Naked and unashamed
Charles Holden and Senate House

Urban reform and the city railway
Suburban development in Paris and London

Vernacular buildings in a Cotswold town
England’s Past for Everyone’s Burford project
Letter from the Director

I feel a special pride coming to the IHR as its 10th Director and in its 60th year in Senate House. The University of London is where I learned to study and to teach history, and it was at an IHR seminar that I made my debut as a research student. My career has taken me elsewhere – to Harvard, Cambridge and latterly to Southampton and York – but I have always carried with me the knowledge that the University of London is about as close to the centre of things temporal as can be. And as far as our subject is concerned the IHR is the true epicentre. So in returning to London I feel that warm glow of being back amongst so many good colleagues and friends, and also inspired by the challenge of doing my very best for an institution that treated me so well in my formative years.

I am a modern British historian – principally though not exclusively of the Victorian era – although my work has usually been conceived in a comparative international context. In many ways that is how I see the role of the IHR. We are the focal point for research facilitation and scholarship for the British history community, but we do so in collaboration and consultation with our international partners. In my first year as Director I want to ensure that we are delivering what our overlapping user-groups require. So I will be taking the IHR on the road! Out to the colleges within the University of London and within the post-1992 sector in the capital, and then on to the four corners of the UK, with Belfast in November as the first port of call for a series of regional meetings. I want also to develop further the IHR’s international profile. I shall be working very hard with our American Friends to ensure that next July’s 78th Anglo-American conference is one of the best ever. And I will be looking east as well as west, growing our European links via British History Online, Porta Historica and other publications and exchanges, as well as forging meaningful partnerships with Asian and Pacific rim universities as we look to enhance our postgraduate teaching and training as well as the marketing of our rich range of research resources.

Of course, there is much to do closer to home. The IHR, along with the other member institutes of the School of Advanced Study, faces bracing financial times. We are in good shape thanks to the visionary leadership of my two predecessors and the excellent administration of our senior staff. We need to continue doing what we do so well. So we will be driving forward with our fundraising efforts for the Centre for Local History, and for new Chairs in Metropolitan and Financial History, as well as exciting initiatives such as History and Policy. Where possible we will maximise and modernise the unrivalled resources of our Library. However, we must also become as economically efficient as possible, with a coherent overall business plan and research strategy, a sensible policy on space, and a longer term push for endowment support for our core activities. Above all, we must make the IHR a community in spirit as well as in function, and in that way I am looking forward immensely to getting to know all the Friends, Fellows, staff, members, visitors and guests of the IHR, and to the prospect of so much conversation, conviviality and enlightenment.

Miles Taylor
August 2008
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News

‘Explore’ website launched at National History Show

The England’s Past for Everyone ‘Explore’ website was launched to the public at the ‘Who Do You Think You Are?’ national history show at Olympia, London.

The site provides free access to images, transcribed documents, audio files and much more and will appeal to people of all ages and interests, from students and genealogists to those keen to discover more about their local area. Explore is continually updated with new discoveries by our academics and volunteers working on local projects.

England’s Past for Everyone is a Heritage Lottery-funded project run by the Victoria County History at the Institute of Historical Research. www.ExploreEnglandsPast.org.uk

EPE paperback wins prestigious award

EPE paperback, Cornwall and the Cross: Christianity 500–1560, has received a commendation in the ‘Cornwall – non-fiction’ category at the annual Holyer an Gof awards.

Written by Professor Nicholas Orme, and published by Phillimore & Co Ltd, Cornwall and the Cross was launched last year at an event at St Michael’s Mount. The book looks at the history of Christianity in Cornwall, from the end of the Roman Empire and into the Reformation. It also explores the role of the community in this development, from building parish churches to staging religious plays.

The awards took place in Truro in July. Prizes were presented by the Grand Bard of Gorseth Kernow, Vanessa Beeman.

All EPE paperbacks can be purchased from the IHR bookshop at a 10% discount.

Pollard and Neale Prizes awarded

Historical Research is pleased to announce the winners of the Pollard and Neale prizes for 2007–8. There was a very strong field for the Pollard Prize this year resulting in joint winners: Alice Taylor with ‘Historical writing in 12th- and 13th-century Scotland: the Dunfermline compilation’, and Mark Towsey with ‘“Philosophically Playing the Devil”: recovering readers’ responses to David Hume and the Scottish Enlightenment’. The panelists commented that Taylor’s article was ‘an accomplished textual analysis leading to a new understanding of a 13th-century historical compilation, and broadening out into significant conclusions concerning the nature of the Scottish monarchy. A rattling good read’. Towsey offers ‘an original, well-argued and clearly written contribution to our understanding of the Scottish enlightenment and our understanding of Hume in relation to it, using methods and sources not used for this purpose before’.

The Neale prize also produced joint winners. Dunstan C. D. Roberts’s ‘A study of readers’ annotations in the Bishops’ Book’, is ‘an attractive essay, written in a confident and sophisticated style, and addressing an important current debate on how texts were actually read by different readers’. ‘Securing the “Monarchical Republic”’ by Neil Younger examines a crucial moment in the development of the important office of lord-lieutenant, as undeclared war broke out with Spain in June–July 1585.

Images of historians

In November the IHR is due to launch its Making History website, the culmination of a year-long project to bring together material covering the evolution of the discipline and profession of history in the past century and more. One of the strands of the resource will cover individual historians, and we are currently in the process of sourcing images for these pages.

If you have any pictures featuring historians that you would be able to make available to the project then please contact the Project Officer, Danny Millum, at danny.millum@sas.ac.uk or on 020 7862 8812. Once scanned, the images will of course be returned (and digital copies provided if desired), and their provenance will also be clearly acknowledged on the site.

