



INSTITUTE
OF HISTORICAL
RESEARCH

University of London
School of Advanced Study

Past and Future

The magazine of the Institute of Historical Research
Issue 10 Autumn/Winter 2011





Letter from the director



Greetings from our new location! After a summer of packing up, saying goodbye and moving out, the Institute is settled into its temporary home on the third floor of the south block of Senate House. Our new premises are modernised, and Institute staff and users are pleased with the comfort and functionality of the rooms and corridors. Inevitably, we have had to make some changes to our operations in order to fit into a much smaller location. Not all of our library collection has remained on open access, our seminars are being dispersed around the meeting rooms of Senate House and Stewart House, and for the moment we are without our famous tea room. We have worked hard to minimise the impact of the relocation on the IHR community. Nonetheless, I ask those of you using the Institute over the next few months to be patient as we adjust to our surroundings.

Amidst the move we received the very good news that the University has now approved our plans for refurbishing the Institute in its original home. When we return in 2013 it will be to an IHR on six floors, with expanded and enhanced teaching and events space including a 140-seater lecture theatre and a new reading room. The Senate House Library history borrowing collection will be co-located with our research collections, and we will add facilities for visiting scholars and fellows. The University is partly funding these works, and I am

delighted that in these difficult times it is investing in our future. However, for the Institute to be fitted out in a manner appropriate for the 21st century, we need to raise extra funding through a capital campaign over the next two years. I am confident that this will be successful, and that in two years' time we shall celebrate the reopening of the finest single-site history library in the UK, and a headquarters that can rightly claim to be the national centre for history.

In the meantime, the IHR has a busy year ahead, with our usual full range of seminars, conferences, research training and digital resource creation. Several new Victoria County History volumes are published this autumn, and in the new year the first title in our new conference series appears. Our digital presence continues to grow with the unveiling last month of History SPOT, our podcast and research training portal, and also with the official launch of VCH Explore. Look out for *Novel Approaches*, a brilliant winter conference coming soon, which will explore the creative tensions between writers of historical fiction and historians. As our 90th birthday continues, so do the celebrations. Next month, the Institute will be joining with American and Canadian colleagues at the North American Conference on British Studies to share our 90th anniversary with the 60th of the NACBS (and incidentally the 50th of its *Journal of British Studies*). And on 16 December, in the final event of the season, we are combining the 90th year of HRH the Duke of Edinburgh with the 150th anniversary of the death of Prince Albert in a day-conference on Princes Consort in History. Following last July's *Health in History*, the largest Anglo-American conference for some time, preparations have begun for next year's 81st Anglo-American, *Ancients and Moderns*, which in the Olympic year is taking the legacies of the classical world as its theme.

Three venerable and loyal IHR personalities passed away this summer: Phyllis Jacobs, who worked in IHR

Publications for many years, and who contributed enormously to the former *Bulletin* of the IHR and to the IHR listings service, notably *Theses in History*; Cynthia Hawker, who joined the IHR in 1947, and ended her long career here as secretary to Patrick K. O'Brien; and Professor R. B. McDowell, one of Trinity College Dublin's most eminent historians, but also since 1937 a regular user of the IHR, and the last of that remarkable generation, including Robert Dudley Edwards and T. W. Moody, who transformed Irish history either side of the Second World War. All three are fondly remembered by Institute staff past and present and, I am sure, by many readers of this magazine.

May I wish you well at the start of the new academic year, and at the commencement of what promises to be an exciting new phase in the life of the IHR!

Miles Taylor
October 2011

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Cover image:

Joris Hoefnagel, A Fête at Bermondsey or A Marriage Feast at Bermondsey, 1569. The painting illustrates a panorama of society in the reign of Elizabeth I of England, who may be the lady being escorted from the church at the right. In his article on the merits of writing historical fiction (page 8), the author of The Time Traveller's Guide to Elizabethan England, Dr Ian Mortimer, discusses the challenges of recreating such scenes in fiction. Wikimedia Commons

IHR news

Historical Research: virtual issues

The IHR's journal published its first online 'virtual issues' this year, featuring themed compilations of some of our best past and present articles. There will be two issues each year and they can be accessed free for the first 30 days (and are thereafter available to subscribers in the usual way).

Our first virtual issue explores the history of India, including articles by David Arnold, Peter Marshall, Barbara Metcalf, David Campion and others. The second is a special multimedia issue produced in conjunction with the 2011 Anglo-American conference of historians on health and history. It features podcasts of lectures from the conference, along with key articles from past issues of *Historical Research*. See the journal pages on our publisher's website: <http://tinyurl.com/pf-historicalresearch>.

BBIH news

The Bibliography of British and Irish History (BBIH) passed a major milestone this year when the June update brought the number of published records to just over half a million. The BBIH is a partnership between the IHR, the Royal Historical Society, and Brepols Publishers, which aims to provide as comprehensive and up-to-date an online bibliography of British and Irish history as possible, covering all periods from the earliest written records to the present, and including relations with the empire and Commonwealth. For more information, please visit www.history.ac.uk/projects/bbih. Features introduced in 2011 include a YouTube channel with videos explaining how to get the best out of BBIH (<http://tinyurl.com/bbih-youtube>).

We are also very pleased to announce that Professor Stephen Taylor of Reading University has taken over from Dr Ian Archer as academic editor. Professor Taylor's research focuses on the political and religious history of England in the 17th and 18th centuries, and his work on major projects has

included *The Clergy of the Church of England Database 1540-1835* and *British State Prayers, Fasts and Thanksgivings, 1540s to 1940s*; he also contributed to the Royal Historical Society *Annual Bibliographies* of British and Irish History and to the *Royal Historical Society Bibliography on CD-ROM* which formed the foundation of BBIH. Dr Archer, our previous academic editor, worked on BBIH for 11 years, and oversaw both the launch of the online Royal Historical Society Bibliography in 2002 and the transition to BBIH at the end of 2009. He will continue to act as a literary director of the RHS, and also as the early modern section editor of BBIH.

IHR Digital Facebook page

The new Facebook page for IHR Digital is off to a great start, gaining 85 'likes', 1,356 monthly active users, and nearly 23,000 post views in just over two weeks. The page is fast becoming a popular online destination for history and technology buffs alike and includes articles drawing on the rich historical content of the IHR's digital resources; project updates and announcements; information and links to IHR Digital project webpages; and comments and discussions involving readers from around the world. Please join us at: <http://tinyurl.com/ihr-facebook>. Or just Google: IHR Digital Facebook.

History SPOT launches

The IHR is very pleased to announce the launch of our new History SPOT (Seminar Podcasts and Online Training) platform. The website provides access to online resources from the IHR, including research seminar and conference podcasts, videos, live streamed events, research training guidebooks and training materials, all free of charge.

History SPOT will, however, do more than simply provide these resources to you. We want to open up a discussion around them and ask you to interact with the content through forums, blogs and webpages. You can discuss the content of our research seminars, tell others about your own research projects



and learn more about what is happening in the history profession today.

Upon registration you will gain access to our archive of over 100 podcasts, a growing number of videos, training material, abstracts, opinion pieces, Historical Research Handbooks, bibliographies and other resources. You will also be kept informed about forthcoming events and be able to contribute, discuss and interact with other historians with similar interests.

Register today for your free account at www.historyspot.org.uk or find us on the IHR website.

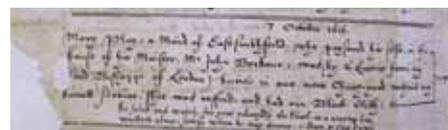
Follow us on twitter: @ihrdigprojects

ReScript blog

As development work continues on ReScript, the platform for the collaborative editing of historical texts online, you can now follow the project's progress at our blog: <http://rescript.blogspot.com/>

The ReScript resource is being tested using two very different texts in order to ensure that it is sufficiently flexible to cope with the range of editorial activity undertaken by historians: Foster's *Alumni Oxonienses*, which lists members of the University of Oxford from 1500-1714, with brief biographical details; and the *Parish Clerks' Memoranda* from St Botolph without Aldgate, 1583-1625, which provides a day book of parish

Tales from the Parish Clerks' Memoranda



life, recording in extraordinary detail the comings and goings of the resident population.

The ReScript blog records both the progress of the design and usability testing of the project, and a series of fortnightly postings on particularly interesting *Tales from the Parish Clerks' Memoranda*. This combined approach is proving popular, with steadily increasing visitor numbers to the ReScript blog. As Torsten Reimer from JISC comments: 'What I also very much enjoy about how you combine project information and the historical posts is that it reminds people that we engage with technology to help research - and in the case of history, so that historians can also tell more exciting stories.' Keep up to date with ReScript's progress and delve into *Tales from the Parish Clerks' Memoranda* at: <http://rescriptihr.blogspot.com/>

IHR library welcomes new trainee

The library is pleased to welcome a new graduate trainee to its staff. Hannah Pope, a graduate in history from the University of Edinburgh, started work on 5 September 2011 and will be with the library for one year. As in previous years, the trainee will assist library staff with enquiries and reader services, selection of material for purchase and the ongoing reclassification of the collection. As a result of the IHR move, Hannah will also be helping to administer the book request service for closed access material. The IHR library runs its graduate trainee programme in conjunction with the other libraries of the School of Advanced Study, and a range of training events are organised throughout the year. Details can be found on the trainees' blog: <http://trainee-blog.blogspot.com/>. Interviews for the 2012-13 trainee will take place at the beginning of 2012, and anyone interested in further information is invited to contact the library. We wish all the best to 2010-11 trainee, Geri van Essen, who is to start an MA in the History of the Book at the Institute of English Studies.

New acquisitions for IHR library

The library continues to purchase a range of books, and as ever, its collection development budget is augmented by the generosity of the Friends. Recently ordered items include a survey of historical writing in 20th-century France, an intelligence officer's memoir of Vietnam and a documentary history of British-Arab relations from the Treaty of Versailles to the end of World War II.

