Letter from the Director

As this issue of Past and Future goes to press, I have important breaking news for you all. The University of London has now committed to the next phase of the Senate House refurbishment, encompassing the North Block, including the Institute of Historical Research. In order to allow the contractors to complete the work the IHR will need to move to alternative accommodation in the Senate House complex for about 18 months and only around one third of the IHR Library will remain on open access. I am currently clarifying the timetable with the University, but it is expected to take place between April and June of next year.

Whilst this temporary relocation represents a huge logistical challenge for us all, it does mean that the long overdue modernisation of the IHR is now taking place, and I shall be working hard with the University, the IHR Development Office, the IHR Trust and Friends network, and all our staff and users, to ensure we end up with an Institute fit for the 21st century. The IHR community will be kept informed and consulted over all that is taking place.

Earlier in the summer the IHR’s Advisory Council gave its unanimous approval to the IHR’s new five-year Strategic Plan. This has been some time in the making and moves the Institute fully into the research support and facilitation role for which we are funded by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE). We will be doing less MA teaching and unfunded research, and much more research training, events, digital resource creation and consultancy, as well as expanding our junior fellowship programme and international collaboration. I am confident this reconfiguration of our activity will not only put us back in financial surplus, but also enable us to pass through our next HEFCE review with flying colours.

This summer has seen some major changes in IHR personnel. After a very successful decade at the IHR, the staff of the Centre for Contemporary British History have moved to King’s College, London. The Heritage Lottery-funded project, England’s Past for Everyone, which has done so much to bring the work of the Victoria County History to a wider public, completed its programme of activity and publications on target and on time. And Professor John Beckett has returned to the University of Nottingham after five years at the helm of the VCH. The IHR has benefited enormously from our association with these colleagues, and we wish them well in the future. As some staff leave, the IHR continues to work hard to maintain its cherished academic profile. I am pleased to announce that we have now entered into an arrangement with the University of Cape Town whereby Professor Vivian Bickford-Smith, lately Visiting Professor of Comparative Metropolitan History, will be with us for six months of the year. And we hope to secure funding for a Chair in the History of London soon.

Our Fellowship continues to thrive. This autumn the IHR will welcome another 25 or so junior fellows, and elsewhere in this issue you can read about our new junior fellowship in Jacobite Studies.

Queen’s birthday honours went to two of our Fellows: a knighthood to Professor Rick Trainor, and an OBE to Jonathan Sumption. And we welcome a new member to our list of honorary fellows: Mark Lewisohn, outgoing Chair of the IHR Trust.

As many of you will know, next year the IHR turns 90, and on top of our normal packed calendar of activities we have a series of birthday tie-in events planned across the year, including a conference on ‘The History PhD past, present and future’ (the first history PhDs were awarded in the UK in 1921); a colloquium on ‘The Birth of the Birth Clinic’; a celebration of the work of Lord Asa Briggs (who turns 90 next year); and finally, as the Duke of Edinburgh also becomes a nonagenarian, we mark the 150th anniversary of the death of Prince Albert with a conference on ‘ Consorts in History’. Several exciting new seminar initiatives are described elsewhere in the magazine. Our other highlights include the 2010 Creighton Lecture to be given by Professor Tim Binning, the revival of our winter conference programme with an event co-hosted with the Imperial War Museum: ‘Going to War: Film and the Second World War in Britain’, and in the spring, the John Coffin Memorial Lecture. And, of course the 80th Anglo-American Conference will be held next summer, on the theme ‘Health in History’.

In one way or another, 2010–11 is set to be an eventful year in the life of the IHR!

Miles Taylor, September 2010
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IHR increases number and breadth of seminars, reaching a wider audience than ever before

The IHR is famed for its seminars. Already by 1930, within 10 years of its establishment, the Institute was running some 20 specialist seminars – modelled on the German and American seminarum with the reference sources close at hand – from its prefabricated headquarters in Malet Street. Moving into its Senate House home after the Second World War enabled the IHR to expand its seminar programme and, under successive Directors in the 1960s through to the 1990s, seminars became one of the most important of the IHR’s many diverse operations. A new suite of meeting rooms was opened 10 years ago (Wolfson and Pollard) allowing the Institute to provide fully equipped conference-style venues. Nowadays we run almost 60 seminars a fortnight and are always keen to take on more, space permitting. Seminars are an essential part of academic life – a crucial arena of debate and appraisal, as ideas, arguments and findings make their way from fieldwork, the library and the archive onto the printed page.¹

Just in the last two years several noteworthy seminars have commenced in the IHR: the History of Christian Missions, Rethinking Modern European History, and Early Modern Material Culture (jointly with the Victoria and Albert Museum). We also offer a new modelled on the German and American seminarum with the reference sources close at hand – from its prefabricated headquarters in Malet Street. Moving into its Senate House home after the Second World War enabled the IHR to expand its seminar programme and, under successive Directors in the 1960s through to the 1990s, seminars became one of the most important of the IHR’s many diverse operations. A new suite of meeting rooms was opened 10 years ago (Wolfson and Pollard) allowing the Institute to provide fully equipped conference-style venues. Nowadays we run almost 60 seminars a fortnight and are always keen to take on more, space permitting. Seminars are an essential part of academic life – a crucial arena of debate and appraisal, as ideas, arguments and findings make their way from fieldwork, the library and the archive onto the printed page.¹

Just in the last two years several noteworthy seminars have commenced in the IHR: the History of Christian Missions, Rethinking Modern European History, and Early Modern Material Culture (jointly with the Victoria and Albert Museum). We also offer a new range of collaborative seminars: with Notre Dame in London we started last year a semester-long weekly seminar in Global History, and this autumn a partnership with the Sorbonne in Paris will deliver a Franco-British history seminar.

Such developments as these reflect the IHR’s mission to deliver our seminars to an ever wider audience as possible.

¹ Newcomers to seminar culture may find useful a recent IHR guide written by Susan Reynolds and Catherine Delano-Smith, Hints on presenting seminar and conference papers, available from the IHR or as a PDF from our website.

Several seminars are now instantly available as podcasts from our website, and we are currently conducting a pilot project, scoping the feasibility of a video platform using an i-Tunes U type format, so that some of our seminars might be transmitted internationally.

There is a magic moment every day in the IHR around tea time when the Common Room fills with seminar-goers. Our seminars are open to the public and we have several bursaries and awards available to enable overseas speakers and UK postgraduate students to attend. No other University in the UK provides such a huge range of historical fare.

• current doctoral students who have been registered on their programme for at least three years full-time or six years part-time at the beginning of the session in which the awards are to be held;

• holders of doctorates awarded within two years of the beginning of the session in which the awards are to be held, who are working in the research area of the Trust, as outlined above.

Applications are encouraged from all suitably qualified candidates without regard to nationality or academic affiliation. The value of the stipend for each six-month fellowship will be £7,500. The fellowships are non-residential.

