Letter from the director

As Bloomsbury returns to normal after a summer of diamond jubilee events and Olympic happenings, the Institute is turning its attention to a busy year ahead. We continue to watch and wait for our refurbishment works to start. The designs are approved, planning permission is agreed and substantial funding has now been raised from major foundations and donors to help pay for the new conference suite and the research training facilities. All that is required is the green light from the University to move to the next stage of this exciting phase in the Institute’s long history.

In the meantime, there is much to look forward to in 2012–13. It is a pleasure as always to welcome this autumn our new fellows, the jewels in the crown being the 26 junior research fellows who join us from around the world, having come through a tough selection competition and interview process earlier in the summer. For many, such as Dr Oleg Benesch, featured in this issue, the IHR is a stepping stone to a permanent academic career. As the UK research councils and the British Academy streamline many of their post-doctoral programmes, the Institute is more determined than ever to nurture talented young scholars and assist in their career development in this way. It is one of the most vital services that we provide.

A busy events calendar starts with two international conferences in September: the 7th Anglo-Japanese Conference of Historians (co-hosted with Trinity Hall, Cambridge) followed by ‘New perspectives on industrialisation’ (with the PKU [Beijing University] and the Economic History Society), a major conference on the recent historiography of the industrial revolution in Britain, considered from western and Chinese perspectives. These are just two examples of the hugely valued international leadership role played by the IHR which I am so delighted to maintain. Past and Future readers may also be interested to know that the Institute has recently become the UK representative of the International Committee of Historical Sciences (CISH – Comité international des sciences historique), a worldwide group of historians, the next meeting of which will take place in Budapest, also in September. The CISH main assembly occurs every five years (the next will be in Jinan, China in 2015). I intend to use our position as UK lead to help junior faculties in UK universities participate in international scholarly networks in their respective historical fields. Looking westwards across the Atlantic, the IHR will be in Montreal in November – at the North American Conference on British Studies – where the inaugural meeting of a new organisation, the Canadian Friends of the IHR, will be launched, further details of which can be found in this issue.

Closer to home, plans are now finalised for a series of conferences and lectures over the next six months. Look out for special Dickens bicentenary events at the Institute, the Creighton lecture to be given on 13 November by Professor Quentin Skinner and an anniversary conference on the London Underground. Next March, the IHR winter conference takes as its theme ‘History and Biography’, with leading scholars such as Adam Sisman, Roy Foster and Jane Ridley signed up to speak.

The end of the last academic year saw some significant staff changes in the Institute. Sadly for us, Jennifer Higham, the IHR librarian, moved on to a challenging new position as archivist and librarian at the Royal Astronomical Society, and we also said goodbye to Dr Peter Webster, a key member of IHR Publications and of the School of Advanced Study IT team. We wish both of them well in their future careers. It is also a pleasure to note the elevation of Matthew Davies, director of the Centre for Metropolitan History, to a personal professorial chair in the University, a testament to his own academic achievements and those of the Centre for Metropolitan History. Well done Matthew! And well done everyone in the IHR community for keeping calm and carrying on as usual as we embark upon our second year in our temporary home in south block.

Miles Taylor
August 2012
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Cover image: Metropolitan train near Paddington, 1863, showing broad gauge locomotive and carriages originally provided by the Great Western Railway. © TfL from the London Transport Museum collection. The Centre for Metropolitan History will host ‘Going Underground: travel beneath the metropolis 1863–2013’, a conference exploring the Underground’s past, present and future, encompassing its histories, geographies, cultures, politics and social characteristics.
Bibliography of British and Irish History

The summer update to the Bibliography not only added some 5,000 new records, but also introduced a new alerting feature. You can now stay up to date with new publications by saving searches for your areas of interest; if future updates contain new records that match the saved search criteria, you will receive an email with a link to those records. A video tutorial and a help page explaining how to set up the alerts are available; see http://bit.ly/MsjLtr and http://bit.ly/LgqBE5 respectively.

We are also very pleased to announce reduced subscription rates for Friends of the IHR and for fellows and members of the Royal Historical Society, representing a substantial discount on the normal individual subscription rate. We hope this offer will make the Bibliography more accessible to retired academics and independent scholars. Subscriptions are currently available for the calendar year 2013. For more information, Friends of the IHR should contact the development office (0207 862 8791/8764 or IHR. Development@sas.ac.uk); RHS fellows and members should email royalhistsoc@ucl.ac.uk. You can find out about becoming a Friend of the IHR at www.history.ac.uk/support-us/ways-to-give/friends and about RHS membership at www.royalhistoricalsociety.org/membership.php.

For BBIH news updates, visit: www.history.ac.uk/projects/bbih/news.

Collection news

During her trainee year Hannah Pope has reclassified and labelled the international relations and military history collections, making retrieval far easier. Part of this was the daunting task of cataloguing the multi-volumed Armées Françaises dans la Grande Guerre. Assisted by a knowledgeable user, she has produced more detailed records, which has made it much easier for readers – or staff when fulfilling requests – to identify sections. Hannah has written guides to both collections, which are available online at www.history.ac.uk/library/collections. Michael Townsend has extensively reorganised the colonial collection and Alison Gage is currently working on its reclassification. Hannah also organised and catalogued the library’s collection of sheet maps, now stored in the map cabinet purchased with the support of the Friends. Much easier to locate, they are also better preserved in archival quality covers. For a new guide to all our map holdings visit www.history.ac.uk/library/collections/maps.

We continue to add to our subject-based collection guides and have recently published guides highlighting some of the library’s sport, transport and food history sources, see www.history.ac.uk/library/collections. Mette Lund and Michael Townsend continue to purchase a wide variety of books, with the collection budget being augmented by support from the Friends. Recent acquisitions have included:

- Sport in History journal
- Ordnance Survey letters | BL/B/0s1 | Correspondence collected during the survey for the first Irish Ordnance Survey maps in the 1830s
- Michael Hicks, The fifteenth-century inquisitions post mortem: a companion | B.5108/Hic
- Actes du parlement de Paris et documents du temps de la Ligue: 1588-1594 | EF.462/Pit
- Eric Van Young, Writing Mexican history | LA.355
- Der Kaiser und sein Forscher: der Briefwechsel zwischen Wilhelm II. und Leo Frobenius (1924–1938) | EG.76/Wil

Library’s temporary accommodation

It has been a year since we moved to our temporary accommodation in the south block, and we’ve been looking at the figures for requests from the closed stacks. As the library was previously reference-only and open access, this is the first time we have had usage figures for some collections. It has been rewarding to find that some of our lesser-known material such as the Low Countries history collection has had regular requests, and we are aiming to promote these more widely in the future.

