Our friends in the States
The American Friends of the IHR

Sinners, scroungers, saints
Lone mothers past and present

170 years of posting the mail
Inside the Royal Mail Archives

The Irish diaspora
Irish History Online

Plus news of book and website launches, research training courses, calls for papers and more
Letter from the Director

I am writing my Letter for the second issue of *Timeline* in the quieter weeks after the 76th Anglo-American Conference. I repeat, the 76th: the latest in a series which started in 1926, and which has continued annually since then, interrupted only by the Second World War. This year sees the centenary of the Creighton Lecture, to be celebrated with a lecture by Professor Robert Evans of the University of Oxford on ‘The Creighton century: British historians and Europe, 1907–2007’. Some reflection on the distinguished pasts of both the IHR and the study of history in the University of London and its constituent colleges is therefore inevitable. But the survival of both over such a long period is also a testimony to the adaptability of all involved and to their capacity to face changing times.

The list of Creighton lecturers is an awesome one containing many of the ‘greats’ of the UK historical profession. We hope to celebrate the centenary with a published volume of selected lectures. A magnificent way to grasp the Anglo-American’s history is to visit the Wolfson Room and to gaze at the famous photograph of the delegates at the 1926 Conference in a ‘team photograph’ taken in front of UCL. A genuinely transatlantic event, devoted mostly to English constitutional history, that first meeting has evolved into a conference which is both much more international than its Anglo-American title implies and also very wide-ranging. In a packed calendar of academic conferences, the Anglo-American must remain a beacon for the historical profession, battling against the excessive specialism which can characterise modern conferences, and seeking to bring together historians of all periods and places. Its future evolution is a topic on which I would welcome opinions and comments.

To reflect on these traditional events is for me a reminder of the challenges of sustaining the IHR’s national and international missions into the 21st century, as well as a reminder of what makes, and has made, the IHR such a great institution. Its future requires that we continue all that we are renowned for, that our outstandingly capable staff continue to produce innovative projects, and that we generate income. Some of our current projects are described in this magazine. Information about others can be obtained from our website (www.history.ac.uk). And if you want to support the IHR’s mission with either ideas or a donation, then you should contact either my own office (ihrdir@sas.ac.uk) or the IHR’s Development Office (ihrdev@sas.ac.uk).

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Left: Delegates at the 76th Anglo-American Conference of Historians book exhibition, July 2007
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Explore England’s Past online

England’s Past for Everyone (EPE), based in the Victoria County History at the IHR, is pleased to announce the launch of its new website www.ExploreEnglandsPast.org.uk.

The ‘Explore’ website was launched by TV historian Michael Wood, at a reception held in Portcullis House, Westminster.

The website resources have been collected by local volunteers and academics, working in ten counties across the country. The website provides free access to thousands of local history resources, including images, historical documents and audio files. Visitors can search the website by location, time period, place and person. Themed searches and further resources will be added to the website as the EPE project progresses.

If anyone would like to get involved and gain experience of adding historical content to our interactive website, we’d be pleased to hear from you. Please email the project manager for further details (catherine.cavanagh@sas.ac.uk)

The Conrad and Elizabeth Russell Postgraduate Emergency Hardship Fund

The Conrad and Elizabeth Russell Postgraduate Emergency Hardship Fund exists to support PhD candidates who are members of the IHR community (usually defined as being either a regular attender at IHR seminars or a regular user of the IHR as a reader) and registered for a research degree at a British or North American university. Please note that the Fund cannot pay tuition fees.

£1,000 will normally be available for distribution during any one academic year, with a maximum award to any one student of £500.

The Fund was established in memory of the late Conrad Russell (Professor Lord Russell) and his wife Elizabeth in support of a cause close to both of their hearts, namely the encouragement of historians at an early stage of their careers.

For further information, please contact Samantha Jordan, Institute of Historical Research, University of London, Senate House, Malet Street, London WC1E 7HU samantha.jordan@sas.ac.uk, 020 7862 8756.

The VCH and the IHR – 75 years on

On Wednesday 13 February 2008, we shall be celebrating 75 years since the Victoria County History first made its home at the IHR. A special seminar series is planned to mark the occasion and there will also be a reception. These events are being timed to coincide with the formal launch of the Centre for Local History, an initiative backed by the School of Advanced Study.

Grants for History

The 2008 edition of Grants for History, the IHR’s guide to sources of funding available to historians, will be published in early October. It includes scholarships, fellowships and prizes, together with sources for grants for maintenance, study leave, conferences and costs of fieldwork or publication. It also includes details of foreign awards available to British historians. The book, which this year contains over 400 entries, is available from the IHR bookshop, priced £13.50. Please contact Emily Morrell for more information on ihrpub@sas.ac.uk, tel. 020 7862 8780.

Historical Research competition winner

Thanks to all the competition entrants who correctly said that the Institute of Historical Research was founded in 1921. The winner was Paul Calderwood who won a year’s subscription to Historical Research. For more details about the journal and how to subscribe, please see www.history.ac.uk/historical.
New features for British History Online

In October 2007 British History Online (www.british-history.ac.uk) launches a new 'premium content' subscription service, making available The National Archives’ Calendars of State Papers, Domestic. The calendars are an essential source for historians in higher education. They are invaluable for the study of central government and administration, but are also a rich resource for the social, cultural and economic history of Britain. In addition, the calendars contain a wealth of personal and place-name information, and are increasingly used by family and local historians, as well as by those of all ages and levels of experience interested in the history of their locality, region or country.

The launch is also the occasion for a redesign of the website, building on the brand image which has been developed successfully since 2002. New features include enhanced navigation, and a special 'Scholars' area', with a wiki to follow.

Christianity in Cornwall – new book launched

On Saturday 29 September England’s Past for Everyone celebrated the launch of their second paperback publication. 

Cornwall and the Cross: Christianity 500–1560 was launched by the Rt. Hon. William Ind, The Bishop of Truro, at an event held on St Michael’s Mount, Cornwall. The Bishop led local school children and other guests on a pilgrimage from the Mount to the mainland, where the book was officially launched.

