



George's Combat, 1745, Library of Congress, 2002699083

# The English Diaspora Project

End-of-Project Newsletter, November 2014

# Contents

- Welcome & News 3
- Our Highlight: Charleston Exhibition 4
- Other Activities 5-6
- Digital Community 7-8
- Publications 9
- PhD Theses 10-11
- Forthcoming Publications 12-13
- Stay in Touch 14



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# Welcome & News

## Welcome to our End-of-project English Diaspora Newsletter!

It has been an exciting few months since our last Newsletter: we have, in terms of the duration of the AHRC grant, concluded our project. We can't believe how fast the three years have passed! Given this juncture we have compiled this Newsletter to celebrate achievements, tell you about our project highlights, and also to showcase the key research outputs that have already come out, as well as those in preparation.

### The Global English

We had always planned to end the project with a conference that would broaden the geographical scope of our work. The English contributed considerably to the British Empire in values, ideas and personnel; provided core human migrations for the re-peopling North America and the colonial parts of Africa and Australia; and left a heavy imprint even where they did not colonise, particularly in Asia and the 'informal Empire' elsewhere. We were thus pleased to welcome scholars from the UK, the US and continental Europe in Newcastle for the conference. Their papers covered diverse themes within the wider context of English settlement overseas, English culture and identity. We thank speakers for their contributions. A particular highlight was Prof William Van Vugt's free public lecture and folk music session exploring English music on the American frontier.

## Acknowledgements

Finally, we would like to take the opportunity and thank our project supporters. Our thanks goes, first, to the AHRC for awarding us funding to carry out this project. Without this support the project would not have come to fruition in the way it has. We also acknowledge the support received from the universities of Northumbria and Ulster.

We were privileged to have an Advisory Group of distinguished scholars. We thank them for their contributions at annual meetings, for their probing of our ideas and the many stimulating discussions had. A special thanks goes to professors Jonathan Clark and John Belchem. Beyond the Advisory Group we have also been supported by many other colleagues. In particular we would like to extend our deep appreciation to Prof Sylvia Ellis, Dr Sally-Anne Huxtable, Prof William Van Vugt, Prof Paul Ward and Prof Brian Ward. Finally, a big thanks also goes to the Hexham Morris.

We have greatly enjoyed conducting this project. Not only for the fascinating discoveries we have made, but also for meeting many people with an interest in things English—including all of you! So thank you to you too for your interest in our work. We look forward to keeping in touch with you virtually via our various online platforms that will continue. Allow us to already wish you Merry Christmas and all the best for 2015! Thank you & farewell for now.

The English Diaspora Project Team

# Our Highlight: Charleston Exhibition

4



## England, the English & English Culture in North America

*This exhibition explores the role of English immigrants in American and Canadian life, the history of St George's societies, and Shakespeare in America.*

**Dates:** 28 May to 10 June 2013

**Venue:** College of Charleston Special Collections, 3rd floor, Adlestone Library, 205 Calhoun St, Charleston, SC

**Exhibition opening:** 6pm on Tuesday, 28 May 2013. Including entertainment by Hesham Morris, a traditional folk dancing group from Northumberland, England (the group is also performing in the Piccolo Spoleto Festival). If you would like to attend the opening RSVP to Dr David Gleeson at [david.gleeson@northumbria.ac.uk](mailto:david.gleeson@northumbria.ac.uk) by 23 May 2013.

For more information follow us on Twitter @englobdiaspora, visit <http://www.englishdiaspora.co.uk> or contact Dr Gleeson.

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For more on our trip to Charleston, visit our Digital Community and please check out our vimeo channel at: <http://vimeo.com/englishdiaspora>



# Other Activities

5

## The Global English: Historical Perspectives



## ICONS OF ENGLISHNESS

A Series of Talks on Symbols of England

The series will highlight historical examples of Englishness both from within England and its diaspora overseas and will help broaden our contemporary definitions of English ethnicity and culture in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. All talks take place at 6pm at the Lit & Phil in Newcastle (23 Westgate Road, NE1 1SE).

**Tuesday, 9 April 2013**

*The King Who Burnt the Cakes: Alfred, the Forgotten Icon of Victorian England.* [Dr Joanne Parker, Exeter University]

**Tuesday, 16 April 2013**

*Transplanting an Old Tradition or Inventing a New One? The Spread of Morris Dancing from England to America.* [Dr Mike Sutton, Northumbria University]

**Tuesday, 23 April 2013 (St George's Day)**

*The Global St George.* [Dr Tanja Buelmann, Prof Don MacRaild and Dr Sally-Anne Huxtable, Northumbria University]



Organised and hosted by the English Diaspora Project, Northumbria University, and the Literary and Philosophical Society of Newcastle. For more information follow us on Twitter @englishdiaspora, visit <http://www.englishdiaspora.co.uk> or contact Dr David Gleeson at [david.gleeson@northumbria.ac.uk](mailto:david.gleeson@northumbria.ac.uk).