Recently catalogued acquisitions to the library include:

- *The Oxford history of historical writing. Vol. 1, Beginnings to AD 600* | General (E.1441/Ohh)
- *Zombie myths of Australian military history* | Military History (W.54/Aus/Sto) | Collection of essays on 20th-century Australian military historiography
- *La Bastille, ou, L'enfer des vivants: à travers les archives de la Bastille* | France (EF.0329/Bas) | Published on the occasion of the exhibition, *Bastille, ou L'enfer des vivants*, presented by the Bibliothèque Nationale de France.
- *Memorias de la lucha sandinista* | Latin America (LA.789) | Three volumes of interviews with members of the Frente Sandinista de Liberación Nacional.
- *A dictionary of British America, 1584-1783* | Colonial (C.42) | Purchased with donation from the American Friends of the IHR.

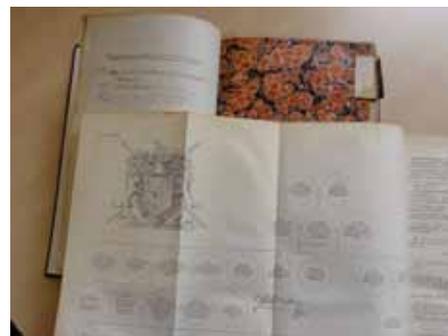
Library collection guides

The first in what is hoped will be a full series of library collection guides is now online. This guide, to the IHR library's Welsh collection, was produced by Geri van Essen, the 2010-11 graduate trainee. It can be found at: www.history.ac.uk/library/collections/wales and will also be available to download in PDF format. The Welsh collection remains on open access in the library's temporary Senate House south block location.

Peerage claims in the IHR library

Preparations for the move of the IHR library led to the rediscovery of 49 volumes detailing peerage claims, thought to be a gift from the House of Lords Library many years previously. With the library move imminent, Alison Gage, the IHR library's cataloguer, took on the daunting task of sorting out these somewhat obscure and dusty volumes. The records can be found on the catalogue [http://catalogue.urls.lon.ac.uk/search~\\$10](http://catalogue.urls.lon.ac.uk/search~$10) by making a subject search for 'peerage claims - Great Britain'. A search on COPAC (www.copac.ac.uk) suggests that the IHR library holds one of the largest, if not the largest, catalogued collection of the peerage volumes in UK and Irish research libraries. Now, not only have they been catalogued, but the annual donation from the Friends of the IHR has allowed the library to conserve those volumes which were in a bad state of repair.

Peerage claims from the IHR library



CMH news

The summer months have been particularly busy this year for the Centre for Metropolitan History. The Centre's summer conference, 'Shadow cities: realities and representations', held in July, proved to be a highly successful and stimulating event. With papers on South Africa, Chile, Colombia, Argentina, the USSR, India, Athens, Cairo and Nairobi, we hope it will lead to further international collaboration, particularly with the African Centre for Cities at the University of Cape Town.



Launch of the latest VCH Wiltshire volume. From L-R: Dr John Chandler, VCH Wiltshire consultant editor; Mr Chris Atkins, town crier of Cricklade; Mrs Vicky Landell-Mills, chairman of the VCH Wiltshire county appeal trust; Mr John Bush OBE, Lord Lieutenant of Wiltshire; Mrs Jane Scott OBE, leader of Wiltshire council; Mr David Tetlow, chairman of Cricklade town council; Dr Virginia Bainbridge, VCH Wiltshire county editor.

The relocation of the CMH to the third-floor mezzanine coincided with the final stages of three of our research projects: the ESRC-funded 'Life in the suburbs: health, domesticity and status in early modern London'; 'People, property and charity: the Clothworkers' Company 1500-1750' (funded by the Clothworkers' Company); and the JISC-supported 'Locating London's past: a geo-referencing tool for mapping historical and archaeological evidence, 1660-1800'. The transcript of the memoranda books of the St Botolph Aldgate parish clerks ('Life in the suburbs'), is being used for the IHR's Rescript project. The 'People, property and charity' website, which provides the first detailed history of the benefactors, property acquisitions and other bequests of the Clothworkers' Company in the City of London in the early modern period, is available at: www.history.ac.uk/cmh/ppc-clothworkers. The online mapping tool developed by 'Locating London's past' was presented at a workshop on 21 October. Further details of these projects can be found at www.history.ac.uk/cmh/projects.

Sadly, with the end of these projects we say goodbye to researchers Mark Latham, Philip Baker and Annaleigh Margey. We wish them all the best in their new jobs. Conversely, we are very happy that Professor Vivian Bickford-Smith, visiting professor of comparative metropolitan history, will be staying with us for a further year, continuing to divide his time between London and Cape Town. Vivian will act as course director for the MA in Historical Research while Matthew Davies is on

sabbatical. We also look forward to welcoming Dr Justin Colson, the IHR's EHS Power fellow, who will be working on networks, trades and local society in London, c.1400-1540.

Follow us on twitter: @CMH_London

VCH Wiltshire

After the publication in July of the latest Wiltshire volume, *Wiltshire XVIII: Cricklade and Environs*, a well-attended launch was held in the town's United Church on 10 September. Following a warm welcome from David Tetlow, chairman of the local town council and a keen local historian, John Bush, Lord Lieutenant of Wiltshire, formally presented a copy of the new volume to Jane Scott, leader of Wiltshire Council, who is our major partner on the project. Elizabeth Williamson, executive editor of the VCH, also gave a brief history of VCH Wiltshire, describing its place at the heart of the modern VCH project, thanks in no small part to the pioneering efforts of Wiltshire historian and former editor of the VCH, Ralph Pugh. To mark the occasion, the museums of Cricklade and Purton extended their opening hours. The historical societies of Cricklade and Purton both expressed an interest in producing paperback offprints of their sections of the volume, which would accompany the paperback history of Minety already published as a 'pre-print' of the volume. An event is planned in the near future (date TBC) at the UWE Regional History Centre to celebrate both the publication of the volume and the appointment of John Chandler as editor of VCH Gloucestershire.

The focus now returns to our ongoing research on Volume 19, which will feature Longleat and the Deverill valley. Andy Foyle, an architectural historian who has recently published Pevsner guides for both Bristol and North Somerset, has been commissioned to write the history of Longleat house and park, and this will also be published as a paperback in the England's Past for Everyone series.

Copies of volume 18 are available directly from Boydell & Brewer: www.boydell.co.uk

IHR events

IHR film evening: *The Battle of the Somme*

7 November 2011, Jessel/Senate rooms, Senate House

'Mobilities' workshop, hosted by the Centre for Metropolitan History

7-8 November 2011, Room 349, Senate House

2011 winter conference: 'Novel approaches: from academic history to historical fiction'

17-18 November 2011, Chancellor's Hall, Senate House
www.history.ac.uk/historical-fiction

History in education conference, followed by book launch

24 November 2011, Senate House

Creighton lecture by Professor Catherine Hall (UCL): 'Macaulay and son: an imperial story'

28 November 2011, 6pm

Princes consort in history

16 December 2011, Chancellor's Hall, Senate House
www.history.ac.uk/princes-consort

Douglas Johnson memorial lecture (hosted by the IHR and the Society for the Study of French History)

18 January 2012, Chancellor's Hall, Senate House, 5.30pm

Holocaust memorial day (hosted by the IHR and the Pears Institute)

31 January 2012, Chancellor's Hall, Senate House, 6.30pm

81st Anglo-American conference of historians: 'Ancients and moderns'

5-6 July 2012, Senate House

For further details on any of our events, visit www.history.ac.uk/events

Why historians should write fiction

Dr Ian Mortimer, who will be participating in our winter conference, 'Novel approaches: from academic history to historical fiction'.

'Your book reads like a novel,' is a comment that popular historians often hear. When said by a general reader, it is a compliment: an acknowledgement of the fluency of the writing and a compelling story. If a *historian* uses those same words, however, it is an insult. It means 'you cannot be trusted on your facts'. Hence the title of this piece is bound to infuriate every reader of this journal, for it implies that historians should tell lies. After all, that is what novelists do, isn't it? Make it all up if they don't know the facts?

I ought to explain at the outset that I am a novelist (James Forrester) as well as a historian (Ian Mortimer), and I write history for the mass market as well as scholarly articles. As a novelist, I tell lies. Whoppers. All historical novelists do. In my case, I have historical characters like Sir William Cecil and Francis Walsingham say and do things that they never really said or did. I make people die from causes that they did not die of, use modern language in their speech, and I change people's names. As a historian, I do not tell lies. I scrupulously note primary and secondary sources. However, I have learned a great deal about history from writing historical fiction. And it is because of this learning experience that I want to recommend it.

Two factors in particular underpin this positive experience. The first is simply the very testing nature of 'recreating' a past world. Historical fiction requires you to know about many aspects of life you have not thought about before. How do people speak to their children, wash their hair, lock a door, clean their teeth and get undressed for bed? Why was it difficult to row under London Bridge at low tide, did taverns provide meat in Advent in 1567, did physicians wear beards, and so on? You suddenly find that your evidence-

orientated knowledge of the period is just not enough; it does not equip you to describe in detail how a man or woman passes one whole day, let alone a number of different men and women across the period of several weeks. All the 14th-century evidence you have ever read will not tell you enough to describe the experience of simply walking down a street in London in 1359 and ordering a pint of ale in a tavern. How clean is the floor? Are there husks

All the 14th-century evidence you have ever read will not tell you enough to describe the experience of simply walking down a street in London in 1359 and ordering a pint of ale in a tavern.

on top of the ale? Is the barrel in a cellar? For this reason all historical fiction is, in respect of its historical content, unsatisfactory. You would always like to be able to do better.