Developments at the RHS bibliography

The Royal Historical Society Bibliography of British and Irish history (www.rhs.ac.uk/bibl/) continues to be updated regularly, in late winter, early summer and autumn. As well as the usual updates to the data, the summer 2008 update included a number of important developments, including an option to search exclusively for material on Scottish history, marking the project’s continuing cooperation with the Scottish Historical Review Trust. Links to the online edition of Who Was Who (www.ukwhoswho.com/public/home.html) were also introduced, along with improvements to the search interface. The Royal Historical Society Bibliography incorporates data from partner projects Irish History Online and London’s Past Online, and enables you to search the details of over 400,000 books and articles on British and Irish history; it includes links to online text and to library catalogues to help you find the items listed. The Bibliography is currently supported by the Arts and Humanities Research Council and is free to use. The latest news about the Bibliography is always online at www.rhs.ac.uk/bibl/docs/news.html.

Comments? Questions? ihrpub@sas.ac.uk
Since the last edition of this magazine the England’s Past for Everyone project has launched two more paperback books in its series of 15. The first, Sunderland and its Origins: Monks to Mariners, is a history of the area from prehistoric times to the establishment of the parish of Sunderland in 1719. Written by Maureen Meikle and Christine Newman, the book was launched by historian Michael Wood at an event held at the National Glass Centre in the city.

The second, Burford: Buildings and People in a Cotswold Town, was launched in June at the privately-owned Great House, in Burford. With a foreword written by Bill Bryson, this book includes a gazetteer of buildings in the town’s main streets, which will be of interest to both locals and visitors alike. Read more about the Burford book and supporting project on p.10.

The Victoria County History is pleased to announce the launch of the Centre for Local History (www.clh.ac.uk). The launch of the Centre is another step towards the eventual funding and appointment of a Chair of Local History and the development of a local history research centre on a par with the existing centres of Metropolitan and Contemporary British History within the IHR.

The centre will support fundraising and research activities including the Locality and Region seminars, research supervision, and the MA in Local and Regional History, which will begin in academic year 2009–10.

The VCH and its Heritage Lottery-funded project, England’s Past for Everyone, will continue to exist as previously. Within the IHR they will sit under the CLH umbrella.

The entire back archive of Historical Research is now available online on the journal’s home pages on the Wiley-Blackwell website. More than 80 years’ worth of content can be searched (free access), and back issues viewed through a subscribing institution or purchased individually. See www3.interscience.wiley.com/journal/117979004/home.

For further information on the journal, including details of forthcoming articles, see the Historical Research pages on the IHR website, www.history.ac.uk/historical/.

Digitisation of Historical Research archive, 1923–present

This new book is the result of a colloquium held at Queen Mary, University of London, in honour of Christopher Brooke’s 80th birthday. Edited by Miri Rubin, it contains chapters by eminent scholars including Giles Constable, Janet Nelson, William Purkis and Caroline Barron, sharing new approaches to the study of medieval religious cultures.

The book will shortly be available from the IHR bookshop, at a cost of £10.00.

New book: European religious cultures

An exhibition of original political cartoons charting the history of the Conservative Party from Benjamin Disraeli, through the likes of Balfour, Baldwin, Churchill, Thatcher and Major, to today’s party leader, David Cameron. Included, for the very first time on display, are original cartoons covering both the party’s election victories and defeats as well as important events in the history of Britain’s most successful political party.

The Political Cartoon Gallery, 32 Store Street, London WC1E 7BS, is open Monday to Friday 9.30am–5.30pm and on Saturdays between 11.30am–5.30pm. Phone Dr Tim Benson on 020 7580 1114 or email him at info@politicalcartoon.co.uk.
In 1931, Charles Henry Holden (1875–1960) was selected to design the new campus for the University of London in Bloomsbury. Holden devoted more time and energy to this scheme than to any other project in his long career, making many personal and professional sacrifices so that he could concentrate on it. More than any other building of his long career, this project encapsulates many of the leitmotifs that run through Holden’s career: it is dominated by a tower, it is built of Portland stone, its exquisite detailing is part of the Arts and Crafts continuum and most importantly it reflects the influence of the American poet Walt Whitman. The Senate House and Library, all that was built of the original grand scheme, is a beautifully detailed and proportioned building that has become the symbolic and physical centre of the University. Yet in spite of this, there has been constant debate over the merits of its aesthetics, its planning, and the constructional system used. The load bearing walls were considered anachronistic to the Georgian character of Bloomsbury and too reminiscent of the architecture of the totalitarian regimes of the 1930s. Holden, however, was unmoved by this criticism. He was extremely proud of his exquisite Senate House and as the planner William Holford wrote in Holden’s obituary, he ‘loved every step of this tower’.

Charles Holden was born in Bolton in 1875, where his early youth was characterised by uncertainty and searching for a direction, particularly after his father lost all his money in a speculative venture when Charles was eight and the death of his mother when he was 15. It was, however, during this period that he discovered the poetry of Walt Whitman, which gave Holden not only a sense of belonging but also an inner strength and spirituality that allowed him to have the courage of his convictions, both social and architectural. This exposure to Walt Whitman was more important than his architectural training and apprenticeship in Manchester.

Charles Holden joined the office of H. Percy Adams in 1899, immediately taking control of design in the office and establishing a reputation with buildings such as the Belgrave Hospital in Kennington, London (1899–1903), the Incorporated Law Society extension (1902–4), and the British Medical Association headquarters building (1906–8), a Whitmanic collaboration with the sculptor Jacob Epstein. It is the Law Society that is probably the most important as it is an antecedent of the University of London. The Law Society was the first of many buildings that Holden would clad in Portland stone, the quintessential London civic building material. When Holden arrived in London at the end of the 19th century it was a black and white city, because the cream coloured Portland stone had been discoloured by pollution, rain, and wind. Façades facing north and east turned shades of black, whereas façades facing the rain-bearing winds from the south or west bleached white. Holden was intrigued by the latter fact, stating, ‘Portland stone is the only stone that washes itself’.

By 1931, when Holden was appointed by the University of London, it was for his exceptional collaboration with Frank Pick and the London Public Transport Board that he was best known. Holden and Pick had redefined the architecture of underground stations, most particularly with the southern extension of the Northern Line to Morden, for which Holden developed a double height, three-leafed folding screen, built of Portland stone. Holden and Pick’s
Modern London’ was epitomised and further reinforced by Piccadilly Station (1928) and 55 Broadway (1925–9), the headquarters and flagship of the Underground Group, which at the time of its completion in 1929 was the tallest building in London and was hailed as the epitome of the modern office building. It was one of Holden’s most successful buildings, and was highly acclaimed at the time for being an outstanding example of appropriate English modernism. It was not only a precursor of the Senate House tower but was probably the most important single reason why Holden was appointed by the University.