Application forms will be available from December 2010 with a deadline of 1 February 2011. Further details may be found here: http://www.history.ac.uk/fellowships/junior.

British History Online wins JISC funding

British History Online is unusual as a digital resource, in that it has built up a rich history of information about its use, partly through the statistics collected by the site (see http://bit.ly/9Iryj5 for details) but also because the BHO team has conducted benchmarking studies on the use of online resources by historians on three separate occasions. Now BHO has been funded by JISC to extend this work in order to study more closely how BHO is used for learning and teaching. This work will inform the future of BHO itself but will also result in a case study that can help JISC develop its best-practice guidelines for digital resources.

QR code – or two-dimensional barcode – for the British History Online URL. This is readable by smart phones and takes the user to the British History Online website.
As part of our longstanding partnership with the London Record Society, two new volumes were launched in June: numbers 31 and 32, being records of London Bridge and of the 17th-century London consistory court. Also forthcoming for the history of London is the series of monographs from the Survey of London; studies of particularly significant buildings that complement the main series of Survey volumes that are already on BHO. These will be published gradually over the remainder of 2010.

We are still adding incrementally to the more than 150 volumes of the Victoria County History which are on BHO. Recent additions have been volumes 14 and 15 of VCH Oxon, and four volumes of VCH Somerset (1, 4, 5 and 9) are about to be added.

Finally, two volumes of the *Alumni Oxonienses* are live on BHO, thanks to funding from the American Friends of the IHR. *Alumni* is a record of members of the University of Oxford between 1500 and 1714, with brief biographical details where known. The listing is alphabetical by surname and the volumes on BHO cover the range Abannan to Kyte; we hope to add the remaining two volumes soon.

**CMH events**

‘Blocked arteries: circulation and congestion in history’

*Senate House, 25–26 November 2010*

This two-day interdisciplinary conference has been organised by former and present CMH PhD students, Carlos Lopez Galviz and Dhan Zunino Singh. The aim of the conference is to examine the ways in which congestion has been, and continues to be, a problem as well as an inherent characteristic of the historical development of cities and regions worldwide, particularly in their relation to commercial, financial, industrial, tourist and other networks. Papers will explore circulation and congestion in a variety of geographical contexts and historical periods: from Classical Rome to railways in Imperial Russia through to the introduction of the motorcar in cities across North and South America, Australia and Europe.

Plenary speakers will be:

- Colin Divall (University of York)
- Maxwell Lay (ConnectEast, Melbourne)
- Simon Gunn (University of Leicester)

Further information is available at [www.history.ac.uk/events/event/1160](http://www.history.ac.uk/events/event/1160).

**British History Online news**

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**Call for papers: Anglo-American 2011 Health in History: Brunei Gallery, School of Oriental and African Studies, Thornhaugh Street, London**

The history of medicine and human society in sickness and health is an ever-widening window through which the past can be viewed. The study of the ways in which societies over time, at war and peace, have defined and treated their ‘sick’, the changing content and status of medical expertise and ethics, and those episodic moments when the globe has been transformed by epidemic, panic and panacea is now an integral part of mainstream history. Yet the field of medical history has evolved and is still changing rapidly. Moreover, the medical humanities are now critically placed in most cultures at the meeting point of research and social policy.

The conference website will go live on 1 December 2010. Registrations will open on 1 March 2011, with early bird discounts available.

Individual papers and/or panels of papers for the 2011 Anglo-American Conference are invited from scholars at all levels from the UK and overseas. Proposals should be submitted to healthinhistory@sas.ac.uk no later than 1 December 2010. Successful applicants will be notified after 15 December 2010.

For further information on submitting a proposal for the Anglo-American Conference 2011, please contact:

Manjeet K Sambi

healthinhistory@sas.ac.uk

020 7862 8756
Historical Research
August issue (vol. 82, no. 221)

Highlights from the latest issue include Anne Duggan on ‘Roman, canon and common law in 12th-century England’; ‘Secrecy, splendour and statecraft: the jewel accounts of King Henry III’ examined by Benjamin Wild; ‘Local heroes: war news and the construction of “community” in Britain, 1914–18’ by Michael Finn; and Elaine McFarland and Ronnie Johnston on “The Church of Scotland's industrial mission, 1942–58”.

Coming soon: virtual issues
With the launch of our publisher’s new website, Wiley Online Library, Historical Research will be introducing Virtual Issues. These will be occasional special issues composed of past and present themed articles. The first issue will take India as its topic. Content will be freely available. More information shortly at http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1111/(ISSN)1468-2281.

CMH news
We are delighted to report that from the beginning of October 2010, Dr Annaleigh Margey will be joining the staff of the Centre for Metropolitan History as Clothworkers’ fellow. Annaleigh, who has previously worked on the 1641 Depositions project based at Trinity College Dublin and the University of Aberdeen and has expertise in 17th-century maps, cartography and estates, will be working on the ‘People, property and charity: the Clothworkers’ Company 1500-1750’ project. Funded for 12 months by the Clothworkers’ Company, it will examine the charities, property and benefactors of the Company, producing an online gazetteer of properties, linked to biographies of the donors.

Historical Research and first-time authors

Historical Research prides itself on offering support to researchers at the start of their careers and welcomes submissions from first-time authors. This commitment to developing the skills and careers of new researchers is enshrined in the IHR’s Pollard Prize awarded to the best paper delivered at an IHR seminar. Winning articles are given fast-track publication in the journal. We also publish winners of The Sir John Neale Prize in Tudor History.

The winner of the Pollard Prize for 2010 was Julie Mumby with ‘The descent of family land in later Anglo-Saxon England’ (originally given to the Earlier Middle Ages seminar). The runner-up was Antonia Fitzpatrick with ‘Mendicant order politics and the status of Christ’s shed blood’ (European History 1150-1550 seminar). The winner of The Sir John Neale Prize in Tudor History was Charlotte Panofré with ‘Radical Geneva? The publication of Knox’s First Blast of the Trumpet and Goodman’s How Superior Powers ought to be Obedy’d in context’. These articles are scheduled to appear in 2011.

Those interested in submitting entries for next year’s competitions can find more information on the IHR website. Closing dates will be 30 April 2011 (Neale Prize) and 27 May 2011 (Pollard Prize).

New acquisitions for IHR Library

The library continues to purchase a range of books, augmented by the generosity of the Friends. Recently ordered items include a collection of contemporary accounts of Elizabethan daily life, a discussion of gender and conquest in the works of William of Malmesbury, and Peter Mandelson’s memoirs.