In general the figures show that the right choices were made in deciding which material went to the onsite and offsite stores as, with some exceptions, there have been relatively few requests from offsite. We have been able to relocate some material based on the frequency of requests; for example, English multi-county works from the local history collection have now been returned to open access. Readers have been mostly positive about the move, the stack-fetch service and the accommodation and we are grateful for their support.
A new Jewish history collection

The IHR library has always had a wealth of material on Jewish history and has been keen to acquire new relevant material. However, in the past, works on this subject have always been absorbed into some of the library’s much larger collections; the general and ecclesiastical collections held much of our general items while the military collection housed works on the Holocaust.

Last year, librarians Jennifer Higham and Michael Townsend decided to give greater prominence to the library’s holdings on this subject by creating a brand new collection to house the library’s general material on European Jewish history and civilisation. A new classification scheme was created and the library’s existing material on the subject was brought together under the new class mark EY. The current strengths of the collection are in bibliographic resources, Jewish historiography and Holocaust testimonies. However, the library aims to acquire a broader range of bibliographic, reference and primary source material on every aspect of European Jewish history from the early medieval period to the present day.

The new collection has grown rapidly. Recent highlights include: an anthology of sources relating to the 17th-century messianic movement surrounding Sabbatai Zevi; the latest volume of the source anthology, Die Verfolgung und Ermordung der europäischen Juden durch das nationalsozialistische Deutschland 1933–1945; and a linked record to the Massachusetts-based Yiddish Books Center, giving online access to 11,000 19th- and early-20th-century out-of-print Yiddish books.

It is hoped that this young collection will continue to grow and add to the existing wealth of collections already long established within London on this fascinating subject.

To check for future notable acquisitions to this collection, visit us on the IHR website at www.history.ac.uk/library or on our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/ihrlib.

Changing faces

Staff at the IHR were sad to say farewell to Jennifer Higham, who has moved to a new job as librarian and archivist at the Royal Astronomical Society. Kate Wilcox will be acting librarian until March 2013.

We are pleased to welcome Katherine Quinn as the 2012–13 graduate trainee, replacing Hannah Pope, who finishes her trainee year in September. Dr Kerstin Lehr joins the IHR as part-time secretary and administration officer, Janos Bodony joins the IHR Digital team as web content developer and Emma Bohan takes over as VCH publications manager while Jessica Davies ventures to New Zealand for a one-year sabbatical.

The Histore project

IHR Digital has been working on a project called ‘Histore: Historians’ Virtual Research Environments’, which has been funded by the Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC). Its aim is to equip historians with digital research skills and thus to enable them to approach their own institutional Virtual Research Environments with requests for software or other tools.

Histore will have three types of output, all free to use: a tools audit, listing current digital research tools; five case studies of history projects that have used digital tools; and two online training courses, in ‘semantic markup’ and ‘text mining’.

Project outputs should be available from the beginning of October. The tools audit and case studies will be hosted on the History Online site (www.history.ac.uk/history-online/) and the training courses will be hosted on the History Spot platform (historyspot.org.uk/).

Peter Marshall’s book launch held at IHR

On 23 April the Institute had the great honour of welcoming over 50 people to its premises to launch Peter Marshall’s Remaking the British Atlantic: The United States and the British Empire after American Independence.

The book is a story of how the subjects of George III, both in Britain and in what remained of Britain’s Atlantic empire (the future Canada, Ireland and the West Indies), and those who were no longer British subjects because they had become American citizens, adjusted themselves to the existence of the independent United States of America outside the empire. It is a story of political antagonism together with the quick refashioning of the many links that had created a vibrant British Atlantic world.

The Institute and the book’s publishers, Oxford University Press, were the joint hosts for the occasion.

In replying to a generous assessment of the book by Richard Drayton, Rhodes professor of imperial history at King’s, Peter Marshall expressed the deep gratitude that he, like so many historians, feels for the IHR for what it does to facilitate scholarship. His book had benefited greatly from the Institute’s huge collections of printed sources vital for it: sources for late-18th-century British history, the history of Canada in this period and above all the history of the early American republic. The IHR’s great collection of primary material, supplemented by the extensive holdings of secondary work and of American periodicals in Senate House Library, was also applauded.

The Histore project aims to encourage historians to make greater use of online research tools. Christine de Pizan (1363–c. 1430) lecturing to a group of men via Wikimedia Commons.

The Institute of Historical Research

University of London
School of Advanced Study

Past and Future
Winners of the annual Pollard prize

We are pleased to announce the winners of this year’s Pollard prize. First place was awarded jointly to Samantha Sagui for ‘The hue and cry in English towns’ and Christopher Dillow for ‘Tolerance means weakness’: the Dachau concentration camp SS, militarism and masculinity. The runner-up was Richard Blakemore with ‘Thinking outside the gundeck: the navy, the maritime community and the outbreak of civil war, 1625–42’. Congratulations to the winners. The winning articles will be published in Historical Research.

Sports and celebrations: a special virtual issue of Historical Research

To mark the diamond jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II and the London Olympic and Paralympic Games, Historical Research has produced a special virtual issue of previously published papers and recent IHR podcasts on the theme of ‘sports and celebrations’. For full details see tinyurl.com/historical-research-sports. Content is free throughout 2012.

New databases online course

Databases have become essential tools for historians engaging with increasingly large bodies of information, providing the means to manage the raw stuff of their research, and to create the framework for investigating their sources flexibly and swiftly. In recognition of this, the IHR has launched a comprehensive online training course that will take you from the beginnings of database design right through to the analysis and publication of data. It avoids the usual staple of census data in the analysis and publication of data. It will be available on the IHR’s History SPOT platform from October. A free introductory handbook on the theory of designing databases for historical research is also available on the site, training.historyspot.org.uk. For further information, including costs and registration details, please check the IHR research training pages at www.history.ac.uk/research-training.

