Past and Future

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Perceptions of South African cities: romanticising slum life?

History in the making: the Institute’s archive gives up its secrets

A fresh start for the Bibliography of British and Irish History

Writing British national history
Letter from the Director

As the summer draws to a close, so too does my first year in post. And what an exciting year it has been. With its full calendar of events, seminars and conferences, listings, visiting scholars and the role it plays in the wider life of the research community across London and around the UK, the IHR lives and breathes history quite unlike anywhere else. Highlights of this past year include a hugely successful visit to Beijing, where I led a delegation of a dozen UK historians and, for only the second time since 1980, there was a meeting with Chinese counterparts, and an opportunity to compare and contrast our different approaches to British history. Early July saw the 78th Anglo-American conference, which with over double the number of registrations from the previous year, a fantastic turnout from publishers, a memorable reception at the Guildhall and an arresting array of papers and plenary lectures, proved that the premier history event of the year is back in business. And around the same time, I was able to join with the President of the Royal Historical Society, to sign a new commercial contract with Brepols, securing the RHS Bibliography for the foreseeable future. However, perhaps the most significant achievement of the last 12 months has been the maintenance of the status quo. In March, the University agreed that the IHR could remain in its current location, absorb the history books from the Senate History Library, and move forward with long-term plans for modernising our space. Here at the IHR we all have ideas about the changes we want, but we are keen to find out what new library and meeting facilities our users, friends and supporters would like to see, so please let us know!

Many of you will have noted the sad death earlier this summer of Christopher Elrington, former General Editor of the Victoria County History and Honorary Fellow of the IHR. I was lucky enough to meet him several times this past year and I share with so many a sense of deep loss of a fine scholar, humane man, and indefatigable servant of one of the finest history publishing projects of our time. A true reminder of the academic erudition so ingrained at the IHR.

At the VCH we said goodbye to Dr Alan Thacker, whose editorial work has been the rock on which much of the VCH success has been built these last few decades. We are also losing from the Centre for Metropolitan History Dr James Moore, who has been seconded to the British University in Cairo. We wish both Alan and James well. And we open our doors to new Fellows. It is a particular pleasure to welcome Duncan Campbell-Smith, Dr Jill Pellew and Dr Karina Urbach as Senior Research Fellows. I am looking forward to welcoming our 25 or so new Junior Research Fellows who join us this autumn, and also to offering hospitality to a series of Visiting Fellows who next year join us from, amongst other places, Portugal, Spain, Brazil, Russia, India, Japan and China.

This coming year will be a time of change in the IHR. I have already mentioned how we shall be starting to reconfigure our Library. Additionally, with the ending of some of our major project awards of recent years (notably from the Leverhulme Trust and the Heritage Lottery Fund), the IHR must now turn its operations more in the direction of supporting the research of others as well as pursuing our own. Backed by the launch of a new IHR Campaign Appeal next spring, we shall be rolling out an ambitious expansion of the services that we offer: research training and guides, events, conference and network support, digital resources and consultancy. The IHR has a special place at the heart of the UK history scene: we must never lose sight of the unique purpose which has earned us that reputation.

Miles Taylor
August 2009
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News

Annotation tool on British History Online

British History Online has introduced an annotation tool for selected volumes which will allow scholars to comment on these texts and share their insights with other researchers. Many of the Calendar of State Papers, for example, were published in the 19th century and naturally take an editorial line informed by their time and place. Web technology offers a new opportunity for scholars to update and enlarge upon these sources, and to cross-reference other relevant material, while leaving the original volumes wholly intact.

A link, ‘Comment on this article’, will allow users to see immediately if a page is available for annotation. Anyone who has registered with BHO (which is free) can comment. However, we have taken steps to ensure that historical standards remain paramount: users must give a primary source for their annotation, and all annotations are moderated by BHO editors before they appear. A further facility enables us to ask the annotator for additional information.

We would like to invite anyone who may have useful annotations to make to volumes on British History Online to submit them, and thus increase the usefulness of the online versions. Please contact Jonathan Blaney with any questions or comments about the annotations: jonathan.blaney@sas.ac.uk.

New content on British History Online

British History Online has been continuing to add new content to the website. In partnership with the History of Parliament Trust, we are supplementing our already strong parliamentary materials with another 20 volumes of the Journal of the House of Lords, which will take the coverage up to 1790. Some of these new volumes are now on the site and we expect to have the rest published by the end of this calendar year.

This autumn we are also planning to publish Rymer’s Foedera along with the Syllabus to the Foedera. To enhance the value of both publications we are going to interleave them, so that the summary in the Syllabus appears alongside the original text. Putting the two together is proving to be something of a challenge, but we are confident that the result will be well worth the effort required. Look out for announcements on BHO through the autumn as new volumes go online.

Our programme of new resources for English local history continues, with the addition of several standard 18th- and 19th-century county histories. These include Robert Surtees on county Durham and Thornton on Nottinghamshire. These, and works on Cumberland, Dorset, Norfolk, Suffolk and south Yorkshire will go live, volume by volume, over the next few months.

Finally we are adding the Parliament Rolls of Medieval England to the premium content section of British History Online. This essential source for parliaments from Edward I to Henry VII will be added at no extra cost to subscribers; the subscription price remains unchanged, and the Calendar of Close Rolls and the Calendar of State Papers, Domestic. www.british-history.ac.uk

Bookshop changes

As a result of office reorganisation there is currently no bookshop within the IHR. However, you can now visit the new School of Advanced Study bookshop (room 265, South Block, Senate House) to browse and purchase all IHR titles, as well as books from other institutes of the School.

For more information please contact Emily Morrell (emily.morrell@sas.ac.uk, 020 7862 8655).

Historical Research 2009–10

As we approach the last issue of 2009, it looks as though the first volume of the relaunched Historical Research journal has been remarkably successful, with the extended page size and length resulting in the publication of 39 articles. The August special issue marking the death of Henry VII, founder of the Tudor dynasty, has proved very popular.

Pollard Prize
This year saw the largest ever field of entries, all of exceptional quality according to the panel of judges. The winning article was “Measuring by the bushel: reweighting the Indian Ocean pepper trade’ by Sebastian Prange. The runner up was Katharina Rietzler with ‘Before the cultural cold wars: American philanthropy and cultural diplomacy in the inter-war years’. Both will appear in Historical Research next year.

Anglo-American Conference
The 78th Anglo-American Conference of Historians on the theme of Cities received enormous interest and the journal will, as usual, be publishing fully referenced versions of the plenary lectures. The four papers, due to appear in 2010, are: ‘Ideas of the metropolis’ by Derek Keene; ‘Cities and peripheries’ by Swati Chattopadhyay; ‘Urban civil society: the impact of colonial rule’ by Lynn Hollen Lees; and ‘Inclusiveness and exclusion: trust networks at the origins of European cities’ by Wim Blockmans.

For a full list of future articles, abstracts of published articles and information about subscribing or submitting to Historical Research, visit our webpages at www.history.ac.uk/historical/.

www.history.ac.uk
EPE latest titles
The Victoria County History has launched two more books in its Heritage Lottery-funded England’s Past for Everyone series (www.
EnglandsPastforEveryone.org.uk).