Written by Professor Nicholas Orme, Cornwall and the Cross charts the development of the area's religious history, showing how the Cornish developed distinctive traditions while fully sharing in the Christianity of western Europe. All aspects of Christian life are explored, from the early Church, to the effects of the Reformation in Cornwall. The book also studies the lives of the people involved in the Cornish church, from monks, friars and parish clergy to the lay people who made an important contribution to the religious community.

This book is the second in the England’s Past for Everyone series. Volunteers in Cornwall were involved in collecting data on the parishes and teaching materials developed during the project are currently being trialled in a local school.

Books on the origins of Sunderland and the history of immigration in Bristol are also due to be published by EPE this year. Cornwall and the Cross: Christianity 500–1560 is available to buy from the IHR bookstore at a 10 per cent discount.

Making History: the discipline in perspective

The IHR has been awarded funding by the University of London Vice-Chancellor’s Development Fund to develop a major online resource that will trace the ‘Making of History’ in the past century and more. This historiographical archive will include video and audio material, databases of research and teaching, and newly-commissioned contextual essays and studies. The resource will focus on five main areas:

- People – the individuals who have loomed large in the discipline, and shaped its progression and development
- Places – the institutions and organisations which have played a leading role in the practice and teaching of history
- Themes – the dominant themes and movements which have emerged (and declined) since the beginning of the 20th century
- Projects – the significance of the great research projects in shaping trends
- The future – what lessons can the profession draw from its own history, in order to establish itself at the centre of education, and even British life, in the 21st century?

New director for the CCBH

The Centre for Contemporary British History (CCBH) at the IHR is delighted to announce the appointment of a new Director, Dr Richard Roberts.

Previously a member of faculty at the University of Sussex, Dr Roberts is a highly experienced writer, researcher and teacher. A specialist in economic and financial history, he is author of many books on investment banking and international finance and is currently completing a study of the breakdown of the Bretton Woods fixed exchange rate system in the early 1970s. He is a leading authority on international financial centres, especially Wall Street and the City.

Dr Roberts took up his post on 4 June 2007. ‘I am excited to be joining the CCBH and look forward to helping to enhance its important role as the UK’s hub for contemporary history,’ says the new Director. ‘I believe in supporting its established strengths as well as undertaking new initiatives, particularly the development of the Centre’s interface with the City.’

Dr Roberts can be reached at the CCBH by email: richard.roberts@sas.ac.uk or telephone: 020 7862 8810.
I first encountered the IHR 40 years ago. I was a Yale graduate student doing research on my doctoral dissertation, and from 1967 to 1969 the IHR became my academic home away from home. Those were the days of ‘Swinging London’. Harold Wilson devalued the pound not long after my wife and I arrived, then only a year married. All of a sudden our dollars bought 15 per cent more, and it felt like an extension of our honeymoon. We bought her a cony coat in Carnaby Street and went to plays and concerts much more often than we would have otherwise. The National Theatre performed in the Old Vic in those days, where we saw Geraldine McEwan and Sir Lawrence Olivier in Ibsen’s Dance of Death in seats that cost 7s 6d, not much more than it would have cost to heat our flat for the evening. Or so we told ourselves. We heard Benjamin Britten and Mstislav Rostropovich playing the former’s sonatas in the Queen Elizabeth Hall and spent many wonderful evenings in the Royal Festival Hall listening to extraordinary orchestras (such as Carlo Maria Giulini conducting the Verdi Requiem). Thanks to Commonwealth preferences, New Zealand lamb was cheaper than chicken in the butcher’s shop, and we could go a long way on a bus or the tube for a shilling.

I gave my first seminar paper in the Stuart seminar, which was then directed by R. C. Latham, Henry Roseveare and Roger Lockyer. I attended that seminar regularly and others occasionally, and I remember learning a great deal from a course on the Protestant Reformation in Europe led by A. G. Dickens and Patrick Collinson. I often worked in the library after the reading rooms at the British Museum closed for the day, and the IHR tearoom always provided a welcome break and a convenient place to talk to colleagues. I particularly valued it during cold winter weather because it was better heated than the North Library. So, when in 1996 I was asked to join the board of directors of the American Friends of Historical Research (AFIHR), I accepted with alacrity.

The United States tax code allows Americans to deduct from their taxable income contributions that they make to charities, and a wide variety of charities, including educational institutions in the US have long benefited enormously from this provision. But our Internal Revenue Service (IRS) requires that money sent to charities outside the US is not deductible unless transmitted by an approved domestic entity that is registered and approved and submits the required reports. As a result, the list of ‘American Friends’ of charitable institutions in Europe and elsewhere around the world is a long one. In Britain, there are American Friends of LSE and the universities of Oxford, Cambridge and Edinburgh, various Oxford and Cambridge colleges, the British Museum, English National Opera, Covent Garden and the Royal Ballet, the Warburg Institute, the Royal Society, the Hakluyt Society, the Bodleian Library, London Philharmonic Orchestra, Philharmonia Orchestra, St Paul’s Girls’ School, St Bride Library, the Natural History Museum, and many others.

The American Friends of the Institute of Historical Research was founded in 1989, and its prime mover was Jacob M. Price of the University of Michigan, the doyen of Atlantic historians. Himself a frequent visitor to the IHR, he knew many American scholars who regularly turned up there and rightly thought it was time for us to do something to support this wonderful place. Having such an excellent idea and taking the time and effort that is required to get it done are, of course, two very different things. Fortunately, Jack Price is a person who had the persistence and skill to follow through on his good intentions. Price served as the first president of the AFIHR until he was succeeded by Daniel Baugh (former vice-president) of Cornell in 2000. I have the honour of being the third president, having begun in 2005. In 2003, the board voted unanimously to name Jack Price the ‘Founding President of the American Friends of the Institute of Historical Research’ in recognition of his role in creating the organization and guiding it in its first eleven years’. In the early days, board members included Bentley Gilbert, James Sack, Walter Armstein, Lois Schwoerer, Carolyn Edie, Peter Stansky, Warren Hollister and R. K. Webb.

