

Update on ADFAS Launceston operations during COVID-19 restrictions

Introducing online lectures during COVID-19 lockdown

In what has been an extraordinary year we have all had to adjust to new realities. The impact of COVID-19 on our lives has been huge. Equally important, however, has been our ability to adapt to the new 'normal' we now live as a consequence of COVID-19 pandemic. With travel bans in place and social gatherings curtailed, ADFAS societies have had to reinvent themselves by putting their offerings online.

Offering lectures online has meant that there have been a number of changes to the 2020 program we advertised to members. Not all lecturers were able to put together online versions of their presentations at short notice, so our national ADFAS committee canvassed lecturers to put together a list of those who had online presentations available we could provide while COVID-19 restrictions remain in place.

We have now arranged to deliver five online lectures until August. In April we offered the lecture we had originally advertised, with Dr Mathew Laing providing us a very polished online presentation of his lecture on *A New Black Identity: The Harlem Renaissance of the 1920s*. In May Ian Cockburn offered an online delivery of *The Beginnings of Moorish Architecture: Experiencing and Understanding the Exotic*. These and the other lecture topics and their availability are outlined below.

April 2020 Matthew Laing: *A New Black Identity: The Harlem Renaissance of the 1920s* (as advertised for April 2020. Available until the end of June 2020)

The lecture discusses the artistic and cultural movement in up- town New York known as the Harlem Renaissance. The movement influenced African American culture, from fashion, music and dances of the Cotton Club and jazz halls, to intellectual and religious discourses in black schools, churches and homes. The lecture includes selected recording, motion pictures and examples of photographic and visual art from this seminal moment in the development of black identity in the United States.

May 2020 Ian Cockburn: *The Beginnings of Moorish Architecture: Experiencing and Understanding the Exotic* (this is a new lecture for 2020. It is available until 8 June 2020)

When entering an architectural space designed by an unknown culture, there are two main questions we must ask ourselves. How do we experience it, and how do we understand it?

The first significant structure built by the Moorish invaders who conquered the Iberian Peninsula in the early 8th century was the Friday or communal mosque at Córdoba.

Commenced in 785 and completed in distinct stages over the next two hundred years, it became the template for virtually all monumental Moorish architecture on the peninsula.

This lecture looks at the impact this stunningly beautiful building has on the visitor and how that impact is achieved. It also examines the details of the structure and decorative elements, to show how they can be understood, both in terms of their origins and in terms of the hidden messages that tell the story of the political, social and religious turmoil that embroiled Córdoba in the tenth century, when a Caliphate was declared and the Great Mosque was finally completed.

June 2020 Susannah Fullerton: *Thomas Hardy and "Tess of the D'Urbervilles"* (this is a new lecture for 2020. It is available until the end of June)

Thomas Hardy trained as an architect, wrote novels for money, but his greatest love was poetry. His life was long and controversial, with two marriages, novels that shocked the public, and an amazing range of poems. In his work Hardy created the county of Wessex, capturing a pastoral life that has vanished.

But he was also a writer who hoped for change and he fought against the strict morality of his day, and called for better treatment of women, in books such as *Tess of the D'Urbervilles*.

Hear the story of his rise from poverty to fame, his controversial funeral, enjoy some dramatic readings from the novel and his poems, and discover the power and brilliance of his most beloved novel *Tess of the D'Urbervilles*.

July 2020 Nirvana Rommell: *The Golden Age of Dubrovnik* (Originally advertised for May 2020. It is available until the end of July)

The lecture focuses on the history of the making of the Dubrovnik Republic and its political and cultural heydays during the 15th and 16th century. Majestic altarpieces, churches and civic buildings serve as perfect examples of Mediterranean Renaissance, combining Italian influences with local medieval tradition. But, the importance of Dubrovnik in European history stretches beyond its untouched walls and numerous bell towers. The talk explains the complex historical heritage of this truly unique city.

August 2020 Rosalind Whyte: *William Hogarth: 'A terrier snapping at the heels of the great'* (this is a new lecture for 2020. It is available until the end of August)

This lecture looks at the life, times and work of William Hogarth, who has been described as 'The Father of British Art'. Hogarth was closely involved with the social and political issues of his times, as is reflected in his work and the sometimes scathing and satirical nature of his responses to current issues. His relationship with some of the important personalities of the time will also be explored, be it his support of the work of his father-in-law Sir James Thornhill, or his attacks on the work of William Kent or the politics of John Wilkes. It explores the variety of forms he worked in, from his 'Modern Moral Subjects' and Conversation Pieces to his portraiture and attempts at History painting. But no exploration of Hogarth's work would be complete without looking at his cutting and often bawdy sense of humour and an exploration of the wealth of detail in his work.

September 2020 and beyond...

In June the National ADFAS committee will review what is possible for September and the remainder of the 2020 ADFAS year. We know no international lecturers will be travelling to Australia in 2020, but we may be able to convene small face-to-face lectures given by Australian lecturers. We will keep you posted what and when if this is possible.

While we all miss the social collegiality of face-to-face ADFAS lectures, the response to the on-line lectures has been extremely positive. Members have found them very engaging, so please check them out if you haven't already; we think you will be very pleasantly surprised. Please also feel free to use your guest pass for a friend to watch one of the online lectures.

We also warmly invite and encourage non-members to contact us to view lectures that are of interest. The cost for viewing an ADFAS on-line lecture is @ \$20 per lecture. To receive the link to the lecture you would like to see, please email: Launceston@adfasc.org.au after making your payment either by:

EFT: BSB 633-000 Acc. No: 162475040 EFT Reference: YOUR NAME

**Payment by cheque: Payable to ADFAS Launceston Inc, and posted to ADFAS Launceston Inc. PO Box 445
Launceston TAS 7250**

Post COVID-19 restrictions

Lastly, stay posted for our Post-COVID-19 Freedom Party, which we will organise as soon as we are allowed to have one. Of course we will still ensure social distancing and hygiene practices are properly in place.

In the meantime, please feel free to contact us with any queries you have. Send us an email us at Launceston@adfas.org.au and one of our committee will be in touch.

We look forward to seeing you soon.

Launceston ADFAS Committee.