

# Abdu'l-Bahá's Visit to Edinburgh 1913

2011-12-29

Numbers in [Square Brackets] are page numbers in the book 'Seven Candles of Unity' (ISBN 1-870989-12-0, 246 pages), describing Abdu'l-Bahá's visit.

| Date        | Time      | Details   |
|-------------|-----------|---|
| 27 May 1910 |           | <a href="#">Royal Society of Arts London Lecture</a> by Mr Temple detailed in Edinburgh Evening News [66]   |
| ?? ??? 1912 |           | <a href="#">The Baha'i Movement, the Reform of Islam from Within</a> booklet giving an outline of Baha'i history and principles in 13 pages, is published in Edinburgh, perhaps authored by Whyte or the Theosophical Society [65]  |
| 13 Dec 1912 |           | <a href="#">Forty Years in a Turkish Prison</a> article in Edinburgh Evening Dispatch, announcing Abdu'l-Baha's arrival in Britain from America, with his photo [65]  |
| 03 Jan 1913 |           | <a href="#">Article and Photo</a> of Abdu'l-Baha in Edinburgh Evening News [65]   |
|             |           | <a href="#">A New Religious Movement : The Prophet of the Persian Friends</a> article in Edinburgh Evening Dispatch, with a large photo, principles, and an overview of the intended meetings [65]  |
| 06 Jan 1913 |           | <a href="#">Scottish National Library</a> acquires 'Paris Talks' and 'The Baha'i Movement', then called the Advocates Library [66]  |
|             | 10:00     | <b>Departure</b> of Abdu'l-Bahá by train from London Euston at 10 am  |
|             | 18:15     | <b>Arrival</b> - Abdu'l-Baha arrives by train in Edinburgh, Princes Street Station; He stays at 7 Charlotte Square for the duration of His visit accompanied by His interpreter, with three colleagues staying in the hotel. [68]   |
|             | 19:30     | <b>Dinner</b> with the Whytes and important visitors.<br><a href="#">International Amity, Meetings of Edinburgh Citizens to greet Abdu'l-Bahá</a> notice in the Scotsman [66]   |
| 07 Jan 1913 |           | <a href="#">A New World Teacher, Abdu'l-Baha to Speak in Edinburgh</a> article in Evening Dispatch, summarising Baha'i teachings, mentioning Abdu'l-Baha's American tour, and information on his public addresses. [73]   |
|             | 08:30     | <b>Morning Prayers</b> with the Whyte family and maids  |
|             | 10:30     | <b>Visitors and children</b> come to see Abdu'l-Bahá and seek His blessing  |
|             | 11:00     | <b>Outlook Tower</b> - Abdu'l-Baha is driven to the Outlook Tower, where He visits the Prospect and Gallery floors and their balconies from which Edinburgh and surroundings can be seen; the Camera Obscura with its projection of the city using a mirror; the sixth floor full of astronomical models; and the remaining floors covering history and geography. [73]   |
|             | afternoon | <b>Country Drive</b> - Abdu'l-Baha is driven down the Royal Mile, past the gates of Holyrood Palace, through Queen's Drive, encircling the hill 'Arthur's Seat', Duddingston Loch and the Salisbury Craggs, followed by a half-hour walk in the park and shopping (or just visiting) along Princes Street. [74]   |
|             | 17:00     | <b>Eastern Students</b> of the University meet at the manse with Abdu'l-Baha, who gives an address on the Oneness of Religion [75]  |
|             | 20:00     | <b>Edinburgh Esperanto Society</b> hosts a packed public meeting with Abdu'l-Baha driven over to be the guest speaker in the new Freemason's Hall, 96 George Street, amidst many prominent speakers, with 300 people people crowding outside unable to gain admission. The subject of Abdu'l-Baha's address is the need for an International Language; He shook hands with more than 200 people before departing. [73,75] |
|             | 22:30     | <b>Dinner</b>   |
| 08 Jan 1913 | morning   | <b>Dictating Cables</b> to all parts of the Orient  |
|             | morning   | <b>Morning Prayers</b> <with the Whyte family and maids>  |
