

Paper/Presentation Title:

“In My Ain Countrie: Thomas MacLaren, Walter Farquhar Douglas, and Thompson Duncan Hetherington; a transnational case study of Scottish migration at the turn of the 20th century”

Keywords:

Colorado History, History of the American West, Immigration History, Transnational History, Cultural History, Architectural History

Abstract:

While inarguably linked to the larger body of Scots who emigrated from their homeland at the long turn of the 20th century, the migrant experiences of Thomas MacLaren, Walter Farquhar Douglas, and Thompson Duncan Hetherington stand in contrast to those commonly attributed to Scottish migrants. As young, skilled, immigrants in a newly settled land, the three Scottish-trained architects brought with them an adherence to the design principles and philosophies they had embraced in Britain, the cradle of the Arts and Crafts Movement. What resulted was the design and construction of commercial, residential, and ecclesiastic structures in Colorado Springs, CO that were as authentic and unique as any designed at the turn of the 20th century. Indeed, as skilled architects, the migration of MacLaren, Douglas, and Hetherington resulted in material effects on both the built environment and the ability to use their professional prestige for philanthropic means in both their former and new homelands. Based on research conducted in archives throughout Scotland and in Colorado Springs, and previously unexamined primary source material, this paper contributes an original narrative to the collective body of regional, transnational, and cultural history. Examined from both a macrocosmic and microcosmic perspective, this presentation examines the lives of Thomas MacLaren, Walter Farquhar Douglas, and Thompson Duncan Hetherington – the factors leading to their emigration and the unique and significant transnational consequences of their migration.