The first, Exmoor: the Making of an English Upland, was launched at Dulverton Town Hall by the Lord Lieutenant of Somerset, Lady Elizabeth Gass. Written by Mary Sirait, and with a foreword by Sir Ranulph Fiennes, the book looks at the history of the landscape and community, from prehistoric times to the present day, and includes an in-depth look at the origins of Exmoor place names, population and migration and deserted farmsteads.

The second, Ledbury: a Market Town and its Tudor Heritage, was launched at

Local history goes global

‘Has globalisation made local history more, rather than less, relevant?’ and ‘People do not have roots, they have feet’, were just two of the comments from delegates who attended an International Symposium convened by the VCH on 7–8 July 2009. The aim of the symposium was to find out how everyone ‘does’ local history in their particular place, and to look for synergies, common problems, and areas of good practice. Plenary lectures were given by Professor Chris Dyer of Leicester and Dr Carol Kammen of Cornell University, and workshop sessions were devoted to local history in different parts of the world (North America, Europe, the British Isles, South Africa, Australia and Japan). Professor Claire Cross represented the British Association of Local History, and Robert Howard attended on behalf of Local History Magazine. We were able to learn from each other and to think through some key questions.

Perhaps the most obvious conclusion was that local history depends on where you are and who you are. After Chris Dyer had struggled with the problems of finding regions in England, a country with a set of borders that have not been challenged for 1,000 years, Professor Katalin Szende of the Central European University, Hungary, pointed to a quite different challenge – local history in a country which has changed its borders several times in the past century, and has had to handle having part of its indigenous population now living beyond its historic boundaries, as well as various language constraints and the enforced change of historical direction under the Communist regime. Less cataclysmic, but still challenging, was Dr Andrew Edwards’s discussion of the ‘nationalisation’ of Wales, and what this meant in terms of local history. We learnt about the influence of the Roman Catholic Church on Irish local history, and the impact on local history of the role of settler communities, both in undermining existing cultures and imposing their own, in South Africa and Australia.

There was much more in two stimulating days of discussion. Where, indeed, do local historians stand in relation to public history, or to family history? And what is, or should be, the relationship between professional local historians, in the university or the public history sector, and amateurs?

Participants agreed to constitute themselves as an informal ‘International Local History Group’, and to consider meeting again in a couple of years, perhaps this time centring on how national issues impact upon the practice of local history. Readers wanting to read some of the papers, and perhaps to make their own contribution, are referred to the VCH’s wiki page at www.victoriacountyhistory.ac.uk/wiki.

Corrections

We would like to apologise for some errors in the last issue of Past and Future, in the ‘Friends’ memories of the IHR’ feature: King’s College was moved temporarily to Bristol during September 1939, well before the bombings in London, and not as a result of the Blitz. At Bristol, Evelyn Myatt-Price took her examination for her BA Hons degree, not an MA degree; and Miss Myatt-Price’s MA thesis was about Lord Cromwell and his household.
South African cities perceived

Vivian Bickford-Smith explores how we have viewed cities

Existing literature on perceptions of cities, whether it covers their individual characteristics or appropriate urbanity more generally, has focused almost entirely on examples from North America and Europe. The few exceptions include glances at Asian, North African or central American cities in the far distant past, while the odd chapter on non-western cities can be found in edited collections on contemporary ‘modern’ or ‘global’ cities.

This article contains brief extracts from a current research project which switches the spotlight to cities of the global south. It examines how South Africa’s main cities have been perceived – and with what consequences – from the early 20th century to the near present. The impressions of both black and white South Africans are explored, as well as those of visitors, particularly from Britain and North America. These are revealed through city histories, travel writing, occasional forays into futurology, novels, ‘state of the nation’ investigations, films, radio and television programmes, oral histories and ‘theatres of the street’.

The extracts below focus on perceptions of predominantly black residential areas, often referred to as townships or shanty towns. They suggest that in the 1940s many such places, not least because of the international success of Alan Paton’s Cry the Beloved Country (1948), were deemed to be slums and a disgrace to ‘white civilisation’. Yet black South African writers who lived, or had lived, in ‘slums’ often wrote about them in subsequent decades with considerable affection, stressing that cultural creativity existed amidst much misery. And, strange though it may seem, tourists can still visit and judge townships as part of their experience of South African cities.

But let us begin in the past:

The slaughter at Orlando [a Johannesburg township] made perhaps a greater impression on the outside world than any other event of the war …. The description of what followed by the official bulletin and the republican Press differs very greatly from that given by eye-witnesses who were able to cross the border. According to the latter, great numbers of the inhabitants … tried to get out of the town as the flames began to envelop it, and these were mown down by the machine-guns. Horrifying accounts of babies bleeding to death beside the corpses of their mothers, of screams of pain and terror audible in the din of battle, reached the Press of the world.¹

So wrote Arthur Keppel-Jones, a senior lecturer in history at the University of the Witwatersrand, in When Smuts Goes, which envisioned an urban uprising by black South Africans that would engulf Johannesburg and Cape Town in 1972. Eventually South Africa and its cities fall into sharp decline and decay: Johannesburg, officially called Erautini by the beginning of the 21st century, is now but a shabby shadow of the old golden city; Durban has been overcome by plague and malaria. Health conditions in all the cities have been made infinitely worse because of the newly sanctioned influence of witch-doctors and general disparagement of western medical knowledge.

Because When Smuts Goes was part of an intense multi-media debate on South Africa’s prospects in the aftermath of the Second World War, this rare piece of African futurology was significant. The debate was centrally concerned with what was happening, and might yet happen, in South African cities in the aftermath of the war. After all, to paraphrase Raymond Williams, in most industrial societies a common image of the future is an image of cities.²

South African industrialisation had been fuelled by wartime import substitution. This led to a massive increase in African urbanisation, with the number of Africans in towns rising from under 600,000 in 1921 to almost two million in 1946, much of this increase occurring in the war years in the form of migration to the three main cities, Johannesburg, Durban and Cape Town. And if many Africans in towns had hitherto been male migrant labourers in mining or harbour work, it became apparent to many white observers that...

the rise of manufacturing and increased numbers of African women in cities signalled the arrival of a substantial and permanent African urban presence: employment in manufacturing had risen from 143,000 on the eve of the war to 249,000 by 1945.

In white anglophone circles this development formed a significant part of the debate about South Africa’s future. Written and visual contributions had begun before the war in left-liberal academic, church and political circles, as well as in the columns of outsiders like the African-American actor and singer Paul Robeson or the future British diplomat Sir John Maud. But after 1945 such comments escalated and were more often intended to reach a wider audience.

One cause and consequence was that the South African Prime Minister, Field Marshall Jan Smuts, who had been a terminal procrastinator on the so-called ‘Native Question’ (albeit perhaps more excusably so during the war itself), appointed the Fagan Commission in 1946 to investigate appropriate policy responses.

In the meantime, Alan Paton focused on the nature and impact of African urbanisation in his novel Cry the Beloved Country, published in America and Britain in 1948. Both the novel and its more sanitised screen adaptation argued that urbanisation had been forced on Africans because they could no longer survive in the countryside: ‘the soil can no longer keep them any more’. They tell the tale of the Reverend Stephen Kumalo, a humble rural Natal priest, who goes to the great city of Johannesburg to look for his son Absalom. He is helped by Father Msimangu, played on screen by Sidney Poitier, who takes Kumalo, and thereby the reader or viewer, to African areas of Johannesburg.