From the beginning, there were two goals. First, the AFIHR wanted to fund the purchase of books and microforms to enhance the collections of the IHR Library, and in particular to help with the acquisition of large and expensive items that might not otherwise be affordable. Second, it wished to support purchases of equipment or other things that would make the IHR a better and more accessible place for scholars to work. In 1990, the price of basic membership was set at $35 (now $45), and in 1990, the officers and directors decided to...
grant $4,500 to the IHR. In recent years, the grants have averaged about three times that amount, although inflation and the decline of the dollar mean that in real terms the gain is less than three-fold. Our mailing list currently goes to over 250 recipients, and the board of directors meets once a year at the annual conference of the North American Conference on British Studies. Neither officers nor directors are paid or receive reimbursement for travel expenses, so except for postage, printing and auditing fees, all our income goes to the IHR. The most recent survey I have seen of ‘hits’ on the AFIHR website indicates an upward trend, running at an average of nearly 70 per month.

Reading through the minutes, it becomes evident that the record is in part a tale of new technologies. In the beginning, things were still fairly simple. At the 28 December 1990 board meeting in New York City, grants were authorised for the purchase of ‘a reliable slide projector and trolley, an overhead projector, and library books and microforms’. Soon enough, however, the voice of the computer was heard in the land. In 1992, a $5,000 grant helped to fund the purchase of two CD-ROM drives, a computer and a printer. The 1994 funds helped to support tagging of books for the new security system and the purchase of a workstation for the new information server. Then as now, decisions about allocations for specific items are made in close consultation with the IHR’s director and staff members. Slide projectors have yielded to data projectors, and we funded purchase of one of those and three new computers in our meeting in Boston last autumn. Running alongside all the new gadgets, of course, has been a steady stream of acquisitions of books and other research materials and guides to them. In 1995, for example, there was funding for half of the considerable cost of a CD-ROM of Palmer’s Index to the Times, 1790–1905. When this important tool became available online (extended to 1870), we voted to fund the IHR’s access to it in 2002. Other such acquisitions include the Alecto Digital Domesday Book and the Index to the House of Commons Parliamentary Papers on CD-ROM. Books acquired with our funds contain a bookplate indicating the AFIHR’s donation, and by now, 17 years later, the total number of books must be rather considerable. They include things like the records of the convocations held in the archdioceses of Canterbury (1313–1852) and York (1313–1861) (18 volumes); the trials for treason and sedition (5 vols., 1692–4); the publications of the London corresponding society (6 vols., 1792–9); and the coalition diaries and letters of H. A. L. Fisher (4 vols., 1916–22). AFIHR paid the construction costs of a Periodicals Room (for current numbers) which is adjacent to the Common Room, and there is a plaque to that effect near its door.

In the last few years, we have become increasingly interested in finding ways to help scholars (including graduate students) to make use of the IHR’s programmes and resources. In 2005, we took pleasure in helping to put the Conrad and Elizabeth Russell Fund ‘over the top’, and last year we were fascinated to learn of the work of the History Lab and earmarked $2,000 for bursaries to help North American students participate in its annual conference. We will continue to look for ways to do more in this area.

Sears McGee
President, AFIHR
University of California, Santa Barbara
Sinners, scroungers, saints

Tanya Evans, research fellow at the IHR, tells us about her exhibition on lone mothers past and present at The Women’s Library

Since October 2004 I have been working as a Research Fellow on an ESRC-funded project led by Pat Thane on ‘Unmarried motherhood in England and Wales, 1918–95’. As part of the project I have curated an exhibition which will be held at The Women’s Library, London Metropolitan University from 17 October 2007 until spring 2008. The Women’s Library is a cultural centre, housing the most extensive women’s history resource in the UK. It holds archives and printed collections documenting the lives of lone mothers and changing attitudes towards lone parenthood from the 19th through to the 21st century. A prize amongst these collections is the archive of the National Council for One-Parent Families which was founded in 1918 as the National Council for the Unmarried Mother and her Child, with the aim of reducing the gap in the mortality rates between rich and poor children, especially between ‘legitimate’ and ‘illegitimate’ children, and improving the welfare of unmarried mothers and their offspring. To mark the 90th anniversary of the organisation this exhibition will explore the diverse routes into lone motherhood, the responses to lone motherhood, how women coped as lone mothers, the history of the maintenance of lone-parent families and how the issues and debates that surround lone mothers in the present day have and have not changed over time. The exhibition is organised around the following main themes: Relative Values, Unforeseen Circumstances, Forced Separations, Alone by Choice, Sinners, Scroungers, Saints, Keeping it in the Family, Adoption, Making Ends Meet, Finding Support, Building New Families, and Going it Alone. The first section will explore changing conventions surrounding marriage and childrearing from the mid 18th century to the present day. It will suggest that the 1950s, a period described by Pat Thane as ‘the only age of the near universal, stable, long-lasting marriage, often considered the normality from which we have since departed’, represented an atypical period in the history of the family and that the perceived rise in unmarried motherhood since the 1970s needs to be situated within that context. We suggest that the structures of family life that many people believe to be new since the 1960s – cohabitation, many births outside marriage, transient and complex family relationships – have a much longer history. Since the 1970s we have seen a return to much older norms of serial partnerships, complex families and late marriage ages, though in a different mortality regime and legal and cultural context from that of earlier periods. Throughout history marriages were broken by early death, now they are broken by divorce and separation.

At the start of the 20th century most lone mothers were widows; by the end of the century they were never-married mothers. Children have been brought up successfully within these multiple family forms throughout history. This section draws on my book Unfortunate Objects: Lone Mothers in Eighteenth-Century London (Palgrave, 2005) and includes representations of marriage, divorce and separation from 1750 to the present day as well as tokens from the Foundling Museum, a Foundling Hospital petition for admission, and an 18th-century bastardy examination taken by the parish of St. Mary Islington. During the 18th century the illegitimacy rate rose steadily across England and Wales, from around 1 per cent in 1650 to a peak of 7 per cent in 1850 when it declined to about 4 per cent in 1902, except during the World Wars when it rose to 9 per cent. By 1990 the rate was 28 per cent and by the turn of the 21st century almost two-fifths of births took place outside marriage.

