Welcome to the spring/summer 2015 edition of Past and Future, the first since our return to the refurbished and redesigned Institute of Historical Research which was officially opened again by the Chancellor of the University of London, the Princess Royal, on 14 October 2014. This magazine includes a report on the new building and the reopening ceremony, and also presents a range of articles that showcase our work very effectively. The IHR is a leader in ‘digital history’ - the promotion of our subject via resources and information on the web - and essays on the relaunch of the British History Online website, which receives 4 million hits each year, and on the involvement of the Institute in an international project to archive the internet and also write its relatively short history, reflect the work going on here. There is also a portrait of Professor Jane Winters who has overseen the growth of this digital programme in her 18 years at the IHR, and who has unrivalled experience of using the web in the promotion of History. Meanwhile, the article on our American Collections by our Post-Doctoral Fellow in North American history, Ben Bankhurst, is a reminder of the depth and richness of the traditional print collections that we hold. It also marks the opening of a new space in the Library, the North American Room, which houses much of our American and Canadian collections. We have an article on the forthcoming Anglo-American Conference in early July which is on 'Fashion' and is being organised in association with the Victoria and Albert Museum – an old dependable in the IHR calendar now getting a new suit of clothes and a makeover. Our commitment to the education and training of young research historians is also evident in essays on History Lab, the network based here which links postgraduate historians across Britain, and a piece by one of our current Junior Research Fellows, Erica Siegel, who has been investigating the history of women composers and their opportunities - or the lack of them - in inter-war Britain. The IHR's combination of the traditional and innovative, demonstrated here, is a feature that we prize and a mix we intend to maintain.

Lawrence Goldman
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Past and Future

Institute of Historical Research
University of London
Senate House
Malet Street
London WC1E 7HU
www.history.ac.uk
020 7862 8740

Editorial and advertising
Vanessa Rockel, Gemma Dormer, Valerie Hall and Olwen Myhill
vanessa.rockel@sas.ac.uk
020 7862 8747

Cover image: Austerity clothes: fashion restrictions in wartime Britain. 1943. Ministry of Information Official Collection (Imperial War Museum). Although certain design details were forbidden as they were a waste of valuable raw materials, wartime ‘austerity’ fashions were not drab, as this purple, green and mauve dress (which cost 7 clothing coupons), designed by Norman Hartnell, testifies. The model is standing on a windy rooftop in Bloomsbury; Senate House, the headquarters of the Ministry of Information, is clearly visible behind her. The IHR’s 84th Anglo-American conference of historians takes ‘Fashion’ as its theme.
IHR news

The biggest news at the IHR this season is, of course, the reopening of the Institute in its newly-refurbished home in the North Block of Senate House. This issue features a lead article on the refurbishment and on the official reopening.

History SPOT relaunches as PORT

For those of you who have been using the IHR’s online research training platform, History SPOT, you will have noticed a variety of changes recently. The site’s web address has changed, its name has changed, and its design has changed.

The refit of History SPOT and its transformation into PORT (Postgraduate Online Research Training) is an exciting development. We believed that the old site was beginning to look tired but yet its contents still remain useful and relevant and there is still so much scope for expansion.

In addition, the opportunity arose to merge the IHR’s efforts with the wider efforts of the School of Advanced Study (of which the IHR is one component). History SPOT has therefore become PORT, an online research training platform not just for historians, but for all humanities studies.

This is a good thing for historians. The extent of training provision on PORT will rapidly expand over the next few years and a vast amount of it will be relevant to students studying history. Already, PORT provides additional resources offering advice about completing a PhD and a host of handbooks providing links to modern languages resources. Soon a resource will be launched providing introductory guidance to research using quantitative methods, various videos covering all kinds of research needs, and more ‘history’ focused courses, such as Managing your data as an historian.

So please do check out PORT and let us know what you think: port.sas.ac.uk

Staff news

The IHR is pleased to welcome three new members of staff. Gemma Dormer has joined the IHR as events officer, coming to us from University of London Housing Services. Mark Lawmon is a new addition to the development office as office administrator, having recently completed his MSc at UCL. Mira Chotaliya has left the development office of the Institute after many years, and we wish her all the best. We would also like to extend our thanks to Leo Doyle, who has assisted with events, development and finance in the Institute over the past six months, and who is now moving on to a career with the government.

Peter Salt, editor of the Bibliography of British and Irish History (BBIH), retired from the IHR in April. Peter has worked at the Institute since 1997 and his contribution both to the Bibliography and to the life of the IHR has been invaluable. We are very grateful to him for generously agreeing to remain associated with the project in an advisory capacity. Sara Charles joined the IHR in the new post of BBIH editorial assistant.

Library news

The refurbished Library

We have now been in the refurbished IHR for over six months and are grateful for readers’ patience as we get things in order after the move.

The collections are arranged so that the first floor houses the British, Irish, Crusades, Byzantine and Church history collections, split between the large reading room and the Foyle room (local history folios and Church history). The second floor has the General and European collections, including Colonial history and travel writing. On the other side of the landing is the North American room. The Military and International Relations collections are in the basement. The Scottish, Spanish, Local and German books are shelved in rooms that double up as seminar/meeting rooms: please check the IHR diary if you are planning to use those collections. Items can be reserved in advance of your visit if necessary.

We are aware that the rolling stacks are not ideal, but they have allowed us to put far more of the Library on open access than would have been possible otherwise.

There are reading rooms on the lower ground, first, second, and third floors, and you are welcome to move books to wherever you want to work. Please reshelve books at the end of your visit: it helps us to keep the reading rooms tidy and leaves space for other readers. There are PCs on every floor and there is wifi access throughout the building.

The photocopier and printing facilities are now available. You will need to activate your IHR membership card and add credit before you use the copier/printers. For a limited period credit can be transferred from the old paper cards.
Locations of journal holdings
Back-runs of most of our journals are in closed access still, though we have placed the most recent three or four years of each title on open access in the Friends’ Periodicals room on the ground floor. Some heavily used journals are on open access in their entirety: Historical Research, English Historical Review, Past and Present and History are just inside the entrance of the large reading room on the first floor. Others, such as Journal of Ecclesiastical History, are shelved with the relevant collection. All other journal holdings can be requested from closed access and there is no limit on number of volumes. We provide access to many online journals.

History day
The IHR and Senate House Library ran a second ‘History libraries and research open day’ in January 2015, in collaboration with colleagues from other institutions. This brought researchers together with professional staff from a wide range of library and archive collections. The event was a great success, and we had very favourable comments from attendees and participating organisations alike. An associated website continues to be updated with podcasts and blog posts from speakers and with information about library and archive collections: historycollections.blogs.sas.ac.uk. The next history libraries open day will take place on 27 November.

Donation news
We are very grateful for funding from the Friends and American Friends towards a newly – established conservation fund. This will be used for repairing or replacing worn or damaged books. Further information about supporting the Library can be found at www.history.ac.uk/support-us/campaign/library. The Friends also gave us money towards Library publicity material, which we have used for leaflets promoting the newly – refurbished Library.

Bequest from Mr Gordon Davies
We were grateful to receive a bequest of books in Summer 2014 in the will of Gordon Davies. Gordon was Curator of Hertford Museum from 1964 to 1989 and continued his own research into the local history of Hertford and Hertfordshire after his retirement. He had used the Institute’s library collections for this research.

We are gradually going through the bequest. Some items have been added to the collection - these include the 1818 reprint of The Civil Warres of England briefly related, The history of the rebellion and civil wars in Ireland (1720), Numerus infaustus (1689) and Routledge’s guide to London and its suburbs (1883).

Most of the books are unsuitable for addition to the IHR collections, either because they duplicate items we already have, or because they are outside our collection remit of editions of primary sources. With agreement from Mr Davies’ family, they are being sold to create a fund for collection development and conservation – we plan to use it for items in Mr Davies’ areas of interest and bookplate them accordingly.

The booksale is just next to the entrance in the large first floor reading room and is being regularly replenished - have a look next time you are visiting. While we are grateful to receive bequests of books, we may not be able to accept donations that we cannot add to the collections or easily sell. If you would like to talk to someone about making a bequest to the IHR please contact IHR.Development@sas.ac.uk / 0207 862 8791.

Historical Research news
Historical Research has introduced two innovations for 2015 which we hope will benefit our authors, referees and readers.

First is the adoption of altmetrics for published articles. Altmetric is a service that tracks and measures the impact of scholarly articles across traditional and social media. Clicking on an ‘Am score’ shows the online activity that references an article, ranks the article’s score in relation to others, and provides information about reader demographics.

Second, Historical Research’s new online submission system is now live. Hosted by ScholarOne, this site facilitates article submission and peer review. Author and Referee centres allow the easy uploading of manuscripts and reports, and papers can be tracked. The aim is a streamlined, efficient process which helps speed up decision-making and keeps the time from submission to publication as short as possible.

