

International Bābī-Bahā'ī and Religious Studies Academic Seminar  
NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE (UK)  
Friday 19 June - Sunday 21 June, 2015



Figure 1 University of Newcastle upon Tyne + Grave of Edward G. Browne (d.1926), near. Newcastle upon Tyne.

Annual and sometimes bi-annual scholarly or academic Bābī-Bahā'ī and Religious Studies seminars have been held in Newcastle upon Tyne for over thirty years (1982 onwards); at the University, the local Bahā'ī Centre and elsewhere. A number of the long-time participants of the Newcastle seminars are now university lecturers or professors doing important research in various parts of the world.

Over the last few decades these Religious Studies seminars have largely focused upon historical, doctrinal and hermeneutical aspects of Islamic, Shī'ī-Shaykhī and Bābī-Bahā'ī Studies. They have to a considerable extent become internationalized. Leading scholars from many parts of the world have attended or presented papers and discussion has included many aspects of Bahā'ī scholarship and publication. Papers are presented and appropriate feedback encouraged for general or pre-publication versions.

Opportunity also exists for that human interaction which goes beyond philological or intellectual analysis into something like intimate friendship or fellowship. Bahā'īs and

other empathetic persons are more than welcome to attend these informal academic seminars. Formal academic qualifications are not required, though the papers and discussions are usually of a high academic standard. It is hoped that participants will be socially and spiritually invigorated as well as intellectually stimulated. The Bābī-Bahā'ī and Religious Studies Academic Seminar will last from Friday 19 June 2015 (7pm) to Sunday 21 June 2015 (4 pm).

During these 2-3 days, academic papers will be presented and discussed. Sessions on libraries, book collecting and publishing may also be held. At this event there will be opportunity to freely discuss many aspects of the academic study of the Bābī-Bahā'ī and other religious traditions. This field of study, as we all know, desperately needs support, encouragement and expansion. Looking forward to seeing you....

## **Accommodation:**

NOTE: IT IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT TO BOOK ACCOMMODATION EARLY.

Newcastle has become a highly popular tourist destination and rooms during the weekend of the seminar are already filling up! Please make arrangements as soon as possible. Bed & Breakfast accommodation in Newcastle is plentiful and not too expensive. If your financial situation makes it difficult for you to afford your own B&B room, please let us know, as we may be able to find you a roommate so as to share costs. The \*Jesmond Park Hotel\* for example, (quite close to the venue) provides reasonable B&B accommodation starting at around £45 per night (74-76 Queens Rd. Jesmond, Newcastle Tel. +44 [0]191 2812821). See their website at:

<http://www.jesmondpark.com/>

In the past, participants have stayed at the Adelphi:

<http://www.adelphihotelnewcastle.com/>

and the Osborne:

<http://www.theosbornehotel.co.uk/>

A number of other hotels line Osborne Road in Jesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne, and these are also close to the venue.

For a list of nearby hotels, please see the following website:

<http://www.findhotel.co.uk/towns/jesmond.htm>

For those who are interested in hostel/student-type accommodations, see this website:

<http://www.hostelworld.com/findabed.php/ChosenCity.Newcastle-upon-Tyne/ChosenCountry.England>

Recommendations for other B&B places and hotels can be provided on request.

For further details regarding these events please contact

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A list of speakers and further details will be included in subsequent announcements of this 2015 seminar.