In the novel, Kumalo is shocked by the ‘shabbiness and dirtiness, and the closeness of the houses, and the filth in its streets’ in Claremont where he finds Gertrude living as a prostitute and neglecting her child. When they reach Alexandra, another township, Msimangu explains that, although it allows African ownership (implicitly a good thing), its streets are not cared for; there are no

lights, and it is an overcrowded hide-out for thieves, prostitutes, robbers, and illicit liquor brewers and sellers. Eventually they look for Absalom in Shanty Town.

At this point Paton breaks up his narrative to offer a seven-page meditation on the origins and nature of this new kind of slum. An account of the death of an African child from what appears to be tuberculosis is notable as are references to Shanty Town being subject to intense scrutiny by the local press. On resuming his narrative, Paton describes children playing in the sunny streets of Shanty Town as well as voices talking about birth and death, school and prison, in fleetingly more positive vein. But his concluding sentence – in typical, sonorous, semi-poetic style – is ominous: ‘But what will they do when it rains, what will they do when it’s winter?’ We finally learn that Absalom has joined a gang and is responsible for murdering Arthur Jarvis, the son of a white farmer living near the Kumalos in Natal, who had been involved in schemes for African upliftment. The obvious message here is that the corollary of African misery is violent crime and white fear.

The historical significance of the book and film has been enormous due to their extensive influence on western anglophone thinking since the 1940s. They were hugely popular. The novel alone sold 15 million copies over the next 40 years. Such success was undoubtedly facilitated by the fact that, contrary to anglophone whites with urban South Africa failed to refer directly or indirectly to Paton. Whether or not they held Paton’s views, writers, film-makers or photographers shared a desire to describe or show, and condemn, the existence of South African slums; and particularly the new, exotic, form of slum, the shanty or pondokky. For instance, ‘In Search of Kumalo’, an entire chapter in Twilight in South Africa (1949), is devoted to the author’s own wanderings through Johannesburg’s shanty towns and similar ‘cesspools’ he had ‘discovered’ outside Port Elizabeth and Durban. Descriptions of slums used similar vocabulary and tropes to those employed in literature about 19th-century British and American slums. This, and the success of Paton’s book, did much to ensure that slumming was integral to any investigative trip to South Africa – indeed, that it became part of the tourist experience.

By drawing attention to and condemning the existence of slums and shanties, books and films had the often unintended consequence of helping politicians justify policies that led to their actual condemnation and destruction. Middle-class writers’ dramatic depictions of slumlands in major cities of the western world have often, whether intentional or not, had this outcome. And for many black inhabitants of such places it was felt, justifiably, that ‘slum clearance’ involved the destruction of community and supportive and enlivening community cultures.
Such feelings, particularly among black elites in freehold townships like Sophiatown, begin to explain the nature of black city literature emanating from Johannesburg, or from exiled black Johannesburgers, in the 1940s and 1950s, by such writers as Peter Abrahams, Bloke Modisane and Ezekiel Mphahlele. These works suggested that there were many creative black urban responses amidst the misery: township jazz, beer brewing, shebeen life, street processions, church parades or, more controversially, gangsterism, for example. Many such responses later became the subject of rich social histories.

Black responses in turn help to explain the mixture of condemnation and celebration of slum life in liberal-left (South African and foreign) white writing and white-produced films in the 1950s. This was a time when the South African National Party government was presiding over the demolition of black freehold townships, notably Sophiatown, and replacing many with ‘whites only’ suburbs. Hence Trevor Huddleston’s Naught for Your Comfort (1956) condemned the existence of slums, and included Sophiatown in this designation, but also deplored the ‘idiocy of uprooting 60,000 people who at least had a roof over their heads’ and described with affection a ‘community’ who had a ‘sense of belonging’ and a gaiety and vitality that compared more than favourably with white suburbs. Anthony Sampson, the British writer who also edited Drum magazine for a time, told BBC radio listeners in 1957 that Sophiatown was ‘gay, squalid, dangerous and intensely human … full of the most wonderful people, of the kind that seem to have dropped out of English life since Dickens’. And the docudrama by American Lionel Rogosin, Come Back Africa (1959), made in collaboration with black Drum journalists and white South African Communist Party members, bore visual and oral testimony to the creative achievements of black South African urbanity amidst the misery. This all suggested that black urbanity was more alive and often had more to offer than its anodyne white counterpart: that Baudelaire, or Walter Benjamin, might have preferred Sophiatown to the white areas of Johannesburg.

Moving to the present: visits to townships and shanties are once again offered to tourists and souvenir material provided to prepare them for the experience. The wide-selling DVD, Cape Town: the Fairest Cape of Them All (2003), is one example. Fairest Cape seemingly captures all major tourist ‘gazes and glances’ (to use John Urry’s terms) of the city and its surrounds found in a range of postcards, brochures or website material. A montage of predictable, safe and picturesque images of sand, slopes, sea, saas, sails, souvenirs and sauvignon blanc takes up most of the DVD, followed by shanties towards the end. A tracking shot of shacks seen through air-conditioned bus windows is inter-cut with one of tourists receiving instructions inside the vehicle. Streets are strangely devoid of people, and indeed tourists appear to outnumber locals (perhaps reassuringly for many viewers). The narrator says:

If you follow the N2 from the airport you will discover another facet of this inviting city. Sprawling informal settlements offer you a glimpse into the heart of Africa where a distinctive African rhythm echoes from open doors and children play contentedly in the streets. Township dwellers are proud to extend their hospitality to outsiders eager to gain insight into this vibrant culture. Bus tours are available to give visitors an intimate African experience.

This combination of ubiquitous modern urban ‘vibrancy’ and (supposedly) ‘authentic’ and ‘unique’ African experience is thereby deployed alongside picturesque topography to give Cape Town a necessarily distinctive element in post-industrial place-selling. Indeed, the sometimes colourfully painted, higgledy-piggledy urban built environment of shanty towns might itself provide picturesque possibilities, as U-Carmen e-Khayelitsha (2005), a feature film set in Cape Town’s largest shanty town, demonstrates. Yet of course not all potential visitors may be convinced that shacks are chic or that even their juvenile inhabitants are content: after all Europeans and Americans who constitute the majority of visitors have probably seen the South African shanty towns of Tsotsi, or their Indian and Brazilian counterparts in Slumdog Millionaire or City of God. But in that case the attraction for those who still visit might be called Dark Tourism: the growing popularity since the last decades of the 20th century of tourist sites that mark ‘disaster and atrocity’ of various kinds. Either way, shanties can be marketed; post-modern place selling strategies can obscure or celebrate disturbing features of cities, past and present.

8. For more on the concept of Dark Tourism, see J. Lennon and M. Foley, Dark Tourism: the Attraction of Death and Disaster (New York: Continuum, 2000).
When I was awarded a semester's research by my department, I was eager to come to London to pursue an intensive programme of research. In particular, I was keen to come to the IHR, where I held my first academic appointment: the Economic History Society Tawney Fellowship, in 1999–2000. As I was based in Glasgow at that time, opportunities for participating in the life of the Institute were, inevitably, limited, and I took little advantage of the wide programme of activities that were on offer.

