Feeling Things: A Symposium on Objects and Emotions in History

This interdisciplinary symposium will explore the ways in which humans and objects interact on an emotional plane. In history, how do objects acquire, produce, represent or regulate emotions and emotional significance? How might the inscribed emotional meanings of objects change as their physical, cultural and temporal contexts change? The subject of materiality is increasingly of interest in recent historical inquiry, and there has also been considerable focus on the relationships between contemporary objects and emotions. Consideration of the historical intersections between materiality and emotions, however, remains under-explored. This symposium addresses the need to develop an appropriate theoretical framework.

Thursday 14 March 9.15am - 4.00pm
Medley Linkway, Level 4, John Medley Building
The University of Melbourne, Parkville 3010

Papers and Speakers
Romancing the Stone: The affective history of the Stone of Scone
Dr Alicia Marchant (UWA) and Prof. Susan Broomhall (UWA)

Christ’s Tears: Madame Sainte-Larme in Medieval and Early Modern England and France
Dr Helen Hickey (Melbourne)

Emotional Debris in Early Modern Letters
Dr Diana Barnes (UWA)

The Stuff of Miracles: The clothing of the Virgin in medieval Chartres and beyond
Dr Sarah Randles (Melbourne)

Wampum: objects, exchange and emotions in colonial America
Prof. Jacqueline van Gent (UWA)

De scheepskist van Dirk Hartog (Dirk Hartog’s Sea Chest): accidental Objects of VOC colonialism on the West Australian coast
Prof. Susan Broomhall (UWA)

Round Table Discussion: Methods, Issues and Theories
Conveners: Dr Stephanie Downes and Dr Sarah Randles, ARC Centre for the History of Emotions, University of Melbourne.

PLACES LIMITED - RSVP ESSENTIAL
Please RSVP online here or email sarah.randles@unimelb.edu.au or stephanie.downes@unimelb.edu.au by Thursday 7 March for catering purposes, including any dietary requirements.