The construction of characters is similarly testing. A historian writing history never has to create character: he allows it to emerge from the evidence. He never needs to guard against the inconsistency of his character's traits. Nor does he need to invent ways in which one character influences another. Historians reveal human interactions through examining the evidence for a man's words and deeds in relation to that other individual. Creating fictitious characters who interact with one another goes beyond just imagining the past: it requires you to imagine it and then to change it, gradually and believably, in the reader's imagination.

Ian Mortimer read for BA and PhD degrees in history at the University of Exeter, and an MA degree in archive studies at UCL. He has worked for a succession of archive and historical research organisations, was elected a fellow of the Royal Historical Society in 1998, and was awarded the Alexander Prize (2004) for his work on the social history of medicine. In June 2011, the University of Exeter awarded him a higher doctorate (DLitt) by examination, on the strength of his historical work. As James Forrester he breaks away from the constraints of historical fact and throws himself enthusiastically into fiction, using his imagination freely to tell stories within a well-researched historical social setting.

This is why historical fiction is so difficult. It doesn't matter whether you base it on reality or make it all up, you still have to create another believable world – something that can pass for the past in readers' minds. Given that your readers might well be other historians, the deceit has to be pretty damned good.

This is not the end of the difficulties: next, there is the writing. Academic historians have normally lost the ability to write dramatically or with empathy. It has been trained out of them. The traditional obligation to be 'objective' impedes them from writing a stirring account of a battle, or a romantic account of a love affair. Even though battles were undoubtedly stirring in real life, and love affairs are the epitome of romance, academic historians do not wish to be seen to be moved by their



Attributed to Robert Peake the Elder, Procession portrait of Elizabeth I of England, c.1600. Wikimedia Commons.

subject. Scholars have learned too well the craft of distilling evidence to its very essence, the clear liquid of a synthetic truth, and in an educational establishment, that is all that is required. It is easy to forget that it is not the essence that most people are interested in, but the wider world that created the evidence in the first place.

Form and content are kept poles apart in academic history. In biography, fiction, film, drama and poetry they come together naturally, and are regarded as complementary. But why not write scholarly history dramatically and thereby bring scholarship to tens of thousands of readers? Why not write in the present tense? Why not write a day-by-day diary of another person? Why not be inventive? Why not write fiction? Why not write a biography of someone as if you *are* that someone, as Peter Ackroyd did in his biography of Oscar Wilde. I cannot help but feel that if a few of our Agincourt experts were to write an 'autobiography' of Henry V, they would ask themselves very difficult questions about why he did what he did, and discover a fear and a resolution quite apart from the current view of the man.

The second reason for saying that historical fiction is a great educational exercise is more philosophical. All the difficulties above really add up to identifying lacunae – a lack of knowledge of aspects of everyday life, the lack of literary form in academic historical writing, and the failure to recognise alternative points of view. Much more profound is the realisation that history is not primarily about the past. It is about human nature. What makes it historical is that it examines human nature through the prism of a different age.

To be honest, it was not in the course of writing a novel that I realised this. It was after writing two novels and while writing *The Time Traveller's Guide to Elizabethan England*. The latter

describes what you would find if you really could go back to the late 16th century. At one point I was finding it very hard going – inexplicably so, for I love the period, had plenty of source material, and everything was planned out. What I found was that, in trying to replicate the format I had used for my medieval *Time Traveller's Guide* (a similar guide to the 14th century), I was constantly in danger of repeating myself. Several of the points I felt *had* to be said about education, old age or cleanliness were repetitions of things I had said in the earlier book. What that meant was that my points did not arise from the period I was studying; they arose from my similar reactions to these different past criteria. What I was writing about was my understanding of people in all ages, not just this or that century.

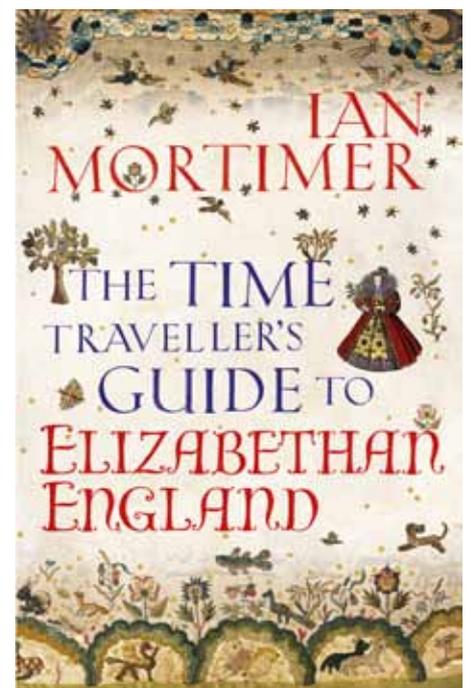
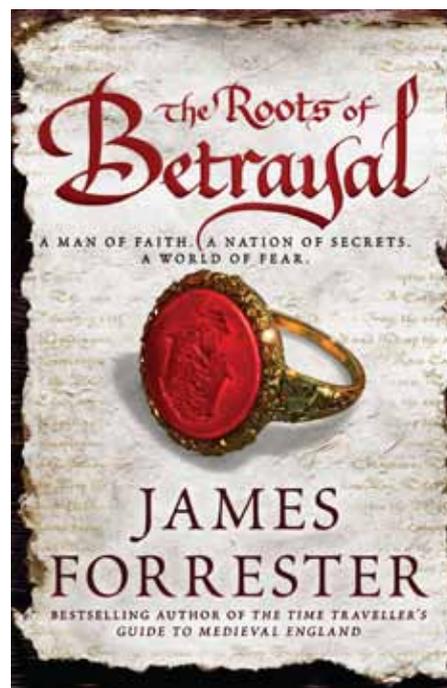
That realisation led to another: that this is what good historical novelists do. Often without realising it, they will choose a historical period to bring out some aspect of human nature. In my case, I had chosen to set my fiction in the 16th century because I wanted to write about loyalty and betrayal. Loyalty to one's spouse, to the state and to one's faith have huge resonance in a 16th-century context, much more so than in today's easy-going world. I used the historical setting of the 1560s to amplify what I wanted to say about people.

History allows us to see human nature in a deeper way. It is all very well describing the world today, with its

wars, commercial greed, philanthropy, courage, fear and the like; but when you start to contrast the past with now, you become aware that humanity has far greater depth than appears from a knowledge of the here and now. The 'we' of us becomes not you and me, but something hundreds, even thousands, of years old. At times we treated our neighbours with huge suspicion, yet we defended each other frequently against enemies. We survived repeated epidemics that wiped out huge swathes of our population, and burned people alive for what they believed. Betrayal, loyalty, love and deceit – all human life is there, but amplified beyond what we personally may experience in the modern world.

That is why historians should write historical fiction. It teaches you how little you really know about the minutiae of the past, and destroys professional complacency. It humbles even the most experienced researcher. It demands that you think deeply about human character, and how it is formed, and how people integrate. But most of all it shows you that there is a different sort of truth beyond the measurements of facts and dates: truths about human nature which are timeless, or, at least, very slow-moving. And it leaves you thinking that these truths, although they are unprovable, are probably the most important historical conclusions of all, for they reflect what we are, and what we can be, both as individuals and as a society.

The Roots of Betrayal was published in July this year by Headline Review and *The Time Traveller's Guide to Elizabethan England* will be published in March 2012 by Bodley Head.



The right kind of history: teaching the past in 20th-century England

Dr Jenny Keating, research fellow, History in Education project

The state of school history teaching has been continually in the news over the last two years. Do pupils learn about nothing but Henry VIII or the Second World War? Are they taught to feel the pain of medieval peasants, rather than the dates of the Wars of the Roses? Is history more popular than ever or declining rapidly as a chosen examination subject? And above all –

Teaching the Past in Twentieth-Century England, written by the project's director, Professor Sir David Cannadine, Nicola and me, will be launched at a conference for the people who helped the project. David, Nicola and I will describe findings and outcomes, and panels of teachers and former education ministers, including Lords Kenneth Baker and Andrew Adonis, will

Was there once a golden age of history teaching in which all children learnt a proper account of British history?

was there once a golden age of history teaching in which all children learnt a proper account of British history?

With impeccably prescient timing, in January 2009, with funding from the Linbury Trust, the IHR launched the History in Education project, a major research project looking at the development of the teaching of history in English state schools from 1900 to the present day. Dr Nicola Sheldon and I, the project's two research fellows, looked at archives across the country, and interviewed a wide range of former pupils and teachers, school inspectors, educationalists and secretaries of state for education. We collected exercise books, textbooks and tapes of old schools' programmes; collated hundreds of survey forms with people's memories of teaching or being taught history; and investigated teaching aids, technology, museums and anything else that might have been used in teaching history. We went through all the academic literature, newspapers and teaching journals that might throw light on the debates that have surrounded history teaching over the last century.

This research has now come together into a book, conference and website. The book, *The Right Kind of History:*

discuss the state of history teaching, past and future. A website including much of the material generated by the project will also be inaugurated at the conference and in the evening there will be an official launch for the book in the Macmillan Hall.

The Right Kind of History: Teaching the Past in Twentieth-Century England will



Exercise book showing use of illustrative material, including cigarette cards, Westborough Senior Girls' School, Southend, c.1935. Image courtesy of Irene Eaton.

be published by Palgrave Macmillan in November 2011. Admission to the conference is by invitation for those involved with the project, but everyone is invited to the book launch in the Macmillan Hall, Senate House, 6-8pm, Thursday 24 November. Those wishing to attend should email jenny.keating@sas.ac.uk. The website will be at: www.history.ac.uk/history-in-education.

Infants class, Lavender Hill School, SW London, c.1925-6. Image courtesy of John Geddes, who is standing on far left.