CMH news

We are delighted to report that the Centre’s director, Matthew Davies, has been appointed to a personal chair in urban history by the University of London – due recognition of Matthew’s academic and research promotion achievements over the years.

Records of London’s Livery Companies Online (ROLLCO), CMH’s collaboration with four London Livery Companies – the Clothworkers, Drapers, Goldsmiths and Mercers – was successfully launched at Clothworkers’ Hall on 19 June. ROLLCO (www.londonroll.org) provides free online access to the historic membership records of these livery companies, making it easy for academic researchers and family historians to find information about apprentices and freemen from c.1400 to 1900. As well as allowing users to reconstruct individual careers, families and trade connections, it also provides fascinating material about the social and economic roles of the livery companies, including details of members’ geographical and social origins, and the history of London more generally. Following the launch, several expressions of interest were received from other livery companies, and we hope to add their records and others to the website in the next phase of the project.

As noted elsewhere in this issue, London and beyond: essays in honour of Derek Keene (edited by Matthew Davies and James Galloway) is due to be published this autumn as one of the first volumes in the new IHR conference series. Derek Keene was the founding director of the CMH, then Leverhulme professor of comparative metropolitan history (also based at the Centre) and, before his retirement in 2008, acting director of the IHR. The papers in London and beyond were first presented at the CMH’s 20th anniversary conference – at which Derek was the guest of honour – and were written by internationally renowned and long-standing colleagues, postgraduate students and researchers who had begun their careers under his guidance. We hope this Festschrift is a worthy tribute not only to Derek’s extraordinary scholarship and the esteem in which he is held by his colleagues, but also to the enthusiasm he has instilled into a new generation of urban historians.

IHR events

‘Some tales of one city: Charles Dickens and London’
Conference co-hosted by the Centre for Metropolitan History
6 October 2012, Chancellor’s Hall, Senate House

Day for new research students
10 October, Senate House

Creighton lecture by Professor Quentin Skinner (QMUL): ‘John Milton as a theorist of liberty’
13 November 2012, 6.30pm, Logan Hall (Institute of Education)

Film Evening: Great Expectations with Professor John Bowen
20 November, 5pm, Senate House

‘Going Underground: travel beneath the metropolis 1863–2013’
Conference hosted by the Centre for Metropolitan History
17–18 January 2013, Chancellor’s Hall, Senate House

IHR winter conference: ‘History and biography’
8 March 2013, Senate House

‘Early modern urban material culture’
Co-organised by Centre for Metropolitan History with the University of Kent
17–19 April 2013

‘The provision of homes in London since 1850’
 Held by the Centre for Metropolitan History in association with the Survey of London (English Heritage)
27–28 June 2013

82nd Anglo-American conference of historians: ‘Food in History’
11–12 July 2013

For further details on our events, visit www.history.ac.uk/events
The world’s first underground line, the Metropolitan Railway – an 18-minute journey from Paddington, via Edgware Road, Great Portland Street, Euston Square and King’s Cross, to Farringdon Street – opened on 10 January 1863. On its first day, 40,000 passengers were steam-hauled through the line’s three-and-a-half miles of brick-lined cuttings and tunnels. ‘For the first time in the history of the world,’ enthused the Daily News, ‘men can ride in pleasant carriages, and with considerable comfort, lower down than gas pipes and water pipes … lower than the graveyards’.1 Prime Minister Palmerston excused himself, however, remarking that at 79 he would prefer to stay above ground a few more years.2 In 2013, the 150th anniversary celebrations of the world’s first metro will reappraise its extraordinary influence on London.

London and its transport system are synonymous – the Underground roundel, the tube map or a directional sign in blue Johnston typeface tell you instantly you are in London. It is impossible to imagine the city today without its Underground. Practically everybody, young and old, uses it for work or leisure: commuters, tourists, students, shoppers, clubbers, sports fans, theatre-goers, art lovers. Known popularly as the Tube since the 1890s, it carries more people today than at any other time and London’s identity is defined by its growth and that of the bus networks. The size of the capital and its population has repeatedly threatened to bring it to a standstill, only to be rescued by transport innovation. Today 1.2 billion journeys a year, over 3 million a day, are made on the Underground alone. During the second Thursday of the 2012 Olympics, journeys peaked at 4.51 million journeys in a day. The Underground network is the beating heart of London; occasionally sclerotic, under constant repair, delivered daily by an operational miracle, subject to perennial and sceptical scrutiny. Mobility is a defining characteristic of a city; the agglomeration of work and leisure is what makes urban life so persuasive and ultimately sustainable.

The story of the first 150 years is like the silver thread running through a banknote; always there, largely taken for granted but essential to its value. Despite the boom in studies on modern London, the centrality of transport’s role, and the Tube in particular, is still remarkably under-recognised for its contribution to London life. In 1935, Frank Pick’s vision for the new urban transport authority he had just helped create was, ‘London Transport is, or will be, a work of art’, but it is one that London’s historians and citizens appear to have taken for granted.

In researching a new history of the Underground to mark the anniversary, the authors set out to reappraise this relationship by moving away from the railway enthusiast’s narrow technical and operational canvas, or even Barker and Robbins’ organisational lens, into a broader social historical approach.

The Underground’s achievement is more than the mere movement of its citizens. Mass transport’s pervasive and essential nature forms an integral part of London’s urban environment, through the blood-red tiling of Leslie Green’s Edwardian stations and the tile patterns at platform level, or in Charles Holden’s modernist station designs for the Northern and Piccadilly lines. The Underground roundel stands out as a clear marker for stations and bus stops, and symbolises the civic values and the brand of this public service. The Johnston typeface is London’s alphabet, cutting cleanly through the visual clutter of the streets, while the Underground map is a visual representation of the city’s layout, a simplification of an otherwise extensive and complex city landscape. Visitors love its simplicity, while Londoners know its limitations. Nevertheless, Harry Beck’s graphic innovation of 1933 has become the capital’s mental map.