Unforeseen Circumstances explores women’s access to and use of contraception and abortion in the 20th century. Contraceptives and abortifacients used throughout this century are broken by divorce and separation. The post-war welfare settlement and the commitment to full employment enabled more couples to set up home and start families earlier than at any other time in history before or since. The longer women waited to marry, the more they risked bearing a child out of wedlock. During the first and second world wars the consequences of pre-marital sex...
became more obvious, as the illegitimacy rate increased, largely as a result of relationships not formalised by marriage due to the war. The illegitimacy rate doubled between 1939 and 1945 from 4.19 per cent of total live births to 9.18 per cent. The percentage of pregnancies that occurred before marriage but were legitimised by marriage fell from 70 per cent before 1940 to 37 per cent in 1945. Many marriages also ended due to adultery or death. All of these circumstances led to women raising children on their own. The letters to the agony aunts of women’s magazines suggest a greater tolerance of pre-marital and extra-marital sexual activity in wartime.

The section on Sinners, Scroungers and Saints describes official and popular responses to lone motherhood. There has been no linearity in attitudes towards lone mothers and this section describes how and why they have been especially stigmatised at particular points in time. Attitudes towards unmarried mothers and the responses to their predicament varied greatly over the course of the 20th century. Before 1918 they were predominately thought of as sinners, after each war as unfortunate, in the 1950s as psychologically damaged, by the 1960s as liberated, and as objects of compassion in the 1970s, but increasingly stigmatised in the 1980s and early 1990s. Current debates on marriage also marginalise lone mothers. Their experience as one of the poorest sections of British society has remained much the same. Women who give birth to children out of wedlock continue to be discriminated against legally, socially and economically. Widows have always been treated with more compassion than other lone parents.

Keeping it in the Family describes how, in contrast to popular perception, most lone mothers were supported by their families throughout the 20th century. The desire for secrecy and discrimination could co-exist with examples of compassion and support for women who found themselves pregnant without the support of a father. Maternal grandparents were vital to the care of their daughter’s children, sometimes in secret, but usually openly. Adoption was also a common response to the birth of illegitimate children. This section displays an adoption certificate of an illegitimate boy born in the 1920s, as well as the pictures and details of children adopted and fostered throughout the century. Adoption and fostering could also be used as strategies by women hoping to keep their family together. Some children were brought up unaware of their illegitimate origins and the identity of their natural mother, but most were not.

Making Ends Meet describes how single mothers are the poorest group within British society and why this has not changed over the course of over 200 years. It also explores the difficulties women experienced in accessing suitable and affordable housing as well as the many problems they have faced in either remaining in or re-entering the workplace. In 2005, 41 per cent of one-parent families were living on below £200 a week, compared to just 8 per cent of married and 11 per cent of cohabiting couples with children. Fifty-six per cent of lone parents are now in paid work, up 10 per cent from 10 years ago. But even when in paid work, women working full time earn on average 17.2 per cent less than men. Finding Support describes how the vast majority of mothers and babies remained together, with a combination of help from their wider family, from the state and from voluntary organisations. Building New Families displays the experiences of five ‘ambassadors’ for one parent families who are either lone parents themselves or who were brought up by lone parents, including John Amaechai, Tracy Edwards, Rodney Bickerstaffe, Lisa Aziz and Martina Cole. Going it Alone includes five portraits and oral history interviews with five lone mothers or children brought up within single parent households.

There will be a symposium on Lone Parenthood held on 23 November 2007 at The Women’s Library which will include a plenary by Pat Thane. There is also a schools programme targeted at A-level sociology students who are invited to see the exhibition and debate the issues addressed by it in a two-hour workshop. Students have been asked to choose from one of the following debates: ‘The nuclear family is the best family’, ‘A lone mother is a good parent’, ‘It is futile to expect non-resident parents to maintain their children’ and ‘Lone parents should be forced to work’.

New perspectives on lone mothers: an academic symposium
To be held in conjunction with the exhibition Sinners, Scroungers, Saints at The Women’s Library
10am–5pm 23 November 2007
For further information contact: www.thewomenslibrary.ac.uk 0207 320 2222 moreinfo@thewomenslibrary.ac.uk

Keynote speakers:
Pat Thane – Leverhulme Professor of Contemporary British History, Institute of Historical Research
The changing experience of lone motherhood in Britain since 1918

Hilary Land – Emeritus Professor and Senior Research Fellow, Centre for Family Policy and Child Welfare, School for Policy Studies, University of Bristol
Lone mothers must work: more of the same or different?

Other speakers include:
Tanya Evans – Institute of Historical Research
The other woman and her child: extra-marital affairs and illegitimacy in 20th-century England

Vanessa May – University of Manchester
Changing notions of lone motherhood in Finland

Thomas Nutt – University of Cambridge
Unmarried mothers as scroungers? Assessing the tax burden of illegitimacy and the payment of maintenance by fathers in 18th- and 19th-century England

Peter Harris – University of Oxford
The making of the Children and Child Support Acts: lessons in legislating

Maria Luddy – University of Warwick
The problem of unmarried motherhood in Ireland, 1880–1973

Janet Fink – Open University
What’s the story, who’s the problem? Unmarried mothers in mid 20th-century British film and TV

Ginger Frost – Samford University
Unintended consequences: limitations and complications of the Legitimacy Act of 1926
170 years of post: the British Postal Museum and Archive

Helen Glew, doctoral student at the IHR, looks at the collections

Located in the Mount Pleasant Sorting Office complex in central London, the British Postal Museum & Archive holds the records of the General Post Office (GPO) and Royal Mail, and a museum collection pertaining to these two institutions and to postal history more generally. The Royal Mail Archive has public record status. Rather than being preserved centrally, the material was preserved by the GPO and Royal Mail which has allowed a greater depth of material to be kept than might otherwise have been possible.