Project relocation: the IHR library finds a new home

Jennifer Higham, IHR librarian

In 1938, the news that the Institute of Historical Research and its library were to move was deemed worthy of a short piece in *The Observer*, published on 24 April: '54,000 books moved – army sheds to go', the headline announced. As those familiar with the IHR will know, aside from some internal movement of stock, the library has remained more or less static since the Institute moved into Senate House. Some 73 years later, the relocation of the IHR library involved moving more than three times as many books, as well as computing services, and was able to utilise online communication to keep its community informed of progress. Thankfully, no army sheds were left behind, though the removal of the books certainly highlighted the dilapidated state of the austerity-era shelving and the hazardous wiring that ultimately necessitated the relocation.

The IHR moved to the south block's third floor this summer in order to facilitate the next phase of the refurbishment of Senate House, which will include the IHR's home in the north block. While this temporary relocation represented a huge logistical challenge, and has resulted in changes to library service provision in the meantime, it does mean that the long-overdue modernisation of the IHR and its library, anticipated long before I took up my post as librarian in January 2010, can now take place. By the end of that summer the University was busy scoping the next phase of the Senate House refurbishment and had allocated a temporary home for the IHR during the work, so the planning began in earnest.

It soon became apparent that the layout of the library and office space on the south block's third floor meant that, during the IHR's stay, only just over one-third of the library could remain on open access. The bulk of the remainder of the collections would be housed in onsite storage in the Senate House tower, though around 20 per cent of the stock would need to travel to the University depository in Egham. This represented

a huge change to the culture of what had always been an entirely open access reference library designed for browsing, and one which was increasingly rare in having all the collections readily to hand. As such, one of the most important planning tasks was to determine which parts of the library would be housed where. In order to ensure the most effective use was made of available space, a survey of collection usage ran throughout the 2010–11 academic year alongside a survey of desk and computer use, highlighting how the relocation was not just about moving the books, but all the other services that the library provides. Seating arrangements were considered in order to try to replicate the quiet areas of the IHR as far as possible, while making the best use of available space, furniture and the location of power and data points.

A series of book and journal location plans were drawn up based on input from staff and readers, usage surveys and on knowledge of the content of the collections. The usage level of each collection was the main criterion for retention on open access, as far as it was possible to determine. Other considerations included usage patterns, growth rate, the needs of Institute staff and students, ease of requesting and fetching, type of shelving available, the size of the individual books within the

collections, online availability (mainly of periodicals), and availability elsewhere in other local libraries, including Senate House Library. The outcomes were discussed at length and approved by the IHR library committee and the IHR advisory council.

As soon as it became clear that the refurbishment process was to begin, the issue of communicating with the IHR community quickly became one of the main discussion points at the newly formed IHR redevelopment committee. With such major changes afoot, it was vital that information was provided in a timely way, and regularly updated to reflect any changes to plans. The IHR website was the obvious choice, but once the move became imminent a relocation blog was also created at ihrr relocation.wordpress.com, which proved an effective way of keeping relevant communications in one place and served as a reference point to which enquiries could be easily referred. Posts were written by all departments, but the blog proved particularly valuable in disseminating arrangements for accessing the library. As the IHR relocation was a timetabled part of major Senate House moves over the summer, especially in Senate House Library, we were anxious that the advertised schedule would remain accurate.

The large reading room with roller shelving houses general and European collections. © Emma Bohan



The IHR library staff were fortunate to be able to work with James Cook, Senate House Libraries' library space manager, whose experience working on previous large-scale stock moves proved invaluable. James's detailed plans of linear metreage and book height for each of the IHR collections ensured that accurate measurements underpinned all the planning. Additional work undertaken by the IHR library staff (Kate Wilcox, Mette Lund Newlyn, Michael Townsend, Alison Gage and Geri van Essen) to sort unclassified material, integrate sequences that had been separated by lack of available shelving, help run the Friends of the IHR's book sale and just generally tidy the place up was also vital in safeguarding the success of the project. Kate Wilcox, reader and technical services librarian, also worked to ensure the library catalogue accurately reflected the location changes. In the days leading up to the move, staff worked alongside James Cook and his team checking measurements and tirelessly writing out 6,000 labels. Each individual shelf had a unique label number and was assigned one of three colours, to indicate the ultimate destination of the books it housed. The library move started on schedule on 19 July at a time when the IHR was extremely busy, with two teams of removal men working in parallel to move books to their various new locations. It is testament to the hard work and commitment of all involved that, with some inevitable minor changes, the moves finished when expected, and the library was able to reopen on the advertised date of 3 August, having been fully closed to readers for only five days.

Happily, additional shelving became available during the move process so it was possible to keep more books on open access than was originally anticipated. Extra collections, including Spanish and Byzantine history, as well as some British history folios, were brought down to the third floor, with the result that the amount of material on open access is now almost 40 per cent, nearly 10 per cent more than in the original plans. Importantly, it was possible to leave a small amount of space, both to allow for growth over the period of relocation and also to accommodate requests from readers with maximum flexibility. Staff quickly settled into their new offices, and began the challenge of operating the service under the changed conditions.

One major change is that the IHR library is now all located on one floor, occupying a U-shaped space based



Study space in the new IHR Library.
© Emma Bohan

around three corridors, with the first two sides being library shelving, reader places and computing facilities. Another contrast is the refurbished condition of the third-floor library, which creates a comfortable atmosphere, with open-access material within easy reach on shelves that are not overcrowded. A selection of armchairs from the common room remain, as well as newspapers such as the *TLS* and *TES*, and the arrangement of desks within rooms means it is still possible to find a quiet spot to study, either in solitude or more communally. As before, the library has microform, photocopying and printing facilities. Although the new footprint does consist of a series of rooms, these are not allocated to particular subject collections. Following on from the large reading room, with roller shelving housing general and European collections, the final corridor contains the current issues of periodicals, as well as the library enquiry office and the offices of the Institute director, administrator, development office and the academic support staff. The IHR reception staff continue to man the entrance, which is now shared with the Institute of Classical Studies library. As before, the library is open Monday to Friday, 9am to 8.45pm, and Saturdays from 9.30am to 5.15pm, with the

enquiry office staffed throughout these hours.

Books and journals are now held in three locations, termed 'open access', 'onsite store' and 'offsite store'. The online catalogue records indicate where each individual item is held. A more general overview of which collections are located where can also be found on our website: www.history.ac.uk/library/collections/collection-locations and on noticeboards in the library. Items marked 'onsite store' or 'offsite store' can be requested in person, by phone or email. Request forms can be handed in at the library enquiry office or reception. Fetches from the 'onsite store' will be carried out at 9am, 11am, 2pm and 4.30pm on weekdays as well as at 2pm on Saturdays. Items marked 'offsite store' will be available within 1-2 working days.

Having the need for such a request service does have some positive aspects. It allows us to record much more accurately than ever before which parts of the library collections are being used, and by what kind of researcher. This knowledge will inform planning for the redeveloped library and will allow us to promote our holdings in a more focused way. The shelving plans drawn up for the third floor mean that open-access material is easier to find and reach than was sometimes the case before and, with sequences being reunited, readers have reported how volumes thought to be lost have now turned up in the correct place. Some researchers have found that the relocation has led them to reconsider the IHR collections and how they make use of them, with some interesting and surprising results.

So, although the last few months have been very disruptive, we have been heartened by how supportive our readers have been during this time, and gratified that much of the feedback on the relocated library has been positive. But it must be remembered that this is only just the beginning of the process which will see the IHR and its library return to the north block in 2013. No sooner was the move completed than planning began for the redevelopment, with our colleagues in the University, external designers, surveyors and shelving suppliers. Updates on progress will appear on the IHR website as plans move forward, but in the meantime, rest assured we will work hard with our supporters and users to ensure that we end up with an Institute and library fit for the 21st century.

Ten years of the IHR Mellon fellowships in the humanities

Dr James Lees, fellowships officer, looks back on the first ten years of the prestigious Mellon fellowships at the IHR

In the autumn of 2001 a major new doctoral fellowship programme was launched at the University of London. The IHR Mellon fellowships in the humanities, administered by the IHR and funded by the philanthropic organisation, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, was an initiative of the then director, Professor Sir David Cannadine. At that time, there was comparatively little support available for American students who needed to spend significant periods in British archives, and the scheme sought to remedy this situation. In addition to receiving an ample stipend, IHR Mellon fellows were to be given an institutional affiliation

with the IHR and, crucially, each fellow would be assigned a UK-based academic to act as a mentor, providing them with immediate advice and guidance for the term of their fellowship.

The scheme also addressed the need for the different durations of fellowship necessary for students at various stages of their doctoral studies. Pre-

students working in any humanities discipline. The 105 Mellon fellows who have arrived at the IHR since the summer of 2002 have been engaged in the study of an impressive array of topics, and even though the overwhelming majority have been students registered in history departments, other humanities subjects have been well represented. Quite

Popular children's author Marie Rutkoski credits her time at the IHR as providing her with the inspiration for her first novel, which has led to her being translated into eight languages and nominated for several literary awards

'Headcoverings in Early Modern England' is just one of the diverse topics covered by the Mellon fellows' research. Unknown artist, Joan Woodward, wife of the actor Edward Alleyn and step-daughter of Philip Henslowe 1596. Dulwich Picture Gallery via Wikimedia Commons.



dissertation awards were offered to students who required a couple of months in British archives to enable them to gauge the feasibility of a proposed dissertation topic. At the same time, more advanced students requiring sustained access to British sources could apply for a dissertation fellowship, which would support them for a full year. Initially, five of each type of fellowship were offered annually, rising to seven pre-dissertation and five dissertation awards by 2006. Both types are still run under the same competition, which has attracted more than 800 applications from 90 separate higher education institutions in the USA and Canada during the course of the past decade. Such is the quality of the applications that each year the assessment panel of senior academics finds it could appoint many more fellows than there are fellowships available. It is a fiercely contested, and correspondingly prestigious, award.