Historical Research publishes around 40 articles a year with more articles appearing in our online Early View issue as they are edited. This constitutes a large amount of new content covering a wide variety of topics and periods. Did you know that there are a number of ways you can keep up with articles as they are published? Our publisher, Wiley, offers email alerts and an RSS feed on the journal’s home page (bit.ly/HistoricalRes). Notice of individual articles as they are published is also given on the IHR’s blog, Twitter and Facebook page.

The next virtual issue will be on the timely subject of elections. Please note, the closing date for the Pollard Prize for papers given to an IHR seminar for the academic year 2014/15 is Friday 30 May 2015. Entries (which must be supported by a seminar convenor) should be sent to Professor Jane Winters.
(jane.winters@sas.ac.uk). For further information see (www.history.ac.uk/fellowships/pollard-prize).

**Fellowships news**

**Competitions**
The competitions for all 2015–16 stipendiary fellowships at the IHR have recently closed, and panels will be meeting over the coming months to select the next cohort of Junior Research Fellows. Prize competitions are still open for the Pollard Prize, the Richard III and Yorkist History Trust Bursary, the Curriers’ Company London History Essay Prize, the Huguenot Scholarship, and the Sir Julian Corbett Prize in Modern Naval History. These awards provide excellent opportunities for publication and funding. IHR bursaries (IHR Friends, Alwyn Ruddock, David Bates) – apply until 7 July to receive up to £500 to assist with your research. Competition details on our website: www.history.ac.uk/fellowships/awards or contact Vanessa Rockel, fellowships officer, at Vanessa.Rockel@sas.ac.uk.

**Junior research fellows’ colloquia 2015**
The current junior research fellows have organized an excellent programme of colloquia for 2015, with the support of the IHR. Topics include: empty spaces; gender in war captivity; history of the body; religious identities and material landscapes in early modern Europe; water in Anglo-Saxon England; crime, identity and economics; and ententes cordiales? Methodology in French history from France, Britain and beyond. The IHR takes great pride in supporting this initiative, from which the institute also benefits. Details of these events can be found at www.history.ac.uk/events or by contacting Vanessa Rockel, Fellowships Officer, at Vanessa.Rockel@sas.ac.uk.

**Annual fellows lecture**
IHR senior research fellow Catherine Merridale will be delivering the annual fellows lecture at the IHR on 6 July 2015. Catherine is an award-winning writer and historian. Her most recent book is Red Fortress: The Secret Heart of Russia’s History (Penguin Books, May 2014).

**Senior research fellows**
Dr Roger Knight, Professor Catherine Merridale, and Peter Salt have been appointed as senior research fellows at the IHR, and are already making welcome contributions to the life of the Institute.

**Go-Betweens for Hitler**, by IHR senior research fellow Karina Urbach
In L.P. Hartley’s novel The Go-Between, a 12-year old boy is used by two lovers as a go-between. The affair ends tragically for all parties, overshadowing the boy’s later life. Yet go-betweens exist not only in novels. They are also used by statesmen. The aim is to circumvent official channels, as IHR senior research fellow Karina Urbach shows in her forthcoming book Go-Betweens for Hitler. She uncovers clandestine back-channels from the First World War to 1940 and demonstrates that go-betweens were used through the first half of the last century for secret missions by Emperors, democratically elected politicians and dictators like Hitler. Targeting Britain, Hitler deployed aristocratic go-betweens to bring about an Anglo-German alliance and to solve several political crises of the 1930s. Urbach points out that go-betweens exist to this day: ‘they are certainly back in fashion. Surveillance of all kinds of communications – phones, texts, emails – has nowadays become omnipresent. Not to be recorded has become a luxury. This makes direct personal contact vital. If one wants to avoid being recorded, one needs a ‘harmless’ looking private individual who is discreet, has good contacts, and a good memory in order to discuss policies face to face. This gives go-betweens a new role to play. They are the safest option for politicians in the 21st century. Despite all the demands for more transparency, go-betweens will always be with us.’

Go-Betweens for Hitler will be published by Oxford University Press in July.

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

Lawrence Goldman, IHR director

The refurbished and redesigned IHR was officially reopened by the Chancellor of the University of London, the Princess Royal, on 14 October 2014. Met by the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Sir Adrian Smith, and the Dean of the School of Advanced Study, Professor Roger Kain, her Royal Highness was taken on a tour of the new library, seminar rooms and conference facilities by the past and present IHR directors, respectively Miles Taylor and Lawrence Goldman. The librarians had set out some of the most interesting items from our collections, including a map used in the Anglo-American negotiations in the 1830s over the Canadian–Maine border, which was eventually settled, short of war, in 1842 by the Webster-Ashburton Treaty.

In the new Weston Common Room, the Chancellor met groups of people drawn from the IHR’s different constituencies: staff, students, Friends of the IHR, research fellows, and a selection of the designers, architects, builders and contractors who had reinvented the Institute during the three years in which it was decamped in the South Block of Senate House. A shared interest in history and the lessons that we can take from it was a common thread running through several discussions. The new building was admired and commended by everyone.

The Princess Royal then unveiled a plaque commemorating the reopening which we will place in one of several prominent positions in the IHR – but the debate on exactly where, like any good historical controversy, is not concluded.

Refurbishment

Vanessa Rockel, fellowships officer

Ninian Adair has been involved with the Senate House building since the beginning of refurbishment in 2003, overseen by architecture firm Building Design Partnership Limited (BDP). The intensity with which Ninian speaks about the architecture and infrastructure of Senate House is not unique; as a building it tends to inspire strong reactions. Ninian, however, has an intimacy with the intricacies of the place, and an insight into the careful formulation of its construction by the original architect, Charles Holden.

Having been based in various locations in Bloomsbury since 1921, the Institute of Historical Research moved into the North Block of Senate House in 1947. Senate House had experienced a long process of construction, interrupted by the war, but its appearance was unified by the exacting and passionate design of Charles Holden. An art deco icon from the outside, the building conceals an intricate ventilation and wiring system, hidden within window panels and under floors, trailing out through a network of tunnels under the ground. Holden famously oversaw not only the cutting-edge nervous system of the building but also its aesthetic. His supervision extended to the style of chairs, doors, and desks, the woodwork of which echoes the shape of the building’s exterior. All of these elements of Holden’s work contribute to the historic significance of Senate House – even the Bakelite thermostats are listed. ‘This was one of the first all-electric buildings in London,’ Ninian explains, ‘so we keep those fittings whenever we can.’

‘Having had the privilege of taking it to bits and looking under the strange spaces you learn to understand how very well designed Senate House is, how deliberate it all is and yet it’s very rational and very modern for that time. And there’s a respect for individual artists and for using individuals to create elements of the building.’
IHR refurbishment and reopening

Ninian and his team began their work in the South Block of Senate House. Their task was initially to rewire it, but the project expanded. "When you do something as radical as rewiring it is an opportunity to completely fix the building and strip away a lot of the additions that had been added in a piecemeal way" over the course of decades. Plastic trunking had been added as more wiring was put in, divisions had been made in rooms, and false ceilings installed. Ninian and the team brought in by BDP began to peel back the layers that had been added to the interior over the years. 'It was like going back in time, different stages of technology, changing demands."

'From a heritage point of view we could return it all back, so we tried to conceal every bit of cabling, data, because originally in the building nothing was visible, all services were concealed within floor voids and up the window chases. That's how Holden designed it, so it's a really wonderful building in terms of the integration of engineering. That meant that we could return the interiors to more or less what they were in the 1930s, because the university had looked after the fabric of the building really well.'

Work on the North Block, the home of the IHR, began some years later, and the whole process was repeated. In order to recreate the original look of Senate House all of the exposed wiring and outlets and other facilities had to be concealed within the walls, windows and floors. The floor was taken up to run cables in from the windows to power outlets. "In Holden's time there would be just plugs in the wall and trailing cords - of course no computers, so less need for outlets." Beneath the carpets of the IHR there was a surprise. In South Block, there had been timber floors, with built-in panels that could be lifted to allow access to cabling and to add more cables. The team expected to find the same structure in North Block, but they encountered 'a massively new technical challenge'. The IHR doesn't have floorboards, it's solid concrete. This would not work for us as we had to make room for data and floor boxes.' The team had to cut large access panels in the concrete floor. Beneath the concrete was brickwork, and bricklayers were brought in to repair the floor in the traditional way where it was damaged during this renovation. There is now a 'whole mesh of services under the floor' - electric cables, data cables, fire alarm wiring. But these new panels provide easy access, which will facilitate the rewiring in years to come.

'You do have that in the back of your mind - that Holden made such a good job of the original and you want to keep that standard.'

The Library

Apart from major structural restoration, the refurbishment aimed to create and recreate key spaces within the Institute. Central to these was the Library.

