

The Icelandic Society of Eighteenth Century Studies Annual Report 2021–2022

The Icelandic Society of Eighteenth Century Studies regularly holds three seminars every year. Only one seminar was held in the year of 2021. It was 9th of October 2021. Its theme is Livestock Diseases in Iceland in the 18th and 19th Centuries.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, seminars had to be postponed, and subsequently, the Board of the Icelandic Society of Eighteenth Century Studies decided to hold five seminars after all COVID-19 infection prevention rules had been abolished. The seminars are from January 2022 until the end of 2022.

The first seminar for the operating year 2022 took place on 15 January 2022. As the COVID-19 pandemic was not over, it was decided that the first seminar would be streamed. The Board decided that since there was a restriction on gatherings of more than 10 people, the seminar would be streamed. The heading of that seminar was: "The Effects of Earthquakes in Iceland in Earlier Centuries". About 80 people watched the stream. This is the first seminar to be streamed that is organised by the Icelandic Society of Eighteenth Century Studies.

The second seminar was held on 12 February 2022. The seminar was held after the Annual General Meeting of The Icelandic Society of Eighteenth Century Studies. At that time, gatherings of no more than 50 people were allowed because of COVID-19. Its theme was: "On new studies by historians on the history of Iceland in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries". All four speakers at this seminar were young historians who were giving their first lectures to a full house. The moderator of the seminar was a young MA student in history. The seminar was successful in all respects.

The third seminar was held on 2 April 2022. Its theme was: "More on new studies by historians on the history of Iceland in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries". This time it was older historians who presented their historical research. The moderator of the seminar was a young second-year history student at the University of Iceland. The seminar was attended by about 50 people.

The fourth seminar will be held on 8 October 2022. Five historians will present their two extensive research projects on the history of Iceland in the eighteenth century: on one hand, the project "The Foundation of the Agricultural Community and Families and Households in Iceland at the Beginning of the Eighteenth Century, and on the other hand, the project on the documents of the first National Committee". This committee was appointed by Christian VII, the king of Denmark in 1770, and the committee members were to investigate the plight of Icelanders and make recommendations on how the interests of the people would be improved.

The fifth seminar will be held on 12 November 2022 and is titled: "Of Autobiographies from the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries. There, four scholars will present their research".

Every summer the Society organises a day-trip to the countryside for its members in order to explore places of interest with regard to the 18th century. This summer, 2022 the trip was to the North-Western part of Iceland.

The Board meets regularly. The following sit on the Board of the Society:

President: *Erla Dóris Halldórsdóttir*

Vice-President: *Helga Hlín Bjarnadóttir*

Treasurer: *Helga Kristín Gunnarsdóttir*

Secretary: *Ingi Þorleifur Bjarnason*

Other Board Members: *Halldór Baldursson, Ingi Sigurðsson, Jón Kristinn Einarsson, Margrét Gunnarsdóttir and Sigríður Hjördís Jörundsóttir.*

The Society participates in the publication of the scholarly journal *Sjuttonhundratal: Nordic Yearbook for Eighteenth-Century Studies* along with the other Nordic Societies for Eighteenth-Century Studies. The journal is published by the Swedish Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies. Editor-in-Chief is Johannes Ljungberg. On behalf of the Icelandic Society, Kristín Bragadóttir (Editor) and Sigurgeir Guðjónsson (Review Editor) sit on the Editorial Board.

The Society publishes its own scholarly journal on the web, *Vefnir* (www.vefnir.is).

Regards

Erla Dóris Halldórsdóttir, president of the Icelandic Society of Eighteenth Century Studies.