The world’s first underground railway was proposed not as a metro but as a means of connecting the mainline railway stations, then restricted to the city’s edges. In the 1850s, London was grinding to a halt under the weight of horse-drawn wheeled traffic and pedestrians; in 1846 a regular traveller from Brighton found it quicker to walk from the London Bridge railway terminus to his office in Trafalgar Square than go by omnibus or cab. Later in the century, the deep Tube was needed as a lasting solution to the city’s chronic traffic problems. London grew quickly as the focal point of imperial Britain’s
Going Underground

governance and trade, with a population increasing from around one million in 1800 to 8.6 million in 1939. With today's rising population of 8.3 million, the capital is the prime economic mover at the heart of the UK's South East region, generating 30 per cent of the national Gross Domestic Product.

In the late Victorian period, London's suburban railways and the surface extensions to the original underground lines both stimulated and defined the outward expansion of the urban area. By the turn of the century, the cutting-edge application of tunnelling, lift and electric traction technologies made it possible to create the world's first electric-powered deep tube railway and keep the centre of the capital moving beneath its busy streets. As London spread outwards between the wars, the growing Underground became the principal transport mode connecting the new suburbs with the shopper's West End and the banker's City.

Transport is symbiotic with the city and the state of the Underground is a barometer for its health. The heart of the network was created during the Edwardian era, through the innovation of deep tube lines and the application of corporate branding to what had been planned as a series of individual lines. Between the wars, under Ashfield and Pick, the Underground was the world's premier metro and a remarkable patron of the arts and architecture. During World War Two, it made good and mended while under repeated attack and was a symbol for 'seeing it through' against all odds. The dirty, run-down, litter- and graffiti-strewn Tube of the 1980s said much about the state of London at the time. In the 1990s, the Jubilee line extension echoed the interwar design tradition and was the essential enabler of Canary Wharf and London's pre-eminence in global financial services.

The Underground also mirrors London's place in relation to the rest of the UK, being its only city with a substantial underground network. In the aftermath of World War Two, government sought to disperse people and jobs away from London. During the post-war recession, the Underground was starved of investment and, despite the isolated triumphs of the Victoria line, half a Jubilee line extension to Heathrow, the system and London itself went into slow decline. The municipal socialism of the Livingstone years at the Greater London Council (GLC) saw a vision for transport that was much closer to continental models, where transport was not just a cost on the city but a key enabler of civilised life. Despite Frank Pick's high-minded view of the Underground's civilising influence, it has only recently attracted significant public funding, being entirely privately funded until the 1930s with no municipal contribution from the London County Council and little government funding after nationalisation in 1948.

The early 1980s were a watershed for thinking on civic investment in London. The private car was no longer the city's saviour; indeed, it was being seen as its potential nemesis. Plans for the raised concrete motorway box, initiated with the Westway, were replaced by a more integrated and holistic approach to this complex and multi-layered city, for which Tube and bus were of renewed significance. The 'Fares Fair' case in the early 1980s promoted the use of public transport and left the Travelcard legacy, a simple ticketing system with a fixed daily cost, which led eventually to the liberating facility of the Oyster card.

Under the greatest stress, the true worth of transport to the city becomes clear. During the dark days of 1940–1, with London under attack every night for months, the deep Tube stations provided safe shelters for beleaguered citizens - only 3 per cent of them, but the resulting camaraderie formed a significant part of Londoners' self-image. The fact that London Transport staff took pride in keeping buses, trams and trains running across a battered and burnt city the morning after a raid was a symbol of resilience. On 7 July 2005, when attacked by suicide bombers, the city's mobility was again violently interrupted. The resumption of transport services later that day was highly significant and positively palliative after such a terrible shock.

Since World War Two, most decisions about major public transport projects in London have been characterised by delay and uncertainty. While the
major works programmes of the 1930s had balanced new lines and maintaining the existing system, the Victoria and Jubilee lines were only approved after long struggles in the politically charged era of the 1960s and 70s, at the expense of the rest of the network. Ultimately, the Public Private Partnership from 2003 concentrated on renewing existing infrastructure. Public transport investment has a scale of expenditure and a horizon for the payback of political, social and economic benefits so long after the next local or national election, that major projects from the Victoria line to Crossrail have been proposed, debated, buffeted, stopped and restarted; regardless of social cost-benefit, there is no avoiding the reality that ‘transport is politics’.5 Endless changes in the Underground’s governance between local and national control consumed energy and promoted short-term solutions. It is only with transport now being of consistent importance to an elected mayor that a consensus on the long-term view has finally been achieved.

The post-war decline up to 1987 amounted to a failure in corporate management and in the Underground’s political management. National government typically regarded transport in London as expensive and demanding relative to its political importance. Since 2000, transport has been the London elected mayor’s single largest responsibility, taking up most mayoral expenditure and with its problems always on the front page. The transport strategy for the Olympic site in Stratford was a crucial element in securing the 2012 Olympics. For an elected politician, transport has huge vote-losing potential. It has certainly been the major issue in the three mayoral elections since 2000. Critically, unlike his post-war predecessors, the mayor does not have to go cap in hand to the Secretary of State for Transport; he is backed by London’s powerful business interests and can deal directly with the Prime Minister.

Another small bore Tube line is unlikely to be built beneath London. The three-car trains that ran through the tiled stations of the 1906 Tube have given way to packed seven- or eight-car trains, and the restricted loading gauge – at its maximum the tunnels are 12 feet (3.66m) in diameter – is unlikely to provide the carrying capacity needed in the future. The development of the Overground and the necessary integration of the city’s suburban rail with the Underground are filling in key gaps in the mass transit network in east and south London, while also providing orbital links to reduce pressure on the central area. Crossrail is being built on a mainline railway scale and Crossrail 2, the former Hackney-Chelsea line, could also be built to this scale. Any future Tube railways are likely to be limited additions, such as the proposed Northern line branch to Battersea, rather than whole new lines.

Negative associations with being underground that began in the Metropolitan’s earliest days have persisted into the 21st century. Alongside rational complaints about reliability and ageing infrastructure are long-term, emotional, deep-rooted and primal fears about the Tube’s alien and claustrophobic environment; it is commonly called dirty, depressing, dingy, dangerous and dark, words at odds with today’s clean, bright and secure system. While the 7/7 bombings were greeted by a universal sense of outrage, the ‘intrinsically alien nature of the underground environment … made the carnage even more horrific and frightening’.6 The bus network, despite being slower and with lower perceptions of safety and security, scores higher for Londoners simply because it is above ground.