The structure of the Library rooms had been altered less than other parts of the Institute. Metal and timber shelving remained from the 1940s. There were, however, special challenges to be confronted. 'Over the years the IHR had drifted into some of the other areas of the building,' beyond the territory of the IHR, explains Ninian. With the refurbishment of the North Block the IHR had to pull back into the area it had originally occupied. Library aisles were narrowed, rolling shelves were added, and the perimeter shelving was put in nine shelves high. As it happened, the original 1940s shelving in the IHR's Library had also been nine shelves high.

New shelving was based on Holden's original designs, using metal shelving inserted into timber paneling. Light oak was used where walnut had been. A visit to the Courtauld Institute Library provided inspiration to the architects, with its 'pockets where readers could congregate as well as little areas where readers were on their own.' Based on this, the refurbished IHR library includes mixed, solitary, casual, and congregating spaces.

The Library walls are painted a vivid red. In renovating the South Block, Ninian explains, 'we had been very respectful of the heritage of Holden's time, where the colours were quite subdued, and so we thought we'd tone it up a bit for the IHR, [be] a little bit more ambitious with the colours.' This was, in part, an homage to the post-war period in which this part of the building was decorated.
Wolfson Conference Suite and the Common Room

The creation of the Wolfson conference suite involved a transformation of the whole lower ground floor. Partitions were removed to create a space to accommodate up to 175 people. The suite features a retractable wall that can be used to create two conference theatres of different sizes (with separate capacities of 135 and 40). In the wide corridor leading to the Wolfson suite is an exhibition space. The aim was to ‘show more of the IHR endeavours in displays, not only books but photographs and possibly objects.’

A substantial amount of acoustic baffling was needed in the Wolfson suite, the Common Room and the research training room. The opportunity was taken to turn these into a design feature. ‘They were visually based on a motif from the canopies of the entrance to Senate House, taking the idea and enlarging it, making abstract shapes and colour schemes that related to the spaces we were working in.’ In the conference suite, Ninian’s colleague, BPD interior designer Meeta Mistry, was inspired by book spines she had seen in the Library, golds and browns, gold leaf, linen red. Panels in these colours line the walls of the conference suite, reflecting the twisting pattern of the original brass motif. Similar panels are found in the Common Room but here the colour scheme was deliberately lightened, so that ‘when you come to the Common Room it’s a bit different from anywhere else so you get a break.’ This is where researchers sit to read with a coffee, share lunch from the café with friends, or hold informal meetings with colleagues. There is an especially notable acoustic – and decorative – panel behind the lecterns in the conference suite. Building on the motif used in the other panels, this is ‘three-dimensional and we have abstracted the shapes even more. It has an acoustic function but also it would be awful if a speaker who was not using the projection screen was standing in front of a blank wall. So we had to do something that was not so outstanding visually that the person would be lost but we wanted to manipulate the space visually and also link it to the abstraction pattern we had used elsewhere. It’s sort of old and new at the same time.’

Research training room

The new research training room was designed to accommodate the IHR’s focus on using cutting-edge digital technology for research. The room has 14 computers, a smartboard, and other impressive features. ‘Senate House is wonderfully designed to be naturally ventilated’ but, because of the heat of the machines, and the number of people the room would hold, mechanical ventilation had to be introduced, hidden under a lowered ceiling.

When asked what aspect of the project he feels happiest about, Ninian says: ‘To be honest I think it was the client, the fact that it was a single institute with fairly strong, firm ideas, a sort of unified vision, prompt briefing and responses. That was very useful and also they would thank you and be congratulatory about what you had done and I think they did really understand what we were trying to do.’ He adds: ‘The privilege is there that you’ve almost understood everything about the building. That’s what’s invisible to everyone – how much engineering there is in the building. BPD were lucky in that we are multi-disciplinary and have a team that understands everything. I’m very glad that we were able to do it.’

Some years ago Ninian viewed a series of film clips taken during the original construction of the IHR. ‘You could see all these people who had done all this work, in their overalls, and the bricklayers had jackets and shirts and caps and the decorators had their own outfit. They all had a sort of uniform but not a uniform. And all these people, working the scaffolding and steam-powered cranes – when you’re working on the building yourself you think “somebody did that, somebody put that there, that brick.” And it’s beautifully built.’

Images: © Sanna Fisher-Payne/BDP.
Creating a sustainable digital academic project is more difficult than it might seem. It requires building a permanent structure in environments that are traditionally impermanent: that of the web and that of academic funding. Paradoxically, the way to build this permanent structure is to allow it to be fluid and changeable. A digital project must adapt to evolving technologies, changing personnel, increasingly high user expectations and changing funding agendas. While a project should remain at its core focused on the objectives with which it was founded, it should also expand and consider new methods of meeting those objectives and going beyond them.

Almost 12 years ago, the IHR launched the pilot version of British History Online (BHO). BHO is a digital library of primary and secondary sources for the history of Britain and Ireland. The pilot was an exploration of the opportunities created by allowing digital access to a large corpus of materials from British history and making these discrete sources cross-searchable. From the very beginning, the project aimed to change the way researchers approached historical materials by offering something that was qualitatively different than what was available in libraries and archives across the world. Building on the existing strengths of the IHR, and starting off with materials from three research centres associated with the Institute – Victoria County History, Centre for Metropolitan History and History of Parliament – BHO was designed to bring together academic, library and technical expertise from across the Institute. The initial decision to create a project that was not just the work of a single researcher but of the Institute as a whole set the stage for BHO to be sustainable in the long term.

From this strong foundation, BHO has grown into one of the most important digital resources of British history. With over 1,200 volumes and 1.2 million page views a month, the site has grown exponentially since those early days. BHO’s success has not been without its share of failed experiments. As a project team, we have learned to walk the line between trying new things and recognising when something is not working the way it should. We have also learned that sometimes an overall strategy needs to be re-evaluated. Throughout BHO’s history, we have responded to users by introducing new features as the need for them arose. While this was partially successful, by last year, it was apparent that the needs of the users had outstripped the architecture of the site. Having evolved on a somewhat ad hoc basis, BHO was starting to lose its cohesiveness. New technologies had surpassed the technological structure behind the site. We recognised the importance of re-evaluating our strategy of adding to the site gradually; it was time to strip the site down to its essentials and build it back up. Throughout this year-long process, we tried to maintain a balance between addressing the expectations of current users, and building an environment that would allow us to address the needs of future users.

The rebuilt website – version 5.0 – which was launched in December of 2014, features two main points of access into the materials. The catalogue allows users to see BHO’s entire collection. Organised by series or by single volume where appropriate, the catalogue reveals BHO’s holdings quickly and clearly. Users wishing to only look at a particular source type, place, subject or period, can narrow down their focus by selecting from those categories to the right of the catalogue. The second point of access to the materials is through the search feature. The user can search by keyword, title or a combination of the two. They can narrow down their results by the same parameters used in the catalogue, although now they can combine multiple layers of facets to achieve a highly specialised set of results.

Overall, the new website has been designed with future improvements and enhancements in mind. It has been built to respond to technical innovations, to user requests, and to engage with other digital projects in a productive way. In short, the website has been designed to be changeable. We are already exploring some of the directions in which we can go next. Throughout the coming year, we will be adding new content. Some of this content will be digitised from print; some will be born-digital, which means that we are acquiring the material in its original digital form. We are also excited to experiment with adding texts from the Early English Books Online Text Creation Partnership, which has recently made...
the first set of their materials available through Creative Commons. We will also be reintroducing the annotations feature from the old site. While the former annotations feature was only moderately used, we hope to design a new feature that encourages productive user engagement.

BHO is able to undertake projects like its redesign and building new tools due to its funding model, which aims for self-sufficiency. Traditional funding models are designed for relatively short-term projects with clear end dates. Unlike a monograph, a digital project is never truly finished and even if no new content is being added, it requires constant maintenance. BHO was fortunate to receive funding from the Andrew W Mellon Foundation and the Arts and Humanities Research Council, but we aimed to create a not-for-profit project that was self-sustainable. In 2004, we introduced unobtrusive advertising, which does not disrupt the user, but allows the project to rely on a steady monthly income. While most of our content is freely available, we decided to make 20% of it premium content, with subscriptions available to individuals and institutions. These two strategies, along with some other smaller sources of revenue, have allowed BHO to not only become mostly self-sustainable, but to grow and expand.

The world of into which BHO was launched in 2003 is very different from the one in which version 5.0 was built. For any digital project to be successful in the long term, its team has to be willing to adapt to a rapidly-changing environment. BHO’s success has been due to its willingness to embrace and move beyond its failures, to its commitment to always improving user experience, and to the support of the IHR, which has allowed it to survive everything from staff changes to difficult funding environments. In 2015, the project is both old and new; the eagerness to experiment and grow remains as fervent as it was twelve years ago.

