

My Tour in Edinburgh

I was amazingly excited in the last ten days, and I got loads out of it. Our schedule was tight and neatly planned.

I attended some courses of the Summer School, and I was a little surprised when I found many of the students actively participating in the classes. The students were courageous and confident to speak their mind, which stood in sharp contrast to my shyness and timidity. Anyhow, I will try my best to overcome my shyness and correct my shortcomings. Students can develop their creative thinking from these diversified, interactive and collaborative classroom activities, which I can learn from you.

I formed the basic understanding of the Scottish gothic culture when I saw the materialized building structure in our excursions. It is only when we related the materialized things to the gothic story that we could be impressed deeply by the charm of the gothic novels. From *The Castle of Otranto* to *the testament of Gideon Mack*, the gothic novels have been welcomed in different periods, because gothic modes can prolong the aesthetic effects and people need the terror to add spice to their everyday life. Thanks to the lectures inspired by Prof. Dr. Barbara Schaff and her colleagues, we can have a face-to-face communication with the prominent writers or scholars, i.e., James Roberson, Loise Welsh and Ian Campbell. I was impressed by Ian Campbell when he argued that the writers should never make the science fiction specific so that the fiction can fit into the value systems in different ages.

I went to the national gallery, the national museum, and the Parliament which can speak the evolution of Scottish Culture and stands for the spirit of the nation. I went to the Writers' Museum and many cultural shows and I admired the artistic and cultural richness of the Scottish treasures.

I spent most of my spare time in the National Library of Scotland, and conducted an archive research on Scott. I took notes of Scott's and Archibald Constable's manuscripts on the illustrative subject. I had a basic impression and took a record of the illustrative books or pamphlets, i.e., *Souvenir of Scott, Turner and Sir Walter Scott; the provincial antiquities and picturesque scenery of Steamship Sir Walter Scott; sailing back in time in the heart of the Trossachs*(1995,1998,2002). The Pamphlets helped me form the basic idea of the publicity strategy on Scott Tourism.

I went to visit Scott's Tower (Sir Walter Scott's Monument) and Abbotsford, and took a full video related to Scott subject. Scott's Tower exemplified Scott's popularity in the 19th century. As a tourist site per se, the tourists may relate the tower to the Waverley novels in the 19th century, but today most tourists focused on the strong features of the building structure. I went to the Abbotsford House, and the landscape, the gardens, the study, the antiquities, and the dining room and the library (20000 books according to the Abbotsford catalogue) formed a gallery, a museum and a cultural show, which helped me form a general impression on his writing environment.

Report by Lingwei Meng