The University of London is not a city university in the European sense and until construction began on the Bloomsbury site in 1932, it did not have a campus or even a university precinct and certainly had no distinct identity. What the University proposed was not to centralise all the functions of the University of London, but rather to house the administration and a few of the constituent colleges of the University on the new Bloomsbury campus. After much discussion, the University Court decided not to hold either an open or a two-stage competition, but rather to select their architect from a shortlist. Although Holden was not on the original shortlist, he was one of the final four, together with Sir Giles Gilbert Scott, Percy Scott Worthington and Arnold Dunbar Smith. After visiting a selection of buildings of those on the final shortlist, all the prospective candidates were invited to dinner at the Athenaeum to meet with the selection committee. Holden was the last of the four to meet with the committee, dining with them on 25 March 1931. Although a quiet and unassuming person, Holden was the only one of the finalists who came to dinner armed with three sketches. Drawn in pencil and yellow and blue pencil crayon on foolscap graph paper, they showed quite clearly what Holden intended. The buildings were of a uniform height and not over-burdened with ornament but most importantly the composition was dominated by two towers, a feature which was desired by the University.

Later that month Holden was appointed architect for the new buildings. There was an enormous feeling of celebration in the office and a half-holiday was given to the staff. This was to be Holden’s crowning glory, his magnum opus, his St Paul’s, his New Delhi. Letters of congratulation poured in, and the University was applauded for having appointed a modern architect. In all probability, more than the sketches that Holden had shown at dinner and more than his architectural oeuvre, it was the influence of Frank Pick and the modernity of 55 Broadway that assured Holden the University of London commission. Both vice-chancellor William Beveridge and the principal Edwin Deller respected Pick’s architectural opinion and Deller had visited 55 Broadway and was suitably impressed.

By March 1932, Holden had arrived at what he considered a perfect arrangement; it was essentially one building, a megastructure covering the entire site, almost 1,200 feet long and housing all the departments of the University. Over time the scheme was cut back again and again. and by 1937, any hope of completing a version of a spinal scheme had been quashed. All that was built was the so-called ‘Balanced Scheme’ of the Senate House and Library, and the Institute of Education and the School of Oriental Studies.

Despite the trials that beset his work for the University, Holden did manage to build Senate House, one of London’s most powerful and evocative buildings. It is 92 feet wide and rises 215 feet above Bloomsbury, and as Holden wrote in 1932 it was intended to ‘appear with quiet insistence’, which it most certainly does. This exceptional tower, a monumental stone obelisk of epic proportions, stands naked and unashamed in its Whitmanesque glory. The detailing of the Portland stone was extremely sophisticated, with subtle setbacks employed for optical correction, or simply to provide an accent at an appropriate place.

The care with which the exterior is crafted is carried into the interior, as can be seen by the double volume Ceremonial Hall, and the exceptional Entrance Hall, the public thoroughfare that passes the under tower. Arnold Whittick, one of Holden’s most perceptive admirers, described the Entrance Hall in 1974 as having ‘a feeling of repose combined with a slight sense of mystery that one associates with Greek architecture’.

By the late 1930s, the University of London was beginning to be seen as out of date and had also become associated with the buildings of the emerging totalitarian regimes of Europe. In 1937 already, Holden realised that ideologically he was occupying a difficult middle ground: ‘rather a curious position, not quite in the fashion and not quite out of it; not enough of a traditionalist to please the traditionalists and not enough of a modernist to please the modernists’.

Ironically it was the architect Steen Eiler Rasmussen, a friend and great admirer of Holden’s, who first brought the beauty and plight of the Georgian squares and terraces to the attention of the public, with the publication of his book, London: the Unique City, in 1934. He wrote that ‘The London University is swallowing more and more of the old houses, and this quarter – which the Duke of Bedford laid out for good domestic houses – has taken on quite a different character’, or as Evelyn Waugh (in Put out more Flags) wrote, there was ‘the vast bulk of London University insulting the autumnal sky’. Similarly, Senate House was also the inspiration for George Orwell’s Ministry of Truth in 1984.

Senate House did, however, have some unlikely admirers. The great German modernist architect, Erich Mendelsohn, after seeing Senate House through the trees, wrote to Holden in 1938 that I was very much taken and am convinced that there is no finer building in London’, and further complimented Holden that there ‘is no break in your work’. This recognition of the consistency of an attitude to architecture appealed greatly to Holden who saw architecture as being about the perfection of an idea, and not about style and fashion. In recent years Senate House has developed an almost cult-like following as an icon and symbol of London. This is epitomised by the work of artists such as Richard Walker who has done a series of 100 prints based on the elevation of Senate House and Jane Boyd who has done light projections onto Senate House.

Charles Holden in Bloomsbury

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Urban reform and the city railway

Carlos López Galviz, a PhD student at the IHR, gives us a taste of his research

Towards the second half of the 19th century, the works of the engineer Fl. de Kérizouet in Paris and the solicitor Charles Pearson in London stressed the importance of the relationship between congestion and the overcrowded housing of the central and inner districts of the two cities. They both emphasised the necessity to consolidate the proper means to envision and effectively plan the correspondence between transport and housing. The schemes they promoted contemplated underground railways, but it was their concern for reform that I want to introduce as an important feature in relation to the question of whether and how to take trains underneath the streets of the French and English capitals.

In a series of pamphlets published since the mid 1840s, Kérizouet conceived of a system connecting the city centre, the existing railway termini, the canals, and a model for the city docks devised in line with the examples he found in port cities such as London and Liverpool. His aims included but were not restricted to the rationalisation of the transport of goods and the collection of duties relative to the octroi or the city tax; to differentiate further between goods and passenger traffic; to work out a financial model which would correspond with the interests of a local service and the central place of the capital in the emerging national railway network; and to ascertain the provision of affordable transport and housing for the labouring classes.