Recently catalogued acquisitions to the library include:

- The complete works of Gerard Winstanley | B.741/Win (British)
- Cambridge history of the Cold War | IR.89 (International Relations)
- The selected letters of Florence Kelley, 1869–1931 | UF.94 (United States)
- Dictionary of Irish biography: from the earliest times to the year 2002 | BI.10/Dib (Ireland)
- Der Parlamentarische Rat 1948–1949: Akten und Protokolle | EG.B1/Par (Germany)
- How Peary reached the pole: the personal story of his assistant | C.493 (Colonial)
- How Peary reached the pole: the personal story of his assistant | C.493 (Colonial)
- Mendicant order politics and the status of Christ’s shed blood | European History 1150-1550 (Germany)
- The complete works of Gerard Winstanley | B.741/Win (British)

Comments? Questions?
ihrpub@sas.ac.uk
Going to the pictures: British cinema and the Second World War

Mark Glancy, Senior Lecturer in History, Queen Mary

“What agent of Chancellor Hitler is it who has suggested that we should all cower in darkness and terror “for the duration”?”, asked George Bernard Shaw in a letter to The Times. Published on 5 September 1939, just two days after Britain declared war on Germany, his letter protested against the government order to close all places of entertainment, including cinemas. As Shaw put it, denying entertainment to soldiers and civilians was ‘a masterstroke of unimaginative stupidity’. The order was soon rescinded: within two weeks cinemas in the provinces had reopened and within a month those in central London had reopened too. The closure order had been prompted by fears of bombing rather than bureaucratic stupidity. Most cinemas were located in city centres – the prime targets of the predicted Nazi bombing campaign – and they held hundreds, if not thousands, of people in tightly packed spaces. If one should be hit by a bomb, carnage was likely to be the result. This nightmarish vision had already been foretold in film: Things to Come (1936) showed audiences that a future war would begin with the total destruction of cities by aerial bombing, and a sleek modern cinema is seen to take a direct hit. In reality, though, the bombers did not come during the first year of war, and when the Blitz did begin the devastation seemed so widespread and random that cinemas were not regarded as particularly dangerous places. In 1940, cinema admissions figures actually rose, to just over 1 billion for the year, and they continued rising steeply for the next few years, reaching over 1.5 billion in 1943, 1944 and 1945. People did not cower in darkness and terror, as Shaw put it, unless they were seeing a horror film. They also laughed, cried, snickered and sighed at all manner
of films. Cinema-going was the country’s prime leisure time activity, and it proved to be an indispensable means of instructing and entertaining the nation in wartime.

The idea of a nation of devoted cinema-goers is inextricably linked with the number of classic films released during the war years. This was British cinema’s ‘golden age’, a period in which filmmakers such as Humphrey Jennings, David Lean, Powell and Pressburger, and Carol Reed came to the fore and, for the first time, British films consistently rivalled Hollywood in terms of quality if not quantity. They offered accounts of the nation’s own experience of the war. In Which We Serve (1942), Went the Day Well (1942), Fires Were Started (1943), The Life and Death of Colonel Blimp (1943) and The Way to the Stars (1945) were among those that aimed to boost morale, and also to reflect on the meaning and purpose of the war. The use of feature films as propaganda is undoubtedly the aspect of wartime cinema that has been most fully documented. Since the 1970s, when the 30-year rule allowed the release of government documents relating to film policies and propaganda, historians have conducted extensive research into the Ministry of Information, its Films Division, and the production and reception of war-related films. A rich seam of historical writing has resulted, as well as a renewed appreciation of admirable films and filmmakers. However, as far as the cinema-going public is concerned, the focus on propaganda and government involvement tells only one part of a larger story. Early in the war it became apparent that audiences were wary of anything that might be regarded as propaganda, and also that many would steer clear of all but the most notable war-related films. Thus, while war films may inform popular memory of the war, for many audiences they were not a crucial or preferred part of the cinema-going experience.

The challenge of reconstructing the popular film culture of the period – that is, establishing what pleasures people found in cinema-going, which films were seen, how issues of taste were determined, and how critical views impacted on tastes – has preoccupied film historians in recent years. What is perhaps most surprising is that, even at a time when annual admissions had passed the one billion mark, cinema-going was far from a universal habit. The Wartime Social Survey, conducted in 1943, found that 32% of Britons went to the cinema frequently (defined as once a week or more) and another 38% attended occasionally (defined as once a fortnight or less), but 30% of the population never visited the cinema at all. The survey also found clear lines of delineation between the enthusiasts and the indifferent. Interestingly, gender was not a key factor, despite the widely held assumption (among the public and also within the film industry) that women were the keenest cinema-goers. Income and education were more significant factors. People on low incomes went more frequently than people on middle and high incomes. People who had only an elementary school education attended more often than those with a secondary school education, and much more often than those with a university education. Yet the most significant factors were region and age. Nearly half the people living in rural areas said that they never visited the cinema at all. This is most likely explained by the location of most venues. In cities, where cinemas were more accessible and numerous, only a quarter of people said that they never went to see films. The differences between age groups were even more pronounced. People over the age of 65, who were old enough to have grown up before cinema existed, were the least likely to be cinema-goers: 69% said that they never went and just 5% said that they attended once a week. The young, by contrast, were the keenest: 79% of teenagers and 43% of young adults reported that they went to the cinema at least once a week.

From the survey we can deduce that the cinema audience was largely young, urban and working class, and this explains the government’s interest in the medium. These were the demographic groups considered least likely to read newspapers and books. The cinema offered a means of reaching them, and reaching them through a medium that was considered powerfully influential and persuasive. Nevertheless, the popular film culture of the era was dominated by Hollywood. While box-office statistics were rarely

**In Which We Serve (1942)**, the story of a British naval ship, the HMS Torrin, from its construction to its sinking.
published in this period, there is ample evidence in other forms (popularity polls, Mass Observation surveys, film trade paper reports, fan magazines, a few surviving cinema ledgers, etc.) to substantiate this. These sources indicate that, particularly at the outset of the war, British films were preferred by middle-class audiences, but a large swathe of working-class audiences actively avoided them. People sought glamour and escapism at the cinema. This is plainly evident in the pages of the leading fan magazines, Picturegoer and Picture Show, which routinely and prominently featured glamorous photographs of Hollywood stars and stories about their wealth, beauty and enviable lifestyle. When Picturegoer polled its readers in August 1942, asking them to name the ten best films ever made, all of the top-ranking films were Hollywood productions and none was British. Worse, as far as cinema patriots would be concerned, the list was dominated by Hollywood's own British-set dramas, including MGM's Mrs Miniver (1942). This fanciful portrait of a middle-class English family heroically suffering through the Blitz was derided by many critics, but surveys reveal that audiences recognised it as a form of tribute, and, at any rate, they were charmed by the film's serenely beautiful star, Greer Garson, and flattered by the notion that she represented them.

It was in the second half of the war that truly British films began to win the hearts and minds of both critics and audiences on a regular basis. If the Picturegoer poll had been conducted that month or two later, it almost certainly would have featured In Which We Serve, which was released in September 1942. It was a landmark in the changing fortunes of British films, and one of the few films with combat scenes to prove popular this late in the war. Many of the British films that attracted the largest audiences between 1942 and 1945 were not war films at all, but the Gainsborough melodramas that featured a new generation of stars, including James Mason, Margaret Lockwood, Stewart Granger and Patricia Roc. The country's leading critics loathed films such as The Man in Grey (1943), Fanny by Gaslight (1944), Madonna of the Seven Moons (1944) and The Wicked Lady (1945); they preferred documentary realism and restraint over melodramatic excess.

