

University of St Andrews
School of History

Tears of Blood: The Roma Holocaust in Poetry

Monday, **1 April 2019**

Venue:
Byre Theatre
(Studio)
Abbey Street
St Andrews
KY16 9LA

The Roma poet, Papusza's, Romani-language narrative poem *Tears of Blood* is the earliest known witness account of the Kali Trash ('Black Fear'), Samudaripen ('Mass Killing'), Porajmos ('Devouring'), Pharrajimos ('Destruction'), or the Roma Holocaust, perpetrated by Nazi Germany during World War II. Now at long last, this important document and brilliant piece of poetry was translated into English and Scots by Hamish MacDonald and into Gaelic by Rody Gorman. This Impact Event celebrates this long overdue achievement, so that the Samudaripen may become so well known in Scotland, Britain and the world, as the Jewish Holocaust is. In turn, we also hope that the knowledge of the Romani-language original of *Tears of Blood* may also spread among Roma communities.

Program

[NB: The event's beginning can commence at 9:00 at the earliest, and must finish at 16:30 at the latest]

9:00-9:15 Arrival of the presenters and audience

9:15-9:20 Welcome Speech

Elena Marushiakova (Chair, Gypsy Lore Society & Professor of Roma History, University of St Andrews)

9:20-9:35 Reading *Tears of Blood*: Romani & English

Valdemar Kalinin (Romani Poet, Bible Translator, Gypsy Council) & Hamish MacDonald (Playwright, Poet and Novelist)

9:35-10:35 Roma Holocaust in Eastern Europe: Everyday Experiences of Suffering and Survival as Reflected in *Tears of Blood*

Volha Bartash (Leibniz Institute for East and Southeast European Studies, Regensburg, Germany)

10:35-10:45 Personal encounters with Papusza

Valdemar Kalinin (Romani Poet, Bible Translator, Gypsy Council)

10:45 -11:20 Round Table: Folklore, Poetry and Literature as Primary Sources in Historiography

Moderator: Sofiya Zahova (University of St Andrews & University of Iceland, Reykjavik)

11:20-11:40 Coffee Break

11:40-11:55 Reading *Tears of Blood*: Romani Alexandar Marinov (University of St Andrews) & Scots Hamish MacDonald (Playwright, Poet and Novelist)

11:55-12:45 Round Table: Coming to Terms with the Past: Toward the Integration of Romani Experiences and Memories into Holocaust Research

Moderator: Volha Bartash (Leibniz Institute for East and Southeast European Studies, Regensburg, Germany)

12:45-13:00 Significance of Papusza's Poetry for Gypsy, Roma and Travellers communities in the United Kingdom

Colin Clark (University of the West of Scotland)

13:00-14:00 Lunch (for the presenters & members of the audience who paid for lunch)

14:00-14:15 Reading *Tears of Blood*: Gaelic & Scots
Hamish MacDonald

14:15-15:00 Scotland & Roma Culture: Translating *Tears of Blood* into Scots, English and Gaelic

Hamish MacDonald (Playwright, Poet and Novelist)

15:00-15:45 Round Table: Philological Team Translation: Making Literature in Minority Languages Available in English

Moderator: Tomasz Kamusella (University of St Andrews)

15:45-16:15 Learning Opportunities to Explore with the Scots Translation of *Tears of Blood* in Scottish Education

Bruce Eunson (Scots Co-ordinator, Education Scotland)

16:15-16:25 Closing Speech

Tomasz Kamusella (University of St Andrews)

[NB: The event must end at 16:30 at the latest]