## English Music on the American Frontier

by Prof William Van Vugt

Free public lecture & folk music session  
Thursday, 17 July 2014, 5.15pm  
Northumbria University, Lipman Building, room 031

## Symbols of Britishness Colloquium

### Programme

1.30-2.30 *Session 1*  
Glyn Parry,  
Pete Urwin,  
Gary Hild  
Convenors

2.30-3.00

3.00-4.30

Chairpersons  
and Books

Matthew  
Pittles as  
Doc Mac  
the Earl

## IN SEARCH OF THE MISSING ENGLAND

21 April 2012, 1-4pm  
Northumbria University, Lipman Building

Hosted by Northumbria University and the  
Northumberland & Durham Family History Society

The colloquium takes place on 6 July  
2012, 1.30-5pm, Lipman Building  
(room 121), Northumbria University

# Other Activities

6

## (Mis)representations of Britishness

An interdisciplinary postgraduate workshop

HOME

CALL FOR PAPERS

WORKSHOP PROGRAMME



The notion of Britishness has come under increasing pressure since the mid-1960s. Post-devolution, is it still possible to talk of 'Britain' or Britishness? Should research be grounded in terms of the four 'home nations' instead? Or, can Britishness still offer a model of unity, with the sum of Britain being greater than its parts? Within this wider context, this workshop, organised by postgraduates associated with the English Diaspora project with the support of the wider Northumbria PGR community, explored issues concerning:

- The changing approaches to writing about Britishness.
- "English, I mean, British" – the ambiguity of national identity.
- The ideas of 'centre' and 'periphery' within 'Greater Britain'.
- Whether established institutions (for example the NHS, BBC and the monarchy) can still be seen as inclusive vehicles for the varying forms of Britishness.
- Shifting representations of Britain, its nations and regions in the media.
- Devolution and the effect on regional and national British patriotisms.
- Ideas of Britishness in the British and Irish Worlds.



Thank you to all the PGR students involved in making this event such a success!

# Digital Community

Throughout the project we were always keen to share research outcomes and our thoughts on Englishness with as wide an audience as possible. Apart from the events we organised for the wider public, our Digital Community was our main tool to engage with the public. The site will remain available as an archive of our work.

Highlights include:

- [Defining Englishness](#)
- [England, Britain and the British World](#)
- [The English Summer](#)
- [Trafalgar Day: Present and Past](#)
- [Remember, remember, the fifth of November?](#)
- [The English Christmas](#)
- [When it Wasn't 'Cool' to be English in America: The Trent Affair, 1861-62](#)
- [Carnival – English Style](#)
- [The Church of England, the Nation and National Identity](#)
- [A Rose for St George's Day](#)
- [An English-American Hero](#)
- [Royal Jubilees and the English Diaspora](#)
- [The International Magna Charta Day Association](#)
- [The Forgotten War? The War of 1812](#)
- [English Liberty, American Emancipation](#)
- [What Magna Charta Means to Americans](#)
- [Home Rule for England?](#)
- [Statues of English Kings and Queens in the First Modern Republic](#)
- [Digging up the English Radical Tradition](#)

# Digital Community

8

- ['War without Guns': Sport and the Anglo-Boer War](#)
- [The Case of the Baker Street Irregulars](#)
- [A Happy St George's Day](#)
- [Rioting over the Bard: Shakespeare and Anglo-American culture wars](#)
- [A Confederate Englishman in South Carolina](#)
- ['Off to Old England': The Sons of England and roots-tourism](#)
- [Dancing up the Sun](#)
- [The Anglo-American Rapprochement](#)
- [English and Scottish Ethnic Associations in North America: A Comparison](#)
- [Uncovering the Origins of 'English-Style' Hunting and Equestrianism in Rural Virginia](#)
- [Distributing Christmas Cheer](#)
- [Pilgrims, Benjamin Franklin and the North Atlantic Triangle](#)
- [The establishment of the Royal Society of St George](#)
- [Looking Forward to the Past](#)
- ['Oh, the Roast Beef of Old England'](#)
- [The Americanisation of the English Church in the nineteenth-century United States](#)
- [Frank Warrington Dawson: Confederate, Newspaperman, Englishman](#)
- [Shakespeare, the USA, and the First World War](#)

Our archive of stories continues to be available and there will be new stories from time to time as research progresses in new directions.

