

# Falkland Society

7:00 p.m., Wednesday 17 October 2018

Upper Town Hall, Falkland

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*All welcome, retiring collection*



## The Temple of Decision - Its design, its role and its conservation

Lecture by Robert Haas-Zens, MA Building Conservation, Brandenburg Technical University (BTU) Cottbus

There stands a solitary semi-ruinous masonry structure, on a prominent position in the landscape, a building defined in the sources as “Temple of Decision”. However, it is a point of indecision that arose at the beginning of my research. What will be the future role of the Temple in relation to its position within the Estate of Falkland?

As the building has been neglected over many centuries, natural processes have caused its erosion and partial collapse. Decay has had a big impact on the appearance of the temple and transformed it into a ruin. In that sense, the current state of the site reflects its transition through time. To understand the present condition of the building structure, its past needs to be analysed and recorded as profoundly as possible.

Building archaeology provides the information needed to evaluate the cultural significance of the Temple. An important part of this research method is to reveal the story behind the buildings elaborated design. In that context, I want to present the significant influence of Alexander Roos, the architect who was commissioned to design the Temple of Decision for Onesiphorus Tyndall Bruce. He seems to have played an important role in Falkland, and designed for example the iconic drinking fountain in the centre of the village. An overview of his personal background and architectural oeuvre will



help to understand the design concept behind the erection of the Temple. Furthermore, it commemorates a nearly forgotten architect of the Classical Revival with an illustrative and interesting career.

**Robert Haas-Zens** is a master student in Building Conservation and is currently working on his Master’s Thesis at the Centre for Stewardship in Falkland. Trained as a professional stone carver in Lasa (Italy), he went to Berlin to study Classical Archaeology at the Humboldt University. He worked on various Excavations and Stone Restoration Projects, including Petra (Jordan), the Forum Romanum (Italy) and Rosslyn Chapel (Scotland).