It is almost 170 years since the introduction of the Penny Black and the revolution in communication which occurred as a result of postage becoming affordable for all. In the intervening century-and-three-quarters, the Post Office has had an everyday impact on everyone. Sending and receiving mail remains at the heart of the institution’s importance, and over the years the Post Office was the provider of telegraph and telephone services and still offers banking services. It was, and remains, the collection point for Old Age Pensions and the provider or facilitator of numerous other services central to day-to-day life. There is much in the archive documenting the evolution of these services over the years: from the plans for penny postage to developments in the Money Order and Savings Bank Department, to examples of commercial advertising banned from being franked onto envelopes and drafts of Girobank publicity prior to its 1968 launch. There are also collections and papers which provide a fascinating insight into what might have been: a set of stamps without the imprint of the Queen’s head, proposed by Tony Benn during his service as Postmaster General; a design for a joint British-French postage stamp, proposed during 1940.

The GPO employed thousands of people throughout the country in a wide variety of different roles. In the early part of the 20th century it was also the nation’s largest employer and remained a Civil Service department until 1969. There is some form of employment record for the vast majority of staff employed by the GPO until 1959, creating an important source for employment history and genealogy. The staff magazines provide a fascinating snapshot of the talent of GPO employees, whose writing and art work was regularly published in the earlier issues, and a detailed glimpse of the social and leisure opportunities available to staff.

The Royal Mail Archive is also particularly strong regarding the impact of the two world wars on an institution. Documents detail plans for war and changes in policy and business arrangements during conflict. In the Second World War, Churchill asked post offices around the country to keep a ‘war diary’; these provide a fascinating insight into the impact of war on the GPO and its individual workplaces.

Besides its role in communication systems, the GPO was significant in other events and developments of the 20th century and as such the records can offer much material in areas which might not be expected to have much connection with the history of the institution. For example, the archive contains material relating to the history of information and propaganda films. Stephen Tallents, as the GPO’s first Public Relations Officer, took responsibility for the GPO Film Unit, which eventually became the Crown Film Unit and was responsible for the production of the Ministry of Information films throughout the Second World War and later those of the Central Office of Information. The BPMA’s photographic collections include thousands of images which trace, variously, the evolution of uniform, mail transport, Post Office interiors and much more and which support the corresponding aspects of the object collection. Likewise, the archive of posters from before the Second World War to the present showcases an evolution in art, graphics and design and the language and practices of marketing.

The Royal Mail Archive Search Room is open for the consultation of archival material from 10am to 5pm Monday to Friday, with late opening until 7pm on Thursdays and occasional Saturday opening throughout the year. More information, including the online catalogue, can be found at www.postalheritage.org.uk or by calling 020 7239 2570.

Inside a Travelling Post Office (TPO) in 1934. © Royal Mail Group Ltd 2007, reproduced by kind permission of The British Postal Museum & Archive (www.postalheritage.org.uk)
Sharing research at Cumberland Lodge

Robyn Glessner, research student, Centre for Contemporary British History

In 1947 the former royal residence of Cumberland Lodge was set apart by King George IV and Queen Elizabeth as a place for academics to reflect on their role in the betterment of society in the wake of Nazi Germany. Having witnessed a centre for cultural life brought to its knees by the inability of the academic community proactively to contradict the Nazi regime, Cumberland Lodge has been reserved as a refuge for subsequent generations of academics in this cultural metropolis, as an open forum for the discussion of ideas. Indeed, the students of the CCBH gathered to do just that on a weekend in May by presenting their research on a variety of topics in the 20th century. From women working in the Post Office to writing British national history after 1945, discussion on a range of issues converged on a desire to understand better the developments that have brought us to the dawn of the 21st century. The weekend gave everyone involved a great opportunity to share interests and ideas, being encouraged in their own research efforts by peers and mentors while enjoying the beauty of the house and grounds.

Political Cartoon Gallery
The political cartoons of George Butterworth 1938–53
5 September–20 October 2007

This exhibition graphically illustrates the period 1938–53 through the amusing and beautifully drawn cartoons of George Butterworth, almost all of which have not been seen since they were first published. Butterworth started his career as a sports cartoonist. When war was declared against Nazi Germany in September 1939, Butterworth took over as political cartoonist on the Manchester Daily Dispatch. Butterworth’s daily cartoons proved to be such a success that he soon came to the personal attention of both Hitler and Mussolini. After Germany had been defeated in May 1945, Butterworth prophetically turned his attentions to the threat Stalin, and the Soviet Union, posed to the Western democracies. During this period, Butterworth also poured scorn on the new Labour Government led by Clement Attlee. The post-war years of austerity and financial crisis were all imaginatively used by Butterworth as ammunition for his daily cartoons.

The exhibition consists of 60 original Butterworth cartoons and will be accompanied by a fully illustrated limited edition hardback catalogue.

The Political Cartoon Gallery, 32 Store Street, London WC1E 7BS, is open Monday to Friday 9.30am – 5.30pm and on Saturdays between 11.30am and 5.30pm. Contact Dr Tim Benson on 020 7580 1114 or info@politicalcartoon.co.uk.
The network of historians involved in the History & Policy initiative has expanded rapidly in recent months. There are now over 70 recruits to H&P’s new database of historians who are willing to engage with policy and media audiences. The network will keep historians informed about policy developments relevant to their research and provide opportunities for them to use their expertise in policy and media discussion. H&P is still seeking more historians to join the database – there is no restriction on the period or subject of expertise, all are welcome. For more information contact Ruth Evans on 020 7862 8781 or email ruth.evans@sas.ac.uk.

As the Government announced plans for a national debate on the constitution, including the role of local democracy, H&P and the British Academy held a successful workshop to explore What’s wrong with English local democracy? Can looking back help to move it forward? A distinguished panel presented their thoughts: historian and Local Government Ombudsman Jerry White, former Chair of the Local Government Association Lord Bruce-Lockhart, LSE expert Tony Travers, former Local Government Minister Nick Raynsford and historian and Women’s Local Government Society Secretary Anne Baldwin. David Walker, editor of Guardian Public magazine, chaired a lively discussion with an invited audience of 35 other historians and contemporary experts. A follow-up public event is being planned for November, including a panel debate on From local diversity to central uniformity and back again: have public services come full circle since 1948?

