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# Permanent Things



Number 26

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## Edmund Burke and Patriotism

The Edmund Burke Society, a program of The Russell Kirk Center, held a conference on February 27-28 at Villanova University in cooperation with its Irish Studies Program. Participants from the United States and Great Britain enjoyed stimulating and absorbing perspectives on the conference theme from our three keynote speakers:

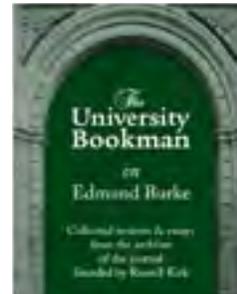
- Dr. David Bromwich (Yale University)
- Dr. Regina Janes (Skidmore College)
- Dr. Michael Brown (University of Aberdeen)

In addition, two panel sessions produced six excellent papers from Burke scholars working in a range of disciplines from history and English literature to philosophy and government and political science.

In her opening address, Dr. Regina Janes explored, in a text rich with Burkean literary echoes, the tensions of a man with too many countries. During the Saturday program, held in the St

Augustine Center at Villanova, David Bromwich drew on Burke's "Regicide Peace" writings to explore the relationship of national identity and local patriotism in time of war. Michael Brown considered the ways in which Burke's assumption of an English identity was used to launch a patriotic critique of British imperialism.

Also announced at the conference was the release of a special publication of *The University Bookman* on Edmund Burke. This new e-book "attests in one more way to the continuing legacy of Russell Kirk in promoting Burke scholarship over the years," said Dr. Ian Crowe, Editor of *Studies in Burke and His Time*. Find the e-publication at [amazon.com](http://amazon.com) or through a link on the Center's website: [kirkcenter.org](http://kirkcenter.org).



Pictures: Regina Janes; Ian Crowe and David Bromwich; and Joseph Pappin and Annette Kirk

## Hillsdale College Students Visit the RKC

"A scintillating experience, is how I would describe the eighteen hours of discussion over a period of four days, of the historical significance of *The Conservative Mind* by honors students at Hillsdale College. During all those hours of discussion, there was never a moment when their lively conversation lapsed. The depth of the insights expressed and the breadth of learning displayed by the students was astounding." —Annette Kirk



"Our students consider this seminar to be the highlight of their experience in the honors program. Thank you for all your help and enthusiasm."

Director, Dr. Richard Gamble

## Recent Kirk Center Fellows and Scholars



### Isabella Blakey, Graduate Student, University of Edinburgh

Isabella spent her fellowship immersed in the Kirk Center Archives reading the correspondence between Russell Kirk and her great-grandfather, George Scott-Moncrieff. A leader in the Scottish literary Renaissance of the early 20th century, Scott-Moncrieff was deeply involved in the politics, art, architecture, and religion of Scotland as well. He introduced Kirk to the major cultural figures in Britain at that time, including the poet and playwright, T. S. Eliot.

Of the friendship of the two writers, Isabella wrote that "George and Russell were great intellects, but more importantly, they were men of great humility and honesty. Both Scot and American alike strove to give their respective nations an identity based in a root of order, and reverence for truth and beauty. I have been honored to read the timeless correspondence of these two men, and recognize the importance of the legacy they handed down." Isabella is the fourth generation of Scott-Moncrieffs to come to Piety Hill.

### Jason K. Duncan, Ph.D., Professor of History at Aquinas College

"The Kirk Center is a unique intellectual institution, nestled as it is in rural Michigan. Its location lends itself to thinking and reflection. This is especially true in its library, full of many of the great works in the English language, and where Russell Kirk himself wrote and thought. The gracious hospitality of Mrs. Annette Kirk and her staff, and the humane people drawn to Kirk Center events was of great benefit to me as I continued my research into President Martin Van Buren and American politics and religion. This was an opportunity I hope many other scholars will have."



## The Philadelphia Society Comes to Mecosta



On a beautiful fall afternoon, October 12, 2014, following the meeting of the Philadelphia Society in Grand Rapids, Michigan, members of the Society traveled by bus to the Kirk Center to hear Dr. George Nash deliver a lecture and tour the Center's library and archives. In the front row, Dr. Nash sits next to Senator Joanne Emmons, Chairman of the Russell Kirk Center.



Pictured above, the extensive Kirk Archive viewed by Morton Blackwell (President of the Leadership Institute), Joseph Johnston (President of the Philadelphia Society), Phillip Hughes (White House Writers Group), and Hiro Aida (Kyoda News Services). To the left is the desk on which Russell Kirk wrote for forty years (1954-1994).



Lunch was served at the Blue Lake Tavern, the same place where Russell Kirk and William F. Buckley Jr. enjoyed a historic meal in 1955. Buckley made the trek to Kirk's village to ask him to contribute editorially to his new magazine, *National Review*. Kirk declined an editorial post, but over drinks at the Tavern he agreed to write a bi-monthly column on education, which he did for twenty-five years.



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## Portrait of Ed Feulner

Alejandro Chafuen, president of the Atlas Economic Research Foundation, once asked Dr. Edwin J. Feulner, President Emeritus of the Heritage Foundation, to identify the thinkers who influenced him the most. Dr. Feulner chose:

*Frederick Hayek, G. K. Chesterton,  
and Russell Kirk.*

Recently, Mr. Chafuen presented Dr. Feulner with a portrait capturing those influences. This choice of thinkers connotes a liberally conservative worldview, which perfectly expresses Dr. Feulner's own integrated and imaginative mind.

The portrait was painted by Deborah Beisner, a former student of Kirk's. Dr. Feulner has been on the Board of Advisors of the Russell Kirk Center since its founding in 1995.



## Begun in Scotland: *The Conservative Mind*

*“And then something happened that utterly changed the direction of his life. He discovered a little book entitled *Science and the Classics*, written by Sir D’Arcy Thompson, the renowned biologist and professor of natural history at St. Andrews. In it Thompson extolled the ancient Scottish town and university where he had lived and taught for many years. Kirk, in faraway Michigan, was enchanted and successfully applied for admission as a graduate student.”*

*—Excerpt from Dr. George Nash’s remarks from the 60th anniversary commemoration of *The Conservative Mind* held in St. Andrews, Scotland.*



Dr. Nash and Annette Kirk perusing the original two-volume manuscript of Kirk’s doctoral dissertation for the University of St. Andrews. It was later published as *The Conservative Mind* in 1953. Dr. Nash subsequently gave an insightful talk on the Scottish roots of Kirk’s classic book.

**A bound booklet of Dr. Nash’s memorable address delivered at Parliament Hall is available as a thank-you gift for a donation of \$50 or more. In appreciation, the Kirk Center will provide you with Dr. Nash’s telling of the story surrounding Kirk’s “fat book,” as he called it.**