BHO’s website when it first launched in 2003; BHO as it appeared prior to the December 2014 relaunch; version 5.0 of BHO, with cleaner design and improved navigation. Image courtesy of the Internet Archive. Image courtesy of the Internet Archive.
Fashion is a serious matter. That fact is now widely recognized by historians and a plethora of interdisciplinary scholars. In recent years, many turned from the cultural study of the body to investigate the body’s ‘social skin’ as Terence Turner calls it. Clothing and bodily adornment are, in his words, ‘the medium most directly and concretely concerned with the construction of the individual as social actor or cultural “subject”’.1 The current scholarly vogue for the study of material culture is another catalyst, a tangible way to unpack the complex underpinnings of collective aesthetic judgements. These interdisciplinary alliances are generating a wealth of findings.

Officials in many latitudes policed fashion, constructing a material calculus of those permitted to display luxuries, rarities or stylish things. Silk was especially contentious and its use was widely legislated in Japan, China and Islamic empires, as well as in early modern European city-states, nations and colonies.2 Thus, a skein of silk ribbon might harbour many meanings. Perhaps its width reflects local regulations – legislators in all parts of Europe attempted to limit silk consumption through sumptuary edicts. Sumptuary laws failed to quash aspirational consumption, however. So officials in some regions next tried to limit the width of silk ribbons that could be worn by commoners, for example. Ribbons allowed rapid inexpensive change in the look of shoes or clothing, for men and women, through new trim or bows that shimmered or glowed. The simple red ribbon tie in Figure 1 shows off the luxurious brocaded silk in the body of the shoe, a striking accessory for a genteel European woman. Ribbons were also crucial to popular fashion, outside the elites, an affordable indulgence and a staple of pedlars’ packs, as recalled by a 16th-century English playwright.

Needles, thread, thimbles, shears and all such knacks,
Where lovers be, no such things lack;
Sipers, swathbands, ribbons, and sleeve laces,
Girdles, knives, purses and pincasses.3

Commercial folk and city-dwellers were among the most difficult to control, as they saw and aspired to own new and modish goods. Silk was more generally available in Asia, in a vast range of qualities. In Tokugawa Japan (1603–1868) legislators also set material boundaries, demarcating social hierarchies. Thus, townsmen and women were forbidden all but ‘ordinary’ silks and other fabrics were wholly proscribed, such as ‘dapple-tie-dye’ cloth or fabrics showing ‘unusual weaving and dyeing’.4 Yet, despite innumerable regulations and recurring punishments, fashions spread through face-to-face encounters among Japanese city folk, spurred on by the influence of the ‘floating world’. These were the centres of licensed prostitution in the major cities of Edo (Tokyo), Osaka and Kyoto, as well as the sites of theatres, shops and teahouses, a dynamic cultural milieu whose impact spread widely. The sale of prints depicting city life flourished in this era, carrying evidence of ‘floating world’ styles to provincial towns, where viewers analysed the look of popular actors, sumo wrestlers and famous courtesans. All were dressed in the latest modes. The courtesan Hinazuru of the Choiji-ya (Figure 2) displays the élan of this sorority. Their sophistication is demonstrated in extravagantly layered robes, of many fabrics and patterns. Styles advanced through the social classes with the use of cheaper substitutes for silk, like Indian cottons – or facsimiles of these cottons, locally made. Layered cotton robes allowed the deft juxtaposition of patterns and colours, visible at the hem with every stride, signalling an engagement with fashion regardless of rank and rules.

Past and Future

Fashion forward: global vistas, c.1600–1800

Printed and patterned cottons became the rage among world communities. With cottons and ribbons, commoners could then style themselves as they wished, as they could afford, sometimes subverting intended social controls. Cotton's role in global consumption has been intensely studied. Major corporations invested in this trade from the 1500s onwards, following European oceanic contact with India. The Portuguese Carreira da India, the English East India Company and the Dutch Vereenigde Oostindische Compagnie (VOC) were powerful commercial forces in this trade. Subsequently, slave trading companies carried human cargo from Africa to power cotton plantations in the Caribbean and the Americas from the 17th century. These plantations flourished, providing raw cotton for European manufacturers who hoped to match the quality of Indian goods, and capture their markets. Importantly, fashion was of deep concern to elites of slave-based plantation societies.

Clothing could define or redefine one's racial or social standing in colonial precincts. At the same time, persistent self-fashioning was one of the hallmarks of African diaspora communities, who showed a subtly subversive defiance that shaped fashions in the Caribbean and elsewhere as styles evolved.

Beth Fowkes Tobin remarks on 'the plantocrats' obsession with the topic of slaves' clothing.' Officials repeatedly issued regulations on slaves' apparel, as well as the clothing of free women of colour. The tignon law was introduced in 1788 under Spanish rule in Louisiana, forbidding women of colour (slave or free) from wearing silk clothing and feathers or jewels in their hair. This law also required that women of African origin cover their hair with a head cloth or tignon. Similar laws were passed in French Caribbean colonies. But this intended symbol of subservience was subverted by generations of black and mulatto women into a striking claim for originality, authority and beauty. Women of African origin (slave and free) were prominent in the seamstress trade and knowledgeable in the uses of fabric, with traditions carried from African cultures. Faced with the tignon decree, women of colour devised inventive uses for patterned cloth and handkerchiefs, as resources allowed, creating a signature style. These fashions are displayed in Figures 3 and 4. In the first image a West Indian flower girl sells her wares to free women of colour. Ethnographic painters, like Augustino Brunias, the author of these works, recorded in detail the dress of Caribbean residents in the 1780s. Inventive and defiant, the tignon denied legislators the cultural intent of their law. Women of African ancestry retained control of their dress. Figures 3 and 4 also demonstrate the material complexity of Caribbean fashions: Indian handkerchiefs, striped cotton and muslin (or facsimiles from Europe), plus ribbons and braid, were all products of a globalized trade. These materials of fashion reflect the unique aesthetics devised within colonial settings, amidst a persistent maze of racialised restrictions.

Residency on these islands was likewise a feature of globalising forces. Brunias captured the ways cloth and clothing shaped public presentations of gender, race and rank. Sophie White observes that the movement of goods and the movement of people in this era were 'codependent.' This observation is exemplified in the market scene of Figure 4. These involuntary migrants claimed the rights of self-fashioning...
whenever opportunity allowed, within the limits of local constraints. The practice of fashion involved the broadest mix of peoples, both those approved for this cultural form and those claiming their rights without leave.

The historical study of fashion sheds light on individual and collective invention. It reveals as well aesthetic creations among commoners and slaves, across cultures and across rank, plus the varied politics of dress. The tignon next inspired the ‘turban’ headwear in late 18th-century Europe, a look suddenly fashionable among Parisian and London elites, as the material culture of the Caribbean arrived in these metropoles. The history of fashion illuminates regimes of power and the creativity unleashed across global landscapes.11

Notes
9 Fowkes Tobin, Picturing Imperial Power, pp.139–73.
Recent and upcoming events

Diary: recent events
Lawrence Goldman, IHR director

The IHR prides itself on the range and diversity of its events, covering many different periods and regions, and reaching out to different constituencies as well. In that spirit the academic year started in fine style with the first of the newly-endowed Eisenberg Lectures on Public History. This was given by Robert Darnton, Librarian at Harvard University and previously in the History Department at Princeton. Professor Darnton is known as the expert of the history of the French Enlightenment, especially the history of intellectual life and ‘the book’ in 18th-century France. His lecture, introduced by Professor Quentin Skinner of Cambridge and now at QMUL, surveyed the book trade in provincial France, opening a window on the state and nature of French intellectual life in the generation before the French Revolution.

This was followed in late October by a major conference on ‘Utopian Universities’ - those new British universities of the 1960s of which the most famous were Sussex, Kent, the University of East Anglia, Warwick, York, Lancaster and Essex. It was organised by Professor Miles Taylor, my predecessor as director, and Jill Pellew, one of the IHR’s Trustees who has enjoyed a distinguished career in university administration and fund-raising. In their style, their buildings, their students, their innovative curricula and the energy they imparted to the university system, the new universities seem to have summed up an important aspect of the 1960s in Britain. The conference began with an engaging session of nostalgia among those ‘who were there’, whether as students or youthful lecturers, which was led by the sociologist and broadcaster, Laurie Taylor. Sessions on the architecture, syllabuses, students and the civic engagement of the new universities followed, all of them liberally sprinkled with striking images of the new campuses. We talked of inter-disciplinarity, structuralism and existentialism – the buzz-words of that age; of student radicalism and protest; of buildings that have stood the test of time, and those concrete and glass projections that have long since been demolished. The conference examined a distinctive moment in British academic life which was itself part of a distinctive emergence out of the ‘post-war’ era and into a new liberal and individualistic age. It wasn’t only the Beatles who changed Britain in 1963.

