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Document Version:
Publisher's PDF, also known as Version of record

Published In:
Ecclesiology & Empire:

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Ecclesiology & Empire

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

1 Priory Gardens, London W4 1TT
Telephone 020 8994 1019
Web www.victoriansociety.org.uk
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Please return coupon with your payment to The Victorian Society, 1 Priory Gardens, London, W4 1TT.

ECCLESIOLOGY & EMPIRE

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

PAYMENT Please enclose a cheque made payable to The Victorian Society or complete your credit card details below:

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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.

DISCLAIMER: You participate in our events at your own risk, and neither the Society nor its officers or servants accept any liability of any kind whatsoever, however arising. The Victorian Society reserves the right to cancel, alter or postpone events if necessary.

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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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. 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 cafés 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.

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