

**The Icelandic Society of Eighteenth Century Studies**  
**(Félag um átjándu aldar fræði)**  
**Annual Report from February 2022 to January 2023**

The Icelandic Society of Eighteenth Century Studies regularly holds three seminars every year. 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 were held from February 2022 to January 2023.

**The first 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 seminar was successful in all respects.

**The second 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 third seminar** was held on 8 October 2022. Five historians presented 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 and Iceland 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 fourth seminar** was held on 12 November 2022 and was titled: "Of Autobiographies from the Eighteenth and Nineteenth centuries". Four scholars presented their research.

**The fifth seminar** was held on 14 January 2023. This seminar was held on a special occasion. It was due to the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of an Icelandic magistrate who lived in Eyjafjörður County, in North part of Iceland. His name was Gunnlaugur Guðbrandsson. He adopted the family name Briem and is considered the first Icelander to bear this family name. His descendants who bear this family name, Briem number about 10,000 Icelanders. Four scholars covered the life of this remarkable magistrate and his family.

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 18<sup>th</sup> century. In the summer, 2022 the trip was to the North-Western part of Iceland (Vestur-Húnavatnssýsla). Now in this summer, 2023 the trip will be to Dalasýsla, the West part of Iceland.

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

President: *Erla Dóris Halldórsdóttir*

Vice-President: *Kristrún Halla Helgadóttir*

Treasurer: *Helga Kristín Gunnarsdóttir*

Secretary: *Ingi Þorleifur Bjarnason*

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

The Society participates in the publication of the scholarly journal *Sjuttonhundralet: 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](http://www.vefnir.is)).

Best regards

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