<http://digitalcommunity.englishdiaspora.co.uk>





# Publications

- **Tanja Bueltmann and Don MacRaidl, 'Globalizing St George: English associations in the Anglo-world to the 1930s', *Journal of Global History*, 7,1 (2012), pp. 79-105.**

*While English nationalism has recently become a subject of significant scholarly consideration, relatively little detailed research has been conducted on the emigrant and imperial contexts, or on the importance of Englishness within a global British identity. This article demonstrates how the importance of a global English identity can be illuminated through a close reading of ethnic associational culture. Examining organizations such as the St George's societies and the Sons of England, the article discusses the evolving character of English identity across North America, Africa, Southeast Asia and the Antipodes. Beginning in the eighteenth century, when English institutions echoed other ethnic organizations by providing sociability and charity to fellow nationals, the article goes on to map the growth of English associationalism within the context of mass migration. It then shows how nationalist imperialism – a broad-based English defence of empire against internal and external threats – gave these associations new meaning in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The article also explores how competitive ethnicity prompted English immigrants to form such societies and how both Irish Catholic hostility in America and Canada and Boer opposition in South Africa challenged the English to assert a more robust ethnic identity. English associationalism evinced coherence over time and space, and the article shows how the English tapped global reservoirs of strength to form ethnic associations that echoed their Irish and Scottish equivalents by undertaking the same sociable and mutual aspects, and lauded their ethnicity in similar fashion.*

The article is available to download for free at the [Northumbria Research Link](#).

- **Tanja Bueltmann, David Gleeson and Don MacRaidl, 'Invisible Diaspora? English Ethnicity in the United States before 1920', *Journal of American Ethnic History*, 33, 4 (2014), pp. 5-30.**

*The article presents an examination into the English population of the United States during the 19th and early 20th centuries, examining their ethnic identity as a diaspora community. Introductory details are given noting the relative lack of attention given to English Americans as an ethnic group. Topics addressed include reasons behind the invisibility of the English immigrant identity in the U.S., the existence of English ethnic organizations, and an overview of their activities.*

# PhD Theses

10

- **Lesley Robinson: 'Englishness in England and the "Near Diaspora": Organisation, Influence and Expression, 1880s-1970s'**

*The nineteenth and twentieth centuries are correctly viewed as the age of modern nationalism, a time when, in Europe, the United Kingdom, and beyond, this powerful cultural and political force firmly established itself. The story of nationalism in Britain and Ireland has, for the most part, been heavily documented by historians: the same level of academic scrutiny has not been extended to the English. Yet the assertion of a firm sense of Englishness, in an era when national identities appeared threatened by cosmopolitan forces within industry and empire building, is a notable development in the history of identity within the British Isles. This thesis explores English ethnic associations, and seeks to cast new light on English nationalism.*

*The emergence of the Royal Society of St George (RSStG) in 1894 to orchestrate worldwide responses to nationalism, frames the thesis. For many ethnic groups, associations were the channel through which they celebrated their national identity. For the English captured in this study, the RSStG neatly articulated their sense of Englishness. Analysis of the Society's membership and activities illuminates the character of Englishness and the role it played in the homeland and in the 'near diaspora' within the UK, but beyond England itself.*

*The work which follows draws upon a broad and disparate collection of sources. These include manuscript records of English associations, including the archives of the RSStG, the RSStG's journals, and an array of digitised newspapers, which were used to locate diffuse local instances of Englishness. Demonstrating that English identity was of central importance to many English people, manifested through their enthusiasm to subscribe to associations such as the RSStG, this thesis provides an original insight into Englishness and English identity-building and shows how, quite perceptibly, the English found their voice as a force within the field of national identities.*

See also Lesley's 'English Associational Culture in Lancashire and Yorkshire, 1890s-c.1930s', *Northern History*, 51, 1 (2014), pp.131-52.

