

## M3C DTP Collaborative Doctoral Award (CDA) Project Brief

<b>Project Title</b>			
Antiquarianism, science and networks of knowledge: The archives of the Spalding Gentlemen’s Society, 1710-1760			
<b>LEAD INSTITUTION</b>			
<b>Name of HEI institution</b>	The University of Leicester		
<b>Lead regional city</b>	Birmingham <input type="checkbox"/>	Leicester <input type="checkbox"/>	Nottingham <input type="checkbox"/>
<b>PARTNER ORGANISATION</b>			
<b>Name of organisation</b>	The Spalding Gentlemen's Society		
<b>Website URL</b>	<a href="http://www.sgsoc.org">www.sgsoc.org</a>		
<b>THE RESEARCH PROJECT</b>			
<p>Founded in 1710, the Spalding Gentlemen's Society (SGS) exists ‘to promote and foster among the public knowledge, appreciation and the study of art, literature, music, science, archaeology, natural history . . . and general knowledge’. The society's museum is one of the oldest in the country and riches of its archive and library have yet to be fully explored. This PhD project will investigate the early history of the SGS and its links to other learned institutions though a focus on the papers of the SGS's founder Maurice Johnson. The research will build on recent developments in the understanding of eighteenth-century networks, provincial culture, and knowledge exchange – for while the SGS was rooted in its local area, its contacts reached around the world.</p> <p>The successful applicant will be encouraged to pursue a multi-disciplinary approach, attending to literary studies, history of science, art history, and material culture studies, with the emphasis falling according to the student's own discoveries in the archives and his/her specific interests. The student will be expected to develop a PhD study that makes a unique contribution to knowledge. Key research questions are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How did Johnson’s secretaryship (1712-48) contribute to the shaping of the SGS’s institutional identity and the expansion of its membership?</li> <li>• How did the secretaries of the Royal Society and the Society of Antiquaries engage with the SGS and its members? What was the nature of their relationship with Johnson?</li> <li>• What can these inter-institutional exchanges tell us about the ways in which the three societies functioned, and about the different types of intellectual opportunities and networks they offered to their members?</li> <li>• What can secretarial exchanges reveal about the way knowledge was articulated, tested, and applied in the eighteenth century?</li> </ul> <p>The primary materials will be unpublished archival sources and printed records of early institutions, including the SGS, Royal Society, and Society of Antiquaries. The student will need to spend regular time on-site at Spalding, with visits to other libraries and archives.</p>			

The primary academic supervisor is Dr Kate Loveman, Associate Professor of English at Leicester, who works on correspondence networks, the history of reading, and collecting. Dr Dustin Frazier Wood, Librarian and Archivist, is the lead supervisor at the SGS; he is a specialist in eighteenth-century medievalism, book history and antiquarianism and has worked extensively on the SGS archive. Additional supervisory expertise will come from Prof Roey Sweet (History, Leicester), who is an expert on antiquarianism and urban history, and from Julia Knight, the Curator of Ayscoughfee Hall Museum in Spalding, who works closely with the SGS.

The project is timely for pragmatic reasons: after a period of inaccessibility, in 2013 the SGS embarked on an ambitious project to catalogue its holdings, raise its public profile and increase research-related activities. Having received museum accreditation in 2016, new work is underway to conserve the library and archive. This CDA will enable the student to access additional funding to extend their studentship for up to 0.5 years to curate an exhibition relating to their research interests at Ayscoughfee Hall Museum, and to write an accompanying catalogue and organise at least one integrated educational activity. The student will be mentored throughout the planning, installation and evaluation of the exhibition.

Depending on the student's previous experience and professional interests, opportunities will also be available for creating archive catalogue entries for the eighteenth-century collections; designing interpretation panels and visitor guides for the museum; or designing and leading educational programming for schools or university groups.

#### HOW TO FIND OUT MORE

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