A month later the new Wolfson Lecture Theatre was packed out for a 10-year anniversary celebration of the publication in 2004 of the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography, the compilation of more than 55,000 biographical essays on more than 60,000 people who have made their mark on national history over the past two millennia. Dame Hermione Lee, President of Wolfson College, Oxford, led the discussion, posing questions to three successive editors: Professor Sir Brian Harrison, who brought the Oxford DNB to publication; Professor Lawrence Goldman, who was its editor between 2004 and 2014; and Professor Sir David Cannadine, who is now the editor and who is also a previous director of the IHR. Discussion ranged widely across the history of the Dictionary (which goes back to the 1880s), its purpose and impact, its online technology, and the editors’ favourite lives within it. As the ODNB is ongoing – notable people continue to die, unfortunately – it was agreed to come back in 10 years’ time and review the progress of this national pantheon.

The annual Creighton Lecture followed, named after the late-Victorian churchman and historian Mandel Creighton, and given this year by Sir Richard Evans, the President of Wolfson College, Cambridge and until recently Regius Professor of History there. It was on almost the very reverse of utopia: the history of 20th-century genocides. Sir Richard is an expert on the history of the Third Reich and well-placed to consider this subject, therefore. He ranged widely across continents – Europe, the Middle East and Asia predominantly – comparing, counting and condemning, though this was less about moral outrage than careful historical analysis.
In the discussion afterwards there were interesting exchanges on the definition of genocide, a difficult term to apply with any consistency.

If we might have expected the subsequent Holocaust Memorial Lecture on 28 January 2015, arranged in association with Birkbeck College, to continue this theme, we were wrong. Given by Professor Atina Grossman of the Cooper Union in New York – a venerable college where Abraham Lincoln gave one of the most important speeches in American History in 1860 – it largely concerned not those who perished in the Holocaust of the 1940s, but something close to a quarter of a million Jews who survived by going East and South into the central Asian provinces of the Soviet Union and then on to places like Tehran, Baghdad and Bokhara, which all had well-established Jewish communities. The lecture was a manifesto for an ongoing research project, a call to study and investigate this remarkable migration of those who survived.

Three other events of note are also worth recording. The first was an 'early-career' conference on the history of North America up to 1830, which drew doctoral and post-doctoral researchers to hear papers at the genuine cutting edge on politics, slavery and the American environment. It was arranged to celebrate the opening of our new North American Collections Room, containing resources for the history of the United States and Canada. Among other contributors, Kathryn Olivarius spoke about her project on the health of white planters and their families in Louisiana at the start of the 19th century, reminding the group of the inherent dangers in being a western pioneer. Dr Nicholas Cole from Oxford also demonstrated a new online project to build a complete record of everything said and done in and around the famous Federal Convention in Philadelphia in 1787 where the American Constitution – and hence the American Union itself – was hammered together. The event, co-sponsored by the Spanish embassy in London, and attended by the Spanish Ambassador, featured papers by British and Spanish historians, some of them on the general cultural interactions between the two nations in the 16th century. It was also an occasion to recall the enormous contribution to the study of the Tudor era made by scholars who taught, or studied, or held seminars at the IHR, among them the IHR's founder, A. F. Pollard; his pupil, Sir John Neale; and Neale's pupil, Sir Geoffrey Elton. A previous Director, A. G. Dickens, author of the standard work on the Reformation read by the previous generation, was also recalled.

On the 6 May, Bismarck came to London. Most people think that Bismarck is a battleship the British sunk in the Second World War. But the Iron Chancellor Otto von Bismarck (1815–98) was a key figure in German history – and a man of great contrasts. A prolific writer, a cunning politician and a man who unified Germany after three wars, he fascinates historians to this day. On 1 April 2015 Bismarck celebrated his bicentenary. To share this event with its European friends the Bismarck Foundation is organised an exhibition, of his life and works at the IHR. The exhibition was opened by Professor Lawrence Goldman, IHR senior research fellow Dr Karina Urbach and Dr Ulf Morgenstern from the Bismarck Foundation. This was followed by a lecture from the Bismarck biographer Professor Jonathan Steinberg (University of Pennsylvania). The event was attended by the German Ambassador and the exhibition is due to move on to St. Andrews, Paris and St. Petersburg.

Upcoming events
Gemma Dormer, IHR events & marketing officer

Bismarck came to London. In a major collaboration with the Victoria and Albert Museum, the IHR is taking ‘Fashion’ as the theme for its annual conference in summer 2015. Across the world, fashion brings together museums, graduate teaching programmes, learned societies and the fashion profession.
around a common set of interests and concerns. Our plenary speakers include Chris Breward (Edinburgh College of Art), Beverly Lemire (University of Alberta), Ulinka Rublack (Cambridge University), Maria Hayward (University of Southampton), Valerie Steele (The Museum, Fashion Institute of Technology, New York) and Lucy Worsley (Historic Royal Palaces). The two-day conference will include a publishers’ book fair, over 30 panel sessions, an exhibition in the IHR and half a day at the Victoria and Albert Museum (including plenary lectures and a museum curator panel session). For more information visit anglo-american.history.ac.uk or email IHR.Events@sas.ac.uk

History: new to teaching one-day workshop
7 September 2015, IHR

Students are invited to attend this one-day workshop to develop their understanding of innovations in teaching and learning, curriculum design, assessment and feedback, quality assurance, teaching seminar groups, preparing them for the academic job market. Speakers include Catherine Armstrong (Loughborough University), Melodee Beals (Sheffield Hallam University), Marcus Collins (Loughborough University), Peter D’Sena (University of East London/IHR) and Jamie Wood (University of Lincoln). The event is free to attend but registration is necessary: historynewtoteaching.eventbrite.co.uk.

Teaching history in higher education
8–9 September 2015, IHR

A recent analysis of ‘history teaching at its best’ in universities (Booth, 2014) has presented us with a clear picture of the issues we face as historians and an indication of some of the ways in which our discipline can engage, in broad terms, with the scholarship of teaching and learning. There are many challenges. How can we best enhance and support both the student and staff experience using research-informed teaching? How can we use pedagogic research, theory and innovations in order to engage learners, at all levels? How can we make sense of and manage change in higher education without sacrificing academic quality and identity? How do we support students through critical transition points and intellectual thresholds? In addressing these questions and others, this conference will explore theory and practices in teaching, learning and assessment in critical areas such as public history education; the use of digital and other new technologies; the relationship between school and university history; pedagogic theory; practice and the student experience; ethical dimensions and the teaching of ‘controversial’ subjects; learning outside the classroom; employability and work-based learning; policy, policymakers and strategy. OFSTED’s National Lead for History, Dr Mike Maddison has been confirmed as a keynote speaker. Registration for this conference is now open: teachinghistoryinhighereducation.eventbrite.co.uk
Web archives as big data

Peter Webster, British Library

The UK Web Archive is provided by the British Library in partnership with the National Library of Wales, JISC and The Wellcome Library. Websites appear, disappear, and alter over time, reflecting shifting contents, architecture and aesthetics. The UK Web Archive aims to preserve the historical contents of the World Wide Web, and to make those contents optimally searchable, providing permanent online access to key UK websites for future generations. As well as providing unique opportunities for research, web archives present a singular range of challenges to their users. To read more about the UK Web Archive, please see Dr Jane Winters’ article ‘Web archives as a source for historical research’ in the autumn/winter 2014 issue (Issue 16) of Past and Future.

In December 2014 the Big UK Domain Data for the Arts and Humanities project held an excellent two day conference on the theme of web archives as big data. A good part of the day was taken up with short presentations from eight of our bursary holders, reflecting both on the substantive research findings they have achieved, and also on the experience of using the SHINE interface and on web archives as source material in general. In early 2015 these results will appear on the project blog as a series of reports, one from each bursary holder. So, rather than attempt to summarise each presentation in turn, this article reflects on some common methodological themes that emerged during the course of the day.

Perhaps the single most prominent note of the whole day was of the sheer size of the archive. ‘Too much data!’ was a common cry heard during the project, and with good reason, since there are few other archives in common use with data of this magnitude, at least amongst those used by humanists. In an archive with more than 2 billion resources recorded in the index, the researchers found that queries needed to be a great deal more specific than most users are accustomed to; and that even the slightest ambiguity in the choice of search terms in particular led very quickly to results sets containing many thousands of results. Gareth Millward also drew attention to the difficulties in interpreting patterns in the incidence of any but the most specific search terms across time across the whole dataset, since almost any search term a user can imagine may have more than one meaning in an archive of the whole UK web.

One common strategy to come to terms with the size of the archive was to ‘think small’: to explore some very big data by means of a series of small case studies, which could then be articulated together. Harry Raffal, for example, focussed on a succession of captures of a small set of key pages in the Ministry of Defence’s web estate; Helen Taylor on a close reading of the evolution of the content and structure of certain key poetry sites as they changed over time. This approach had much in common with that of Saskia Huc-Hepher on the habitus of the London French community as reflected in a number of key blogs. Rowan Aust also read important things from the presence and absence of content in the BBC’s web estate in the wake of the Jimmy Savile scandal.