One key feature is that the Mellon fellowships are open to doctoral

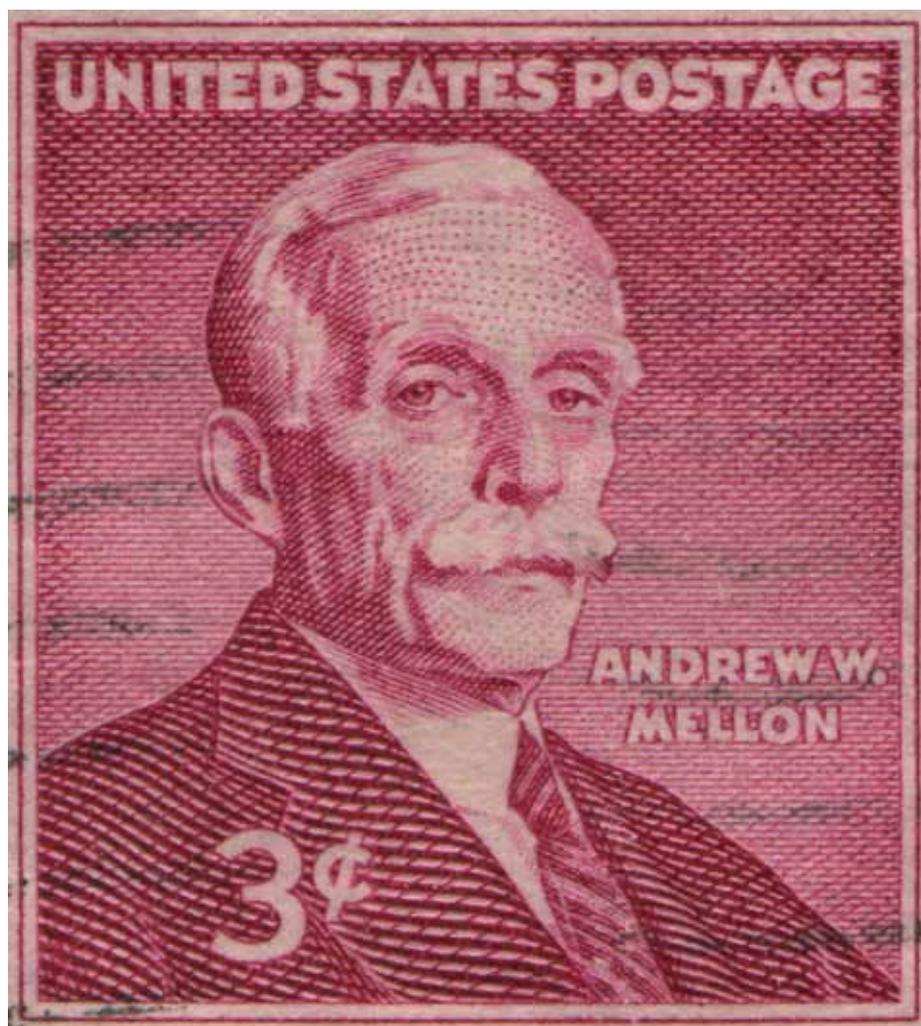
apart from the many students whose research has been truly interdisciplinary, nearly a fifth of all fellows have been literature students, together with many art historians, several theologians and philosophers, as well as three musicologists. Fellows' theses have covered themes as wide-ranging as *Print Culture and the Oral-Written Interface in Yoruba*, *Headcoverings in Early Modern England* and *The Creation of the Modern Operatic Voice*. This diversity in the Mellon fellows' areas of study, not only in terms of topics but also disciplines, has contributed enormously to the richness of the Institute's expanding junior fellowship and to the academic life of the Institute more widely. Mellon fellows have been among the most active of our JRFs in disseminating their research among their doctoral peers and have also been keen contributors to the Institute's extensive programme of evening seminars and academic events.

While the Institute's community has benefited greatly from the presence of this talented body of students,

there is no doubt the process has been reciprocal, the Mellon fellows' research having been aided immeasurably by this unique programme and by their tenure at the Institute. Many of the dissertation fellows in particular have found the extended period of study permitted by the award to be invaluable. Noah Millstone, a doctoral student at Stanford University and the holder of a Mellon dissertation fellowship in 2008-9, praised its 'security and flexibility' in allowing the development of a much more thorough familiarity with the archives than would be possible from any number of short-term research trips. Nor is it simply the financial security and provision of a period of study which makes the fellowship so productive for its recipients; it is also the quality of the working environment which they enter into upon arrival. For Noah, as for many others, the IHR was his 'institutional and intellectual base' and at the heart of this lies the IHR's comprehensive evening seminar schedule. These seminars provided the 'intellectual engagement' that is so vital for an isolated doctoral student undertaking an extended period of research abroad; for Noah, discussion with seminar participants 'sharpened my research methods and gave me a better sense of what I was looking for'. Equally, many of the convenors have commented on the uniform enthusiasm, persistence and academic rigour displayed by the Mellon fellows who have given papers and regularly contributed at their seminars.

A further feature keenly appreciated by the recipients of Mellon fellowships is the appointment of a UK-based academic mentor for every fellow. Students have found the immediate presence of someone familiar with their research area, their archives, and with the British academic community in general, to be an invaluable aid to their research experience in the UK. In common with many, Jamie Gianoutsos of Johns Hopkins University, who was a pre-dissertation fellow in 2010, found that 'without the seminars and the assignment of a mentor, I believe that my time at the Institute would not have been nearly as profitable'. Ultimately, it is the network of people supporting the Mellon fellows in the UK that has made the experience so fruitful for fellowship beneficiaries. One fellow, struggling a little with the pressures of living and researching abroad, wrote in her final report that 'during the times that I did become homesick, the IHR staff ensured that I felt at home!'

A further measure of the Mellon programme's success may be gauged



American philanthropist Andrew W. Mellon has been commemorated in many ways. This US postage stamp was issued in December 1955, on the centennial of his birth. Image © rook76/Shutterstock.com

by following the career progress made by former fellows. Of the 42 fellows appointed during the first four years of the programme, more than 70 per cent now occupy faculty positions or are engaged on postdoctoral fellowships, and 20 per cent of the remainder are about to submit their theses. D'Maris Coffman, a dissertation fellow in 2005-6 and now a research fellow at Newnham College and director of the Centre for Financial History, Cambridge, writes that her time on the IHR Mellon programme 'laid the foundations of my academic career'. She continues: 'Not only was I able to immerse myself in key archives – at the British Library, National Archives, Bodleian, Guildhall and Customs and Excise Museum in Liverpool – but also I was able to work with Professor Patrick O'Brien, without question the leading authority in my field. Everything that followed – multiple dissertation fellowships, a junior research fellowship in Cambridge, and now the directorship of a research centre here – has its roots in that first opportunity at the IHR'. Many feel likewise that the opportunities offered by their time at

the IHR have been crucial in shaping their future work, not only under the aegis of a university or as independent scholars but sometimes outside the academy. Marie Rutkoski, a dissertation fellow in 2005-6, combines her post as an assistant professor of English at Brooklyn College with a career as a popular children's author. She credits her time at the IHR as providing her with the inspiration for her first novel, which has led to her being translated into eight languages and nominated for several literary awards.

The Mellon fellowship programme has been immensely rewarding, both for the students who have received the awards and for the community which they joined. Furthermore, with a fourth tranche of funding recently secured from the Mellon foundation, the programme has been extended until the end of 2014 and it is to be hoped that such a demonstrably successful scheme will continue to be funded for many years yet.

Exploring health in history at the 2011 Anglo-American conference

Manjeet Sambhi, events and publicity officer, reports

The continually advancing, and often contentious, subject of the medical humanities was the theme of this year's IHR flagship conference. Supported by the Wellcome Trust and the Royal

The 60 panel sessions reflected the breadth of the medical history field. Dr Claire Shaw, a past and present IHR postdoctoral fellow, presented a paper as part of the 'Concepts of health under

The 'Ethics and experiments' panel, chaired by Professor Barry Doyle (Huddersfield), highlighted contemporary arguments, such as artificial insemination and the emergence and consequences of stem cell research, with connections to tumour research. Euthanasia was also explored in a talk by postgraduate Ellen van Reuler (Manchester), entitled 'From the Wilkes report to the end of life care strategy: the development of governmental policies on care for the dying in England since 1980'.

Professor Samuel Cohn's lecture on the history of pandemics discussed notions of displaced hate and blame as a method of 'making pandemics comprehensible'.

Society of Medicine, *Health in History*, the 80th Anglo-American conference, took place over three days in the Brunei Gallery, part of the School of Oriental and African Studies.

Examining the subject of health in its political, sociological and historical context from different perspectives, the conference featured plenary speakers from a range of international institutions: Professor Joanna Bourke (Birkbeck) presented a paper on 'Pain and the politics of sympathy, 1789 to the present', while Professor Paul Starr (Princeton) explored issues surrounding access to healthcare in the US. Professor Samuel Cohn's lecture on the history of pandemics from the plague of Athens to AIDS generated particular interest. He examined sociological aspects of infectious diseases, particularly notions of displaced hate and blame as a method of 'making pandemics comprehensible'.

Professor Monica Green (Arizona State) opened the conference with 'Going global: thoughts on the ambitions of medical history' and also chaired a roundtable on 'Can science answer historians' questions? A post-genomics conversation on the Black Death'. Joining this debate were Professor Paul Buell (Charité Medical School) and Professor Mark Achtman (Cork) among others.

socialism' panel session, discussing disability in early 20th-century Soviet Russia. Nervous illness and the cultivation of health were among other themes explored by fellow speakers Simon Pawley (School of Slavonic and East European Studies) and Michael Rasell (Lincoln), as well as a comparison of approaches to disability in East Germany and the Soviet Union.

The policy forum, organised by the Centre for History in Public Health at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, aimed to discuss how, and why, insights from history are used in the policy-making process, as well as how historians might improve their impact on policy to make their 'voices heard'. It brought together

Anglo-American conference reception, Wellcome Collection.



historians who have been involved in the policy process and civil servants with a historical background operating within the policy environment, such as Jill Rutter (Institute of Government) and David Turner, a specialist on the House of Commons health committee.