Audiences, however, were delighted by British films that matched Hollywood for escapism, star power and salaciousness. Of course, Hollywood was not doing so badly itself, and Gone with the Wind (1939), The Wizard of Oz (1939), Rebecca (1940), Citizen Kane (1941), Random Harvest (1942), Casablanca (1943), Double Indemnity (1944) and National Velvet (1945) were just a few of the highlights of the war years. Gone with the Wind was probably the most popular film of the period. It played in Leicester Square for four solid years, lasting from the tail end of the 'phony war' in 1940 until D-day in 1944. At the height of the Blitz, audience queues reportedly formed outside the cinema first thing in the morning, even as nearby fires from the previous night's bombing were still burning.

Of course, not all wartime cinema-going was centred on individual and noteworthy feature films. People also went to the cinema for the newsreels, the cartoons, the second string 'B' features and serials, or simply as a matter of habit. Ticket prices were cheap, ranging mainly between one and two shillings, but in the backstreet, neighbourhood cinemas they could be significantly less than that. At a time of full employment and rationed goods, there was not always much else to spend money on. Hence, many people went to the cinema simply to stay warm, to see friends, because they did not like pubs, to get away from their family or fellow lodgers in crowded accommodation, or, if they were away from home, to find comfort in a familiar form of entertainment. Some lofty critics, who complained about the poor quality of most films, warned that the boom in cinema-going would not last; that it was a war-induced phenomenon that would end as soon as life got back to normal. They were correct to some extent. Admissions did begin to decline in the late 1940s, but unlike the United States, where ticket sales plummeted immediately after the war, the decline in Britain was very gradual. It was not until 1957 that the annual tally of tickets sold fell below 1 billion again. For many Britons, going to the pictures had become a routine part of life. It was enjoyed more often and perhaps more intensely amid the privations of war, but it was not a pleasure readily given up with the arrival of peace.
Representations of fame: the National Portrait Gallery in post-war Britain

Susan Martin, Institute of Historical Research

‘The success of the whole scheme depended on confining the gallery to men of real distinction’;1 Earl Stanhope, one of the founders of the National Portrait Gallery (NPG) in 1856, hoped it would provide both pleasure and instruction to the industrious classes through drawing attention to the heights which they could admire or aspire to. This notion determined the type of portraits the gallery acquired and displayed. There were portraits of soldiers, statesmen, literary men and scientists; all of high-ranking status. It was not until the second half of the 20th century that the Victorian objectives with which the gallery was founded were broadened and adapted.

For much of Britain the immediate post-war years were marked with recovery, development and change. But the NPG was notably unchanged in both its governance and the portraits acquired or displayed. The gallery was under the directorship of Sir Henry Hake, who had been director since 1927, and the trustees held similar status, professions or interests to the original aristocratic board of trustees. They were not averse to change – historian and trustee G.M. Young did put forward a memorandum in 1950 that recognised the need to acknowledge the achievement of highly distinguished, but less well known or less enduring individuals, and the other trustees responded with broad agreement2 – but there were few fundamental developments during this time. Aside from displays of recent acquisitions, special temporary exhibitions were infrequent until the late 1950s. There was, however, an exhibition in 1948 organised for a portrait of Jane Austen by her sister Cassandra. This was the only original portrait of Jane Austen and was purchased with help from the Friends of the National Libraries. Such developments and events were significant but modest. The focus of the director and trustees was on recovery and reopening. There was not any notable change or innovation that might situate the gallery more comfortably in the social and political environment of post-war Britain.

In 1951, the year Charles Kingsley Adams became director, the last of the war-damaged galleries were redecorated and reopened. This was also the year of the Festival of Britain, a national exhibition devised by the Labour government in the spirit of bringing the arts to everyone: ‘the idea was to represent the history and potential of the British people – not just of distinguished individuals’.3

Although this might not have seemed in the natural remit of the NPG, the Festival also marked the centenary of the Great Exhibition in 1851 and the NPG participated with an exhibition entitled Some Leading Characters of 1851; some 150 portraits were exhibited including prints, drawings, sculpture and paintings. Most were from the gallery’s own collection. The NPG’s involvement in the Festival did not mark any change of approach or role for the gallery. Instead, it serves to emphasise how it remained, as described by the current Chair of trustees Sir David Cannadine in his brief history of the gallery, ‘a quintessentially Victorian institution’.4

The 1960s were a turning point for the gallery. David Piper was director between 1964 and 1967, after holding the post of Assistant Keeper from 1946 upon returning from a Japanese...
prisoner of war camp. There was an increase in the number of exhibitions during Piper’s time at the gallery. He also instigated an education programme with regular public lectures. Their success encouraged a regular series of lunch-hour lectures and further programmes for school parties. He raised the profile of the gallery through broadcasts, lectures and publications, including the Catalogue of Seventeenth Century Portraits which was the first systematic study of any of the gallery’s collection. Cannadine believes that Piper recognised that further development would be beneficial for the gallery, which despite his efforts was still considered a scholarly and conservative institution, but he felt that it was for someone else to reform, not him. Piper and Lord Kenyon, the then chair of trustees, changed the age requirements for applicants for the position of director from over 35 to over 30, which allowed 31 year old Roy Strong to succeed to the directorship in 1967.

Strong was unconventional and controversial. He was director until 1975 and in this time there were 35 temporary exhibitions. Of these, it was an exhibition of Cecil Beaton’s photographic portraits in 1968 that marked a definitive moment in the direction of the gallery. Beaton photographed not only members of the royal family but also other well-known figures such as actors and writers. He worked for both Vogue and Vanity Fair and was known for his fashion photography. As such, he was an unusual, but popular choice for the NPG. About 32,000 people visited the exhibition in the first two weeks, a record for the gallery and its run was twice extended. This was the first exhibition dedicated to photography and its success encouraged Strong to set up a new department for film and photography.

In 1969 Strong persuaded the trustees to discard Stapleton’s 10-year rule, which allowed the gallery only to acquire a portrait if the sitter had been deceased for at least 10 years. This ensured that only portraits of individuals of enduring significance were acquired. Strong’s intervention was a significant turning point; an intrinsic rule that Lord Kenyon as a ‘type of evocative storytelling’. He grouped portraits according to the period and background of the sitters rather than in compact rows and included objects loaned from other museums to help illustrate the historical context. His approach to display was in keeping with the trend for popular history and helped to revive the gallery’s attractiveness to visitors. The popularity of Strong’s exhibitions and displays encouraged the Treasury to increase the annual purchase grant from £8,000 to £40,000 in 1970. He soon became a well-known and in-demand personality in Sixties London, giving lectures, attending professional and social events and parties, actively fundraising for the gallery and making regular contributions to magazines and newspapers. He was well attuned to the spirit of the time and this was reflected in his innovations at the gallery. It was under his direction that the gallery began to reflect the cultural circumstances and tastes of the period in a way that had not been done since the gallery was established.