Nearly a decade later, in 2009, I was delighted to be offered study space in the Centre for Contemporary British History, which has given me a feeling of belonging to the Centre, and to the IHR, of which I am a Visiting Fellow. Historical research can often be a lonely process, and this has been mitigated by an association with other scholars, many of whose work is in areas similar to my own. The programme of research seminars organised at the IHR is unrivalled. I have been a particularly regular attender of the British History 1815–1945 seminar series, and have given a paper at, and attended other meetings of, the History of Education seminar. The new Life Cycles and Voluntary Action History seminars have also been enjoyable, and often touch on my own research interests. I have also taken the opportunity of attending papers in areas unrelated to my research: for a keen darts player, Patrick Chaplin's paper on women and darts in inter-war England, in the Sport and Leisure History series, was a particular delight. I have also enjoyed taking part in events aimed at supporting the development of early-career scholars, notably the IHR Careers Day and events organised by History Lab Plus.

In the decade since I was last associated with the IHR, I have worked on a number of areas of modern British social, cultural and business history. My PhD research – also carried out at Glasgow – resulted in the monograph Social Investigation and Rural England 1870–1914, published in the Royal Historical Society Studies in History new series in 2003. I continue to take an interest in rural history, but my research has taken several different directions since then, most notably into business history: I am completing a study of early British and Irish corporate governance, undertaken jointly with Robin Pearson (University of Hull) and James Taylor (Lancaster University).

My own research now focuses on the history of adult education. While in London I am working on the recently discovered archive of the Educational Centres Association, which was established in 1920 and promoted a model of adult education that has been almost entirely marginalised in the historiography. These are currently in the Institute of Education archives, around the corner from the IHR, in which I have spent a great deal of my time in the past few months. In between intensive archival research, I have presented a paper on the rise and fall of Quaker adult schools, and I am also working on the early history of Outward Bound courses in Britain. In addition, I was the guest editor of a special issue of History of Education, entitled 'Education and Citizenship in Modern Scotland', which will appear in April. Forthcoming articles in the English Historical Review, History of Education and Quaker Studies have resulted from my period as a Visiting Fellow.

Research leave – of which this is my first experience – provides an invaluable opportunity, not only to complete various unfinished projects, but also to move my research in new directions, and to see it in a wider context. The CCBH and IHR have provided an invaluable opportunity to do this, and I am grateful to those who made this possible.

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Sister Maura O’Carroll
For her doctorate, IHR Friend Sister Maura O’Carroll attended Bedford College, the small women’s college previously located near Regent’s Park, from October 1976. Her supervisor, Professor C. H. Lawrence, told her the first thing to do was to get a reader’s ticket at the IHR. Sister O’Carroll remembers: ‘I could never have done my doctorate without the Institute. The IHR was the only place to do the research because so many books were all in one place – you didn’t have to ask to have things retrieved, you could go freely to the shelves … The resource of the Institute library was just wonderful. I don’t think I used my college library more than 10 times; the IHR library had what I needed – the Institute is a special historical library’.

However, as a young student, history was not Sister O’Carroll’s first choice. At A level she wanted to study art and had a disagreement with her headmistress who wanted her to study Latin; however, her real subject was geography. Sister O’Carroll compromised and studied maths, but gained a state scholarship to study geography. After joining the Sisters of Notre Dame she was asked if she would be willing to change from geography to English or history, and chose history. She was accepted for her BA degree at Liverpool where she studied medieval history under Geoffrey Barraclough, Christopher Brooke, Hans Liebeschutz and Alec Myers. She chose the special third year course directed by Hans Liebeschutz: ‘You chose the course you wanted to do, and the supervisor gave you the topic for your research paper’. Sister O’Carroll’s topic was ‘The Franciscans and Dominicans in Oxford during the time of Robert Grosseteste (1235–53)’. Grosseteste, a polymath, was the first Vice-Chancellor of Oxford and later Bishop of Lincoln. Sister O’Carroll’s thesis of 60,000 words prepared her for her PhD, although this only became possible nearly 20 years later. The manuscript MS. Laud 511 was suggested for her study by Dr Daniel Callus OP in 1958. This turned out to be a handbook for preachers and led to many studies on sermons and its use as a tool for catechesis, spreading the message of the gospel. Her PhD was completed in 1983 and later published in 1997 by the Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies in Toronto (PIMS) in the Studies and Texts series.

Although Sister O’Carroll enjoyed the IHR library, her fondest memories are of the Common Room and talking with fellow colleagues. She says ‘you met the most interesting people at tea time’. Catering staff were on hand to make tea in teapots and poured it in cups for readers. Little cakes and scones were also available to purchase. ‘It was a really good ritual at that time – very civilised – a place of great contentment’.

Bridgett Jones
Bridgett Jones has held an IHR reader’s ticket since 1955 when she first came to the IHR as a Birkbeck medieval history PhD student under the supervision of R.R. Darlington. Her thesis, ‘Two archbishops of Canterbury after Thomas Becket’, was supported by her MA dissertation, ‘Religions of Roman Britain’, supervised by Sir Mortimer Wheeler at the Institute of Archaeology in Regent’s Park.

As a student at the IHR, Bridgett most enjoyed the atmosphere of the Common Room where she would go for afternoon study breaks to have tea and read various volumes kept in bookcases along the walls around the room. She particularly enjoyed the political cartoons in the bound volumes of Punch and reading a series of diaries: The Duffers Diary, The Lalage’s Diary or The Diary of Bright Young Things. Bridgett also appreciated the upmarket food served by catering staff and the glasses of wine that were available in the evening. She remembers that twice a year there were ‘nice parties’ in the Common Room with drinks, sandwiches and crisps for the readers.

Apart from the atmosphere of the Common Room, Bridgett most valued the non-lending aspect of the IHR library: ‘That’s the beauty of it’, she explains. The IHR library has been beneficial to Bridgett as a researcher, when she worked on Le Neve’s Fasti Ecclesiae Anglicanae for three years and as a documentary investigator for the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments for 27 years.

Aside from her love of history, Bridgett is a keen cyclist and has raised money for various charities. In 1999, after a bike ride from Cairo to the Red Sea to raise money for Barnardo’s, the then IHR Director David Cannadine laughingly suggested that she organise a similar venture to benefit the IHR Trust Appeal. In 2000, Bridgett launched the ‘James I Pedal Power for History bike ride’ – a more than 800-mile journey from London to Edinburgh and back, which raised more than £2,500 for the IHR Appeal. Throughout her trip, Bridgett would stop by various record offices and historical points of interest. A significant donation towards her fundraising efforts came from the Duke of Northumberland, whose archivist, Colin Shrimpton, was a former IHR student. In his letter of thanks and congratulations for her generous donation to the IHR Appeal, Professor Cannadine wrote: ‘You have brought positive media attention to the Appeal through your great efforts and have raised the profile of the IHR in many localities that we would have not been able to reach ourselves.’
Legacy donations boost the IHR profile

Many of the scholarships and awards the IHR administers have been funded by former readers. John Neale, Conrad Russell, Alwyn Ruddock, Irene Scouloudi, Isobel Thornley and Alan Pearsall have all donated a legacy in their wills to fund IHR scholarships and prizes. The benefactors of these gifts were esteemed historians and the reputation of these awards has increased over the years. Moreover, the availability of these prizes has enabled researchers to undertake valuable research in their selected fields.