The pace of publication on the H&P website continues to increase, with more papers and more variety than ever before. Recent contributions include Andrew Blick and George Jones on The ‘Department of the Prime Minister’ – should it continue?, Abigail Wills on Historical myth-making in juvenile justice policy and Virginia Berridge on Smoking and the sea-change in public health, 1945–2007. Virginia’s research report, History Matters? History’s role in health policymaking, has also recently been published on the website. Forthcoming papers will address binge-drinking in historical context, genocide in the 20th century, the role of history in national identity formation and trade unions and the law.

H&P is celebrating a new grant from its current funders, the Philanthropic Collaborative, which – among other things – has enabled us to recruit a full-time External Relations Assistant to support Mel Porter’s work. Ruth Evans, who recently graduated from York University with a BA in History and English, is currently, and very capably, filling this role. With its current grants expiring in March 2009, H&P is actively seeking the funds to enable the project to continue from then. To enquire about any aspect of H&P’s work or to discuss making a donation, please contact Mel Porter on 020 7862 8786 or email mel.porter@sas.ac.uk.

For more information or to access H&P papers and research, visit www.historyandpolicy.org.

Forthcoming articles in Historical Research by Julie Spraggon, Deputy Editor

Future Historical Research articles present important new information concerning the discovery of America and evidence of a previously unknown revolt in Oxfordshire in 1549, alongside explorations of subjects of topical interest such as the history of recycling and Muslim integration in Britain.

Evan Jones’s article on ‘Alwyn Ruddock: “John Cabot and the Discovery of America”’ is a close examination of a book proposal submitted by Alwyn Ruddock before her death which makes revolutionary claims concerning the voyages of John Cabot to America. Dr Ruddock’s research papers were all destroyed according to instructions in her will, but the survival of this document has allowed Dr Jones to piece together clues which point to something potentially major new evidence from previously unknown sources.

‘New light on the “commotion time” of 1549: the Oxfordshire rising’ by Katherine Halliday was a runner up in the 2006 Pollard Prize. The article describes a significant revolt which occurred in the midlands in the summer of 1549 – a year famous for rebellions in Norfolk and the west country. The Oxfordshire rising has remained unknown largely because of the privy council’s swift action to suppress and then conceal it. Halliday’s findings will have an impact on standard accounts of the government of Protector Somerset and on the social and economic history of the mid Tudor period.

Recycling, it seems, is not a new concern. Tim Cooper’s article ‘Challenging the “refuse revolution”: war, waste and the rediscovery of recycling, 1900–50’ looks at the social practices of waste disposal between 1900 and 1950. Recycling and reuse – virtually a norm before 1914 – declined in the face of the emerging culture of hygiene and the rise of incinerator technology. This was partially reversed by the wartime imperative to save resources when waste management professionals reconstituted themselves as experts in resource management, transforming attitudes to waste and developing new salvage technologies. However, after the war effort Britain quickly slipped back into the throwaway culture that provides such a challenge for environmentalists today.

‘Burking the dead: making Muslim space in Britain’ by Humayun Ansari explores how far burial has contributed to the establishment of a Muslim presence in Britain over the past 200 years. By discussing various ways in which Muslims have buried their dead, and some of the problems that they have encountered, the article addresses the significance of ritual and place-making in relation to notions of belonging and the construction of identity, and examines the changing nature of Muslim ‘rootedness’ within the British environment.

Finally, 2008 will see the publication of two recent Creighton Lectures. ‘The war against heresy in medieval Europe’ by Professor R. I. Moore (2004) argues that the level of clerical anxiety about popular heresy in 13th-century Europe, and the vigour of measures adopted to suppress it, were disproportionate to its extent and support, and seeks an alternative explanation for the launching of the ‘war against heresy’. Dame Olwen Hufton, in ‘Faith, hope and money: the Jesuits and the genesis of fundraising for education’ (2006), examines the financial support for Jesuit schools which made possible the ‘first, greatest (arguably unique) trans-national education system ever created’.

These articles are currently/will shortly be available to subscribers in our Online Early issue at www.blackwell-synergy.com/toc/hiar/0/0. Evan Jones’s article is freely available online. For a full list of future articles, abstracts of published articles and information about subscribing or submitting to Historical Research, visit our web pages at www.history.ac.uk/ historical.
The Irish diaspora: Irish History Online

Jackie Hill introduces Irish History Online, the Irish relation of the Royal Historical Society Bibliography of British and Irish History, based at the IHR.

Irish History Online (www.irishhistoryonline.ie) is a fully searchable electronic bibliography of publications on Irish history, which is making it much easier to discover what has been published on particular topics in Irish history. This free online resource, based in the Department of History, NUI Maynooth, Co. Kildare, was set up in 2003 thanks to a three-year Project Grant from the Irish Research Council for the Humanities and Social Sciences. It was established in co-operation with the Royal Historical Society Bibliography of British and Irish History (which went online in 2002), and of which it is now the Irish component, sharing the same software. To date, almost 60,000 titles on Irish history, covering publications from 1936 to 2002, are accessible through the IHO Search Menu (www.irishhistoryonline.ie), or through the RHS Bibliography’s ‘Irish material only’ Search Menu option (www.rhs.ac.uk/bibl). These titles cover not only monographs but also essays in collective volumes, and journal articles, including articles in local history journals. This makes IHO far more comprehensive than any other bibliography of Irish history, electronic or printed.