Cambridge University Press sponsored a roundtable discussion to celebrate the forthcoming title: *The Changing Body: Health, Nutrition, and Human Development in the Western World since 1700*, featuring co-authors Professor Sir Roderick Floud (Gresham College, and formerly dean of the School of Advanced Study) and Professor Bernard Harris (Southampton).

The accompanying publishers' fair featured such major international academic and commercial publishers as Routledge and I B Tauris, among many others. Oxford University Press, sponsors of a refreshment break, announced the launch of Professor Samuel Cohn's new title: *Cultures of Plague: Medical Thinking at the End of the Renaissance*.

The conference reception at the Wellcome Collection was well attended. It included a private view of the fascinating new exhibition, *Dirt*, which further illuminated the history of global health and poverty.

81st Anglo-American conference: *Ancients and Moderns* Call for papers

The next flagship IHR conference, the 81st Anglo-American conference of historians, on the theme *Ancients and Moderns*, promises to be an equally stimulating gathering for historians from across the world. It takes place on 5-6 July, just a few weeks before London hosts the 2012 Olympics.

Proposals for individual papers, panels (of up to three papers and a session chair) and roundtables are invited. Please send a half-page abstract to the events officer at AncientsandModerns@lon.ac.uk by 1 December 2011. Acceptance of proposals will be confirmed by 31 December. Registrations open on 1 March 2012. For further information, visit www.history.ac.uk/aach12.

R. B. McDowell

Professor Peter Marshall pays tribute

R. B. McDowell died on 24 September 2011, when just short of his 98th birthday. After a most distinguished career at Trinity College Dublin, which had begun immediately after the Second World War, in retirement McDowell tended to spend the greater part of his time in London. There he could enjoy the company of a very wide circle of friends and admirers, and pursue his projects for research and publication on modern Irish and British history, for which he showed undimmed zeal almost to the end of his life. He clearly found the IHR to be a congenial place in which to work and he became one of its most frequent users for many years.

His mode of work was to establish himself and the antique typewriter, on which he beat with one finger, in a secluded corner of a reading room – the naval and military room was his favourite for many years. Anyone venturing in was likely to hear McDowell murmuring to himself to the accompaniment of the noises emitted from his typewriter. Wherever he chose to work, McDowell would surround himself with notes scrawled on scraps of paper, indecipherable to anyone else, and with extra clothing he might need to keep out the cold, which he felt so acutely. He would make periodic forays for books and at times would find the sociability that was so important to him in the IHR common room, where he could be found reading the bound volumes of *Punch*, or holding forth to anyone willing to engage with him in what would inevitably be a one-sided conversation. Those whom he so favoured could be sure of being both entertained and instructed by a vast range of observations and anecdotes, and they could not but be aware that he was a man of unflinching courtesy and much personal kindness. He also attended seminars, such as the one on imperial history, where he found the atmosphere to his liking and was inclined, sometimes to the despair of conscientious chairmen, to subvert serious discussion by interjecting anecdotes of, at best, tangential relevance to the matter at hand.

By the time he began to use the IHR, McDowell's persona as an eccentric was firmly in place, no doubt honed over



many years at Trinity, especially as a legendary junior dean, immortalised in J. P. Donleavy's novel and play, *The Ginger Man*. His mode of dress, especially the hats and scarves that he sported, gave rise to much merriment. Cherished anecdotes about his oddities of behaviour may, however, give a misleading impression. Eccentric he may have become; ineffectual he most definitely was not. He organised his life with care and was adept at getting his own way on matters that were important to him. He was a very determined and purposeful scholar, who accomplished a great deal even in his later years. In the 1990s, he published a study of Southern Irish Unionists together with volumes of *The Writings and Speeches of Edmund Burke* and of *The Writings of Theobald Wolfe Tone*. His last monograph, on Henry Grattan, appeared in 2001, when he was 88. Volumes of essays and autobiography were to follow.

The IHR was clearly a place which McDowell valued and used to the full. For his part, he enriched the lives of other readers who had the pleasure of knowing him.

A memorial service will be held at Southwark Cathedral, London Bridge, SE1 9DA on Friday 27 January 2012 at 3pm. The service will be followed by a reception. All are most welcome. Please confirm attendance with Anne Leonard: anne@opnewworld.co.uk / 020 7931 8177.

Development news

Ways of giving: bequests and gifts *in memoriam*

Over the past year, indeed throughout its history, the IHR has been the recipient of important bequests and gifts made *in memoriam*. While it is sad to mark the passing of members of our close-knit community, such bequests and gifts serve as lasting tributes and help to ensure that future generations will continue to benefit from and enjoy the Institute. The following are some recent examples of specific gifts.

The Olga Crisp bequest

In June, the IHR received a bequest from the estate of Professor Olga Crisp. Professor Crisp was born in 1921 in Stratyn, Poland, now in Ukraine, and came to London in 1946, enrolling in the School of Slavonic and East European Studies at the University of London. Although she knew no English upon arrival, she obtained a first-class degree in Russian regional studies two years later. She then began a PhD on financial aspects of the Franco-Russian Alliance, 1894–1914, and was made a junior fellow of the IHR in 1949; she was awarded her doctorate in 1954.

From 1949 until her death in December of 2010, Professor Crisp was a member and Friend of the IHR. Upon learning of her generous bequest, I spoke with her son, who said that the IHR was 'like a second home' to her, and that she had many warm memories of time spent here. After further discussion, we decided to use her bequest to fund part of our new Russian fellowship programme. This three-year programme aims to create a durable platform for Anglo-Russian historical study, especially at the postgraduate level. It will provide two kinds of support: funding packages for short visits by Russian doctoral students to London, and an annual lecture and colloquium that will bring together Russian scholars of the UK, and UK-based Russian specialists. This is just one of several international fellowship programmes that will play an important part in the IHR's future development, and for which we continue to seek funding.

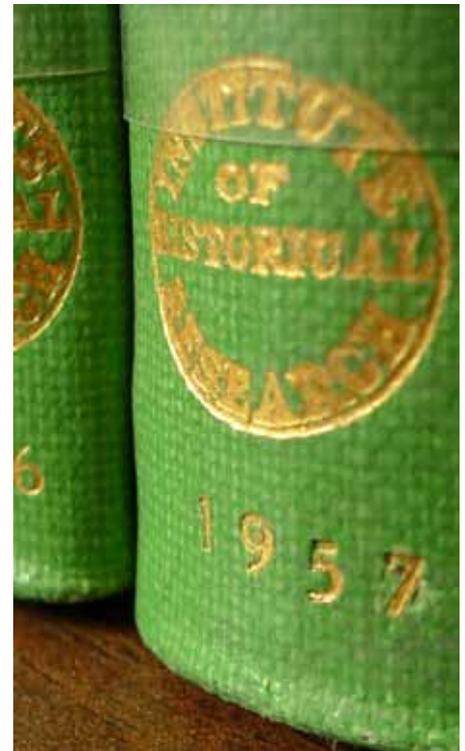
In memory of Phyllis Jacobs

In July, Professor David Bates, former IHR director, made a gift in memory of Phyllis Jacobs who worked at the Institute from 1954 to 1974 and was centrally involved in what are now publications department projects; indeed, she was the assistant editor of the precursor to this magazine.

The gift was made to the bursary fund David established upon his retirement as director in 2008, to which many have contributed generously. The aim of the bursary is to enable doctoral students from outside London to undertake research at the IHR and other London-based libraries and archives, and to attend seminars at the IHR. David makes an annual gift to the fund and plans to do so for the rest of his life. The special gift in Phyllis's memory was made in recognition of her friendship and support throughout his life, ever since he first visited the Institute in 1967 as a doctoral student from Exeter, support which has been of crucial importance to his professional career.

Phyllis, who was born in 1915 and died on 17 July 2011, aged 96, read French at Oxford, gaining a first-class honours degree. Before the Second World War Phyllis worked at the Bodleian Library and, after marriage and a sojourn in the US, she and her husband Theo returned to the UK, at which point she began working at the Institute.

As David remembers: 'Although apparently shut away in her basement office, Phyllis was an immensely sociable and welcoming person, nurturing and supporting many lives and careers. She was also a formidable and rigorous editor, not only insisting on correctly written prose, but frequently taking an author's work into the library to check references and find others for them. It is no exaggeration to say that to have been copy-edited by Phyllis was, in professional terms, a demanding and improving experience; many authors have commented that the result was to produce something that they would have wished to have written themselves, but would not have been capable of doing without her assistance.'



The Elaine Paintin memorial fund

As many of you will know, Elaine Paintin was a founding member of the IHR Trust and director of the Marc Fitch Fund, which has supported numerous IHR and VCH projects over the years. As our director Professor Miles Taylor noted earlier this year; 'Without Elaine, and without both Marc Fitch and the IHR Trust, much of what we do at the IHR would not have been made possible.'

Elaine's family has set up a memorial fund in her name to benefit the Institute, and the trustees of the IHR are in the process of planning a special conference and reception in her honour. Further information about the event will be published later in the year, but in the meantime we would like to encourage all of those who knew Elaine to support her memorial fund.

If you would like further information about how to support any of the funds or projects mentioned above, or how to leave a legacy to the IHR, please contact Heather Dwyer in the development office: heather.dwyer@sas.ac.uk / 020 7862 8807.

Support our seminars!

The IHR currently hosts nearly 60 public seminars per fortnight on a vast array of topics; from music in Britain to comparative histories of Asia (for the full list, please visit www.history.ac.uk/events/seminars). Seminars provide a crucial arena for debate and appraisal as ideas, arguments and findings make their way from fieldwork, the library and archive, on to the printed page and into the collective consciousness.