The area which could be deemed suitable for habitation, Kérizouet explained, might be extended by establishing a good and reliable transport service within Paris. Patterns of work and residence could thus be affected and planned together by focusing on the implementation of a new means of transport: ‘The increasing extension of the city of Paris will find in this way a sort of compensation in the establishment of a true omnibus, circulating from the centre to the circumference, very cheaply, with a regular speed, and with an unlimited number of places’. The term omnibus referred not to the actual mode of transport but to the frequency of trains, which had to be clearly different from that of the service operated by main line companies. The relationship between the provision of a particular transport service and the sustained growth of the capital was, accordingly, central to Kérizouet’s conception of the city.

The extension of the metropolitan circle (or what he termed rayon habitable) was directly related to the official plans which would be introduced by the new administration of the Second Republic (1848–52). A large housing programme was contemplated in these plans, partly as an attempt to reverse the stagnation of employment and, for the most part, to improve the wretched and dilapidated houses occupied by the labouring classes. Kérizouet believed the measures were insufficient. He even considered them as ‘anti-economic’ and subject to the will of speculators. Rather than focusing on one side of the problem, namely, housing, measures should incorporate a co-ordinated system of transport in order effectively to respond to Parisian needs: ‘A locomotion system that will permit us to imitate the workers’ trains [the term he used was billets de matin] of London railways and that will render accessible to the poor and destitute both the market of the Halles Centrales and the promenades in the forests of Boulogne and Vincennes’. The system, Kérizouet went on to affirm, ‘will be, for the material and moral life of the workers, of a distinct significance [compared with] the extension of the Rue de Rivoli, and will not cost the fifth part of it. The enlargement of roads will not cease to be an age-old and extravagant work [œuvre séculaire et dispendieuse] whose planning and implementation would greatly benefit the property owners of the city centre.

The scope of Kérizouet’s ideas represented in this sense a challenge to the initiative of the official authorities. The plan to open up boulevards and enlarge old roads prevailed however. The conception of a co-ordinated effort to plan new residential districts directly connected to suitable means of transport remained bound to the field of imagined futures or, as one the members of the city council suggested, to the domain of utopias.
According to Charles Pearson, relieving the streets from their obstructions and releasing the working classes from their ‘miserable courts and alleys’ were the two evils the city railway was to help overcome in the English capital. In a pamphlet published in 1852, *City Central Terminus. Address to the Citizens*, Pearson explained the extent to which ‘overcrowding’ and ‘overcramping’ were expressions of one and the same problem. Based on the account of the Officer of Health, John Simon, Pearson described London as ‘revolting to decency, subversive to morality, injurious to health and destructive to life’. Loss of time, trade, health and life were consequences of how ill-defined was the city’s planning, if any, particularly in terms of, first, the provision of adequate housing for the poorer classes in the central and inner districts and, second, the means to travel between home and work. Pearson argued that neither street improvements nor ‘intramural model-lodging houses’ gave proper and sufficient answer to the two evils he outlined in this and other pamphlets. In his view, the enlargement, widening or construction of new thoroughfares was merely a ‘palliative’ which offered no long-term solution to the overcrowding problem. He cited cases such as King William Street and Gresham Street, in the City, as illustration of the insufficiency of these types of measures.

By conceiving of two distinct and interrelated issues, Pearson established a direct connection between the rights over land and urban circulation. In so doing, and in a similar vein to Kérizouet, Pearson discussed metropolitan issues which were not limited to the spatial organisation of open spaces, streets and buildings but which were constitutive parts of the broader issue of reform, social, administrative, legislative and otherwise. One of the transformations Pearson believed his project would help to implement had to do with the legal restrictions upon existing companies. He advocated ‘a land and railway company’, in contrast with the prevailing business model according to which the exploitation of land and the provision of transport services were treated separately. Under the current legislative and institutional practices, railway companies were steered by landowners to buy larger sections than those destined for the construction of their lines, workyards and stations and were, moreover, forced to release any remnant of land by being ‘compelled to sell […] within a stated time after the completion of their works’. Pearson insisted on the adoption of a new set of rules to abolish these restrictions and stimulate investment:

‘On behalf of the citizens of London’, he wrote, ‘I ask for the establishment of a company absolved from this restriction – a company expressly endowed by the legislature with powers (not compulsory powers) to purchase a quantity of land, at such spots as they may think proper to establish stations along the line’. As Pearson himself acknowledged, the creation of such a company was to constitute a precedent concerning ‘new principles in the railroad legislation of [this] country’.

Pearson’s conception of the company was determined by his understanding of the railway both as a means of transport and a means of promoting new residential districts. This understanding placed his plans for a city railway in direct relation to issues of acquiring and administering the land that lines traversed and the potential housing developments which such acquisition and administration could bring. Such a model, Pearson explained, required the availability of sufficient capital for the scale of the undertaking: ‘a domestic line from the northern suburbs to the centre of the City, with cheap, rapid, and frequent trains, combined with the possession of building land in immediate connexion with it, will yield a larger immediate and prospective return than any other railroad undertaking’. It was in line with this rationale that the enlargement of the metropolitan circle, by opening up new areas to the working and poorer classes, constituted an opportunity for private interests putting together housing and railway plans.

Housing and transport were to complement each other, in Pearson’s view, though by current law differentiated and necessarily distinct. He advocated new legislation in the process of conceiving a suitable solution to overcrowded residences and congested streets. Like Kérizouet, Pearson was confronted with financial restrictions, the inertia of the political culture and institutional practices, and the various other elements which were part of the context in which his ideas were received. However articulate and coherent the visions of these two figures seemed to be, the conditions necessary for any implementation determined the way in which their ideas were adopted, modified or abandoned altogether when the stage of executions first began.