Recipients of these prestigious awards have acknowledged the significance of the prizes for their careers. Jan Lemnitzer, the 2009 Pearsall Award winner, said ‘receiving the Pearsall award made an enormous difference to my life, it is a great boost to my ambition of becoming a professional historian and enables me to further pursue a project I am excited about’. Jan feels especially honoured to have received this particular award: ‘British naval and maritime history is an exciting field with a great tradition, exemplified by the scholarship of Alan Pearsall’.

Before receiving the Pearsall Award, Jan attended various IHR seminars and spent many hours in the library which he describes as ‘blessed with comprehensive holdings of what is becoming rare in other university libraries: source collections in English as well as foreign languages, and a wide-ranging selection of history journals you can actually touch’.

Matthew Seligmann, winner of the 2007 Corbett Prize said: ‘As the Julian Corbett Prize is a somewhat iconic award in naval circles, winning it helps establish one’s credentials as a naval historian and ties one to a great name, a fine tradition and a long list of distinguished colleagues’.

IHR Director Professor Miles Taylor says ‘We are enormously appreciative of these legacies. Through their generosity, these benefactors, who have made provision for donations to the IHR in their wills, play an enduring and direct part in the IHR’s continued success as an international home for the best of historical scholarship past, present and future’.

For more information on IHR awards visit www.history.ac.uk/awards/prizes. For information about making a donation to the IHR Trust, contact the Development Office on 020 7862 8791, or email IHR.development@sas.ac.uk.

Triple your gift at no extra cost!

The Institute of Historical Research is participating in two matched funding schemes (one from the UK Government, the other from the Andrew W Mellon Foundation in New York), enabling your gift to be doubled, tripled or very nearly quadrupled! Together with the conventional Gift Aid scheme, these opportunities mean there has never been a better time to make a donation to the IHR.

Next spring we are re-launching our Campaign for History, chaired by Sir David Cannadine. As we head towards the IHR’s centenary in 2021, we are developing a number of priorities:

• modernisation of the IHR Library, a unique open-access research collection
• expansion of our Fellowship Programme, providing Visiting Scholars at all levels with office space and off-site accommodation for stays between three months and two years
• the launch of IHR Digital as we build on the achievements of British History Online to deliver the next generation of ICT resources to the history community worldwide
• enhancement of our events and conference facilities, so that we become the premier venue for the public and academic engagement with the past

These schemes are open to both UK and overseas donors. Eligible gifts include donations made by standing order or cheque. Cheques should be made payable to the University of London, which administers the schemes on our behalf.

Further information from the Development Office on 020 7862 8791, IHR.development@sas.ac.uk.

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*Figure represents an additional 50% of the total in US dollars.

** If you are a higher rate tax payer you can claim tax relief through your tax return of 20% – the difference between the standard rate of income tax (20%) and the higher rate (40%). Although Gift Aid would normally be calculated at 20%, the Government is currently topping up the scheme until 2011, adding an additional 3p on £1. This additional sum does not figure in the tax relief calculation.
Michelle Hampshire gives us an insight into the records held in the archive of the Institute

Last spring I was employed to survey the archive of the Institute of Historical Research, one of the most absorbing archival collections I have been fortunate enough to work with. The Institute’s archives were un-listed and un-catalogued and my remit was to produce a box listing of the collections, suggest an archival structure and make recommendations for the future care of the archive. This article will summarise the collections and highlight some of the more interesting aspects of the records I surveyed.

Overview of the collections

The Institute’s archive room held approximately 1800 boxes, volumes or bundles of material, relating to both the IHR itself and its foundation in 1921. I also discovered numerous records relating to the Victoria County History and a few records relating to other associated institutions.

Some of the volumes and boxes were shelved in some order, but other material was loose in bundles and larger boxes. Although many were labelled, there was no pre-existing list or index to which I could refer, and sometimes the contents did not match the descriptions on the labels. But rather than describe in detail the listing and cataloguing process, I will focus on the content of the records and point out some interesting examples.

A set of gramophone records, newspaper cuttings dating from 1919 and ephemera such as table settings and menus were among the highlights I came across, together with papers, correspondence, loose and printed bound committee minutes, historians’ working papers, conference proceedings and account ledgers. This material generally fell into one of nine main groups, which I suggested should be archived into these series: committee records; correspondence; teaching and research; conferences and events; membership and visitors; publications; other institutions; administrative and financial; and miscellaneous. Each of these areas is reviewed below.

Committee records

Bound typescript minutes, papers and agendas record IHR decisions and policy-making, particularly in the Institute’s early years before numerous sub-committees were founded during the 1930s. The records of these sub-committees – such as those covering the Victoria County History, the library, publications and research fellowships – are also part of this collection. Of particular interest are the records of the Advanced Historical Studies Appeal Committee dating from 1919 which was formed to co-ordinate the appeal that led to the foundation of the IHR.

Correspondence

Letters from and to G. M. Trevelyan, G. R. Elton and other well-known historians of the early and mid 20th century are among the highlights of this series as well as correspondence with struggling young scholars in the 1920s and 1930s who were seeking employment or funding for their research. Much relates specifically to the library, to particular individuals and to specific roles within the IHR. The general correspondence is probably most significant, forming as it does the core collection of the archive. There are over 500 boxes of incoming letters, copies of outgoing letters to a wide range of national and international correspondents including scholars, donors, companies, academic institutions, funding bodies and government on a wide range of subjects such as teaching, research, academic introductions, conferences, seminars, fellowships, administration, financial matters and the development of the Institute’s library collections.

In the early years, the correspondence, which is incredibly rich in content and variety, is specifically between the Secretary and Librarian and reveals the development of the IHR, as well as its everyday life and the wider social and educational networks to which it was related. A picture of the inter-war days emerges through correspondence relating to staffing, the library, repairs and refurbishments, organisation and social events; one example being a letter from Fortnum & Mason agreeing to deliver food and drink to the Institute for a sherry party in 1938 to celebrate the completion of the IHR’s new premises.

The development of the Institute as a national centre for history in the United Kingdom is also documented through correspondence with university departments, local historical and archaeological societies, archival institutions, research libraries and government, together with overseas historical institutions and scholars.

Teaching and research

This series includes papers on fellowships, grants, awards, courses, seminars and international research activities. Some of the earlier material is particularly engaging. For example there are IHR seminar books dating from the 1920s and 1930s and examples of historians’ seminar notes and papers from the same period.
Conferences and events

Papers included in this series relate to two major conferences, the Anglo-American Conference of Historians (AACH), first held in 1920, and the annual meetings of the International Congress on Historical Sciences (ICHS) which was administered in Britain through the British National Committee (BNC). There is also a small collection of invitations, guest lists and papers relating to inter-war IHR events such as the Institute’s ‘At Homes’ and the Wednesday Evening Conferences.

fascinating glimpses ... into the social lives and professional networks of historians and research students ...