In an age when the pace of change and economic recession have made it difficult for many of our great institutions to maintain popularity and relevance, the Underground, ‘is more expansive and confident now than at any time in memory’.7 And yet Londoners’ relationship with their Tube remains paradoxical. It has a ‘reputation for having a bad reputation,’ suggested one Transport for London (TfL) customer research specialist recently, seeking to unpick this conundrum, yet those same people surveyed generally express high satisfaction with their last journey and more Londoners than ever believe the Tube to be ‘on the up’: ‘Few, if any, brands have an image that is more at odds with the organisation’s actual service performance’.8

The Underground has played a key role in shaping and serving London and its citizens’ changing needs. The lifeblood of the city, it will become increasingly important to London’s future sustainability. The IHR’s January 2013 conference, ‘Going Underground’, will appraise its first 150 years. Beginning with the Metropolitan’s construction and opening, it will explore the Underground’s past, present and future encompassing its histories, geographies, cultures, politics and social characteristics.

Notes
1 ‘Opening of the Metropolitan Railway’, Daily News, 10 January 1863.
2 ‘Opening of the Metropolitan Railway’, Morning Post, 10 January 1863.
5 Professor Tony Ridley, interview with the author, 20 July 2011.
6 The author is very grateful to Ian Pring and Emily Price of TfL for guidance through the research for these paragraphs: Ian Pring, interview with author, September 2011 and in ‘Going Underground: how ethnography helped the Tube tunnel to the heart of its brand’, International Journal of Market Research, vol. 49, no. 6 (2007), pp. 93–705.
7 Matthew Engel, ‘The Tube is more confident now than at any time in memory. What is going on?’, FT Weekend Magazine, 14 January 2012.
8 See note 6.

‘Going Underground: travel beneath the metropolis 1863–2013’
17–19 January 2013, Chancellor’s Hall, Senate House
A conference hosted by CMH
www.history.ac.uk/events/london-underground
On Friday, at Mile end-Terrace, the lady of John Dickens, Esq., a son announced the Morning Chronicle in February 1812, the grandiose phrasing typical of Dickens's father, a Navy Pay Office clerk who, like Mr Micawber, constantly reached after gentility and, equally often, got into debt. But John Dickens, it turns out, was right to make a fuss about the birth of his first son Charles, and joining him this year are millions worldwide who have read his work, watched adaptations of it, or simply celebrated his extraordinary writing and the career that soared beyond it. This golden decade for literary births produced the shaping figures of the Victorian (and modern) imagination: Darwin and Tennyson (1809); Gaskell (1810); Thackeray (1811); Dickens, Browning, Edward Lear, the nonsense man, and Henry Mayhew, the incomparable recorder of Victorian street life (1812); Trollope (1815); Charlotte Bronte (1816); Emily Bronte (1818) and George Eliot (1819). Scholars' and readers' travels have ranged from a chilly Paris in February ('A Tale of Four Cities' conference – Paris, Boulogne, Chatham and London) to the redwoods in a balmy Californian August (the biggest-ever 'Dickens Universe'). Rightly, for such an inclusive novelist, the celebrations have spanned the social and cultural spectrum, from a grand Buckingham Palace reception hosted by the Queen to the Rochester Dickens festival featuring The Fabulous Fezheads, 'England's Premier Sand Dance Vaudevilillian Illusionists'. And, of course, he's been all over stage and screen. Dickens loved the theatre and popular entertainment, and was fascinated by magic lanterns and other forerunners of modern cinema. Sergei Eisenstein, the great Soviet film director, recognised Dickens's extraordinarily inventive narrative techniques in his 1944 article on the pioneering American film director D.W. Griffith, arguing that Dickens anticipated much of modern cinema's grammar in using montage, close-up and dissolve in his narration. It would be hard to imagine the films of Chaplin, Hitchcock or David Lean without Dickens's influence on subject matter and technique. Striking new BBC adaptations of Great Expectations and The Mystery of Edwin Drood appeared this year, to be followed in 2013 by Ralph Fiennes's film of Claire Tomalin's The Invisible Woman, about the remarkable Ellen Ternan who shared the last 13 years of Dickens's life. A happy discovery recently was of the earliest-known Dickens film: the one-minute 1901 Death of Poor Joe by the pioneering British filmmaker George Albert Smith, loosely based on the famous death of Jo the crossing sweeper in Bleak House. In the film Joe (spelt thus) dies in the snow outside a graveyard's gates in the arms of a passing watchman. This tiny, hauntingly compact film compresses together two of the novel's climactic scenes: Jo's death (who doesn't die in the snow by the burial ground) and that of Lady Dedlock, who does. Joe is played, following Victorian stage tradition, by a woman, the actress Laura Bayley. The result is an acute melding of the fates of two very different characters: a poor urchin child and a rich aristocratic woman, a succinct splicing of fictional deaths in a cross-gendered Joe. It is yet more
evidence of Dickens's perennial ability to be reinvented by each generation in new ways, and with new technologies.

When Dickens died, the poet and critic Theodore Watts Dunton overheard a Cockney barrow-girl say: ‘Dickens dead? Then will Father Christmas die too?’ It is testament to Dickens’s enormous popular appeal and to the difficulty of seeing him as a man not a myth. The Dickens currently being celebrated is very different from the more reverently treated figure of the 1912 centenary. Then, many were still alive who could remember first-hand the green monthly instalments of his novels, the electrifying public readings, the sound of his voice and clasp of his hand. Most of his children, particularly his sons, had drifted, impecunious lives, but the two most successful, Katie the eldest and Henry, knighted a few years later, were still guarding the flame, as was his formidable sister-in-law, Georgina Hogarth. Everyone knew about Dickens’s extraordinary childhood as a ‘young labouring hind’ in Warren’s Blacking Warehouse, revealed (not even his children had known of it) in his friend John Forster’s posthumous biography. But few knew how horribly his marriage had broken down, how cruelly he had treated his wife, or just how life-changing his secret relationship with Ellen had been.

Although his favourite daughter, Katie, had written to George Bernard Shaw to ask ‘If you could make the public understand that my father was not a joyous, jocose gentleman walking about the world with a plum pudding and a bowl of punch, you would greatly oblige me’, the publication of Dickens’s letters (some 15,000 gathered from around the world) in the great Pilgrim edition has done most to change our perception.