The reformers, architects and engineers who formulated the initial plans for a city railway in London and Paris imagined cities where the restrictions of their present could be overcome by the attentive planning of the future. Their vision was not limited to the provision of cheap, efficient and reliable means of transport or to taking trains operated by atmospheric pressure or more efficient steam engines, whether on elevated viaducts or underneath the streets in tunnels. Instead, the numerous projects produced prior to any implementation were reflections of the exercise through which possible cities were imagined. The initial ideas related to underground travelling emerged within a context where discourses of reform and improvement were articulated in order to address the problems and possible solutions identified in the two cities. It was to the scale of these problems and solutions that the initial visions and discourses of a city railway aimed to respond.
Welcome to the Friends

This is the first edition of the new-look Past and Future to be sent directly to the Friends of the IHR. The magazine now replaces both the IHR’s old newsletter, sent to staff and available within the Institute, and the newsletter which was sent to the Friends each year. It aims to appeal to all the IHR’s constituencies: Friends, members, fellows, visitors, students and staff, keeping them informed of the exciting research going on within and around the Institute, together with news of events, publications, training courses and much more. Each issue will contain a dedicated Friends section but we hope that you will find much of interest in the rest of the magazine as well. If you have any suggestions, comments or questions we would be delighted to hear from you.

Living legacy set up in memory of IHR Friend Professor Harold J. Perkin

Recently, Mrs Joan Perkin established a living legacy at the IHR in memory of her late husband, Harold Perkin, a long-standing Friend of the IHR. This annual gift in her husband’s name will live on for years to come for the benefit of the IHR and its programmes. Professor Perkin, who passed away in October 2004, was one of the leading historians involved with the ‘social history revolution’ of the 1960s and 1970s. His best-selling work The Origins of Modern English Society (1969) changed our understanding of the emergence and development of industrial society in England. In addition, as a distinguished social historian, Perkin has been identified as one of 100 notable historians for the IHR’s Making History project.

Harold and Joan, who were married for 56 years, spent several years in the US, primarily at Northwestern University, where Harold was professor of history and Joan taught women’s history. Joan, who is also an accomplished and published historian, described their tenure at Northwestern as ‘a very happy time and a great period in their lives’.

Over the years, the Perkins have been actively involved in supporting the IHR through various giving campaigns. The importance of giving to charities is an idea Joan supports: ‘By donating to charities individuals collectively can create opportunities for others which would not otherwise be possible’.

Friends 2009 AGM

The 2009 annual general meeting of the Friends of the IHR will be held on Wednesday 11 March 2009 at 5.30pm in the Wolfson Room of the IHR. Following the meeting, Professor Joel T Rosenthal, Distinguished Professor Emeritus at State University of New York at Stony Brook, will give the 2009 Friends Lecture on the IHR archives, followed by the party to which all Friends are warmly invited. Guests of Friends are also welcome to join the lecture and party for a small payment to cover refreshments.

Professor Rosenthal, who spent many days during his career at the IHR said, ‘No matter how my interests changed over the years – administrative history, the aristocracy, the universities, bishops, women and families, old age, or even the Pastons of Norfolk – the IHR was always a congenial home-away-from-home...

The IHR stays much the same and serves the same basic purpose for which it was founded. As a social scientist I would say that feelings of personal debt and loyalty to an institution are a strange form of identification and bonding, but they seem to hold their own in a world of t-shirts for the Hard Rock Cafe and Scunthorpe United’.

Contact us:
Friends of the IHR, IHR Development Office, Institute of Historical Research
University of London, Senate House, Malet Street, London WC1E 7HU
Tel: 020 7862 8791 Fax: 020 7862 8752
Email: IHR.development@sas.ac.uk
Web: www.history.ac.uk/friends/

Friends of the IHR contact details

If you need to update your address or email please contact the Development Office with your new details. Likewise, if you know of someone who used to be associated with the IHR who would like to receive the newsletter, become an IHR Friend, or share stories of their experience at the IHR, please get in touch, or ask them to contact us.
Support the Institute of Historical Research

The Institute welcomes donations from Friends who feel able to contribute more than their annual subscription. Your donation to the IHR Trust can make a significant difference and assist the IHR to maintain its reputation as an international research centre. Past gifts have enabled book acquisitions, refurbishment of the periodical room, and the support of research students with bursaries and scholarships. Your gift to the IHR Trust will make a difference and benefit future generations of historians.

There are several ways of giving to support the IHR:

• **Single, one-off gifts**: Your gift will support the ongoing work of the IHR. Cheques should be made out to Institute of Historical Research Trust – British Friends. We also accept credit and debit cards.

• **Regular gifts**: This is a convenient and easy way to give on a regular basis through a monthly, quarterly or annual standing order.

• **Charities Aid Foundation (CAF)**: The IHR Trust (registered charity number 1077592) is registered with the Charities Aid Foundation.

• **Legacy gift**: leaving a bequest to the IHR means that you can continue giving to support the Institute and future scholars. Legacy gifts are tax free. This has an added benefit of reducing overall inheritance tax liability.

For more information contact the IHR Development Office.

Because the IHR Trust is a registered charity (number 1077592) it is eligible for Gift Aid donations. This programme allows UK charities to claim back the basic rate tax from HM Revenue and Customs: the Government pays a supplement of 3p on every £1 donated.

**Legacies**

You are probably aware that Higher Education Institutions in the UK are facing economic changes and challenges with a decrease in government funding. Legacy gifts to the IHR can make an enormous difference to the services that the Institute can offer to both the academic community and the historically-minded public. A legacy will be used in accordance with your wishes and there are many areas where your gift could have a lasting impact on the work of the Institute.

Your solicitor can best advise you how to include the IHR Trust in your Will. However, if you are considering a legacy and wish to direct your gift to a specific purpose, we request that you contact us to discuss your plans in order to ensure that we are able to fulfil your intentions. Any discussion will be in complete confidence.

If you are a UK taxpayer, your donations (over and above the Friends annual subscription) are eligible for Gift Aid. This means that any gift you make to the IHR as a Gift Aid donation is worth more to the IHR.

Benefits to you:

• Your gift is worth more to us without you paying more.
• If you are 65 or older, your gross Gift Aid donations may increase your age related allowances.
• You can include Gift Aid donations on your tax credit application, which means you may be awarded more tax credits.

