Pro Fide et Patria: Anglicanism and Ecclesiastical Architecture in Central and Southern Africa, 1848-1903

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Victorian church design outside the British Isles, 1830–1910

A SYMPOSIUM ON SATURDAY 6 NOVEMBER 2010, 10AM TO 5.30PM
ORGANISED BY DR ALEX BREMNER, UNIVERSITY OF EDINBURGH

Cover: All Saints Cathedral, Allahabad, India (1870-87) by William Emerson
Above: Tiger gargoyle from All Saints Cathedral, Allahabad
Above right: St John the Baptist, Buckland, Tasmania, Australia (1846) by RC Carpenter and Rev. FH Cox
Right: Dutch Reformed Church in Beacon, New York, USA (1859) by FC Withers

Inside page, from top to bottom:
St Bartholomew, Kaiapoi (near Christchurch), New Zealand (1854) by Benjamin Mountfort
Christ Church Cathedral, Stone Town, Zanzibar (1873-78) by CF Hayward and Rev. Edward Steere
St John’s Mission Church, Mbweni, Zanzibar (1882) by Rev. Edward Steere

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ECCLESIOLOGY & EMPIRE

Please send me [ ] tickets at £50 each until 10 September, or [ ] at £60 each from 11 September.

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CANCELLATIONS will be accepted and fees returned only until Tuesday 5 October 2010, but will be subject to a £10 deduction per ticket for administrative costs.

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SUPPORTED BY THE PAUL MELLON CENTRE FOR BRITISH ART, THE JEREMY BLACK BEQUEST AND PRIVATE DONORS
The rise of the Gothic Revival in Britain during the mid-nineteenth century coincided with Britain’s emergence as the world’s leading economic, industrial, and imperial power. The territorial expansion of Britain during this period led to the migration (forced and voluntary) of British peoples and culture across the globe, whether as convicts, free settlers, merchants, soldiers, or colonial administrators.

An important aspect of this phenomenon was the increasing emphasis placed on religion and the Christian character of society. Church missionary organizations—whether Anglican, Catholic, or Nonconformist—were most active during the Victorian period, proselytizing colonials and indigenes alike on a scale not seen before or since.

Anglicans and Catholics, in particular, placed great importance on the erection of ‘correct’ church buildings in aid of this mission. Their concern for architecture was influenced heavily by the newly-developed principles of ‘ecclesiology’ stemming from the theories of AWN Pugin and the publications of the two university architectural societies in Britain. As clergymen and their architects spread throughout the British Empire, they took these ideas with them, erecting unprecedented numbers of churches and cathedrals that both reshaped and reformed the landscapes and societies in which they were located.

THE SYMPOSIUM brings together several of the world’s leading experts on the rise of ecclesiology in the former British Empire (and beyond). The papers will explore the different ways in which Christian architecture was studied and advanced outside the British Isles as architects and clergymen were forced to adapt to unfamiliar and testing environments (climate, culture, materials).

As a whole, the papers will provide an engaging account of how architectural ideas and practices were carried and implemented abroad during a significant period in the history of British architecture, thus situating the development of the Gothic Revival in a wider global perspective.

The Victorian Society is grateful for the support of the Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art, the Jeremy Black Bequest, and private donors.

PRACTICAL INFORMATION
Venue: The Art Workers’ Guild, 6 Queen Square, London WC1N 3AT.
Date and time: Saturday 6 November 2010.
Doors open at 9.30am. The lectures start at 10am, and the first break will be for lunch at 12.30pm. Coffee may be obtained before the event from many cafes in the vicinity.
Tube: Holborn or Russell Square
Tickets: £50 each until 10 September, or £60 each thereafter, including a sandwich lunch and afternoon tea. Booking essential.

Chairman Michael Hall
‘Solemn Chancels and Cross Crowned Spires’: Pugin’s Antipodean Vision and its Implementation
Brian Andrews Heritage Officer, Archdiocese of Hobart, Tasmania

Pro Fide et Patria: High Anglican Architecture in Southern and Central Africa
Alex Bremner Lecturer in the History of Architecture, University of Edinburgh

‘The Most Cheerless of its Seats’: Ecclesiology in Atlantic British North America
Peter Coffman Assistant Professor, Carleton University, Ottawa

William White in South Africa and Madagascar
Gill Hunter Independent Scholar, England

The Technicolor Meeting House in England and America
Michael J. Lewis Professor of Art, Williams College, Mass., USA

The Ecclesiology of Expediency: Primitive and Portable Churches in the New World
Miles Lewis Professor of Architecture, University of Melbourne

Antipodean Ecclesiology: Church Building in New Zealand, 1840–1875
Ian Lochhead Associate Professor in Art History, University of Canterbury, New Zealand

Indian Hands in the British Empire: Developing a ‘Correct’ Ecclesiastical Architecture in India?
Su-Lyn Seah Newnham College, University of Cambridge

‘We bestride the narrow world like a Colossus’
The Ecclesiologist (1845)