# PhD Theses

- **Stephen Bowman: 'The Origin, Formation and Activities of the Pilgrims Society, c.1895 to c.1930.'**

*The nineteenth and twentieth centuries are correctly viewed as the age of modern nationalism, and this thesis is the first scholarly piece of work to provide an in-depth study of the Pilgrims Society, an elite dining club founded at the beginning of the twentieth century. The Society aimed to promote good relations between Britain and the USA and had a membership that included prominent politicians, diplomats, statesmen, press barons and businessmen from both sides of the Atlantic.*

*Proceeding from the central research aim of providing the first narrative overview of the early years of the Pilgrims Society and establishing the organisation's precise role in the British-American rapprochement, this thesis explores how the Pilgrims' status as an association helps explain its formation and activities; scrutinises the overlap between official diplomacy and the Pilgrims' unofficial activities; and examines the motives and values underpinning the Society's activities.*

*Utilising a wide variety of primary source material, including material uncovered following original research undertaken in the Society's own archives in London and New York, in addition to official sources and newspapers in Britain and the US, this thesis places the founding of the Society in the context of wider diplomatic and cultural relations between Britain and the US. The thesis also interprets the Pilgrims' efforts to encourage British-American friendship as a form of nascent public diplomacy and argues that the Society was a precursor to later, more official public and cultural diplomacy organisations. The thesis also calls upon themes of associational culture, and traces the connections between the Pilgrims and other elite urban clubs.*

*The thesis concludes that the Society is best regarded as a semi-official actor in international relations which – through its engagement with the press and by means of facilitating contact between policy-making elites – provided a milieu that supported ideas of British-American friendship and legitimised greater state involvement in public diplomacy.*

See also Don MacRaild, Sylvia Ellis and Stephen Bowman, 'Interdependence Day and Magna Charta: James Hamilton's Public Diplomacy in the Anglo-world, 1907–1940s', *Journal of Transatlantic Studies*, 12, 2 (2014), pp. 126-48.

# Forthcoming Publications

Forthcoming research outputs (manuscripts currently under consideration by publishers):

- **Don MacRaild and Tanja Bueltmann: *English Ethnicity and Associational Culture in North America, 1730-1950s***

This study offers a history of English associationalism in North America, exploring the development, membership and activities of English ethnic clubs. Our exploration is focused on both St George's societies who were concerned mostly with philanthropic pursuits, as well as mutual benefit societies like the Sons of England. We also provide a global perspective in the final chapter of the book, locating developments in North America within the wider context of the spread of the English overseas.

- **David Gleeson (ed.): *England, the English and English Culture in North America***

This book will be the first scholarly examination the role of the English in shaping the culture of North America. Its eight essays cover everything from literature and politics to sport and folk traditions. It will clearly indicate the vitality of Englishness in North America and how it laid the foundations of what became a close diplomatic and political relationship between the U.K. and the U.S.A. The collection highlights that this foundation did not happen automatically but was instead an on-going process, often complicated by the continued British imperial presence in Canada and the Caribbean. As with other ethnic groups in North America, English identity had to be recreated and reimagined in American contexts. This reimagining provides models for the growing current debate about Englishness in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Team member contributions in the collection:

Dean Allen	“‘The Game of the English’”: Cricket and the Spread of English Culture in North America, 1830-1900’
Tanja Bueltmann	‘Mutual, Ethnic and Diasporic: The Sons of England in Canada, c1880 to 1910’
David Gleeson	‘England and the Antebellum South’
Joseph Hardwick	‘The Church of England, English Clergymen and English Immigrants in the United States of America, 1783-1861’
Don MacRaild	‘Ethnic Conflict and English Associational Culture in America: The Benevolent Order of the Society of St. George 1870s-1920s’



# Forthcoming Publications

- James McConnel      'Time and circumstance work great changes in public sentiment':  
Royal Statues and Monuments in the United States of America,  
1770–2010'
- Monika Smialkowska      'Reviving English Folk Customs in America in the Early Twentieth  
Century'
- Mike Sutton      'The Morris Diaspora: Transplanting an Old English Tradition or  
Inventing a New American One?'

In addition, we are also pleased to have contributions from:

- Kathryn Lamontagne      "'Lancashire in America": The Culture of English Textile Mill  
Operatives in Fall River, Massachusetts, 1875-1904'
- William Van Vugt      'Relocating the English Diaspora in America'

# Stay in Touch

14

There are a number of ways to stay in touch with us:

- send an email to [mail@englishdiaspora.co.uk](mailto:mail@englishdiaspora.co.uk)
- Twitter: [@englishdiaspora](https://twitter.com/englishdiaspora)
- use our website contact form: <http://www.englishdiaspora.co.uk/contact.html>

While the project is officially finished in terms of the project timeline, we will continue to maintain our online platforms. They provide an archive of our activities and, as outputs are published and the research progresses in new directions, we will continue to provide updates.

So please continue to visit us at:

Website: <http://www.englishdiaspora.co.uk>

Digital Community: <http://digitalcommunity.englishdiaspora.co.uk>

Vimeo Channel: <http://vimeo.com/englishdiaspora>



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