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Peterhouse Culture: Three Voices

1. Maurice Cowling.

In *Mill and Liberalism* Cowling, a key Peterhouse figure, argues against the destructive effect of appeals to 'rationalism' made by Mill and his followers. Aesthetic and intellectual achievement depends on tradition and the cultivation of the requisite sensibilities, not on making men attempt to rationalise their thinking. And so do moral and political development.

2. Peter Fuller.

A latter day follower of Ruskin, Fuller was a striking and influential exponent of 'Red Toryism', a position nurtured at Peterhouse. Through his writing and the journal *Modern Painters*, which he founded in 1988, Fuller argued for a distinctively English tradition in the visual arts and campaigned vigorously against what he called BICCA, Biennale International Club Class Art.

3. Roger Scruton.

Scruton's upbringing and experiences in Paris in 1968 led him to develop his idea of the necessity for a common culture while at Peterhouse. Like Fuller he started a journal, *Salisbury Review*, in which he and like minded thinkers developed the notion that for conservatives culture takes precedence over economics. By the time of his death and fifty or so books later, Scruton had become a major figure philosophically, culturally and politically.

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