The IHR is deservedly renowned for its seminars; it is the only higher education organisation in the UK providing such a broad range of seminars to a wide range of people. Participants are not limited to professional academics; the seminars regularly attract undergraduate and postgraduate students, amateur historians, politicians, independent scholars and interested members of the public. In 2009-10 almost 9,000 people took part in IHR seminars and we attracted over 600 speakers. In comparison, the UK's next largest history seminar hosts are the Oxford history faculty, which runs 35 postgraduate/faculty seminars (including history of art), and the University of Cambridge, which hosts 27.

In 2009, the IHR was awarded funding for a project to develop an online presence for its seminars. Through a ground-breaking virtual delivery platform, the atmosphere of the seminar itself is replicated as closely as possible allowing 'real time' worldwide participation and an online experience which is interactive, inclusive and will create a permanent record that itself will become a resource for learning, teaching and research for use by anyone in post-16 education (for more information visit the History SPOT platform at www.historyspot.org.uk).

It is, therefore, incredibly important that we maintain the quality of the seminars and provide enough funding for convenors to secure the best possible speakers from around the world. **We cannot do this without your help!** The amount of grant that the IHR receives from the government has diminished from around 60 per cent of its income ten years ago to 30 per

cent now. During this same period, the amount of funding that we have been able to allocate to seminar convenors *has remained static at £150 per annum*. This is not nearly enough and every year convenors ask for more, noting that the funding is often gone after one term.

The IHR would like to be able to cover all seminar costs and increase the level of funding to ensure that convenors are able to secure the best possible guest speakers. You can help in the following ways:

- To support the seminar programme as a whole, you can make a donation of any size to the **Friends' seminar fund**, to which convenors may apply to cover travel costs for guest speakers
- To sponsor an entire seminar series costs £1,000 per annum and a range of crediting and partnership opportunities are available

Please contact Heather Dwyer in the development office to find out more.

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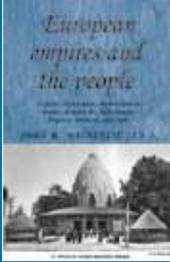


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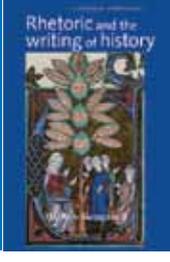
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Friends' events

Since the start of our new programme of social events, the Friends have raised just over £8,000 for the Institute through ticket sales, which is truly amazing. The events have also provided a means for Friends to get to know one another and introduce new people to the IHR; they have been interesting and informative, not to mention great fun.

Our most recent event was the summer outing to Strawberry Hill, Horace Walpole's Gothic fantasy. The house has only just reopened to the public, following a £9 million repair and restoration, including painstaking conservation of the renaissance glass. We could not have had a better day for the visit – it was sunny and warm, and it felt like we had the house all to ourselves. We had a special tour, led by a most knowledgeable guide, followed by lunch and a visit to the gardens.

We are now looking forward to a new season of film evenings, so I hope more of you will be able to join us this year. And please remember – the events are not only open to Friends! If you are a member of the IHR community and would like to be kept informed of our events, please contact the development office and we will ensure you receive our newsletter: ihr.development@sas.ac.uk/ 020 7862 8764.

A Friend remembers

Dr Crossley-Holland is a long-standing member of the IHR and donor to the Annual Fund. Born in Paris of French/Russian Orthodox parents, she studied at the Sorbonne where she obtained her Doctorat ès Lettres. Dr Crossley-Holland has taught at the Sorbonne, Universities of British Columbia and California and in England at the Universities of Leeds, London and Cambridge. She is an emerita professor.

Nicole, as she is known to her students, has now been teaching for 56 years and still continues to do so at Aberystwyth University. A medieval historian, she has published many books including *Living and Dining in Medieval Paris: the Household of a Fourteenth-Century Knight*.

She will be giving a lecture at the IHR, organised by the central London



The Gallery at Strawberry Hill, R. Fielding Lewis.

branch of the Historical Association, on 10 December 2011, entitled: 'Food in Medieval Russia, AD 754-1480, including the significance of Christmas in Russia'.

Q: When and why did you first visit the IHR?

In 1958. For us, teachers and our students, it was a haven of peace, where one would meet colleagues, work in the library, tumble down back to the common room for discussions, meetings, AND always good food served by a welcoming lady for whom nothing was too much trouble. For me, it was also a place where I would occasionally hold seminars. It was quiet and yet lively. And

Professor Nicole Crossley-Holland, by Fr. Vladimir Lysak.



when one had not appeared for some time, the person at the reception would inquire: 'Everything all right? Anything we can do?' It was, and has always remained, a haven of peace, intellectual stimulus and discreet concern. I well remember the way we would tiptoe downstairs, first giving a nod to a friend, thumb pointing down and clacking teeth! Then, going along the corridor to the common room to guess what was on the 'menu today'.

Q: What do you think makes the IHR special?

See above, but also it is the unique blend of relaxed friendship and highly academic 'buzz' – a complete lack of pretence, where first-year undergraduates and seasoned professors alike felt welcome. Also, nothing was too insignificant or too grand for the staff to attend to. No one was embarrassed or excluded.

Q: Why do you continue to support the IHR?

Because it is the **only** such institution that I have encountered in my long academic life. I have been immensely enriched by it and my only hope is that it will continue to be what it has been for me for the last 53 years.

The IHR has shown its worth for generations of scholars. It is worth making certain that it continues!

Namier goes digital: the History of Parliament Online

Dr Paul Seaward, History of Parliament director



The Rights of Women, or the Effects of Female Enfranchisement, an engraving by caricaturist George Cruikshank showing the supposed effect of giving women the vote. Published in the *Comic Almanac* for 1853. © History of Parliament Trust

The History of Parliament's volumes have long been a standard feature of British research libraries. The 41 Wedgwood-blue-jacketed books contain more than 21,000 biographies of Members of the House of Commons since the middle ages, together with nearly 3,000 articles on their constituencies. Altogether, they cover three-and-a-quarter centuries of parliamentary and political life. The first was published in 1964 under the editorship of Sir Lewis Namier and John Brooke; the most recent, dealing with the early Stuart 'crisis of Parliaments', 1604–29, was published only last year.

All of the History's published work is now online at www.historyofparliamentonline.org, easily accessible to those who cannot get to a university library – and more easily searchable for those who can. We are still checking and cleaning data transferred from such sources as the CD-Rom the History published with Cambridge University Press in 1999. Our most recent publications – 1604–29 and 1820–32, published in 2009 – will only become available two years after appearing in print.

The online History has a number of new features. For its 'Explore' section, we are

writing articles explaining details in the biographies and constituency surveys and exploring themes and particular events in parliamentary history. Other articles will explain the background to and events of each of the Parliaments covered by the History. And, with the co-operation of the National Portrait Gallery, the Palace of Westminster Works of Art Collection and the Parliamentary Archives, we have included over 150 images, mainly portraits of our Members, but also images of Parliaments and of constituency politics and elections. We are particularly keen to obtain more images, especially of our earlier Members, perhaps from church monuments and brasses.

The text on the site is that of the original published volumes. Since these have been published from 1964 to 2010, they vary in depth and – at times – accuracy. A system for including updates and corrections is in the pipeline. Because the History has divided its task into chronological periods, many Members have more than one biography: a Member whose service began, for example, with the post-Sacheverell election in 1710 and ended at the same time as the death of George II in 1760 would be given an article in the 1690–

1715, 1715–54 and 1754–90 sections. Merging these articles is our ultimate ambition, so there is only one corrected and improved article per Member, but we do not yet have sufficient resources.

The site's search function enables users to refine their search by the History's chronological section and type of article (biography, constituency, introductory survey and so on), and also by components within articles – especially the career, family and education paragraphs of biographical articles. This should assist those who wish to search for networks, institutional affiliations (educational institutions, for example) and specific office-holders.

Continuing links that extend back to Lewis Namier and A. F. Pollard, The History of Parliament Online is being maintained and developed further in partnership with the IHR (who also collaborate with us on British History Online). We would welcome additional information and your comments on the site's look, feel, functionality and any mistakes through its 'contact us' function.

Seminars at the IHR

The IHR's world-renowned programme of seminars continues to go from strength to strength. Seminars meet weekly during term time and all are welcome. Please note not all seminars meet each term. An up-to-date programme for each seminar can be found on the IHR's website at www.history.ac.uk/ihrseminars/ and is also displayed within the IHR.

American history Thursday, 5.30pm	Film history Thursday, 5.30pm	Modern French history Monday, 5.30pm
Archives and society Tuesday, 5.30pm	Histories of home Wednesday, 5.30pm	Modern German history Thursday, 5.30pm
British history 1815-1945 Thursday, 5.00pm	History of education Thursday, 5.30pm	Modern Italian history Wednesday, 5.30pm
British history in the 17th century Thursday, 5.15pm	History of gardens and landscapes Friday, 5.30pm	Modern religious history Wednesday, 5.15pm
British history in the long 18th century Wednesday, 5.15pm	History of libraries Tuesday, 5.30pm	Oral history Thursday, 6.00pm
British maritime history Tuesday, 5.15pm	History of political ideas Wednesday, 5.00pm	Parliaments, politics and people Tuesday, 5.15pm
Christian missions in global history Tuesday, 5.30pm	Imperial and world history Monday, 5.00pm	Philosophy of history Thursday, 5.30pm
Collecting & display (100 BC to AD 1700) Monday, 6.00pm	International history Tuesday, 6.00pm	Postgraduate and early career seminar Thursday, 5.30pm
Colonial science and its histories Friday, 5.00pm	Jewish history Tuesday, 5.00pm	Psychoanalysis and history Wednesday, 5.30pm
Comparative histories of Asia Thursday, 5.30pm	Late medieval and early modern Italy Thursday, 5.00pm	Reconfiguring the British: nation, empire, world 1600-1900 Thursday, 5.30pm
Contemporary British history Wednesday, 5.00pm	Late medieval seminar Friday, 5.30pm	Religious history of Britain 1500-1800 Tuesday, 5.00pm
Conversations and disputations Friday, 4.30pm	Latin American history Thursday, 5.30pm	Rethinking modern Europe Wednesday, 5.30pm
Crusades and the Latin East Monday, 5.00pm	Life-cycles Tuesday, 5.15pm	Socialist history Monday, 5.30pm
Digital history Monday, 5.00pm	Locality and region Tuesday, 5.15pm	Society, culture and belief 1500-1800 Thursday, 5.30pm
Disability history Monday, 5.00pm	London group of historical geographers Tuesday, 5.00pm	Sport and leisure history Monday, 5.15pm
Earlier middle ages Wednesday, 5.30pm	London Society for Medieval Studies Tuesday, 7.00pm	Tudor and Stuart history Monday, 5.15pm
Early modern material cultures Wednesday, 5.00pm	Low Countries history Friday, 5.00pm	Voluntary action history Monday, 5.30pm
Economic and social history of the pre-modern world, 1500-1800 Friday, 5.15pm	Marxism in culture Friday, 5.30pm	War, society and culture Wednesday, 5.00pm
Education in the long 18th century Saturday, 2.00pm	Medieval and Tudor London Thursday, 5.15pm	Women's history Friday, 5.15pm
European history 1150-1550 Thursday, 5.30pm	Metropolitan history Wednesday, 5.30pm	
European history 1500-1800 Monday, 5.00pm	Military history Tuesday, 5.00pm	