Providing a darker, more complex, richer and more multi-faceted picture, it is an incomparable resource and an immense pleasure to read – 12 fat scrupulously edited volumes in which even the simplest cue, like an enquiry about a lost umbrella, can elicit a wonderfully inventive reply. Begun in the early 1950s, with the final volume completed in 2002, ‘Pilgrim’ is a great monument of modern scholarship but – at £100-plus per volume - one unfortunately only accessible in good research libraries. The attractive 400-page Selected Letters recently produced by Oxford World’s Classics represents a mere 3 per cent of the total, providing a tantalising taste only.

The sheer number of surviving letters – plus 14 novels, Christmas books and stories, travel writing, collections of journalism, assorted poems, short stories, plays and other projects – form a dauntingly multi-dimensional legacy. Biographers must try to contain the furious, overflowing energies of his life, as novelist, editor, public reader, campaigner, theatrical producer, charitable fundraiser and man about town, within a single volume. As the American academic Lionel Trilling put it: ‘the mere record of his conviviality is exhausting’. Two sparkling new biographies by Claire Tomalin and Robert Douglas-Fairhurst have now joined Michael Slater’s exemplary 2011 life. Dickens was so enthusiastic about everything that even relatively minor episodes merit full-length treatment, such as the founding of Urania Cottage, the home for prostitute and criminal women that he and philanthropist Angela Burdett Coutts set up, lovingly explored in Jenny Hartley’s excellent Charles Dickens and the House of Fallen Women (2008).

In keeping with Dickens’s ‘lack of vulgar nationalism’ (Orwell), the celebrations have been suitably international. The major exhibition at the Museum of London stressed how global Dickens’s London was. The British Council’s rich international programme included a ‘Global Dickens Read-a-thon’ – Oliver Twist in Korea, Hard Times in Iraq and Our Mutual Friend in Syria – and film screenings from Albania to Zimbabwe. As a child Dickens moved from seaport to seaport – Portsmouth, Chatham, London. He spent time in Switzerland and Italy, had a secret hideaway in France and may even have had a child there, and twice undertook arduous tours of the USA. As a young man, he considered emigrating to South America and later to Van Diemen’s Land. In the transported Magwitch and his adopted heir Pip, Great Expectations explores the darkness of that kind of colonial dream.

Appropriately for a theatrical and comic novelist, Dickens’s bicentenary has been full of celebrations, entertainments, readings and showmanship. He wanted his work to be relished and shared, comparing the amateur theatricals he loved to ‘writing a book in company’. But it can be easy to forget in all the razzmatazz just what a subtle and complex writer he could be. Thinking of David Copperfield, the novelist Graham Greene noted the ‘secret prose’ of his writing with its ‘delicate and exact poetic cadences, the music of memory’. As we remember Dickens in festive mood this year, let us also try to hear the subtlety and precision of that music.

Dickens has inspired popular entertainment for many years. Editions of the Classics Illustrated series: Oliver Twist (1945) and A Tale of Two Cities (October 1942) via Wikimedia Commons / Chordboard
Anyone who has recently tried to find a publisher for an edited collection will know that it is becoming increasingly difficult to make the case for publishing conference proceedings. Yet, at the same time some of the most interesting and innovative research is presented at conferences, not least by postgraduate students. Those same students are facing growing pressure to publish at an ever earlier stage of their research, but an obvious means to do so is gradually being choked off.

It was in an attempt to resolve this problem, or at least to go some way towards doing so, that the Institute of Historical Research decided in late 2008 to launch its own series of conference proceedings. The aim of the series is to promote research that significantly advances scholarship in a particular field or fields, rather than providing an overview of the current state of knowledge. In order to be eligible, proposals must derive from conferences organised at or by UK universities, and submissions are welcomed from early career researchers as well as more established scholars. Like the IHR’s two journals, *Historical Research* and *Reviews in History*, the series covers a wide geographical and temporal span: from Britain to the Far East; from the early middle ages to the 20th century. Similarly, its editors encourage the submission of proposals from a variety of approaches.

Almost four years after the initial decision, we are ready to launch the series with four new titles. The first, *Brave new world: imperial and democratic nation-building in Britain between the wars*, edited by Laura Beers and Geraint Thomas, reappraises the domestic and imperial history of Britain in the inter-war period, investigating how ‘nation-building’ was given renewed impetus by the upheavals of the First World War. The essays in the collection address how new technologies and approaches to governance were used to forge new national identities, both at home and in the empire, covering a wide range of issues from the representation of empire on film to the convergence of politics and ‘star culture’ (taking in such diverse figures as Paul Robeson and Labour MP Ellen Wilkinson). The second, *She said she was in the family way*: pregnancy and infancy in modern Ireland, edited by Elaine Farrell, considers topics that have often been overlooked by historians of Ireland, including attitudes to contraception, pregnancy and childbirth, maternal and infant mortality, the attitude of parents towards their children, illegitimacy, infanticide, and folklore surrounding the spirits of unbaptised infants and child murderers.

Our first group of titles is completed by tributes to two outstanding scholars. *London and beyond*: essays in honour of Derek Keene, edited by Matthew Davies and James Galloway, reflects the extraordinary breadth and diversity of Professor Keene’s research, including chapters on the effect of flooding around the Thames in the middle ages, the world of Samuel Hartlib, and railways in early 20th-century Paris and London. *Gender and historiography: studies in the history of the earlier middle ages in honour of Pauline Stafford*, edited by Janet L. Nelson and Susan Reynolds, with Susan M. Johns, ranges equally widely across Britain and Europe and reveals the impact of Professor Stafford’s research on the discipline. Its chapters deal with fatherhood, emotions, slavery, ritual, presentations of female power and sexuality, property rights and law.

Already in production, with publication scheduled for the spring of 2013, is *A history of the French in London: liberty, equality, opportunity*, edited by Debra Kelly and Martyn Cornick. The book examines, for the first time, the history of the social, cultural, political and economic presence of the French in London, and explores the multiple ways in which that presence has contributed to the life of the city right up to the present day. With London now viewed by some as ‘France’s sixth biggest city’, it could not be more timely.