Strong’s successor, art historian John Hayes, was director from 1975 to 1994. He continued Strong’s innovative approach and established the Imperial Tobacco Portrait Award (now the BP Portrait Award). Although the trustees had always recognised that the quality of the art was important in acquiring a good likeness, the status of the sitter was considered more important than the status of the artist or the artwork. But the Portrait Award encouraged and promoted portraiture as an art form and highlighted the gallery’s recognition of the importance of the art and the style and form of the portraiture. There was significant rearrangement and reorganisation of the galleries during Haynes’s directorship and, although Strong’s display style did not survive into the 1980s, there was a continued awareness of changing fashions and tastes within museum display. The portraits were returned to greater prominence in the displays and there was ‘a new respect for the gallery’s building and original plan of its rooms’. By the 1980s acceptance or purchase of photographic portraits was normal and there were regular acquisitions of portraits of popular and well-known living sitters that perhaps were not always what Stanhope had hoped for when he had envisaged a gallery of ‘men of real distinction’.

The second half of the 20th century was an exciting and important phase in the history of the NPG. Ultimately it modernised and adapted but remains a gallery dedicated to the representation of eminent individuals in British history. It was realised and accepted that eminence in post-war Britain was often different and diverse or attained and represented in different ways to the Victorian ideals pertaining when the gallery was established. There was an increasing awareness of the influence of changing political and cultural contexts on how the gallery and its collections were perceived. This continued recognition became important in maintaining the gallery’s popularity and success.


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1 Hansard Parliamentary Debates Vol. 140, House of Lords, March 4 1856.
2 Minutes of Trustees meetings, 22 June 1950.
5 Ibid.
10 Funnell, ‘Display at the National Portrait Gallery,’ p. 135.

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Past and Future
William Payne of Bell Yard was a reforming constable active in the 1770s. The Corporation of London's Collage website shows us an image of a clean and sunlit Bell Yard around 40 years after Payne's death, but British History Online reveals Alexander Pope's description of it 40 years earlier as 'that filthy old place'. From the Morning Chronicle and London Advertiser of 18 June 1774, we learn that, in addition to his duties as a constable, Payne was a carpenter. He is described suing an anonymous 'inhabitant of Cripplegate, builder... to recover five penalties for building a house contrary to the act'. The jury found in his favour.

Payne's professional exploits also frequently figured in the press. In December of the same year, according to the Public Advertiser, he brought 20 prisoners before Mr Alderman Harley at the Guildhall. The alderman refused to hear the cases against them, and nine promptly escaped 'on their return from the justice room'. In September 1775, Payne wrote to the Gazetteer and New Daily Advertiser in a personal capacity, revealing strong anti-Catholic sentiments. He signed the letter a 'true-born Englishman, or the Little English Carpenter'.

The London Lives project demonstrates that Payne was more than just a prolific thief taker. In March 1761 he was called to search a house for a murder victim; there he discovered the 'intrails of a human body, viz. the heart part of the liver the lights kidney etc.' He also found concealed 'several pieces of human flesh together with several bones'. Eighteenth-Century Collections Online offers us a less serious case. In December 1777, Payne testified to the theft of a pig's head from a butcher's stall. Clearly enjoying his testimony, he noted that, apprehending the thief 'I took up the pig's head with one hand and secured him with the other and took both heads to the stall where the butcher's wife was'.

But such cases were uncommon, and the Old Bailey Online offers us an insight into his day-to-day work, along with a sense of his method. On 23 October 1771, he testified in four cases of petty larceny, all concerned with the theft of linen or silk handkerchiefs. The account of the capture of Edward White exemplifies his approach: 'I observed the prisoner when I was at Guildhall... I suspected what he was about and watched him from place to place, at last I saw him go near the prosecutor, I thought he had picked his pocket; I went up to the prosecutor, and asked him if he had not lost his handkerchief; he told me he had; I followed the prisoner and caught the handkerchief in his hand before he had time to drop it; I found two more in his breeches'.

All of this information is derived from searching for Payne in a range of digital resources which are freely available to users in UK universities (some, like British History Online and the Old Bailey Online, are free to all). Clearly this is now far easier to do than if one had to consult the original manuscripts and newspapers, but it is still a time-consuming and at times frustrating process, involving multiple logins across different platforms and considerable duplication of effort, for example the repeated refining of search terms. The Connected Histories project aims to break down some of these barriers, knitting together the threads of Payne's and thousands of other individual lives across four centuries of British History as well as tracing places, subjects and ideas through the sources.

Connected Histories, a collaboration between the IHR, the Universities of Sheffield and Hertfordshire, and King's College London, is one of 11 projects funded by the Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC) as part of its e-Content Programme. The project aims to create a federated search facility for a wide range of distributed digital resources relating to early modern and 19th-century British history. In the first instance these will include: the 17th–19th Century Burney Newspaper Collection; British History Online; the Charles Booth Online Archive; the Clergy Connected Histories: Sources for building British history 1500–1900 Jane Winters, co-director, Connected Histories

William Payne of Bell Yard, Reforming Constable, c. 1770.
of the Church of England Database, 1540–1835; London Lives, 1690–1800; the Old Bailey Proceedings Online, 1674–1913; the House of Commons Parliamentary Papers; and Strype’s Survey of London.

Using metadata and other available background information, the project will create a search facility that adapts to each resource (depending on whether and how the data is tagged, and on the text structure) to allow searching across the full range of chosen sources for names, places and dates, as well as keywords and phrases. Background information about the search results will be delivered to the end user, and a facility to save and export search results for further analysis will also be provided. It is also planned to allow users to identify, save and share links between their search results – their individual ‘connected histories’.

One of the key challenges for historians, publishers and resource creators in the coming years, now that what might be thought of as the first phase of mass digitisation is at an end, will be to develop and support innovative ways of interrogating digitised source material. A first step is to bring together such material as already exists, quite simply to make it both more visible and easier to use. This in turn will facilitate genuinely new approaches to research, and the identification of novel research questions. Connected Histories will allow users to access a huge range of material, both free and subscription-based, through a single point of entry and in a consistent manner, thereby helping to transform the ways in which researchers engage with the wealth of digitised sources available for this period of British history.