Connected Histories: building sources for British history, 1500-1900

Dr Jane Winters, co-director, Connected Histories



John Nixon & Richard Newton (etching), Midnight Revels, 1795. The British Museum Images. © The Trustees of the British Museum.

Connected Histories (www.connectedhistories.org.uk) was launched at the IHR on 31 March 2011. It brings together 11 major sources for the study of British history from the early modern period to the 19th century with a single federated search. The diverse range of sources indexed by Connected Histories includes image databases (the John Johnson Collection of Printed Ephemera and the British Museum Images); OCR'd texts (the 17th- and 18th-Century Burney Newspaper Collection and the House of Commons Parliamentary Papers); rekeyed texts (London Lives 1690-1800, the Proceedings of the Old Bailey Online, John Strype's Survey of London and British History Online); and structured databases/datasets (the Clergy of the Church of England Database 1540-1835, the Charles Booth Archive and Origins.net). Some of these sources are freely available, some are free at the point of use to researchers based in higher education institutions in

the UK and some are subscription only. However, even for those that require some form of payment, the snippet view provided in Connected Histories search results allows users to see enough information to get a good sense of the source material.

Connected Histories supports full text searching, but natural language processing (NLP) has also been applied to all of the sources to identify places, people and dates that appear in the texts and image metadata. Searching for 'Sheffield' as a place, for example, produces very different results from a general keyword search for 'Sheffield' (41,181 results as opposed to 51,821); Robert Sheffield, a Lincolnshire rector and vicar, no longer appears. Similarly, searching for Hatfield as a surname excludes the majority of instances of Hatfield the place. I say majority, because the NLP can never be completely accurate, particularly when applied to OCR'd texts. However, when dealing with such a large corpus of material (around 5.6 billion words at present), the NLP is an invaluable tool for narrowing and refining searches.

Registration is not required for Connected Histories, but registered users can access a range of additional options from their personal workspace. It is possible to save whole searches, to save single or multiple individual search results, and ultimately to create connections between those results. The facility to 'connect' particular results allows users to build up their own collections of related material, which they may choose to keep private or share with other users of the site. The connections that people have chosen to share so far reveal a wide range of research interests, and in some cases suggest unexpected uses for the source material. For example, there is a large collection of material relating to early film and cinema-going, which might

otherwise have remained obscured. Other users have chosen to focus on gin, snuff, playing cards and even hot air balloons.

In order to help users navigate their way through Connected Histories, we have included descriptions of all of the resources searched, with information about the technical methods used in their creation, strengths and weaknesses and so on. Short research guides also discuss relevant content and give suggestions for search strategies and further reading. Subjects covered include 'Crime and justice', 'Family history', 'Poverty and poor relief' and 'Local history'. A short video guide introduces users to key features of the site.

Connected Histories is not a static resource, and we will be adding new sources over the coming months. A first update in October/November 2011 will see the addition of a subset of the British Library's 19th-century newspapers, new material from British History Online, the JSTOR 19th-century British pamphlets, the York Cause Papers, John Foxe's Acts and Monuments Online and the Convict Transportation Registers Database. A second update is planned for February/March 2012 and will add the remaining 19th-century newspapers, 19th-century books from JISC Historic Books and the History of Parliament Online.

Connected Histories is a JISC-funded project, and a collaboration between the IHR and the Universities of Sheffield and Hertfordshire. The directors of the project are Professor Tim Hitchcock, Professor Bob Shoemaker and Dr Jane Winters.

Postgraduate research training courses 2010-11

Each year the IHR runs a wide-ranging and extensive programme of training in skills for historical researchers from universities throughout the UK. Using a range of teaching approaches (workshops, seminars, lectures, hands-on practicals and visits), important and specialised skills are explained and explored by expert practitioners. Courses are short (from one day to one term), cover the whole range of necessary skills - from archival use and languages to databases and the internet - and are priced to be within students' means.

Archival research skills

Methods and sources for historical research

7-11 November 2011 / 9-13 January 2012 / 16-20 April 2012

This course is an introduction to finding and using primary sources for research in modern British, Irish and colonial history. It will include visits to the British Library, the National Archives, the Wellcome Institute and the House of Lords Record Office. Fee £210.

Visual sources for historians

Tuesdays, 7 February-6 March 2012

An introduction to the use of art, photography, film and other visual sources by historians (post-1500). Through lectures, discussion and visits the course will explore films, paintings, photographs, architecture and design as historical sources, as well as provide an introduction to particular items both in situ and held in archives and libraries. Fee £210.

General historical skills

An introduction to oral history

Mondays, 9 January-20 March 2012

This course addresses theoretical and practical issues in oral history through workshop sessions and participants' own interviewing work. It deals with the historiographical emergence and uses of oral history, with particular reference to the investigation of voices and stories not always accessible to other historical approaches. It will examine theoretical and methodological issues and help students to develop practical skills in interviewing, recording, the preservation of cassettes and the organisation and preservation of oral material. Fee £210.

Languages and palaeography

Introduction to medieval and Renaissance Latin

Tuesdays, 11 October-13 December 2011

Intermediate medieval and renaissance Latin

Tuesdays, 10 January-7 March 2012

Further medieval and renaissance Latin

Tuesdays, 24 April-26 June 2012

These three ten-week courses provide an introduction to Latin grammar and vocabulary, together with practical experience in translating typical post-classical Latin documents. They may be taken as individual and stand-alone units or all three may be taken over the course of a year, providing an integrated and comprehensive training in medieval Latin for absolute beginners, or for those with a smattering of the language but who wish to acquire more confidence. Students will emerge at the end with not just a strong grounding in the mechanics of Latin, but also an understanding of the changes that it underwent, and the new ways in which it was used in medieval and early modern Europe. The courses are open to all who are interested in using Latin for their research. Fee £200 per unit or £500 for all three.

Palaeography and diplomatic

TBA

This course provides an introduction to the history of script from the Roman Empire to the early modern period together with practical instruction in reading manuscripts and understanding the context in which they were written. The course concentrates on Latin and English palaeography in the British Isles, but scripts of other national traditions may be included if there is demand. It is run by QMUL and taught by Dr Jenny Stratford: please email jenny.stratford@rhu.ac.uk for further information and to apply for a place.

Information technology courses

Databases for historians

13-16 December 2011 / 27-30 March 2012 / 12-15 June 2012

This four-day course introduces the theory and practice of constructing and using databases. Through a mixture of lectures and practical hands-on sessions, students will be taught both how to use and adapt existing databases, and how to design and build their own. No previous specialist knowledge, apart from an understanding of historical analysis, is needed. The software used is MS Access, but the techniques demonstrated can easily be adapted to any package. Open to postgraduate students, lecturers and all who are interested in using databases in their historical research. Fee £200.

Internet sources for historical research

7 December 2011 / 7 March 2012 / 6 June 2012

This course provides an intensive introduction to use of the internet as a tool for serious historical research. It includes sessions on academic mailing lists, usage of gateways, search engines and other finding aids, and on effective searching using Boolean operators and compound search terms. Advice will be given on winnowing the useful matter from the vast mass of unsorted data available, and on the proper caution to be applied in making use of online information. Fee £70.

Qualitative data analysis workshop Two-day course

12 December 2011 and 13 January 2012

Researchers in the social sciences and humanities are increasingly using computers to manage, organise and analyse non-numerical data from textual sources. This workshop introduces historians to this rapidly growing field and will furnish participants with a good working grasp of the NVivo 8 software package and its uses for all historical research projects. Note that the course consists of two sessions, one month apart. Fee £120.

For further information and application forms, see www.history.ac.uk/research-training or contact Dr Simon Trafford, Institute of Historical Research, University of London, Senate House, Malet Street, London, WC1E 7HU (ihr.training@sas.ac.uk)



Novel approaches: from academic history to historical fiction

17-18 November 2011
Chancellor's Hall, Senate House

For programme and registration details, please visit www.history.ac.uk/historical-fiction
or contact the IHR Events Office at IHR.Events@sas.ac.uk or on 020 7862 8756.



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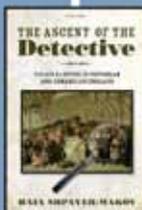


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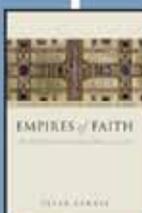


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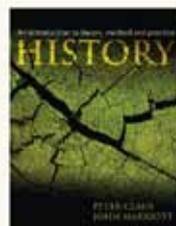
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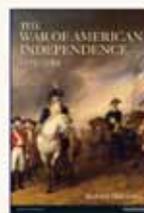
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