An encouraging aspect of the presentations was the methodological holism on display, with this particular dataset being used in conjunction with other web archives, notably the Internet Archive. In the case of Marta Musso’s work on the evolution of the corporate web space, this data was but one part of a broader enquiry employing questionnaire and other evidence in order to create a rounded picture.

One particular and key difference between the interface developed as part of the project, SHINE, and other familiar services is that search results in SHINE are not prioritised by any algorithmic intervention, but are presented in the archival order. This brought into focus one of the recurrent questions in the project: in the context of superabundant data, how attached is the typical user to a search service that (as it were) second-guesses what it was that the user really wanted to ask, and presents results in that order? If such a service is what is required, then how transparent must the operation of the algorithm be in order to be trusted? Richard Deswarte powerfully drew attention to how fundamental has been the effect of Google on user expectations of the interfaces they use. Somewhat surprisingly (at least for me), more than one of the speakers was prepared to accept results without such machine prioritisation: indeed, in some senses it was preferable to be able to utilise what Saskia Huc-Hepher described as the ‘objective power of arbitrariness’. If a query produced more results than could be inspected individually, then both Saskia and Rona Cran were more comfortable with making their own decisions about taking smaller samples from those results than relying on a closed algorithm to make that selection. In a manner strikingly akin to the functionality of the physical library, such arbitrariness also led on occasion to a creative serendipitous juxtaposition of resources: a kind of collage in the web archive.
Jane Winters, new professor of digital history

Interviewed by Vanessa Rockel, fellowships officer

Professor Jane Winters, head of publications, has been appointed to a personal chair in digital history at the IHR, School of Advanced Study.

Jane did not set out to work in such a prominent and defined way within the digital humanities. ‘I did a PhD in medieval history at King’s College London and came to the Institute in October 1996 as a publications assistant,’ she explains. ‘In 1999 the IHR’s nascent digital activity was merged with its publications activity and a new publications department was created that covered both. From that point onwards it’s just been learning as I go along and working with a fantastic team of people here with a wonderful range of skills. I still do work on medieval projects but I also get to work on early 21st-century material. The thing that joins them all together is the way of thinking about the data and that’s something that medievalists tend to be quite good at, I think.’

But what are the digital humanities?

‘It is a very vexed question and people who work in it spend an awful lot of time talking about what it is that they do.’ Jane’s definition is reassuringly straightforward: ‘applying digital tools and methods to humanities research and coming up with new and interesting ways of doing things as a result.’

Jane works on a diverse range of digital humanities projects at the Institute. British History Online is a ‘fantastic digital library of core primary printed sources for the study of the history of Britain and it is a part of the research landscape in that area now.’ The Bibliography of British and Irish History, a collaboration with the Royal Historical Society, contains over half a million records, and is ‘the single best point of entry for a literature review on British History.’ A collaboration with Sheffield and Hertfordshire, Connected Histories brings together 25 major resources, allowing users to search from a single access point. ‘Collaboration is a theme of digital research - you do end up working with fantastic people across lots of different institutions and disciplines. I really enjoy that collaborative interdisciplinary work as well; I think it’s one of the real strengths of the digital humanities.’

In recent years there has been an increasing focus on Big Data; digital material sets so vast and complex that they are extremely difficult to search or organize. Digital humanities research makes use of digital tools to approach humanities questions, but also uses humanities tools to look at the digital world, and to manage overwhelming data. ‘Without the humanities background you don’t know which questions to ask and without the digital side of things you don’t have the ability to answer them.’ Jane is involved with three major projects in this area.

‘For Big UK Domain Data for the Arts and Humanities we work with a wonderful team at the British Library and the Oxford Internet Institute to look at how we are going to deal with this vast quantity of data that’s been collected since 1996, and how as historians we can get anything meaningful from it.’ Digging into Linked Parliamentary Data looks at 200 years of Parliamentary proceedings in the UK, Canada and the Netherlands, investigating the language of the records. ‘Working with computational linguists in Toronto and a team in the University of Amsterdam we have learnt a huge amount from their approach to the data. One research question is, for example: how often do women get interrupted in debates in parliament, is it more than men?’

Traces Through Time, led by The National Archives, explores how to securely identify individuals across multiple data sets, establishing that the John Smith listed here is likely the same as the John Smith listed somewhere else, by analysing other people and places they are mentioned alongside, date of birth, etc. ‘You obviously can’t take the researcher out of that, you still have to make a subjective assumption at some point but it can help to focus research.’

There are many different ways to engage with digital history, and the degree to which researchers get involved is highly individual. ‘Everybody in a way is a digital historian because we all work with digital tools whether we think of them in those terms or not. Don’t feel that you suddenly have to start hand-coding a website if that’s not what especially interests you. Use what’s available, use what helps, use what you enjoy using but don’t feel that you have to be a digital scholar entirely; just carry on doing the sort of research that you want to do, make best use of the tools that are out there and don’t be scared to experiment.’ Jane enjoys the very exciting time for digital activity in the School. She was delighted when her post came about but we also have a new digital humanities professor starting in the central School. The Institute and the School are very well-placed to start to lead the way in a lot of these areas. I think we are going to have a good few years of really interesting digital research going on in Senate House.’

Past and Future
Early American history at the IHR

Benjamin Bankhurst, post-doctoral fellow of North American history

In celebration of the opening of the North American Collections Room, this article will explore some of the highlights in the Library’s rich holdings of American material from the colonial and revolutionary periods. The Library’s collection of state historical society archival series is among the largest and most comprehensive in the UK and includes over 800 volumes of published documents held in regional archives. Here we will take a look at the range of New England resources found in our colonial holdings. Readers who follow the IHR Library blog will know that we have also made a number of exciting discoveries in the stacks over recent months including two dozen volumes that once belonged to Albert Gallatin (1761–1849). Swiss-born Gallatin was an important ally of Thomas Jefferson during first decades of the early republic. He held a number of political offices over the course of his career including Secretary of the Treasury, Congressman for Pennsylvania and US ambassador to France and Great Britain.

New England archival series

The archival records for the colony of Massachusetts are the largest and most diverse of the historical society publications in the IHR collection. These volumes include an array of sources ranging from government material and congregational church records to 17th-century Election Day sermons and sources material relating to the Salem Witch Trials. The Massachusetts Historical Society publishes volumes devoted to individual manuscript collections in their holdings including The Papers of Robert Treat Paine, 3 vols. (Boston, 1992–2005) and The Belcher Papers, 2 vols. (Boston, 1893–94). Robert Treat Paine (1731–1814) was a leading patriot during the revolution and the first attorney general of the state of Massachusetts. Jonathan Belcher (1681–1757) served as the governor of New Hampshire, Massachusetts and New Jersey. His support was instrumental in the founding of the Presbyterian seminary in New Jersey (later Princeton University). Other volumes published by the MHS include:

- Diary of Samuel Sewall: 1674–1729, 3 vols. (Boston, 1878–82). Sewell (1652–1730) was a judge and printer in Massachusetts and is best known for the role he played in the Salem Witch Trials, during which he served as a magistrate. His diary recounts some of the events that occurred during the trials.

Though not affiliated with a particular archive, the Colonial Society of Massachusetts has, over the course of a century, published 80 volumes of sources relevant to the history of colonial New England. Individual volumes focus on one collection, person or theme including:

- The Pynchon Papers, edited with an introduction by Carl Bridenbaugh, 2 vols. (Boston [Charlottesville, Va.], 1982–5), includes the letters and account books of John Pynchon (1624–1702), a major trader in the Connecticut River valley in the early days of European settlement.
- The Correspondence of Thomas Hutchinson, John W. Tyler, and Elizabeth Dubrulle, (Boston, 2014–). The correspondence of the last British Governor of Massachusetts.

Albert Gallatin in the IHR Library:

The IHR library holds many items containing provenance suggesting that they were owned by Albert Gallatin. The majority of these items are presentation copies of pamphlets and books bearing manuscript inscriptions and messages directed to Gallatin. We discovered his signature on the front flyleaf of the 2nd volume of a 1793 edition of The Laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The Laws was printed in Philadelphia while Gallatin was serving his short term in the Senate as a representative for Pennsylvania.

Gallatin maintained a vast network of contacts throughout his career. One such contact was William Lyon Mackenzie (1795–1861). Mackenzie was a colourful figure in 19th-century Canadian history. Over the course of his heavily mythologized career he was a firebrand journalist, radical politician, rebel and exile. He is best remembered for leading the failed Upper Canada Rebellion (1837–8). Early in his political career he had been an advocate for Canadian currency reform. He wrote to Albert Gallatin – who had been involved in the establishment of the Second Bank of the United States – on this topic in 1830. He sent Gallatin a pamphlet which has ended up in the IHR library. The pamphlet is entitled A Report of the Select Committee on the State of the Currency (York [Toronto], 1830) and bears the inscription: ‘To the Honourable Albert Gallatin, New York. York, Upper Canada, June 26, 1830. With W.L. Mackenzie’s Compliments.’