To finish with some figures: in total, Connected Histories will provide access to 14 major databases of primary source texts, containing more than 412 million words, plus 469,000 publications, 3.1 million further pages of text, 87,000 maps and images, 254,000 individuals in databases, and over 100 million name instances. It will be launched at the end of March 2011, and in the meantime you can follow our progress at www.connectedhistories.org

3 Morning Chronicle and London Advertiser, 18 June 1774 (17th–18th Century Burney Collection Newspapers).
4 Public Advertiser, 20 Dec. 1774 (17th–18th Century Burney Collection Newspapers).
5 Gazetteer and New Daily Advertiser, 9 Sept. 1775 (17th–18th Century Burney Collection Newspapers).
7 Great Britain, Sessions (City of London and County of Middlesex), The whole proceedings on the King's commission of the peace, oyer and terminer, and gaol delivery for the City of London … (1777–8), pp. 244–5 (Eighteenth Century Collections Online <http://bit.ly/bjuMfp> [accessed 20 Aug. 2010]).
Anglo-American 2010: Environments

Events and Publicity Officer Manjeet Sambi reports on this year’s conference

Some 300 delegates attended this year’s Anglo-American Conference on the theme of Environments. Many of these described it as an ‘excellent conference’, and one speaker later wrote that it showcased the ‘vibrant research in the field of environmental history that is taking place in the UK and across the Atlantic’.

Given the difficult economic climate, it is easy to ignore the fundamental environmental issues which inherently affect every part of all our lives. This year’s Anglo-American Conference successfully brought together historians of environmental history, with speakers such as Alfred Crosby (Texas) and Christopher Smout (St Andrew’s), to explore ways in which historians can inform global green awareness today. The conference programme was noted by many as being varied and highly diverse in content, with seminar sessions offering a range of perspectives on environmental history: ‘Names, places and colonial encounters’, for example, explored the environmental issues surrounding colonial history and politics and, by contrast, Friday’s seminar on ‘Artistic environments: disability and image-making’ offered a unique perspective on environments through art and disability.

Also singled out as a highlight was the Policy Forum. This special public discussion brought together historians, scientists and policy-makers to examine what can be learnt from histories of the environment, and what the past can tell the present and the future about the environment. The discussion was chaired by Paul Warde (UEA), and speakers included: Jim Bamberg, author of BP’s official history; Deborah Lamb, Policy Director for English Heritage; and Ian Christie from the University of Surrey’s Centre for Environmental Strategy. They faced questions from the public on practical ways of combating urgent environmental issues and discussed ideas of continual progress and society’s attitudes and values towards the environment.

Matthew Reisz from Times Higher Education noted the significance of the conference, especially the urgency with which growing environmental concerns must be addressed, particularly highlighted by plenary speaker Donald Worster (Kansas). The Policy Forum also attracted media coverage.

A publishers’ fair was held over the two days of the Conference, with many major exhibitors such as Yale University Press, Cambridge University Press and I.B. Tauris mounting displays in Senate House’s Crush Hall. Some environmental organisations, such as the Green Party and English Heritage, also took advantage of the opportunity to reach such a uniquely large audience of environmental historians and scholars by exhibiting alongside the publishers.

The 2010 Anglo-American Conference was a hugely successful event, not only because of the impressive number of attendees it attracted so soon after the economic crisis, but also its timeliness in bringing together academics, scientists and policy-makers to discuss a subject which is, and will continue to be, a pressing global concern.

Day one of the Anglo-American Conference 2010. Delegates attend a talk in the newly refurbished Beveridge Hall.

Anglo-American Conference 2010. reception at Tower Bridge.
Past and Future
The Institute of Historical Research is collaborating with Jon Baines Tours to offer a range of study tours to IHR Members, Friends and Patrons. All IHR supporters will receive advance notice and booking opportunities and, in addition, IHR Patrons can enjoy exclusive benefits and discounts.

The tours go to interesting, and often unusual, destinations and reveal facets of countries rarely experienced by other visitors. Through specialist visits, their tour leaders and talks by local speakers, participants may learn of a destination’s culture and history and gain real insight into contemporary life. Frequent, rewarding detours from the well-trodden tourist trail are included and there is the opportunity to travel with other open-minded, intelligent and questioning people.

Jon Baines organises tours to a wide variety of destinations, all examining the historical and contemporary. For 2011 these include: Ethiopia, Syria, Jordan, Cuba, Georgia, Armenia, Western China, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan.

In addition, the company specialises in tours on the history of medicine, which is particularly relevant for us this year as the next Anglo-American will be on Health in History.
Ethiopia: Historical and Contemporary, 12–26 February 2011
This tour unveils the country’s rich archaeological past, as one of the oldest Christian civilisations in the world and also explores contemporary Ethiopian society. It is led by Dr Richard Marsh, a regular visitor to Ethiopia, an authority on the country’s history, art, music and contemporary society and author of Black Angels: The Art and Spirituality of Ethiopia and Prayers from the East. Benefits for Patrons include a £200 discount per person.

Cuba: Culture and Society, 11–23 May 2011
Cuba is poised on the brink of transformation as it adapts to the end of the Castro era and the changing face of America. Take part in focused specialist visits revealing various aspects of Cuba with expert local speakers discussing architecture, natural history, contemporary art, medicine and society. These are complemented by the talks of Lavinia Byrne. Benefits for IHR Patrons include a £150 discount per person off the price of this tour OR one free single supplement OR a £100 discount off Virgin Premium Economy upgrade flights each way (£200 return).

Georgia and Armenia: Historical and Contemporary, 15–28 May 2011
Visiting Armenia and Georgia, this tour shows you the real heart of both countries through a series of interactions with villages, homes and local historians, many personally known to tour leader Richard Marsh. Learn about the history and contemporary society of the region, while enjoying the local food, wine and magnificent landscapes. Benefits for IHR Patrons include a £100 discount per person off the price of the tour.

The Silk Road, Western China and Kyrgyzstan, 10–25 June 2011
The tour travels along the Silk Road from Xi’an, the ancient capital of China, to Dunhuang, known for its collection of ancient Buddhist murals and cave sculpture. Continue via the depression and wine growing region of Turpan, across the Taklamakan Desert to Hotan and via ancient trading towns to Kashgar for the Sunday Bazaar. Cross into Kyrgyzstan and continue to Bishkek. The talks of tour leader Lavinia Byrne provide a deeper understanding of the Silk Road and its relevance to the West.

The Golden Road to Samarkand, Uzbekistan & Turkmenistan, 17 September–1 October 2011
Explore the ancient heart of Central Asia’s Silk Road on this tour to Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan. The stunning architecture of Uzbekistan’s ancient cities links the empires of China and Persia and Turkmenistan’s desert splendours have silently observed the passing of some of history’s most dominant empires. An optional diversion to enigmatic Tajikistan draws you to the abandoned ruins of an ancient city. The tour leader, Frances Wood, author of Did Marco Polo Go to China?, No Dogs and Not Many Chinese: A History of the Treaty Ports and The Silk Road will talk on aspects of contemporary society as well as focusing on the region’s history.

Syria and Jordan: Historical and Contemporary, 7–21 October 2011
In addition to a wealth of dramatic historical sites and sweeping desert panoramas, this tour includes many fascinating smaller visits. Explore Damascus and Aleppo, experiencing the stillness and complete absence of modernity as you walk along the colonnade at Apamea, through the Dead Cities and St Simeon’s Monastery. See Palmyra at sunrise and the Sea of Galilee from Umm Qais and hear the Lord’s Prayer recited in the language of Christ in Maaloula. The talks of Lavinia Byrne and local speakers bring the past to life and reveal aspects of contemporary Syria and Jordan.

