

## CALL FOR PAPERS

### TRAVEL IN THE MARKETPLACE:

The materiality of travel in the long nineteenth century

Bangor University, 17–18 September 2014

Keynote Speaker: Professor Nicola J. Watson, Open University

The long nineteenth century was marked by a growing hunger to experience or read about travel. In Britain, for example, the period following Waterloo saw the development of the tourist industry and 'Travels and Voyages' was a particularly popular literary genre. Armed with guidebooks and timetables, a growing number of middle-class tourists left the comfort of their drawing rooms to experience the sublime, the beautiful and the picturesque in the highlands of Scotland, the mountains of North Wales, or the Lake and Peak Districts. Those in search of the refined and fashionable chose instead to visit the houses and gardens of the aristocracy, or promenaded through the seaside resorts and spa-towns. Some went further afield, armed with works on continental Europe, Africa, India and the ever exotic 'East'. Many more remained at home to peruse the printed memoirs, manuscript letters and journals supplied by those who had recorded their adventures. As the century progressed, the importance of leisure helped spur the growth of railways, daytrips and package holidays. Throughout the period 1780-1914 travel literature and the goods needed for travelling (from wraps for warmth on the train, to medicines to fight tropical diseases) were an important part of an increasingly commodified society. This conference aims to explore the material cultures of travel. Topics might include:

- Travel writing (including guidebooks, poems, novels and periodical articles)
- Literary tourism and 'must-see' sites
- Print culture (maps, pamphlets, tickets)
- Souvenirs and memorabilia
- Manuscript culture (Journals, commonplace books, travelogues and letters)
- Advertising and ephemera
- Visual representations
- Modes of transport
- The economics of travel
- Travel and slavery
- Travel agents and package deals

Located between the mountains of Snowdonia and the Menai Straits, Bangor University is an ideal setting for this conference. The University boasts a fine collection of travel books, including a rare copy of the special extra-illustrated edition of Pennant's *Tour in Wales*, and there will be an exhibition of books, maps and periodicals to accompany the conference. Abstracts (max 500 words) for papers of twenty minutes duration should be sent to Dr Maureen McCue ([m.mccue@bangor.ac.uk](mailto:m.mccue@bangor.ac.uk)) by 30 May 2014.