In the Library blog will know that we have also discovered some new Gallatin manuscripts. We came across a number of items which once belonged to Gallatin in the 1850s. Some of these items are presentation copies of pamphlets which Gallatin owned, including a copy of A Report of the Select Committee on the State of the Currency. One such contact was William Lyon Mackenzie (1795–1861). Mackenzie was a colourful figure in 19th-century Canadian history. Over the course of his heavily mythologized career he was a firebrand journalist, radical politician, rebel and exile. He is best remembered for leading the failed Upper Canada Rebellion (1837–8). Early in his political career he had been an advocate for Canadian currency reform. He wrote to Albert Gallatin – who had been involved in the establishment of the Second Bank of the United States – on this topic in 1830. He sent Gallatin a pamphlet which has ended up in the IHR library. The pamphlet is entitled A Report of the Select Committee on the State of the Currency (York [Toronto], 1830) and bears the inscription: ‘To the Honourable Albert Gallatin, New York. York, Upper Canada, June 26, 1830. With W.L. Mackenzie’s Compliments.’

Reassessing the history of women composers at the Proms

Erica Siegel, junior research fellow

With a new season of the Proms set to begin in July, and with its official schedule of concerts announced publically in April, critics, commentators, and listeners will doubtless scrutinize its programme with keen interest, especially as regards issues of diversity. In 2005, composer Jennifer Fowler gained significant public attention when her article ‘Where are the Women?’ generated heated debate in the press over the imbalance of women composers at the Proms. This polemic represented a continuation of an annual survey Fowler began for the organization Women in Music in 1989. Her survey recorded the number of women musicians, conductors, and composers featured at each year’s Proms. In the first year of the survey, only one work by a woman composer was included and since then, with the exception of 2012 which featured 14, the number of women composers whose works are featured in the annual programmes have remained abysmally low, averaging just under four and a half between 1989 and 2014.1

By comparing these contemporary statistics to those for the first 50 years of the Proms, between 1895 and 1944, a striking statistic is revealed: the average number in the earlier period was nine women per year.2 The post-war period saw a shift away from vocal music towards the cultivation of orchestral music, leading to a decline of ballads among the festival’s programmes. As women composers had been primarily represented via the ballad genre prior to the 1930s, this accounts in part for the decline in the number of women composers presented at the Proms.3 The total exclusion of women composers in the following 1945 season was emblematic of another absence that season, however: Henry Wood, the festival’s long-time conductor, had died shortly after the beginning of the 1944 season.

Throughout his participation in the Proms, Wood frequently cultivated the music of women composers, writing to inquire if these composers had new scores that he could include among the new orchestral works, or ‘novelties’, introduced each season. Wood additionally made a concerted effort to program more extended works by composers who had previously only had their songs featured. Over the course of his tenure at the helm of the Proms, Wood conducted numerous orchestral scores by composers such as Ethel Barns, Cécile Chaminade, Amy Elsie Horrocks, Dorothy Howell, Elizabeth Maconchy, Ethel Smyth, and Germaine Tailleferre.

Beyond these performances at the Proms, however, Wood also encouraged women composers to conduct their own works at the Proms. As he wrote to Howell in 1924, ‘as you know, I have wanted you for some years past to direct one of your compositions with the Queen’s Hall Orchestra. Could I not persuade you just to join the conductors’ class at the RAM [Royal Academy of Music] for it would take up very little of your time, and you would get the necessary experience…So far, we have no ladies in the conductors’ class at the RAM which I think is a great pity’.4 Though Howell declined Wood’s offer, Susan Spahn-Dunk conducted all of her own works at the Proms. Ethel Smyth, who would become a favourite with Proms audiences, was generally acclaimed as an energetic and effective conductor of her own music.

As Wood’s influence over programming began to wane in the 1930s, the number of women composers featured each season diminished as well.5 In 1933, Smyth reflected in Female Pipings in Eden, ‘as things are to-day it is absolutely impossible in this country for a woman composer to get and to keep her head above water; to go on from strength to strength, and develop such powers as she may possess’.6 Despite their increase in size, today’s Proms still feature far fewer women composers than they did under the leadership of Henry Wood, and as works by women composers continue to be overlooked and marginalised, Smyth’s words remain just as relevant today as they did over 80 years ago.

Notes
2. This data was compiled by examining programmes available online through the Proms Archive: www.bbc.co.uk/proms/archive.
5. See Jacobs, p. 249.
Development news

Library

The Institute is now looking ahead to its centenary in 2021, and to mark this occasion we are beginning a new phase of fundraising activity focusing on our academic activities. Since we have improved our capital assets, it seems only right that we should now improve everything else we have to offer.

As mentioned in the ‘Library news’, a Library Conservation Fund has been established thanks to donations from the Mercers’ Company, the Friends and the American Friends. One of the more unique aspects of the IHR Library is that the majority of the collections are on open access, but this results in significant wear to the physical fabric of the books. The initial grant from the Mercers’ Company allowed us to restore over 60 folio volumes, and we hope the fund will help us to preserve more of the collection for the future.

If you are interested in supporting the fund, £50–£70 pays for basic rebinding and £160–£200 will restore a historic binding.

At the same time, we are looking for funding to sustain our new North American Collections Room, which for the first time brings together all of the Institute’s relevant holdings in one place, while also expanding the overall footprint of the Library.

Additionally, we would like to endow a post-doctoral fellowship in North American history. This position is currently held by Dr Benjamin Bankhurst, who was appointed to lead on developing the academic profile of these holdings. Further information about the collections can be found at www.history.ac.uk/library/collections.

Fellowships

The IHR has reached the end of its ten year programme with the Andrew W Mellon Foundation, supporting North American junior research fellows. Over the course of the programme, the IHR has hosted five or six fellows each year, and we are immensely grateful to the Mellon Foundation for their support of this important initiative.

Generally, there is very little designated funding available for North American graduate students in the humanities who wish to base themselves in London, and so we hope we may be able to continue this highly successful programme with support from a new partner.

In addition, we are seeking funding for a number of specific fellowships, including a new postdoctoral research fellowship in Jewish history, broadly encompassing language, art, theology and philosophy, as well as the history of the Jewish people. There are few comparable programmes of study in the UK, namely at the University of Southampton Parkes Institute for the Study of Jewish/non-Jewish Relations and at the Oxford Centre for Hebrew and Jewish Studies. The programme has received an initial, challenge, grant of one year’s funding from the Polonsky Foundation. We are now seeking funding for a second year in order to unlock this pledge.
**Annual Fund 2015**

We have just launched the 2015 Annual Fund, and this year funds raised will help to support bursaries for Master’s students, grants for junior research fellows to put on conferences at the IHR as well as to attend conferences elsewhere, and special purchases for the Library. The Annual Fund is an indispensable part of the Institute’s budget, providing much-needed unrestricted funding which allows us to direct funding to different areas that most need it, year after year. If you would like to support the Annual Fund, please contact the Development Office and ask to speak to Michelle Waterman (ihr.development@sas.ac.uk / 020 7862 8764).

**Support the VCH**

The Victoria County History is the largest – and longest running – publishing venture in English historical research. It is a great exercise in public history *avant la lettre* – to make the history of every place accessible to those who live there, or who are merely curious, in a rigorous but accessible fashion. Currently active in around 20 counties, it has suffered badly from the withering away of local authority funding and is now very largely a voluntary movement.

We are seeking support for a whole range of activities. For example, £15,000 pays for a parish history, £200,000 a whole volume of 10 or 12 parishes and £250,000 the history of a small town. Much smaller sums help support volunteer researchers in the counties, who are incrementally advancing the project. We are particularly looking for donations to allow the VCH to restart work on Middlesex and to complete the second and third volumes on Westminster. A smaller opportunity for individual or private sponsorship would be the new publicity booklet that the VCH is working on – please ask us for details – and finally we are seeking funding for a short publicity film explaining what the VCH does and how people can help advance its mission.