A History of Medicine Cruise along the Nile: From Aswan to Alexandria, 13–26 October 2011
Accompanied by Professor Rosalie David, an authority on the History of Medicine in Ancient Egypt, this tour begins in Cairo then continues with a flight to Aswan for a Nile cruise to Luxor. The cruise includes lectures in the evening and guided visits during the day. The tour concludes in Alexandria, examining the influence of Greece and Rome. There is an optional extension to El Alamein and the Siwa Oasis.

For further information, please contact the IHR Development Office on 020 7862 8764 or Jon Baines Tours on 020 7223 5618/9485

Past and Future

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Explore medieval Normandy in the IHR Library

In 2002 the IHR Library was the grateful recipient of Professor David Douglas’s collection of Anglo-Norman and French books, donated by his daughter Ann Douglas.

However it wasn’t until the summer of 2009 that library staff were in a position to catalogue the collection, integrating it into the IHR’s existing collections and making it easily available to researchers as a result.

This important gift of some 600 books considerably augments the existing holdings of the library on medieval Normandy. It is a superb collection of works relating to Norman topography and history, including many editions of cartularies and various historical rarities.

Besides general histories of the region such as the Gesta Normannorum ducum, there is great depth in local history. Many items relate to specific towns, or churches, such as the Cartulaire de l’abbaye de Saint-Calais (1888, EFP.619/Sca).

Many of the books date from the 19th century but some were printed as long ago as the 17th century, such as François Farin’s Histoire de la ville de Rouen (EFP.671/Far), which dates from 1668.

Alison Gage, Bibliographic Services Librarian, was responsible for cataloguing the collection. She particularly enjoyed the opportunity to develop her experience of working on antiquarian material, assisted by colleagues from Special Collections in Senate House Library.

The David Douglas books can be found amongst the main collections. The majority of them are located in the French Provincial History area on the second floor of the IHR, and can be identified by a book plate in the front of each volume. They can be searched for on our online catalogue, available at www.history.ac.uk/library.

François Farin’s Histoire de la ville de Rouen (EFP.671/Far), dating from 1660.

One of the books in the collection donated to the IHR by Professor David Douglas and recently catalogued by IHR librarians.
The IHR’s digital future

Jane Winters and Peter Webster, IHR

Since 1993, when its ‘History’ website was launched, the IHR has been at the forefront of using digital technology to support scholars and the wider public in the UK and overseas. This autumn we will be providing a new service for digital history and historians, with the launch of IHR Digital. It will encompass many of the IHR’s existing online activities, but the focus offered by IHR Digital will also allow us to explore new opportunities for transforming the way in which historians conduct their research.

IHR Digital will encompass a range of well-established projects, including British History Online (www.british-history.ac.uk), the Bibliography of British and Irish History (http://www.history.ac.uk/projects/bbih), Early English Laws (www.earlyenglishlaws.ac.uk) and Reviews in History (http://www.history.ac.uk/reviews/). However, the coming year will see a number of initiatives designed to challenge historians, to improve their experience of digital resources and to bring new technologies to them in an accessible, and above all, customised form. Among the most important of these is Connected Histories (www.connectedhistories.org.uk), discussed elsewhere in this magazine. It epitomises the approach that will be taken by IHR Digital, combining innovation with an understanding of the needs of historians. It is also a collaboration, something which characterises so much of the IHR’s work in the online sphere and elsewhere.

We will also be piloting The History SPOT (Seminar Podcasts and Online Training), which will bring two of the IHR’s traditional activities to a new audience online. The project website, to be launched in March 2011, will publish podcasts of selected IHR seminars, with accompanying research materials and discussion facilities, alongside new research training handbooks and a suite of materials to accompany the IHR’s postgraduate training courses. Nothing quite like it has been developed for the humanities, and we hope that it will allow history to lead the way in this increasingly important area of scholarly activity. The project is funded by an anonymous donor, to whom we are enormously grateful.

A second new project starting this autumn is ReScript, which will develop an online platform for the collaborative editing of historical texts. It seeks to address two key challenges facing editors in the 21st century: what form should the editing of historical texts take in the digital sphere; and how can online tools and collaborative workspaces successfully be built into the academic research process? Teams of editors will be working on four initial texts, chosen because they represent the main approaches to historical editing: Aubrey’s Brief Lives, Clarendon’s History of the Rebellion, the St. Botolph Aldgate Parish Clerk’s Memoranda Books and Foster’s Alumi Oxonienses. Crowd-sourced corrections and annotations will also be sought for some of the texts, experimenting with what we now mean by an ‘edition’. The project is funded by the Dean’s Development Fund of the School of Advanced Study.

IHR Digital will also be offering a range of consultancy, advisory and web hosting services, a relatively new departure for the Institute. For example, we are pleased to announce a new partnership with the British Library’s UK Web Archive (http://www.webarchive.org.uk/ukwa/). The IHR has convened an advisory group of historians, who will work with the BL’s curators to consider both online representations of the distant past and those parts of the web that will in time become the primary sources for future generations of historians. One of the team is also involved with the BL’s ‘Researchers and the UK web archive’ project. A group of scholars from several disciplines will over the next year conduct individual investigations into the potential of the UK Web Archive for new research. A genuinely innovative project, it promises to help shape the future direction of web archiving policy in the UK. Similarly, a recent funding award from JISC, for evaluating the impact of British History Online on historical research, will allow us to complete a longitudinal study of the impact of digital technology, and particularly the digitisation of primary sources, on scholarly practice. The findings of this project will feed in to the national JISC Toolkit for the Impact of Digitised Scholarly Resources (TIDSR; http://microsites.oii.ox.ac.uk/tidsr/).

Finally, IHR Digital is developing a hosting service for academic history websites, from small societies to large digital enterprises. The first of these are already live, for example that developed for the AHRC-funded CLASMA research network (http://www.clasma.org.uk/), and more will follow in the coming months.