If you have not filled out an IHR Gift Aid form in the last three years, you can download a form from the IHR Friends webpage at www.history.ac.uk/friends/.

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Students in the IHR common room
Join the Friends of the IHR

Become a Friend of the Institute of Historical Research today to receive the following benefits:

- Unlimited access to the world-renowned library of the IHR plus its outstanding seminar series
- Friends’ discount on all IHR conference registration fees
- 10% discount on all IHR publications
- Two copies of Past and Future mailed to your door each year
- Invitation to the Friends AGM, lecture and party, to be held this year on 3 March 2009

I wish to enrol as a:

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Email: IHR.development@sas.ac.uk

If you are based in the USA, we invite you to join the American Friends of the IHR. For more information please contact Nancy Ellenberger at ellenber@usna.edu.
Vernacular buildings in a Cotswold town: the England’s Past For Everyone Burford project

Simon Townley, Editor of VCH Oxfordshire and EPE Oxfordshire Team Leader, explains more about the project

Across the country, the Victoria County History’s England’s Past For Everyone (EPE) projects are bringing together professional historians and volunteers to explore a wide variety of historical themes and places. One of the most recently completed projects looks at the small Cotswold town of Burford in west Oxfordshire, with a particular emphasis on its origins as a planned medieval town, its topographical development, and its rich and varied stock of vernacular buildings.

Looking at buildings as part of the historical fabric of a place has always been part of the VCH’s holistic approach to local history. EPE, however, offered an opportunity to study the buildings of an important Cotswold wool town in more depth than we could normally hope to do, working with outside professional consultants, with an army of volunteers to help with building recording, and above all with the recently established Oxfordshire Buildings Record, which was started in 2000 with the aim of promoting popular interest in the county’s vernacular buildings. Burford was an obvious candidate. Not only does it lack a traditional VCH volume, but its streets are lined with an intriguing array of stone and timber-framed buildings. Some are medieval, some later, and all bear the mark of constant remodelling. Their significance was recognised by the architectural historian Michael Laithwaite as far back as 1973, in a stimulating and perceptive article which raised a number of key questions.

By 2004 a research plan was in place. The project would look not only at the obvious ‘set pieces’ but at all the buildings along the main streets, combining rigorous documentary research with detailed building investigation. Broader-based research into the town’s history would help set the buildings in context. As part of this a volunteer group was set up to transcribe and help analyse several hundred wills and probate inventories, while another group helped to build up a comprehensive photographic record of the town. Meanwhile, members of the Oxfordshire Buildings Record took part in a series of weekend ‘recording days’ in which small groups investigated

The Mermaid on Burford High Street is typical of the town’s complex building history. Much of the fabric is 17th-century and later, but inside are some medieval cruck timbers, and the doorway (possibly reset) is 14th-century. Its external ‘Tudor’ appearance is largely the result of a 20th-century remodelling.
particular runs of buildings, accumulating a mass of data which could be used by the project’s architectural consultant. A modest dendrochronology programme (supported by EPE funds) complemented the research, providing the first scientific dating evidence for any of Burford’s buildings. The main outcome has been an EPE book published earlier this year, which combines chronological chapters on the town’s history and buildings with a house-by-house historical gazetteer. Additional material is being made available on the EPE’s ‘Explore’ website (www.ExploreEnglandsPast.org.uk).

One of the most exciting results was learning more about the town’s origins and early development

What sort of story has emerged? One of the most exciting results was learning more about the town’s origins and early development. That Burford is a planned medieval town of familiar type is well known, and a charter granted by the Norman lord Robert FitzHamon between 1088 and 1107 helps date its creation. Analysis of the town’s layout and burgage plots, based partly on field measurements taken by the Oxfordshire Buildings Record, has now confirmed this date, showing how the town was enlarged in a series of carefully planned extensions over the next 100 years. What had not been previously recognised is that some plots retain hints of a large ditched enclosure at the town’s northern end, almost certainly the site of the fortified late Saxon burh from which Burford (‘ford at or leading to a burh’) is named. Within this large enclosure stood the church, which seems likely to have originated as a small minster before the Conquest.

But it is the town’s standing buildings which formed the core of the project. During the Middle Ages Burford played a major role in the international wool trade, and some of its high-quality timber and stone houses bear witness to the wealth accumulated in the town. Investigation of so many buildings also allowed some general conclusions regarding materials, construction and layout. It is now clear, for instance, that...
Vernacular buildings in a Cotswold town

rebuilding. By contrast Burford was remodelled rather than rebuilt, its older buildings modernised and refronted or given new, more fashionable windows and doorcases. Coaching generated some modest prosperity, reflected most strikingly in the unique brick front of the Bull Inn, which was clearly designed to attract visitors used to London and Bath fashions. But by the 19th century the town’s fortunes were at their lowest ebb, with many of its back plots turned over to cramped and insanitary cottage yards.

Ironically this very stagnation proved Burford’s saving grace. By the early 20th century it was attracting writers, artists and tourists who saw it as an idyllic backwater, ‘fortunate in having escaped the invasion of the railway’. Many shared Arts and Crafts ideals (May Morris herself lived nearby and was a frequent visitor), and by the 1920s several of Burford’s buildings were receiving Vernacular Revival makeovers. This proved yet another interesting thread within the project as a whole: the extent to which the town’s modern image is in part a recent confection, created by Arts and Crafts ideals, modern planning restrictions, and heritage industry projections of what a medieval Cotswold town ought to look like.

By looking at Burford in this way we have, we hope, not only helped to make sense of one particular town, but provided a wealth of comparative material which can inform similar studies. Beyond that – and this is central to EPE generally – we have tried to create a model which can be developed elsewhere. For our volunteers this has been a stimulating experience, which has developed both their practical skills and their historical awareness. For the VCH, it has provided the opportunity to study key aspects of a small town in considerable detail. Co-ordinating a project of such complexity has not always been easy, but the end results suggest that it has certainly been worthwhile.