The AACH papers, which extend to over 70 years from their first conference a year before the IHR was founded, include correspondence, minutes of the organising committee, conference papers, pamphlets and programmes. The subject matter is broad and sometimes unexpected, such as an international committee on interdisciplinary co-operation between historians, geographers and archaeologists dating from the mid 1930s, or another inter-war committee tracking the international migration of manuscripts and archival collections.

The BNC papers date from the mid 1920s to the 1970s and trace the development of historical networks internationally, but in this case from a European context. They include papers of the biannual conferences of the ICHS, meetings of the BNC and the Anglo-French Historical Conference.

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Other institutions

This series includes annotated minutes of the Senate of the University of London, over 100 boxes of the records of the Victoria County History stretching back to 1908 and the records of other more recently founded associated institutions such as the Centre for Metropolitan History and the History of Parliament Trust.

Miscellanea

The Miscellanea series, which includes records I did not have time to place in a series in the weeks I was working on the archive, holds some of the most fascinating records within the collections. There is a group of early records documenting the early years of the IHR, the records of the Advanced Historical Teaching Fund deposited in the IHR archive in 1924, and some papers relating to the ongoing appeals for funding during the inter-war years. There are 12 boxes of press cuttings of general historical interest from 1919 to 1968, a few rolled plans of the Institute’s premises from the 1930s, some boxes of records relating to archival resources, and even a box of 78 rpm records from the 1930s. I like to think that these were used for the IHR inter-war tea dances and dining club events for historians!

Other series

The Membership and Visitors series includes membership records and visitors’ books dating back to the foundation of the Institute, as well as the membership lists and records of the IHR Dining Club dating from the 1940s. The Publications series includes not only copies of the IHR publications such as Teachers of History, the Bulletin of the Institute of Historical Research and later Historical Research, Theses in Progress and Theses Completed, but also papers relating to the editing and production of these volumes. Although the Administration and Financial series contains, as one would expect, papers relating to the more routine aspects of the management of the IHR, it also holds account ledgers dating from the 1920s, and many interesting personnel records from the same period.

Conclusion

During my time working in the archive of the Institute of Historical Research, the range and richness of its holdings became clear. The archive records the history of the Institute and its central role in the development of history as an academic discipline during the 20th century. In doing so, it provides a unique historiographical record. Additionally the considerable material covering the international aspect of the IHR’s work means the archive gives a picture of the development of the historical profession outside Britain. It is also a very good example of an institutional archive with an unusual completeness spanning at least 60 years from its foundation in 1921. A further bonus is the fascinating glimpses the records provide into the social lives and professional networks of historians and research students, particularly during the first half of the 20th century. Although the archive requires some further work to ensure its fitness for production to researchers, it will provide historians with an important and unique picture of how the subject of history was studied, taught and researched at the highest level during the last century.

1 Dr Michelle Hampshire was, until 2007, an Archives Adviser at the National Archives, work that involved advising, inspecting and surveying archives across England and Wales.
Writing British national history in the 20th century

Mary Salinsky, a PhD student at the IHR, tells us about her research

Why have there been so many popular histories of England/Britain written in the 20th century? About 50 such works have been produced in the last century and more come out every year. How can we understand this proliferation?

These narratives have been shaped by particular historiographical approaches and understandings, by the nation’s role in the world, and by the way different stories and self-understandings of the nation have resonated at different times within the culture.

At the beginning of the 20th century the main story about the nation’s history was of the development of freedom under the law, parliamentary democracy, and the nation’s institutions. This related to the development of English freedom and prosperity from Anglo-Saxon times, via Magna Carta, the Reformation, the Civil War, the Restoration and the 19th-century Reform Acts.

Before 1939 the main emphasis was on Britain as an imperial nation with a world role, on Britain as the source in the modern world of participatory democracy, and on the study of the institutions that enabled that democracy, Britain being regarded as an exemplar of both freedom and order. History was written teleologically to show how events had led towards the glorious present. The pre-First World War works responded to the concerns about British military superiority and social provision by continuing to write an imperialist and triumphalist version of national history. The First World War made historians more thoughtful about the nature of English civilisation, and the growing international threat pushed at least some writers into a prophetic mode.

During the Second World War history was used explicitly to inspire a nation in mortal danger, drawing on iconic episodes of English and British victories.

After 1945 historians found it more difficult to write national history. Britain’s position in the world rapidly declined, both politically and economically. Historians found it difficult in these circumstances to write a narrative of success. Some, no longer able to use the stories told earlier as a basis for their accounts covering the post-Second World War period, stop their story before 1939, rather than continuing to the present. Others create new progressive narratives about the establishment of the welfare state and the NHS in particular, or about Britain becoming a more open and tolerant society, especially from the 1960s onward.

Histories of Britain became, rather, stories of its people and their lives, rather than exclusively of high politics. The narrative is no longer broken into long passages of political history, followed by brief unconnected sections on art, literature and even economic and social changes that were often little more than lists of prominent people. New styles of writing create a much more integrated account of the national past, giving a more complete picture of the nation and one that shows how changes in one aspect depended on changes in others. The acquisition of empire is no longer central to the narrative.

However, this largely Whig version has never been the only story of national history to be told. As John Burrow says, ‘the characteristics of Whig history can be not rejected but simply relocated, endowed with a different protagonist; manifest destiny is a game any people can play.’ One alternative is the Marxist narrative. This is a story about the struggle of the working class towards emancipation and the realisation of communism; when used for English/British history it produces an account of the decline of feudalism, the rise of capitalism, the continuing struggle of the working class to emancipate itself and its partial success. The best known such history is A. L. Morton’s *People’s History of England*, originally published in 1938 by Victor Gollancz as a Left Book Club selection. Marxist histories of other topics contribute to Marxist interpretations of national history. Another big story,
but one in a declinist mode, is the Catholic story. Catholic histories (Belloc, Chesterton) characterise the Reformation as a disaster, and privilege the role of religion in national life and identity, flavouring accounts of England’s decline with nostalgia for medieval society.

Historians and reviewers intend their popular national histories to be read by the ‘general reader’’. Introductions to histories that comment usually conclude that the reader has forgotten any history they learnt at school, or that the history they did learn was useless. From A. D. Innes noting in 1913 that ‘the general reader … finds less than he wants in school texts’, to Rebecca Fraser pointing out in 2003 that ‘many young people grow up … without any real chronological sense’, these are recurring comments in spite of the efforts of historians. It is very difficult to get any information about who read popular histories and what impact they may have had. Publication and sales figures are available for some books; commentators frequently note the popularity of Trevelyan’s *English Social History* for instance. Some histories, such as those by Trevelyan and Churchill, are quite often referred to by other writers, in contrast to some other histories, such as those by Wingfield-Stratford, that may have had a role in the nation’s self-understanding when they were written but have left little subsequent trace. And what is sold may not equate to what is read or absorbed.