This is a very exciting time for the IHR, and we hope that you will follow our progress over the next months and years. For more information about IHR Digital, and what it might be able to offer you, see our website, www.history.ac.uk/digital/, or email IHR.Digital@sas.ac.uk.
Seminars at the IHR

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

American history
Thursday, 5.30pm

Archives and society
Tuesday, 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

Christian missions in global history
Tuesday, 5.30pm

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

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

Colonial science and its histories
Friday, 5.00pm

Comparative histories of Asia
Thursday, 5.30pm

Contemporary British history
Wednesday, 5.00pm

Conversations and disputation
TBC, 4.30pm

Crusades and the Latin East
Monday, 5.00pm

Earlier Middle Ages
Wednesday, 5.30pm

Early modern material cultures
Wednesday, 5.00pm

Economic and social history of the pre-modern world, 1500–1800
Friday, 5.15pm

Education in the long 18th century
Saturday, 2.00pm

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 libraries
Tuesday, 5.30pm

History of political ideas
Wednesday, 5.00pm

Imperial and world 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

Life-cycles
Tuesday, 5.15pm

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 in culture
Friday, 5.30pm

Medieval and Tudor London
Thursday, 5.15pm

Metropolitan history
Wednesday, 5.30pm

Military history
Tuesday, 5.00pm

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

Rethinking modern Europe
Wednesday, 5.30pm

Socialist history
Monday, 5.30pm

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

Sport and leisure history
Monday, 5.15pm

Tudor and Stuart history
Monday, 5.15pm

Voluntary action history
Monday, 5.30pm

Women’s history
Friday, 5.15pm
Focus on: Locality and Region seminar

The Locality and Region seminar welcomes all those who are interested in the relationship between local and national history and who wish to share ideas, viewpoints and work in progress. It seeks to make an original contribution to local and regional history by drawing upon the long-established national resources of the Victoria County History and cooperating with participants from universities, record offices, local history societies and heritage organisations, as well as with those engaged in independent research.

Convenors: Professor John Beckett (University of Nottingham), Matthew Bristow (VCH, IHR), Dr Christopher Currie (IHR), Dr Gill Draper (University of Kent), Dr Alan Thacker (IHR), Elizabeth Williamson (VCH, IHR).

The seminar meets at 5.15 pm on alternate Tuesdays in the Ecclesiastical History Room in the IHR.

If you would like to join our e-mailing list, please contact: elizabeth.williamson@sas.ac.uk

19 October, 2010
Margaret Escott
Residential mobility in a 19th-century parish
This paper examines the impact on the parish of changes in incumbents, local gentry and officials; of enclosure, the 1834 poor law and ancillary legislation; the railway and the more rapid urbanisation of nearby parishes. It considers the ways in which late enclosure deprived manorial tenants of their common rights and freedom to graze animals on roadside verges - the subject of subsequent complaints referred to the constables and the parish vestry. It also looks afresh at how the customary practice of building houses on the waste was curtailed and considers the impact that the parish vestry, sanitary inspections, the Poor Law Board's appropriation of parish housing and local entrepreneurs who provided alternative accommodation had on trends in migration and residential mobility.

2 November, 2010
Andrew Senter
Class, health and leisure in late Victorian Clacton-on-Sea
This paper suggests that late Victorian seaside resort growth was crucial in shaping the rules of leisure and in widening access beyond the middle classes, foreshadowing the mass tourism of the 20th century. In the 1870s and 1880s, class became the determinant of whether a trip to the seaside was to be for leisure or health. Clacton-on-Sea in north-east Essex is used as a case study to illustrate the wider picture. A seaside resort created almost from scratch, it consequently can be seen as a social testing ground.

30 November, 2010
Julie Rugg, University of York
Burial culture in rural North Yorkshire: continuity and change
The emergence of cemeteries in the nineteenth century as a distinctive form of burial space has often been posited as evidence of a ‘modern’ approach to interment. Scientific principles overcame a centuries-long reliance on spiritual authorities for the provision of burial space: the Church lost ground, literally, to secular agencies. However, detailed study of churchyard management and cemetery provision at the parish level substantially undermines this meta-narrative.

25 January, 2011
Pete Horne, English Heritage
Discovering past landscapes on aerial photographs: the English Heritage National Mapping Programme.
Exploring the potential of the use of aerial photographs to illustrate and identify archaeological sites.

Kaoru Ugawa, from Japan, looks at local history after the Second World War.
Research training at the IHR

General historical skills

An introduction to oral history
Mondays, 17 Jan 2011 – 28 March 2011
This course addresses theoretical and practical issues in oral history through workshop sessions and participants’ own interviewing work.
Fee £200

Interviewing for researchers
9 May 2011
This course examines how to interview public officials, security personnel, scientists and medical professionals; the best practices for recording, preserving and transcribing interviews; how to ensure interviewing techniques are ethical; copyright/data protection issues; alternative techniques such as group interviewing, and the advantages and limitations of interviews.
Fee £70

Dealing with the media
3 December 2010
This course explores the media’s interest in history and teaches the skills and techniques academics need to make the most of it.
Fee £300

Explanatory paradigms: an introduction to historical theory
5 May 2011 – 21 July 2011
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 course is aimed at students with a working knowledge of script, and at least one external visit.
Fee £200

Freedom of Information: a practical guide for historians
18 April 2011
A practical guide to using the Freedom of Information Act to find and obtain historical source material.
Fee £70

Landscape and townscape: methods and sources for urban, regional and local history
Dates TBA
This new AHRC-funded programme will offer research students an opportunity to acquire and develop skills relating to the study of historical landscapes, urban and rural. A series of free training events will address key themes relating to the understanding of the historic environment, ensuring best practice in fieldwork, use of documentary sources, other material evidence, and relevant IT packages.
Free

Archival research skills

Methods and sources for historical research
22–26 November 2010; 11–15 April 2011; 4–8 July 2011
This long-standing course is an introduction to finding and using primary sources for research in modern British, Irish and colonial history. It will include visits to various archives, including the British Library and The National Archives.
Fee £200

Visual sources for historians
8 February 2011 – 8 March 2011
An introduction to the use of visual sources by historians (post-1500). The course explores films, paintings, photographs, architecture and design as historical sources, and provides an introduction to particular items both in situ and held in archives and libraries.
Fee £185

Palaeography and diplomatic
Tuesdays, 5 Oct 2010 — 17 May 2011
This 23-week course provides an introduction to the history of script in Latin and English (and possibly other languages; please enquire) from the Roman Empire to the Renaissance. It comprises practical instruction in reading manuscripts, an introduction to the intellectual contexts of the history of script, and at least one external visit.

Digital research skills

Databases for historians
14 – 17 December 2010; 14 – 17 June 2011
This four-day course introduces the theory and practice of constructing and using databases. Through a mixture of lectures and practical 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

Databases for historians II: practical database tools
13 – 15 July 2011
This course assumes a basic understanding of the conceptual issues of digitally managing information from historical sources. It aims to introduce the tools and techniques required for improving the utility of the database from the data entry stage, through to the generation and presentation of analysis.
Fee £160

History on the web
7 December 2010; 7 March 2011; 7 June 2011
An intensive introduction to use of the internet as a tool for serious historical research.
Fee £70

Textual analysis: qualitative data with NVivo
24 January 2011
This one-day workshop furnishes participants with a working knowledge of NVivo and its uses for historical research projects.
Fee £120

Languages

An introduction to Medieval and Renaissance Latin
12 October 2010 – 7 December 2010
This 10-week course provides an introduction to Latin grammar, vocabulary and translation. It is intended for absolute beginners.
Fee £185

Further Medieval and Renaissance Latin
11 January 2011 – 22 March 2011
Builds upon the basis of the above course for a deeper understanding of the language.
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