The first phase of the project involved digitising the entire corpus of ‘Writings on Irish History’ (published annually in Irish Historical Studies from 1938 onwards, and in pamphlet form in the 1990s). The bibliographic editor, Dr Anthony McCormack, added appropriate indexing terms and keywords; the time period covered by each record is also indicated, so that users can search for material covering any year or range of years. Thanks to the ADLIB software customised by the RHS Bibliography team, there are hierarchically controlled languages for advanced searching by subject and place, and an authority list for personal names. In addition, and also thanks to the shared software, users of Irish History Online have available to them several other important online resources, some of which can help in locating printed or online text. These include: COPAC and OCLC’s WorldCat, which allow users to identify the library nearest to them containing a copy of the book/article they want; EDINA’s Get Copy service, which (in the case of academic institutions participating in the service) provides access to the online text of certain electronically published journals and books; and articles in the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography (which contains many thousands of entries on Irish men and women). These innovations are likely to become increasingly important in the future, as more Irish history journals begin to make use of electronic publishing, and as the eagerly-awaited date draws nearer for the publication, in hard copy and electronically, of the Dictionary of Irish Biography, the multi-volume enterprise in preparation under the aegis of the Royal Irish Academy.

A second three-year Project Grant has been awarded by the IRCRSS, to run from 2006 to 2009. Under a new editor, Dr Frank Cullen, and with the assistance of an International Steering Committee, the principal aim during Phase 2 is to extend the coverage of overseas publications on Irish history, especially those on ‘the Irish abroad’. From the time of the Famine of the 1840s down to the 1950s, around one-third of those born in Ireland emigrated, mostly to the USA, but with significant numbers going to Canada and Australasia, as well as to Britain. Communities of Irish descent are also to be found in South America, Africa, Asia, and all over Europe. Already IHO contains considerable data on the Irish abroad, but it is not comprehensive, and identifying the gaps is a considerable challenge. Some investigation can be carried out via the Internet, but material in journals is less frequently accessible electronically. Accordingly, IHO’s editor, Dr Cullen, is about to visit New York and Toronto, to identify publications on the Irish in North America. Next year the main focus will be on the Irish in Europe, and in year three on the Irish in the rest of the world.

IHO is very grateful to those who have already offered advice as to the whereabouts of material on the Irish abroad. Suggestions, both on this and on mainstream Irish history, are always welcome: there is a feedback page on the website, www.irishhistoryonline.ie. If you are a published author, do check out the coverage of your own publications (despite all due care, some errors and omissions do occur). But remember that online data at present extends only to publications up to and including 2002. Titles of books and articles published after 2002 will, with some exceptions, not yet be available for online searching, but will be coming on stream periodically – updates are announced on the website. By the end of 2009, the aim is that the current five-year gap will have been narrowed to two years, with many, if not all, of the titles of publications for 2007 available for online searching.

Jackie Hill, Irish History Online, Department of History, NUI Maynooth www.irishhistoryonline.ie
Themes which should stimulate papers and discussions include:

- Recreation
- Land use
- Population migration calling for more housing and less space to build it on
- A need for quality green space
- Problems caused by deindustrialisation in Europe and North America
- Climate change aggravated by changing

Recent history has shown that there is a greater awareness of the need to improve urban environments. There are many issues here: they include problems caused by deindustrialisation in Europe and North America; climate change aggravated by changing land use; population migration calling for more housing and less space to build it on, and a need for quality green space for recreation.

Themes which should stimulate papers and discussions include:

- The use of old commercial waterfronts
- New botanic gardens
- The regeneration of old industrial sites
- Woodlands and reforestation
- Garden festivals
- Revival of old parks
- Creation of new parks
- Tourism based on gardens
- Seaside revival
- Allotments
- The Olympic Arena
- The Thames Gateway

As part of ‘The History of Gardens and Landscapes’ seminars at the IHR a conference on how ‘green’ initiatives have been used to regenerate ‘brown’ sites from the 1980s onwards will be held at the IHR.

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Papers are invited on these and other appropriate themes, and can relate to sites in the UK, Europe and North America. If you would like to take part, please send by email a title and a short synopsis by 31 October 2007 to Janet Waymark (janetwaymark@yahoo.co.uk).
Events diary

Events will take place at the Institute of Historical Research unless otherwise stated.

Tall buildings in the London landscape (12 October 2007)
This cross-disciplinary symposium, organised by the Centre for Metropolitan History, town planner Michael Hebbert (University of Manchester) and historian Elizabeth McKellar (Open University), will focus on the impact of tall buildings, past and present, on London’s landscape. It will bring together new research on towers of every type, their promoters and uses, the symbolism and associations of high-rise architecture, its cumulative presence in the metropolitan landscape, and the issues posed by new tall buildings for historic skylines and landmarks.
Contact: Olwen Myhill (olwen.myhill@sas.ac.uk; 020 7862 8790); see www.history.ac.uk/cmh for more details.

Marc Fitch Lecture (31 October 2007; Royal College of Surgeons)
The lecture is entitled ‘County, nations, empire and coasts: the VCH and the divisions of the British past’ and will be given by Professor Linda Colley, FBA. It will be followed by a reception in the Library and Surgery Museum, including an opportunity to view the collection.
Contact: vch.events@sas.ac.uk

Creighton Lecture (date to be confirmed)
Contact: Samantha Jordan (samantha.jordan@sas.ac.uk; 020 7862 8756)

IHR winter conference 2008: Public History (10–12 April 2008; University of Liverpool)
The IHR winter conference 2008 will be held jointly with the University of Liverpool. The conference will be called ‘Public history’ and will look at how history is presented to, and consumed by, the public.
Contact: Holger Hoock (h.hoock@liv.ac.uk; School of History, University of Liverpool, 9 Abercromby Square, Liverpool L69 7WZ)