Burford: Buildings and People in a Cotswold Town, by Antonia Catchpole, David Clark and Robert Peberdy, is published by Phillimore and is available to buy from the IHR Bookshop.
For 10,000 years cities have shaped the affairs of mankind. Now, more than half of the world’s population is urban, dwelling in settlements that we identify as ‘city’ or ‘town’, some of them so extensive and so complex that they seem to transcend traditional notions of urban organisation and form. While the impact of cities has grown rapidly in recent times, its essential nature has been apparent from the beginning. Cities mark the transition from nomadic to settled society and drive the development of agriculture and ideas of the rural, as well the exploitation of water, minerals and other natural resources. As both organising forces and habitats, cities are at least as important for animals as for humans. They rest on networks of contracts that regulate the exchange of goods and services and the management of risk, yet the instabilities that characterised pre-urban societies remain with us today, and in many new forms. Cities facilitate the aggregation of wealth and power and the emergence of distinctive religions, beliefs, cultural behaviour, social structures and institutions. They evolve laws and governmental systems to deal with the particular problems of urban life, including those arising from disorder and disease. As sites of inquiry and information exchange they promote knowledge and understanding of the wider world.

Within the city, the key public locations are those of the market, popular assembly, power, authority, religion and defence, while the occupation of spaces for work, residence and recreation is exceptionally dense. In meeting these and other needs, cities promote innovation in building and architecture, often so as to fulfil the ambitions of the powerful. City plans and forms can also bear symbolic meaning and express ideas of social, political, economic or cosmological order. Such environments are often oppressive or corrupting, yet many cities also offer the individual a freedom of thought and expression not found elsewhere.

Cities’ relations with subordinate settlements and with other cities, along with their need to control territory and communications, give them a central role in the formation of states and empires, and now in the process of globalisation. At the same time, they absorb and express the characteristics of the regions in which they lie and of more distant places with which they have contact. With migration and trade they become places where languages and cultures co-exist, intermingle or merge.

The conference will deal with cities throughout the world. Proposals are sought for papers or panel sessions on any aspect of city life, form, ideology and culture over this period. Thematic contributions making comparisons over time or across space will be especially welcome, as will those on networks of cities and their role in cultural formation, on the relations between cities, territories and larger political units, on the ideologies and cosmologies of the city and on what distinguishes the city or town from other forms of settlement or ways of life.

Many of these topics are touched on in general writing on cities, but it is remarkable how rarely they are subject to serious historical analysis. This raises questions for our understanding of cities now, when so much of their past as invoked in relation to the present is misunderstood. As so many of us mass together in cities, are we at a turning point in our identity as humans? Or does past experience of cities offer some clues for the future, whether one of hope or of disaster?

If you wish to propose a session (usually consisting of three 20-minute papers and 30 minutes of discussion) or a paper to be included in a session arranged by the organisers, you should provide titles and short synopses for papers, and statements of academic affiliation and of professional status for speakers. For sessions, please provide a title and nominate a chair as well as speakers.

Proposals should be sent to Julie Ackroyd (julie.ackroyd@sas.ac.uk), Institute of Historical Research, University of London, Senate House, Malet Street, London, WC1E 7HU.
Seminars at the IHR

The IHR’s world-renowned programme of seminars continues to go from strength to strength. Seminars meet weekly during term time and all are welcome. An up-to-date programme for each seminar can be found on the IHR’s website at www.history.ac.uk/ihrseminars/ and is also displayed within the IHR.

American history
Thursday, 5.30pm

British history 1815–1945
Thursday, 5.00pm

British history in the 17th century
Thursday, 5.15pm

British history in the long 18th century
Wednesday, 5.15pm

British maritime history
Tuesday, 5.15pm

Collecting & display (100 BC to AD 1700)
Monday, 6.00pm

Contemporary British history
Wednesday, 5.00pm

Crusades and the Latin East
Monday, 5.00pm

Economic and social history of the premodern world, 1500–1800
Friday, 5.15pm

Earlier Middle Ages
Wednesday, 5.30pm

European history 1150–1550
Thursday, 5.30pm

European history 1500–1800
Monday, 5.00pm

Film history
Thursday, 5.30pm

History of education
Thursday, 5.30pm

History of gardens and landscapes
Friday, 5.30pm

History of political ideas
Wednesday, 4.15pm

History of the psyche
Wednesday, 3.15pm

Imperial history
Monday, 5.00pm

International history
Tuesday, 6.00pm

Knowledge and society
Tuesday, 4.00pm

Late medieval and early modern Italy
Thursday, 5.00pm

Late medieval seminar
Friday, 5.30pm

Locality and region
Tuesday, 5.15pm

London Group of Historical Geographers
Tuesday, 5.00pm

London Society for Medieval Studies
Tuesday, 7.00pm

Low Countries
Friday, 5.00pm

Marxism and the interpretation of culture
Friday, 5.30pm

Medieval and Tudor London
Thursday, 5.15pm

Metropolitan history
Wednesday, 5.30pm

Military history
Tuesday, 5.00pm

Modern French history
Monday, 5.30pm

Modern German history
Thursday, 5.30pm

Modern Italian history
Wednesday, 5.30pm

Modern religious history
Wednesday, 5.15pm

Music in Britain
Monday, 5.15pm

Parliaments, representation and society
Tuesday, 5.15pm

Philosophy of history
Thursday, 5.30pm

Postgraduate seminar
Thursday, 5.30pm

Psychoanalysis and history
Wednesday, 5.30pm

Reconfiguring the British: nation, empire, world 1600–1900
Thursday, 5.30pm

Religious history of Britain 1500–1800
Tuesday, 5.00pm

Society, culture and belief 1500–1800
Thursday, 5.30pm

Socialist history
Monday, 5.30pm

Tudor and Stuart
Monday, 5.15pm

Women’s history
Friday, 5.15pm
Archival research skills
Methods and sources for historical research
This long-standing course is an introduction to finding and using primary sources for research in modern British, Irish and colonial history. The course will include visits to The National Archives, the Wellcome Institute and the House of Lords Record Office, among others. Fee £150.

Methods and sources for gender and women's history
23–27 March 2009
An introduction to the sources available in London for the history of women in the early modern and modern periods, by visits to the major national repositories and lectures at the IHR. Archives visited will include the Women's Library, The National Archives, the Parliamentary Archives and a variety of others. Fee £150.

