

THE ISLANDS BOOK TRUST  
Urras Leabhraichean nan Eilean

THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF ALEXANDER CARMICHAEL - a major conference to examine the work of the great nineteenth-century collector of Gaelic song and folklore

Saturday 22 - Tuesday 25 July, 2006

Dark Island Hotel, Nunton Steading, and Lionacleit School, BENBECULA

Alexander Carmichael was born on the Island of Lismore in 1832. He spent most of his working life as an exciseman, living in and visiting many parts of the Highlands and Islands. Over a period of some fifty years he recorded from the Gaelic speaking people of the area an unrivalled collection of their traditional hymns, songs, incantations, stories, customs, beliefs, histories and legends. A small portion of this was published in his great work *Carmina Gadelica*, the first two volumes of which appeared in 1900, but which was only completed long after his death. It represents perhaps the most significant repository of Gaelic culture of the nineteenth century.

This important conference brings together first-class speakers from Scottish Universities and local people to examine Carmichael's life and legacy, as well as the wider context in which he collected his material. It will draw upon recent research into the Carmichael Watson papers at Edinburgh University. A key theme will be how Carmichael was viewed by the people from whom he collected, and we are delighted to have attracted speakers from Lismore, Barra, and the Uists. The conference will include an ecumenical service, visits to places associated with Carmichael in Benbecula, South Uist and Eriskay, and a ceilidh.

Early booking is recommended. Meals and accommodation are included in the conference fee for those who wish this.

A booklet by Domhnall Uilleam Stiùbhart on the life of Alexander Carmichael will be published by The Islands Book Trust in association with the conference.

## PROGRAMME

### **SATURDAY 22 JULY** – the Dark Island Hotel, Lionacleit, Benbecula

6.00pm	Registration
7.00pm	Conference opening dinner, followed by:
8.30pm	Opening address on the Life of Alexander Carmichael: DOMHNALL UILLEAM STIÙBHART, University of Edinburgh

### **SUNDAY 23 JULY**

10.00am	Leaving from The Dark Island Hotel. Visit by coach to places associated with Alexander Carmichael in Benbecula, South Uist, and Eriskay. Lunch will be available at Kildonan, South Uist. Returning to The Dark Island Hotel by 4.00pm.
5.30pm	Ecumenical service at Church of Scotland, Griminish, Benbecula
7.00pm	Dinner at Nunton Steadings, Benbecula, followed by
8.30pm	Alexander Carmichael and Celtic Christianity: DONALD MEEK, University of Edinburgh

### **MONDAY 24 JULY** – Lionacleit School

9.30am	Alexander Carmichael – the influence of Lismore: DONALD BLACK, Lismore
10.30am	Coffee
11.00am	Alexander Carmichael: Context and Controversy: RONALD BLACK, formerly University of Edinburgh
12.00 noon	Alexander Carmichael and Material Culture: HUGH CHEAPE, National Museums of Scotland
1.00pm	Lunch
2.15pm	Alexander Carmichael in Barra: CALUM MACNEIL, Barra
3.15pm	Tea
3.45pm	Alexander Carmichael, the Uists, and Marshal MacDonald: JEAN-DIDIER HACHE, Benbecula
4.45pm	Uist in the School of Scottish Studies Archive: CATHLIN MACAULAY, University of Edinburgh
5.45-6.30pm	General Discussion
7.00pm	Dinner at Lionacleit School
8.30pm	Ceilidh at Nunton Steadings with CATRIONA GARBUTT and other local artistes

### **TUESDAY 25 JULY** – Lionacleit School, Benbecula

9.00am	The Visual Dimension of Carmina Gadelica: MURDO MACDONALD, University of Dundee
10.00am	Coffee
10.30am	Future Plans for the Alexander Carmichael Collection: SPECIAL COLLECTIONS DEPARTMENT, EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY LIBRARY
11.30am	Alexander Carmichael and the Folklore of the MacMhuirich poets: WILLIAM GILLIES, University of Edinburgh
12.30pm	Final Discussion and Close of Conference
1.00 pm	Lunch

## SIGN-UP FORM

THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF ALEXANDER CARMICHAEL – 4 day conference

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

.....

TEL .....

EMAIL .....

I wish to book for the conference as follows (*please circle as appropriate and indicate whether single room supplement should apply*):

	Members	Non-members
4 days (all inclusive) *	£195	£215
4 days (excl accommodation)	105	125
Saturday only (excl accom )	20	25
Sunday only (excl accom)	35	40
Monday only (excl accom)	35	40
Tuesday only (excl accom)	20	25
Ceilidh only	5	5
<i>*all sessions, meals, plus 3 nights B and B (assuming double or twin room - £10 supplement per night for single room)</i>		

**PLEASE BOOK ASAP: PRICES ABOVE APPLY ONLY FOR BOOKINGS RECEIVED BY 30 JUNE** (from 1 July a 10% supplement will apply)

**PLEASE MAKE CHEQUES PAYABLE TO 'THE ISLANDS BOOK TRUST', AND RETURN FORM WITH CHEQUE TO:**

Jean and Alasdair MacEachen, 15 Aird, Benbecula, HS7 5LT

**FOR FURTHER DETAILS OF CONFERENCE, PLEASE CONTACT :**

Jean or Alasdair MacEachen at the above address or on 01870 602124