Notes

To buy any of the books in the series, or to submit a proposal, see www.history.ac.uk/publications/conference-series/submissions.
Invaluable to the VCH for several decades, the Marc Fitch Fund has, since 2001, supported an annual Marc Fitch lecture, given by eminent historians. This year’s speaker, Dr David Starkey, chose as his theme “Head of our morality”: why the 20th-century British monarchy matters. It reflected the rededication of the VCH to Queen Elizabeth II and was as original and stimulating as the large audience in the Chancellor’s Hall on 25 June had anticipated; indeed, in thanking Dr Starkey, Professor Miles Taylor mentioned the ‘raised eyebrows’ to be seen within the enlightened and amused audience. A podcast of the lecture is available on History Spot (http://tinyurl.com/fitch-starkey) and it will be published in a forthcoming volume of Historical Research.

In his introduction, the Vice-Chancellor, Professor Geoffrey Crossick, stressed the importance of Queen Victoria’s diamond jubilee to the VCH’s founders, who added lustre to their new series by obtaining permission to name it after – and dedicate it to – Queen Victoria. Dr Starkey immediately piqued interest by acknowledging Frank Prochaska’s insight into the emotional response, akin to religious fervour, roused by the sentiment, which was reinforced in 1917 by the creation of the house of Windsor, which distanced the monarch from his German cousin and gave the royal family a patriotic name that Esher had thoroughly market tested. Thereafter, monarch’s brides and bridegrooms necessarily had to be British, with weddings held in public in Westminster Abbey rather than privately in the Chapel Royal. By elevating the monarchy into a national religion, it became sacred to an increasingly enfranchised public. Dr Starkey painted his dramatis personae with his usual risqué humour: Queen Victoria as obese and immobile at her jubilee, Lord Esher as affected and with a special fondness for young men and Archbishop Cosmo Lang as rigid, bigoted and mainly responsible for the abdication crisis because of his fierce opposition to divorce. If the monarchy is a religion, Dr Starkey stated persuasively, then the monarch’s role is one of sacrifice, a concept he supported with some recognisable characterisations of the present Queen.

That the monarchy is still relevant is clear in that many of us continue to recognise the monarch as the nation’s embodiment, revere the monarchy’s charitable work and self-sacrifice, and are stirred by its formal and quasi-religious ceremonies, despite our desire to glimpse what we hope is the ‘real’ person behind the theatrical presentation.

We are grateful to the Marc Fitch Fund for continuing to support these annual lectures. Three will be held in 2013 to coincide with the publication of VCH volumes in Staffordshire, Northamptonshire and Shrewsbury. Please see www.victoriacountyhistory.ac.uk.

The Victoria County History: a diamond jubilee celebration

On first learning that the VCH was to be rededicated to Queen Elizabeth II to celebrate her diamond jubilee, we felt it would be appropriate to consider our own history in relation to the two royal jubilees that have been historic milestones for the VCH, and to commemorate the occasion with a special publication, The Victoria County History: A Diamond Jubilee Celebration 1899–2012. This well-illustrated book begins by introducing the foundation of the History based on important research by John Beckett, VCH director 2005–10, who picks out key VCH innovations in the writing of local history and emphasises the important role played by female historians in the early years. It also explores how content and design have evolved, highlighting the ground-breaking England’s Past for Everyone project and including a list of publications since 2000, both EPE and VCH. It was a delight to work so closely with county colleagues in producing attractive panels detailing how work in their counties began, achievements and future plans.

The book is available in paperback and, for the first time in the VCH’s history, also obtainable for Kindle and in epub format for other devices. The digital version benefits from handy links to references and websites, offering truly dynamic content. All versions can be purchased via www.victoriacountyhistory.ac.uk/diamond-jubilee-2012/jubilee-publication.
The way of the samurai in modern Japan

Oleg Benesch, Past and Present Society fellow, IHR

My research examines the development of the ‘bushido’ ethic in Japan from the late 19th century onward. Bushido, commonly translated as the ‘way of the warrior’ or ‘way of the samurai’, is one of the best-known concepts associated with Japan, with hundreds of books and articles having been written on the subject.

The popular view of bushido holds that a widely-accepted code of ethics developed in medieval Japan and guided samurai behavior for centuries up to the modern period. Following the 1868 collapse of the shogunal government, the privileges of the samurai were phased out in a process that was largely completed within the first decade of the Meiji period (1868–1912). According to the popular view, the spirit and ethics of the samurai ceased to be the specific domain of the warrior elite, passing instead into general Japanese culture. Supposed samurai virtues, such as self-sacrifice and honour, were appropriated by the modern conscripted military, while the absolute loyalty to the emperor demanded by the new state was portrayed as being inherited from the samurai principle of being loyal to their former lords. Samurai ethics were believed to have been a core part of a Japanese ‘national character’ transmitted from the ancient past to the modern period, and bushido became one of the most significant ideological components of Japanese militarism and nationalism before 1945.

My research examines the discontinuities between bushido and the historical samurai, concluding that bushido is essentially an invented tradition of modern Japan. A number of scholars have surmised that bushido is a modern creation, as the term ‘bushido’ is largely absent from historical documents before the Sino-Japanese War of 1894–5, but the process of its invention has been largely unexamined. The popular image of the samurai in Japanese society in the late 19th century was significant in this regard, as was the emerging discourse on Japanese national identity that reached critical mass around 1890. In the early Meiji period, the samurai were widely viewed as symbolic of the vilified order and, following several major uprisings by disgruntled samurai in the 1870s, there was widespread popular resentment against the former warriors, making the development and popularisation of a samurai-based ethic seem unlikely.

Accordingly, when the first bushido theories were formulated in the late 1880s, their inspiration came less from domestic currents of thought, but rather from Japanese interactions with China and the west. Specifically, Victorian discourse on idealised English gentlemanship and its supposed roots in medieval knighthood had a strong influence on Japanese travellers and students of western societies and cultures. Ozaki Yukio (1858–1954), a Japanese traveller to England, wrote the first significant articles on bushido in an attempt to create a Japanese equivalent to his understanding of idealised English chivalric gentlemanship. Many Victorian moralists saw the root of the English character in medieval knighthood, prompting Ozaki and others to invoke Japan’s former ‘knights’, i.e. the samurai, to similar ends.

