

TOURISM AND LITERATURE:

Travel, Imagination, Myth

Centre for Tourism and Cultural Change (Sheffield)

General Information:

This is the first Call for Papers for our 2004 annual research conference on *Tourism and Literature*, organised by the Centre for Tourism and Cultural Change (Sheffield Hallam Univ.) and hosted by the Harrogate International Festival. The conference will run in tandem with the Harrogate International Festival and the Harrogate Crime Writing Festival. The conference convenors are Mike Robinson, David Picard, and William Culver-Dodds

Date: June 22-26, 2004.

Location: Harrogate, UK

Deadline: March 1, 2004.

Please send your abstract of no more than 300 words with full address details as an electronic file to Dr. David Picard, d.picard@shu.ac.uk as soon as possible.

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Literature, through both texts and authors, has long been an inspiration for tourists. Travel and tourist experiences have, in turn, long inspired literature. This inter-relationship between tourist, tourism and literature will be at the heart of this international conference. How does literature construct tourist histories and identities? How do tourists »read« fictional texts? How does literature produce, prescribe and legitimate spaces for tourists? How are tourist expectations and experiences mediated by literature? What is the significance of imagined worlds, fantastic landscapes and mythic characters for tourism? Why do some authors hold a fascination for tourists? Who are literary pilgrims and what experiences do they have?

The conference seeks to explore and deepen our understanding of tourism and literature relations by bringing together an international audience of academics, curators, writers, professionals and tourism managers to discuss this increasingly important field. The conference will be multi-disciplinary drawing from literary criticism, history, linguistics, sociology, anthropology, cultural geography etc.

- Representing places, peoples and pasts in fictional texts
- Tourists as readers and readers as tourists
- Sight-seeing – encounters with literately enchanted worlds
- From the Bible to *Lonely Planet* – literature as travel liturgy
- Recreating the world – travel, cosmogony and myth
- Alternative literatures and tourist experiences
- Negotiating cultural identities through travel narratives
- »Intangible heritages« – narrative traditions, storytelling and oral histories
- Production of literary spaces and the poetics of literary landscapes
- Literary pilgrimages and the celebrity of authors
- The commodification and commercialisation of literature