Visual sources for historians
Tuesdays, 10 February–10 March 2009
An introduction to the use of art, photography, film and other visual sources by historians (post-1500). Through lectures, discussion and visits the course will explore films, paintings, photographs, architecture and design as historical sources, as well as provide an introduction to particular items both in situ and held in archives and libraries. Fee £175.

General historical skills
An introduction to oral history
Mondays, 19 January–30 March 2009
This course addresses theoretical and practical issues in oral history through workshop sessions and participants’ own interview work. It deals with the historiographical emergence and uses of oral history, with particular reference to the investigation of voices and stories not always accessible to other historical approaches. Fee £175.

Interviewing for researchers
1 December 2008/4 June 2009
For those who wish to investigate the recent past, collecting the testimony of relevant individuals is a vital resource. This course offers practical information and training on how to interview and how to use interviews for the purposes of research. Fee £55.

Working with maps and geographical information
An introduction for historians, archivists, etc., to working with maps and geographical information defined very broadly: any historical source containing a lot of place-names. Will cover appraising sources and different strategies for developing projects, mainly computer-based but not necessarily using Geographical Information Systems software. Fee £50–100.

Dealing with the media
8 December 2008
Historians are increasingly called upon by print and broadcast media for expert comment and opinion. This course throws open the enormous range of opportunities offered by the mass media’s interest in history and teaches the skills and techniques academics need to make the most of it. Fee £275.

Explanatory paradigms: an introduction to historical theory
Thursdays, 23 April–25 June 2009
A critical introduction to current approaches to historical explanation. The contrasting explanatory frameworks offered by Marxism, psychoanalysis, gender analysis and Paul Ricoeur’s work on narrative form the central discussion points of the course, equipping students to form their own judgements on the schools of thought most influential in the modern discipline. Fee £175.

Languages
An introduction to medieval and Renaissance Latin I
Tuesdays, 14 October–9 December 2008
This 10-week course will provide an introduction to Latin grammar and vocabulary, together with practical experience in translating typical post-classical Latin documents. It is intended for absolute beginners, or for those with a smattering of the language but who wish to acquire more confidence. The course is open to all who are interested in using Latin for their research. Fee £160.

Further medieval and Renaissance Latin
Tuesdays, 13 January 2009–10 March 2009
This course builds upon the basis of Medieval and Renaissance Latin I, deepening and extending understanding of the language. By the end of the course, students should feel confident to tackle most basic Latin historical sources. Fee £160.

Information technology courses
Databases for historians
4–7 November 2008/31 March–3 April 2009
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. Fee £160.

Databases for historians II: practical database tools
15–17 July 2009
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 fee is £140.

Internet sources for historical research
2 December 2008/5 June 2009
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. The fee for the course is £55.

Qualitative data analysis workshop
Researchers in the social sciences and humanities are increasingly using computers to manage, organise and analyse non-numerical data from textual sources. This one-day workshop introduces historians to this rapidly growing field and will furnish participants with a good working grasp of the NVivo 7 software package and its uses for all historical research projects. Fee £100.

For further information and application forms see www.history.ac.uk/training/ or contact Dr Simon Trafford at: Institute of Historical Research, University of London, Senate House, Malet Street, London, WC1E 7HU or by email at ihr.training@sas.ac.uk.
Events diary

All events will take place at the Institute of Historical Research, Senate House, unless otherwise stated. Please check the IHR website for more information and details of other events at the IHR and beyond.

The Victorian empire and Britain’s maritime world: the sea and global history, 1837–1901

October 2008

The IHR is proud to be working in association with the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, to present a series of lectures focusing on the Victorian age and Britain’s interaction with the wider world. The eight-lecture series will take place on Tuesdays and Thursdays throughout October 2008, from 6.15pm to 7.30pm. Each lecture will be followed by a reception.

Registration fee: single lecture £7.50, full series £40.00

Contact: Janet Norton, Research Administrator, National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, London, SE10 9NF. Tel: 020 8312 6716, fax: 020 8312 6592, email: jnorton@nmm.ac.uk.

CMH@20: Metropolitan History – Past, Present, Future

30–31 October 2008, Goodenough College

The CMH’s 20th Anniversary Conference held in honour of Professor Derek Keene. The plenary speakers will be Professor Maarten Prak (Antwerp), Professor Maryanne Kowaleski (New York) and Dr Vanessa Harding (Birkbeck, University of London), with sessions on Cities and Regions, Metropolitan Identities, Commercialisation, Environments, and Governance.

Programme and booking information available at: www.history.ac.uk/cmh/.

Creighton Lecture 2008: The culture of the public: assembly politics and the ‘feudal revolution’

17 November 2008, 6pm, Great Hall, King’s College

Professor Chris Wickham

The lecture will discuss the role of assemblies and other processes of public legitimation in the early middle ages, up to the 12th century, and their relevance to debates about the changes of the early 11th century in western Europe.

Teaching Contemporary History in Schools and Universities

CCBH Joint Conference with the History Subject Centre

7 February 2009

Contact: Virginia Preston, virginia.preston@sas.ac.uk

War Crimes – Retrospectives and Prospects

20–21 February 2009, Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, University of London

CCBH Joint Conference with IALS and SOLON: ‘Identifying war crimes and the perpetrators is a key part of post-conflict resolution’. Details, including the programme and the booking form will be available on the SOLON, IALS and CCBH websites: www.perc.plymouth.ac.uk/solon/, http://ials.sas.ac.uk, http://icbh.ac.uk.
Bolsover is famous for its castle and its colliery, the boldest elements in the rich history of a town that was laid out shortly after the Norman Conquest. Written by Philip Riden and Dudley Fowkes, this fascinating book explores the history of town and parish, and charts the changing fortunes of its communities, from rural origins to post-industrial present.

“This book, which brings the history of Bolsover to life, is an outstanding achievement and will be enjoyed by many far beyond our fascinating patch of England”

Dennis Skinner, MP for Bolsover

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