**IHR Friends**

The Friends’ AGM in October was well attended, with a number of key areas of business discussed and debated. Friends were also treated to a compelling lecture by Professor Sir David Cannadine entitled ‘Trying to tell truth to power: Reflections on my adventures in Whitehall’, followed by a reception. Professor Nigel Saul will speak on Magna Carta at this year’s AGM in October.
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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Seminar</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>American history</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>5.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Archives and society</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>5.45pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>British history in the 17th century</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
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<tr>
<td>British history in the long 18th century</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
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<tr>
<td>British maritime history</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christian missions in global history</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>5.30pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Collecting &amp; display (100 BC to AD 1700)</td>
<td>Monday</td>
<td>6.00pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Colonial science and its histories</td>
<td>Friday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Comparative histories of Asia</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Conversations and disputations</td>
<td>Friday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Crusades and the Latin East</td>
<td>Monday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Digital history</td>
<td>Tuesday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Disability history</td>
<td>Monday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Earlier middle ages</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Early modern material cultures</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Economic and social history of the pre-modern world, 1500-1800</td>
<td>Friday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Education in the long 18th century</td>
<td>Saturday</td>
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<tr>
<td>European history 1150-1550</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
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<tr>
<td>European history 1500-1800</td>
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<tr>
<td>Film history</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gender and history in the Americas</td>
<td>Monday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Global history</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
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<tr>
<td>History Lab seminar</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
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<tr>
<td>History of education</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
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<tr>
<td>History of gardens and landscapes</td>
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<tr>
<td>History of libraries</td>
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<tr>
<td>History of political ideas</td>
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<td>History of sexuality</td>
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<tr>
<td>Imperial and world history</td>
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<tr>
<td>International history</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jewish history</td>
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<tr>
<td>Late medieval and early modern Italy</td>
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<td>Late medieval seminar</td>
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<tr>
<td>Latin American history</td>
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<tr>
<td>Life-cycles</td>
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<td>Locality &amp; region</td>
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<tr>
<td>London group of historical geographers</td>
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<td>London Society for Medieval Studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>Low Countries history</td>
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<tr>
<td>Marxism in culture</td>
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<td>Media and communications history</td>
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<td>Medieval and Tudor London</td>
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<td>Metropolitan history</td>
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<tr>
<td>Military history</td>
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<tr>
<td>Modern British history</td>
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<td>Modern French history</td>
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<td>Modern German history</td>
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<td>Modern Italian history</td>
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<td>Modern religious history</td>
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<td>Oral history</td>
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<tr>
<td>Parliaments, politics and people</td>
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<td>Philosophy of history</td>
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<td>Psychoanalysis and history</td>
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<td>Public history</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reconfiguring the British: nation, empire, world 1600-1900</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
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<td>Religious history of Britain 1500-1800</td>
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<td>Rethinking modern Europe</td>
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<td>Socialist history</td>
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<tr>
<td>Society, culture and belief 1500-1800</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sport and leisure history</td>
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<tr>
<td>Studies of home</td>
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<td>Tudor &amp; Stuart history</td>
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<td>Voluntary action history</td>
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<tr>
<td>War, society and culture</td>
<td>Wednesday</td>
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<tr>
<td>Women's history</td>
<td>Friday</td>
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One-year seminar sponsorship costs £1,000 which can be covered by one individual, one institution or by a group of supporters:

- Three people paying £28 per month for a year
- Eight people paying £11 per month for a year

Similar arrangements can be made for a five-year sponsorship. For more information, please contact Michelle Waterman in the development office (IHR.Development@sas.ac.uk / 0207 862 8764/8791).
The History Lab seminar (formerly the postgraduate and early career seminar) is run by History Lab, the national network of postgraduate historians operating out of the IHR. The seminar is currently convened by Simon Parsons (Royal Holloway, University of London) and Catherine Beck (University College London), and is held fortnightly throughout the year. It is regularly attended by postgraduate students, UK and visiting academics, and members of the wider public.

Unlike other IHR seminars, our speakers are not limited to any particular historical period or discipline. As long as you are a current postgraduate student in history or other history-related discipline, you can contact our seminar conveners to speak. This year we have heard or will be hearing from speakers on a range of diverse topics, from the Edwardian terrorism of the Suffragettes (Fern Riddell, KCL) to medieval cure-seekers (Claire Trenery, RHUL & Ruth Salter, University of Reading), by way of Thomas Hobbes (Signy Allen, QMUL) and the 1980s miners’ strike (Diarmaid Kelliher, University of Glasgow). We also accept speakers presenting shorter papers, allowing us to hear multiple papers on a similar subject. In December last year we had a session in which the use of Latin inscriptions and works in the 18th century was examined from the perspectives of both England (Caroline Barron, KCL) and Scotland (Alan Montgomery, Birkbeck).

Our attendees too are often as diverse in their research interests as our speakers, and they provide insightful questions after papers, in a way that only those unfamiliar with a topic can do. The seminars welcome speakers of all experiences, be it your first full-length paper or your 50th, and our attendees will often provide invaluable advice for future presentations.

In conjunction with the seminar, History Lab also runs events and workshops throughout the year, focussing on topics useful to the postgraduate student. For the last couple of years the most popular of these events has been the ‘Applying for PhD funding’ workshop, where speakers from the History Lab community give advice and take questions about the different types of funding available to postgraduate historians, at various points of their research. This year has also seen events on unusual PhDs and digital archives.

The History Lab seminar season concludes each year with our annual conference. The aim of the conference each year is to celebrate the work of current UK postgraduates in a conference run by and featuring their peers. The date of the conference this year is Tuesday 2 June, on the theme of ‘Celebrated, commemorated, forgotten’, which was chosen to encourage papers examining aspects of the various important anniversaries celebrated in 2015, including (but not limited to) the 800th anniversary of the sealing of Magna Carta, 600 years since the Battle of Agincourt, the 200th anniversary since the Battle of Waterloo, and a century since the foundation of the Women’s Institute in Britain.

The seminar meets on Thursdays at 5.30pm every two weeks throughout the autumn, spring and summer terms. For details of our current programme please visit www.history.ac.uk/events/seminars/143. If you are interested in presenting a paper, or have any general queries, please contact our seminar conveners at postgraduateearlycareerseminar@gmail.com or ihrhistorylab@gmail.com. For events and conference information visit our webpage www.history.ac.uk/historylab or alternatively find us on Facebook and Twitter (@IHRHistoryLab).
Postgraduate research training courses at the IHR

Each year the IHR runs a wide-ranging and extensive training programme in skills for historical researchers from UK universities. 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 the means of students.

General historical skills

Local history summer school
21–23 July 2015
The Institute of Historical Research is delighted to announce its three-day non-residential summer school in local history, back in 2015 for a fourth time after its extremely successful first three years. This year’s theme is ‘The local history of the twentieth century: possibilities and pitfalls’. The school will introduce you to the most up-to-date methods, sources and successful approaches to the subject through an exciting programme of lectures and workshops. An illustrious team of experts will explore the historical, archaeological, art historical and architectural evidence for British localities. The school is open to all those keen to expand or update their skills in local history research. Fee £180

Explanatory paradigms: an introduction to historical theory
Wednesdays, 29 April–8 July 2015
A critical introduction to current approaches to historical explanation, taught on Wednesday evenings by Professor John Tosh, Dr John Seed and Professor Sally Alexander. Each session will examine a different explanatory approach, such as Marxism, gender analysis or postmodernism, equipping students to form their own judgements on the schools of thought most influential in the modern discipline. Fee £225.

Languages and palaeography

Further medieval and Renaissance Latin
Wednesdays, 29 April–1 July 2015
A third course, carrying on from the first two IHR medieval and Renaissance Latin courses, to round out students’ grasp of the language and allow them to tackle more advanced Latin texts. Fee £250 (or £500 for all three Latin courses).

Information technology courses

Databases for historians I
23–27 June 2015
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. This course is open to postgraduate students, lecturers and all who are interested in using databases in their historical research. The course fee is £225.

Databases for historians II: practical database tools
5–7 August 2015
The aim of this course is to develop the practical skills necessary for constructing and fully exploiting a database for use in historical research. Assuming a basic understanding of the conceptual issues in digitally managing information from historical sources, the course aims to introduce the specific tools and techniques required for improving the utility of the database from the data entry stage, through to the generation and presentation of analysis. The course consists of ‘hands-on’ practical sessions in which students are provided with practical guidance on employing these techniques through the use of Microsoft Access. Familiarity with the basic concepts of database use is required; participants should be confident working with Microsoft Access, and should have some knowledge of working with data tables and simple queries. Fee £200.

Internet sources for historical research
9 June 2015
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, together with advice 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 £100.

Dates for the next academic year will be announced soon

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).
Journals

- Architectural Heritage | eupublishing.com/arch
- Archives of Natural History | eupublishing.com/anh
- Britain and the World | eupublishing.com/brw
- Cultural History | eupublishing.com/cult
- The Innes Review | eupublishing.com/inr
- Journal of Scottish Historical Studies | eupublishing.com/jshs
- Northern Scotland | eupublishing.com/nor
- Psychoanalysis and History | eupublishing.com/pah
- Scottish Archaeological Journal | eupublishing.com/saj
- The Scottish Historical Review | eupublishing.com/shr

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Forthcoming 2015

Alison McHardy
Thomas McCarthy

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Rob Byron
robert.byron@manchester.ac.uk

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