Most national British history has been written by white, middle-aged, middle-class men. Of the authors I am considering, only four are women; some three-quarters went to Oxbridge, 24 to Oxford and 12 to Cambridge. Twenty were academics and nine teachers, so around half were professionally engaged in the discipline of history. Seven were journalists and four were MPs: Belloc, Churchill, Angus Maude and Enoch Powell. These historians generally had similar educational and class backgrounds, and also shared with politicians, civil servants, judges and bishops whose views history was intended to form. Born between 1870 and the 1940s, their education reached back to earlier times. National history, usually called ‘English’ rather than ‘British’ history, was the backbone of their historical study; there was less attention given to so-called European history, and hardly any to American or Asian history. The idea was prevalent, certainly in Oxford, that studying a long sweep of continuous national history was the best training in historical practice and an appropriate education for future members of government, civil servants and broadcasters who were going to make or influence the nation’s development. Their history was a collective enterprise based in an institution, usually a university; produced within a school of historiography with a particular focus and approach, and as part of a social network. Some of these historians knew each other socially as well as professionally, for example Trevelyan and Wingfield-Stratford.

Given their background and culture, it is unsurprising that they constructed the nation in a white, masculine, militaristic way. It was also an Anglo-centric construct; the histories of Scotland, Wales and Ireland were covered only when they affected England. Entry into the EEC, renewed troubles in Ireland and the debate about devolution have stimulated rethinking about national identity and national history. In 1973 John Pocock proposed a new approach: ‘the plural history of a group of cultures situated along an Anglo-Celtic frontier and marked by an increasing English political and cultural domination’. However, it was not until 1989 that the first complete synthesis of British history on this basis was produced, Hugh Kearney’s *The British Isles: a History of Four Nations*, revised in 2006. Both Jeremy Black (History of the British Isles, 1996) and Norman Davies (The Isles, 1999) develop the ‘British’ approach of considering the intertwined histories of the constituent parts of the United Kingdom. The approach has been more widely used for some periods, for example the 17th century, than others, such as the 19th and 20th centuries. Although the ‘New British History’ has not been widely used as a framework, it has meant that the history of our nation is never now unreflectingly the history of England. Recent histories are especially varied and show how the nation is re-imagined in fresh ways with new material, drawing on archaeology, genetics and linguistics, and drawing attention to themes of contingency and continuity.

Political communities have always related their histories to record their origins and development. National histories are stories we tell ourselves about ourselves. Learning national history is a way to understand our place in the particular nation in which we find ourselves. In telling this story, we discover and create the sort of people ‘we’ are, affirming our identity with the group whose story we are being told. Telling the story of our past creates a sense of oneness and belonging and tells of an identity persisting through time. Re-tellings of national history do the work of linking the changed and changing present to the past, to establish continuities so that we think of the present nation as the same collective entity as the past nation. So as well as expressing our knowledge of who we are, national history also in the process helps to contribute to the formation and continuation of the group, the nation.

A century on: the Bibliography
of British and Irish History

Ian Archer explains the changes afoot

From October 2009, librarians will be able to trial the new Bibliography of British and Irish History (BBIH). Developed by the Institute of Historical Research, the Royal Historical Society and international publishing house, Brepols, it is scheduled to replace the Royal Historical Society Bibliography from 1 January 2010. Free access will be available in the IHR while other institutions will be offered a subscription service. Please do encourage your library to subscribe (see below).

This is a landmark moment for the RHS and the IHR, securing in an enhanced form a resource which they regard as a crucial element in the scholarly infrastructure in an uncertain funding climate. Our collaboration represents the culmination of a process of convergence in bibliographic enterprise by both organisations over several generations.

It was Sir George Prothero who, as President of the RHS (1902–5) and trained in the Rankean tradition, shamed it into getting involved in the production of historical bibliographies to rival those being produced by continental scholars. Spurred by enthusiasm across the Atlantic, the Society agreed in 1909 to produce a series of critical bibliographies on British history. Progress was painfully slow, and the results mixed. It was not until 1996 that the series reached completion with Keith Robbins’s door-stopping volume on publications covering the period 1914–89.

So the RHS’s involvement in historical bibliography is one century old this year. Almost from its inception in 1921 the IHR was an enthusiastic collaborator. Whereas the RHS’s volumes were retrospective, the Institute undertook the listing of publications by year, in the Writings on British History. But soon these, too, were many years in arrears.

During his RHS Presidency (1973–6), Sir Geoffrey Elton decided to cut the Gordian Knot by undertaking the production of annual listings of publications to appear within nine months of the year in which they appeared, the so-called Annual Bibliographies, produced regularly between 1976 and 2003.

By the later 1980s there existed a bewildering variety of bibliographic listings for British historians: Writings, Annuals and British History Bibliographies, all with different levels of indexing. Bringing all this together was a task for the next generation and it was to the dynamic John Morrill that the Society turned in 1989 to realise its new vision: a searchable database comprising all material in the existing bibliographies and enhancing the otherwise poorly covered imperial and commonwealth dimension. With significant support from some charities, the project bore fruit in the 1998 CD-ROM published by Oxford University Press, which allowed the complex searching of 250,000 records.

The much richer funding situation at the turn of the millennium and the enhanced possibilities of web delivery governed the next phase. The AHRB/C provided three consecutive Resource Enhancement grants (2001–9) to enable the bibliography to be available on the internet free at the point of use, and to develop interoperability with other resources.

Under Ian Archer as general editor since 1999, the project, now firmly based at the IHR, developed successful collaborations with London’s Past Online and Irish History Online. Important additional features are cross-searchability with resources like the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography (ODNB), linkage to library catalogues and online text through OpenURL technology, and Z39.50 compatibility, enabling the querying of the bibliography by bibliographical software packages such as EndNote. In the seven years since it went live in July 2002, the database has expanded from around 300,000 to 460,000 records.

But by 2007 it was becoming clear that the climate for supporting electronic resources was changing: many new resources had been created, but sometimes with insufficient thought as to how they might be supported in the longer term. ‘Sustainability’ was the new buzzword. This was a particular challenge for the Bibliography, a resource whose utility depends on its data being current. And high quality data with high level indexing – the crucial value added we offer over Google – requires expert academic input. It cannot be automated. Reluctance to offer long-term funding mounted among the research councils and charities which had previously supported the project, so after much consultation, the RHS and IHR decided to go for a subscription model.

Hence the partnership deal with Brepols, which retains the existing indexing schemes and the ability to search by period covered. The data will continue to be compiled and the project supported by Simon Baker and Peter Salt working at the IHR with input from academic specialists. The existing features of interoperability will also be retained. But BBIH will also offer some new features, such as an auto-complete function, an auto record count per search field, a multilingual interface and extended export possibilities. And whether you choose a simple or an advanced search you will get significantly faster returns of results.

It is clearly a difficult matter to turn a free resource into one requiring a subscription. The decision was not lightly made, but it is one we think ensures the continuity of a high-quality, internationally-recognised resource.

For answers to frequently asked questions, see www.history.ac.uk/partners/rhs-bibliography/faq.

Librarians may request a 30-day free trial by contacting Brepols Publishers, Begijnhof 67, B-2300 Turnhout, Belgium. Tel.: +32 (14) 44 80 34; Fax: +32 (14) 42 89 19; brepolis@brepols.net; www.brepolis.net. Trial access can be provided through IP address(es) or password.

