to St Columba from Inchcolm Antiphoner 14c
- 15. 'The merits of the mass' from Walter Bower's Scotichronicon, 1440s

#### Maps

- Atlas p 377 [shrines and hermitages] ; p 378 [pilgrimages]
- Geddes map of St Andrews [pilgrim/processional layout of burgh] Charting the Nation

#### Readings

- P. Yeoman *Pilgrimage in Scotland* (1999) chs 1, 4 & 7
- D. McRoberts 'Scottish Church and Nationalism in 15th century' *Innes Review* 19 (1968) 3-14...

