

Abdu'l-Bahá's Visit to Edinburgh 1913

2007-06-22

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		Royal Society of Arts London Lecture by Mr Temple detailed in Edinburgh Evening News [66]
?? ??? 1912		The Baha'i Movement, the Reform of Islam from Within 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		Forty Years in a Turkish Prison article in Edinburgh Evening Dispatch, announcing Abdu'l-Baha's arrival in Britain from America, with his photo [65]
03 Jan 1913		Article and Photo of Abdu'l-Baha in Edinburgh Evening News [65]
		A New Religious Movement : The Prophet of the Persian Friends article in Edinburgh Evening Dispatch, with a large photo, principles, and an overview of the intended meetings [65]
06 Jan 1913		Scottish National Library acquires 'Paris Talks' and 'The Baha'i Movement', then called the Advocates Library [66]
	10:00	Departure of Abdu'l-Bahá by train from London Euston at 10 am
	18:15	Arrival - Abdu'l-Baha arrives by train in Edinburgh; 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	Dinner with the Whytes and important visitors.
		International Amity, Meetings of Edinburgh Citizens to greet Abdu'l-Bahá notice in the Scotsman [66]
07 Jan 1913		A New World Teacher, Abdu'l-Baha to Speak in Edinburgh article in Evening Dispatch, summarising Baha'i teachings, mentioning Abdu'l-Baha's American tour, and information on his public addresses. [73]
	08:30	Morning Prayers with the Whyte family and maids
	10:30	Visitors and children come to see Abdu'l-Bahá and seek His blessing
	11:00	Outlook Tower - 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	Country Drive - 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	Eastern Students of the University meet at the manse with Abdu'l-Baha, who gives an address on the Oneness of Religion [75]
	20:00	Edinburgh Esperanto Society 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	Dinner
08 Jan 1913	morning	Dictating Cables to all parts of the Orient
	morning	Morning Prayers <with the Whyte family and maids>
	morning	Visitors 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]
		A letters debate in the Edinburgh Evening Dispatch, Scotsman, and Edinburgh Evening News commences, continuing vigorously over the following weeks [87]
	11:30	Edinburgh College of Arts visited by Abdu'l-Bahá at the invitation of its President [88]
		Orphanage visited by Abdu'l-Baha
	midday	Abdu'l-Baha goes shopping in the stores of the crowded main street
		Lunch
	16:30	Rainy Hall - 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	Handel's Messiah attended by Abdu'l-Baha in St Giles' Cathedral, organised for the poor of the city. [89]
09 Jan 1913		Rainy Hall Presentation reported by the Scotsman, Edinburgh Evening News, and Edinburgh Evening Dispatch in Rainy Hall, with the Scotsman publishing his address in full. [101]
	morning	Stream of visitors arrive in the morning at 7 Charlotte Square to meet Abdu'l-Baha. [101]
	11:30	Painter visited by Abdu'l-Baha visits a painter,
		Forth Railway Bridge is visited in a long drive to the Estuary at South Queensferry.
		Lunch
	16:00	Station of Women - 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	Theosophical Society , 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	Return to 7 Charlotte Square
10 Jan 1913	morning	Tablet to Andrew Carnegie , 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]
		Captive Religions , a report in the Edinburgh Evening Dispatch, and the Scotsman a similar article on blind imitation in religion. [109]
	09:45	Farewell by Abdu'l-Bahá, who gathers together all the servants and maids of 7 Charlotte Square, thanking them personally. [111]
	10:50	Departure on the train for London, dictating cables on the route: "Scotland illumined. Greetings to all friends." [111]
-- Jan 1913		Articles and letters 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		Theosophy in Scotland publishes Abdu'l-Baha's address to the Theosophical Society in full in its February issue. [104]