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

American history
Thursday, 5.30pm
British history 1815–1945
Thursday, 5.00pm
British history in the 17th century
Thursday, 5.15pm
British history in the long 18th century
Wednesday, 5.15pm
British maritime history
Tuesday, 5.15pm
Collecting & display (100 BC to AD 1700)
Monday, 6.00pm
Contemporary British history
Wednesday, 5.00pm
Crusades and the Latin East
Monday, 5.00pm
Economic and social history of the premodern world, 1500–1800
Friday, 5.15pm
Earlier Middle Ages
Wednesday, 5.30pm
European history 1150–1550
Thursday, 5.30pm
European history 1500–1800
Monday, 5.00pm
Film history
Thursday, 5.30pm
History of education
Thursday, 5.30pm
History of gardens and landscapes
Friday, 5.30pm
History of political ideas
Wednesday, 4.15pm
History of the psyche
Wednesday, 3.15pm
Imperial history
Monday, 5.00pm
International history
Tuesday, 6.00pm
Knowledge and society
Tuesday, 4.00pm
Late medieval and early modern Italy
Thursday, 5.00pm
Late medieval seminar
Friday, 5.30pm
Locality and region
Tuesday, 5.15pm
London Group of Historical Geographers
Tuesday, 5.00pm
London Society for Medieval Studies
Tuesday, 7.00pm
Low Countries
Friday, 5.00pm
Marxism and the interpretation of culture
Friday, 5.30pm
Medieval and Tudor London
Thursday, 5.15pm
Metropolitan history
Wednesday, 5.30pm
Military history
Tuesday, 5.00pm
Modern French history
Monday, 5.30pm
Modern German history
Thursday, 5.30pm
Modern Italian history
Wednesday, 5.30pm
Modern religious history
Wednesday, 5.15pm
Music in Britain
Monday, 5.15pm
Parliaments, representation and society
Tuesday, 5.15pm
Philosophy of history
Thursday, 5.30pm
Postgraduate seminar
Thursday, 5.30pm
Psychoanalysis and history
Wednesday, 5.30pm
Reconfiguring the British: nation, empire, world 1600–1900
Thursday, 5.30pm
Religious history of Britain 1500–1800
Tuesday, 5.00pm
Society, culture and belief, 1500–1800
Thursday, 5.30pm
Socialist history
Monday, 5.30pm
Tudor and Stuart
Monday, 5.15pm
Women’s history
Friday, 5.15pm
This seminar aims to initiate dialogue among historians of philanthropy, contemporary philanthropists, other professionals in the fundraising sector and makers of policy where philanthropy plays its part. An important role of the Institute of Historical Research is the creation of a sense of historical context for activities that are key to the functioning of modern society. An understanding of the past is an essential aspect of a cultured and civilised society. The focus of the Institute for Philanthropy is the encouragement of private giving by those with the capacity to make a significant difference to the world in which they live – by providing technical and professional advice, by urging increased government facilitation and by spreading the word about role models in contemporary society.

Individual contribution of money, time and personal involvement, in order to improve core areas of social need, has been a leitmotiv of our civilisation. This critical aspect of civil society is currently in the spotlight, partly because of a recent surge in the accumulation of wealth, partly because democratic governments are facing enormous challenges from new directions that are going to have to be solved partly through philanthropic input.

Taking education, and linked cultural activity, as our focus, we intend to highlight and discuss themes that have been relevant to philanthropic activity throughout history.

Speakers include:
Professor David Bates, FRHistS, Director of the Institute of Historical Research
Dr Salvatore LaSpada, Chief Executive of the Institute for Philanthropy
Beth Breeze, Researcher and writer, expert in charitable giving and philanthropy
Professor David Cannadine, FRHistS, Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother Professor of British History
Rt Hon Sir John Chilcot GC
Bill Dietel, Chairman, Guidestar International
Theresa Lloyd, Theresa Lloyd Associates
Dr Jill Pellew, Vice President Grenzebach, Glier Europe
Dr Frank Prochaska, FRHistS, Honorary Fellow of the Institute of Historical Research
Professor Barry Supple CBE, FRHistS
Sir John Tusa, Chairman, University of the Arts

The seminar will be held at Goodenough College, Mecklenburgh Square W1 on Tuesday 13 November from 2pm to 7pm. Attendance will cost £100. Numbers are restricted. Those interested in attending should contact: Michelle Waterman, Institute of Historical Research, Senate House, Malet Street, London WC1E 7HU, 020 7862 8791 (michelle.waterman@sas.ac.uk).

The seminar is convened by Dr Jill Pellew and co-ordinated by Caroline Underwood at the Philanthropy Company for the Institute of Historical Research and the Institute for Philanthropy.

The Victoria County History is pleased to announce the latest publication in its England’s Past For Everyone series:

**Cornwall and the Cross: Christianity 500-1560**

Written by Professor Nicholas Orme, this book shows how the Cornish developed their own religious traditions, while fully sharing in the Christianity of western Europe. All aspects of Christian life are explored, from the early Church, to the effects of the Reformation in Cornwall. The book also studies the lives of the people involved in the Cornish church, from monks and friars to the parish clergy and the lay people.

“The Christian faith in Cornwall is more than fifteen hundred years young and it could not have a more dedicated, learned and attractive writer to help us all to be aware of the heritage which is ours.”

The Rt Revd William Ind, Bishop of Truro

**Anglo American Conference of Historians**

**2–4 July 2008**

**Communication**

Call for papers (deadline 31 October 2007)

Communication is central to all human relationships and to the functioning of all societies. Its nature from classical times to the present day is therefore an appropriate topic for the 77th Anglo-American Conference, especially since it is nowadays an extremely topical subject – witness contemporary agendas of consultation and listening to the public and of knowledge transfer, the past decade’s near obsession with the effective management of message, the role of the media, and current debates about the ICT revolution and its contribution to so-called globalisation. The organisers will therefore welcome proposals for sessions and individual papers on all aspects of communication between human beings across a broad chronological and geographical range, and between and within organisations, states, religions, societies and cultures, with contributions welcome from historians of all places and periods.

Among the areas which would be especially welcomed are the use and reception of all forms of media over the centuries, the impact of technological change on communication of all kinds, the role of literate and non-literate forms of communication, communication across linguistic, ethnic, religious and ideological boundaries, and the role of communication in the operation and dynamics of religions, states and communities.

For further details see www.history.ac.uk/conferences/social.php#202 or contact Samantha Jordan (samantha.jordan@sas.ac.uk), Institute of Historical Research, University of London, Senate House, Malet Street, London, WC1E 7HU.