



## St John Historical Society

A BRANCH OF THE ST. JOHN FELLOWSHIP

c/o The Fellowship Office  
St. John's Gate, St. John's Lane  
London EC1M 4DA



### 2022 Talks Programme

This year the **St John Historical Society** is running a joint talks programme with the **Museum**. The first two talks in the series are now available to book via the Museum's website: <https://museumstjohn.org.uk/events/>

Tickets are free and open to all but must be booked in advance. If you have any questions regarding booking please contact the Museum: [museum@sja.org.uk](mailto:museum@sja.org.uk) or call 020 7324 4005 (lines are monitored Wednesday – Saturday, 10am – 5pm)

**Melisende Queen of Jerusalem: Co-Rule and Conflict in the Kingdom of Heaven**  
**Hayley Bassett, University of Cardiff**  
**Wednesday 4 May, 7–8pm ONLINE**

When Baldwin II King of Jerusalem died on 22 August 1131, his eldest daughter Melisende became Jerusalem's first regnant Queen and was crowned jointly with her husband Fulk and infant son Baldwin III. This talk will examine the monarchical relationship between Melisende and her co-rulers; firstly with her father Baldwin II until his death in 1131, then with her husband Fulk until his death in 1143 and finally with her son Baldwin III until she stood aside in 1152. Co-rule was not a harmonious partnership and the kingdom was brought to civil war twice during Melisende's reign as the men she ruled with sought to wield power alone.

Hayley Bassett is a PhD student at Cardiff University. Her research interests include Anglo-Norman politics and diplomacy, particularly royal succession, regnant queenship, marriage, consorts and gender authority. In 2021 she received the St John Historical Society Award for original research. She is a contributor to *Queens in Waiting: Potential and Prospective Queens, Ambitions and Expectations*, due to be published by Palgrave Macmillan in 2022. @bassetthayleye

This talk will take place over Zoom and live subtitles will be provided by Stagetext. A link will be provided when you book your ticket.

**Museum of kindness: 150 Years of the British Red Cross**  
**Mehzebin Adam-Suter, Curator**  
**Wednesday 1 June, 7–8pm AT THE GATE**

The curator of *Museum of kindness* will explore the ideas behind this new exhibition at the British Red Cross head office in London. The exhibition showcases over 150 years of history, including the First and Second World Wars, when the British Red

Cross worked closely with the Order of St John. It follows the journey of the charity through the experiences of people who have shaped its history and those who are part of its story today. The historical and contemporary objects, many on display for the first time, hold memories of humanity, kindness and resilience.

Mehzebin Adam-Suter is the Curator of the British Red Cross Museum and Archives, where she is responsible for the collection of objects relating to the history of humanitarianism, dating from the 19th century to the present day. She has previously worked at the Science Museum, Imperial War Museum, Royal London Hospital Museum, British Dental Association Museum, District Six Museum in South Africa, Harris Museum and Art Gallery, and London Metropolitan Archives. She has written a book to accompany the new exhibition *Museum of kindness: 150 years of the British Red Cross*. Copies will be available for purchase and signing on the night with all profits going towards helping people in crisis.

This talk will take place in Chapter Hall at St John's Gate.

**Save the date:**

**The talks below will be available to book after 4<sup>th</sup> June, when details of the Jonathan Riley-Smith Memorial Lecture will also be announced.**

**The Art and Lives of Doris and Anna Zinkeisen**  
**Emma Roodhouse, Curator Colchester and Ipswich Museums**  
***Wednesday 9 November, 7–8pm AT THE GATE***

Discover more about these remarkable and unjustly neglected artists, whose careers spanned portraiture, illustration, murals, costume and set design. During the Second World War they both volunteered with St John Ambulance, and this talk will shed light on their art, as well as their connection to the charity.

**Interpreting the Weston panels – history, format and function**  
**Richard West, independent art historian**  
***Wednesday 6 December, 7–8pm AT THE GATE***

Long known as the *Weston Triptych*, a title which assumes that only a centre panel is missing, the two fifteenth-century Northern European panels in the collection of the Museum of the Order of St John were in fact once part of a much larger altarpiece. Richard West will discuss these findings, recently published in the *Burlington Magazine*, as well as his thoughts on attribution and provenance. Christmas drinks and nibbles will be served to mark the festive season.