Individual subscriptions will also be available. For more information, contact Brepols Publishers.
# Seminars at the IHR

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

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<td>History of gardens and landscapes</td>
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<td>History of political ideas</td>
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<td>History of the psyche</td>
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<td>Imperial history</td>
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<td>International history</td>
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<td>Knowledge and society</td>
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<td>Late medieval and early modern Italy</td>
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<td>Late medieval seminar</td>
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<td>Life-cycles</td>
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<td>Locality and region</td>
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<td>London Group of Historical Geographers</td>
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<td>London Society for Medieval Studies</td>
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<td>Low Countries</td>
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<td>Marxism and the interpretation of culture</td>
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<td>Medieval and Tudor London</td>
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<td>Metropolitan history</td>
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<td>Military history</td>
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<td>Modern French history</td>
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<td>Modern religious history</td>
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<td>Music in Britain</td>
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<td>Parliaments, representation and society</td>
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<td>Philosophy of history</td>
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<td>Postgraduate seminar</td>
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<td>Psychoanalysis and history</td>
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<td>Reconfiguring the British: nation, empire, world 1600–1900</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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<td>Society, culture and belief 1500–1800</td>
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<td>Sport and leisure history</td>
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<td>Tudor and Stuart history</td>
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<td>The history of libraries</td>
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<td>Voluntary action history</td>
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<td>Women’s history</td>
<td>Friday</td>
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Archival research skills
Methods and sources for historical research
23–27 November 2009/12–16 April 2010/5–9 July 2010
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 £185.

Visual sources for historians
Tuesdays, 9 February – 9 March 2010
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 £200.

General historical skills
An introduction to oral history
Mondays, 18 January – 29 March 2010
This course addresses theoretical and practical issues in oral history through workshop sessions and participants’ own interviewing work. It deals with the historiographical emergence and uses of oral history, with particular reference to the investigation of voices and stories not always accessible to other historical approaches. Fee £200.

Interviewing for researchers
10 May 2010
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 £70.

Freedom of information: a practical guide for historians
19 April 2010
A practical guide to using the Freedom of Information Act to find and obtain historical source material. Fee £70.

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. The course will cover appraising sources and different strategies for developing projects, mainly computer-based but not necessarily using Geographical Information Systems software. This is not a hands-on course, but will help you decide what to learn. Fee £50–£100.

Dealing with the media
4 December 2009
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 £285.

Explanatory paradigms: an introduction to historical theory
Thursdays, 22 April – 24 June 2010
A critical introduction to current approaches to historical explanation, taught by Prof John Tosh, Dr John Seed and Prof Sally Alexander. 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 £200.

Languages
An introduction to medieval and Renaissance Latin I
Tuesdays, 13 October – 8 December 2009
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 £185.

Further medieval and Renaissance Latin
Tuesdays, 12 January 2010 – 9 March 2010
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 £185.

Information technology courses
Databases for historians
8–11 December 2009 & 15–18 June 2010
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 £185.

Internet sources for historical research
8 December 2009/8 March 2010/8 June 2010
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. Fee £70.

Qualitative data analysis workshop
25 January 2010
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 £120.

Statistics for historians
Spring term 2010: TBA
A theoretical and practical introduction to statistics, quantitative analysis and all use of numbers for historians. Unlike general-purpose statistical tuition, this course will concentrate on the particular problems encountered by historians in using their often insubstantial data sets. Full instruction in the leading computer statistics software will be included. Fee £200.

For further information and application forms see www.history.ac.uk/training/ or contact Dr Simon Trafford at ihr.training@sas.ac.uk.
Events diary

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

London, the Thames and water: new historical perspectives
16 October 2009
A one-day conference at which historians, archaeologists and geographers will present the results of recent and ongoing research into the inter-twined histories of London and its river, the archaeology of the Thames foreshore and milling, and into the role of water in metropolitan history as both a resource and a flood hazard.
For more information please contact Jim Galloway, Centre for Metropolitan History (jim.galloway@sas.ac.uk).

Editing the medieval laws of England
24 October 2009
This free one-day workshop will bring together established academics and postgraduate students with an interest in early English laws. The workshop will facilitate discussion about editing the various legal codes, edicts, manuals and treatises composed in England before the issuing of Magna Carta in 1215. Attendance is free, but places are limited and offered on a first come/first served basis. For further information and/or to register please contact Jenny Benham (jenny.benham@sas.ac.uk).

Creighton lecture 2009
18 November 2009
6.30pm, Wellcome Collection Lecture Theatre
This year’s Creighton lecture will be given by Professor Robert Service (Oxford) on ‘Russia since 1917 in Western mirrors’. Attendance is free but places are limited; please email Jennifer Wallis (jennifer.wallis@sas.ac.uk) to reserve your place.

Cities and nationalisms
17–18 June 2010
The Centre for Metropolitan History invites individual and panel proposals for a two-day conference on ‘Cities and nationalisms’, to be held at the Institute of Historical Research. Possible themes might include how festivals and parades, or the built environment, or literary and visual accounts of the city, have promoted or maintained nationalisms. Another possible theme would be how senses of urban community or territoriality interacted with nationalisms, ‘ethno-nationalisms’ or ‘loyalism’ in cities as a whole, parts of cities, or in divided cities.

Particularly welcome would be papers or panels that investigate the relationship between cities and nationalisms for hitherto under-explored places and periods. This might be for provincial or colonial cities, or for cities of Asia, Africa or Latin America, or for European capital cities outside the period of high imperialism.

Panel (three speakers) proposals should include a panel title, paper titles and 200 word abstracts for each paper, and a short CV for each panel presenter. Individual submissions should include a paper title, 200 word abstract and a short CV.

Proposals should be sent by 30 November 2009 by email to Vivian Bickford-Smith (vivian.bickford@sas.ac.uk)
Regional and Social History Journals

**Family & Community History**
Brings together historical and geographical approaches to British and Irish communities and families, setting them in an awareness of the importance of place.
*Vol 13 (2010), 2 issues*
Institutions: £138.00  Individuals: £38.00

**Folk Life: Journal of Ethnological Studies**
Covers a wide range of historical topics including ways of life, folk art, vernacular architecture, customs, beliefs, crafts, costume, and study of the landscape in Britain and Ireland.
*Vol 48 (2010), 2 issues*
Institutions: £88.00  Individuals: Members only

**Labour History Review**
Since 1960, this journal has explored the lives and politics of ‘ordinary’ people. The emphasis is on British Labour history, although comparative studies are also published.
*Vol 75 (2010), 3 issues (+ 1 special issue)*
Institutions: £144.00  Individuals: £28.00

**London Journal**
Takes an original look at the character and development of the colourful metropolis from both contemporary and historical viewpoints to enrich understanding of London and its people.
*Vol 35 (2010), 3 issues*
Institutions: £136.00  Individuals: £30.00

**Midland History**
The principal journal publishing both professional and amateur historian’s work on the history of the English Midlands, setting them in a broader context and drawing comparisons.
*Vol 35 (2010), 2 issues*
Institutions: £108.00  Individuals: £20.00

**Northern History**
The first regional historical journal publishing work on the history of the seven northern counties of England, and encouraging serious research from Roman times to the present day.
*Vol 47 (2010), 2 issues*
Institutions: £142.00  Individuals: £36.00

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