|             | morning   | <b>Visitors</b> stream in the morning to 7 Charlotte Square following the newspaper articles detailing the Esperanto Society talk in the Scotsman and a long article in the Edinburgh Evening Dispatch devoted to Abdu'l-Baha, the Baha'i principles and its history, ending with some of the Hidden Words [85]   |
|             |           | <b>A letters debate</b> in the Edinburgh Evening Dispatch, Scotsman, and Edinburgh Evening News commences, continuing vigorously over the following weeks [87]  |
|             | 11:30     | <b>Edinburgh College of Arts</b> visited by Abdu'l-Bahá at the invitation of its President [88]   |
|             | 13:00 ish | <b>North Canongate School and St Saviour's Kindergarten</b> visited by Abdu'l-Baha  |
|             | afternoon | <b>Abdu'l-Baha goes shopping</b> in the stores of the crowded main street   |
|             |           | <b>Lunch</b>  |
|             | 16:30     | <b>Rainy Hall</b> - Abdu'l-Baha appears before a large crowd at Rainy Hall, by arrangement of the Outlook Tower Society, and raises the basic principles of the Faith. (Rainy Hall is part of New College, the Divinity Faculty of Edinburgh University at the top of the Royal Mile near the castle.) [89]   |
|             | 20:00     | <b>Handel's Messiah</b> attended by Abdu'l-Baha in St Giles' Cathedral, organised for the poor of the city. [89]  |
| 09 Jan 1913 |           | <a href="#">Rainy Hall Presentation reported</a> by the Scotsman, Edinburgh Evening News, and Edinburgh Evening Dispatch in Rainy Hall, with the Scotsman publishing his address in full. [101]   |
|             | morning   | <b>Stream of visitors</b> arrive in the morning at 7 Charlotte Square to meet Abdu'l-Baha. [101]  |
|             | 11:30     | <b>Painter John Duncan</b> and his wife is visited by Abdu'l-Baha at 29 Bernard Crescent  |
|             |           | <b>Forth Railway Bridge</b> is visited in a long drive to the Estuary at South Queensferry.   |
|             |           | <b>Lunch</b>  |
|             | 16:00     | <b>Station of Women</b> - A Large meeting is held in the library of the manse for a discourse on the equality of women, their rights and responsibilities, attended both by suffragettes and those opposed to them. [101]   |
|             | 20:00     | <b>Theosophical Society</b> , 28 Great King Street, receives Abdu'l-Bahá, who gives private interviews and an address on the blind following of religious tradition, individual investigation of truth; the interdependence of the physical world; and the immortality of the soul; there follows a meeting with the audience, after which he remains there for supper. [102]   |
|             | 23:30     | <b>Return</b> to 7 Charlotte Square   |
| 10 Jan 1913 | morning   | <b>Tablet to Andrew Carnegie</b> , the famous Scots Philanthropist penned by Abdu'l-Baha; this letter is now kept in the Carnegie Trust in Dumfermline, which is Carnegie's birthplace. [109]   |
|             |           | <b>Captive Religions</b> , a report in the Edinburgh Evening Dispatch, and the Scotsman a similar article on blind imitation in religion. [109]   |
|             | 09:45     | <b>Farewell</b> by Abdu'l-Bahá, who gathers together all the servants and maids of 7 Charlotte Square, thanking them personally. [111]  |
|             | 10:50     | <b>Departure</b> on the train for London, dictating cables on the route: "Scotland illumined. Greetings to all friends." [111]  |
| -- Jan 1913 |           | <b>Articles and letters</b> continue vigorously in the newspapers after Abdu'l-Baha's departure, and through discussions between individuals explore the message he has brought to Edinburgh; correspondence continues to arrive from Abdu'l-Baha, and a series of four meetings on the Baha'i Faith is held in the Outlook Tower at the end of April. [111]  |
| 01 Feb 1913 |           | <b>Theosophy in Scotland</b> publishes Abdu'l-Baha's address to the Theosophical Society in full in its February issue. [104]   |