Many Japanese around the turn of the 20th century believed that, since the theory prevailed that the most powerful empire in the world at the time had drawn its strength from a medieval code of chivalry, using the samurai legacy in this way was legitimate. This ideological rehabilitation of the samurai also played into broader Japanese intellectual currents that sought to define a national identity and character that could aid the rapidly modernising country by both promoting nationalism and providing a link to earlier history and traditions. At the same time, the fading power and status of China in the late 19th century led many Japanese to attempt to move away from Chinese influences and to focus on ‘native’ traditions. The bushido that arose from these converging currents has proven to be a most resilient invented tradition, with its alleged links to the samurai lending it apparent historical legitimacy. At the same time the ambiguity of its historical roots has allowed it to be interpreted relatively freely and to be adapted to a wide variety of social, cultural and political conditions well into the 21st century.

A chapter on the ancient history of bushido from Imperial Japanese Army educational materials, 1905.
On my very first full day on English soil, as a graduate student embarking on thesis research at the end of October 1968, I went with my wife to open a bank account. The clerk asked me to submit a reference, which had to be provided by a British resident. I didn’t know a soul in the UK, but I remembered the name of the IHR’s secretary and librarian, A. Taylor Milne. I gulped hard, gave it, and was instantly appalled at what I had done. I almost literally trembled the next morning when I knocked on his door to confess my transgression. He laughed, said that it happened all the time and not to worry; if I ever needed anything else like that, to just let him know. Then I was assigned to Rosemarie Taylor, who took me by the hand and gave me what was then the introductory tour for new members. It was the warmest of welcomes and made the IHR my UK academic home ever since.

The IHR was founded pretty much as a joint British and American effort, at first devoted in particular to research on the Anglo-American parliamentary tradition. Early seminars, especially those led in succession by Pollard, Namier, Neale, Bindoff and Hurstfield, sustained this emphasis, as did the annual Anglo-American historical conferences. But Canadians, and those who came from the UK to teach in Canada, took ‘Anglo-American’ to mean ‘Anglo-North American’ and became an early and active presence on the scene. From the early 1960s we came in larger numbers and relied upon the IHR as our home library, classroom, grapevine and clubhouse.

Up to the mid-1990s the prime emphases of IHR users remained with the books and journals (especially the research guides which told us where to go next), the seminars, and common room chat, roughly in that order. The advent of the internet, and perhaps especially the IHR’s British History Online project (www.british-history.ac.uk), made many primary sources universally available and so slightly shifted the order of those priorities. Reading areas may be somewhat less crowded, but seminars became more numerous and far better attended; the teaching role (especially of research methods and paleography) more pronounced; and conferences more frequently held. In addition, the IHR has now become a vibrant and essential player in the national discussion about the role of history as a subject for research and study. Our membership as Canadians keeps us in touch with that discussion and models a political experience that becomes ever more germane at home.

For my generation of roughly 1970 to the present, the IHR provided a facility unequalled anywhere in Canada. But, as we were far more likely to meet with each other at the IHR than anywhere at home, it provided a bonding experience which successfully translated to home shores. It enabled us to build a sense of community amongst us, to articulate Canadian voices in such initiatives as our National Undergraduate Essay Contest in British History (now subsumed into the North American Conference on British Studies), and in such groups as the NACBS itself. The IHR continues to evolve, but its value for Canadians remains as great as ever, and – given adequate support – is likely to remain so for a very long time to come.
Development news

The IHR redevelopment

The IHR’s redevelopment campaign has been in full swing for the past year and to date has raised over £1.7 million towards a three-year target of £4.6 million. Our target includes funds for the physical redevelopment of the IHR’s home in Senate House, as well as funding for new projects and the enhancement of existing programmes and activities. It also includes projects on which our new colleagues in the US will be focusing with help from our American Friends, such as the Library Fellowship sabbatical scheme and the Colonial Records digitisation project. The Institute’s refurbished space will include a new, flexible conference suite and exhibition space, a new research training suite, enhanced library and research facilities, an expansion of room for fellows and postgraduate students, and of course an updated common room. Indeed the latter is as popular now as ever and was one of the spaces to be snapped up quickly for sponsorship by an external funder. The conference suite and a seminar room have also been funded, but there are still plenty of spaces requiring support as well as naming opportunities available.

As we have raised a significant proportion of the funds needed for the capital element of the campaign, we are now turning more attention to the programmes that will help the IHR to generate income in the future, thereby giving it a greater degree of financial independence. These include a variety of international junior fellowships, a new managing editor position within the VCH and a professorial chair.

Looking beyond the next couple of years, the IHR also needs to build its endowment, which will further underpin the Institute’s future financial sustainability. Thanks to the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation’s challenge grant we have made an excellent start, as all unrestricted donations have been matched with funds from the foundation on a 2:1 basis, and all matched funding has been invested in our endowment fund. But what’s more, we recently received the good news that the foundation has agreed to extend the challenge and will continue to match funds while the redevelopment campaign continues. This means that any gift you make in support of the campaign will attract an additional 50 per cent of funding that will be invested for the IHR’s future.

Our new space, combined with new events, training and teaching, will ensure that the IHR remains the home of choice for researchers from near and far, as well as new research projects and centres. Please contact the development office if you wish to support any aspect of the campaign or simply want information.

If you are a member of the IHR community and would like to be kept informed of our events, please contact the development office: IHR.Development@sas.ac.uk 0207 862 8764 or 8791.
Seminar support - still a priority

The development office continues to be busy with the redevelopment campaign, raising funds both for the physical refurbishment of the IHR's home as well as projects and programmes that will help the Institute to provide new resources for scholars and remain at the forefront of historical research internationally. The seminar programme is one area in which we have had great success in raising new funds, but we wish to build on this as it helps to support the IHR in many ways.

The IHR hosts over 60 seminars on a wide range of topics and, until recently, funding had remained static for 10 years. Even at this level, which was far from sufficient, supporting the seminars was a great expense for the IHR, as they draw on its core funding from government as well as the resource of staff time within its administration department. However, over the past year we have been seeking funding from individual donors, trusts and foundations, to fully fund the seminars. This external funding not only provides the level of financial support that seminar convenors truly need, but also helps fund the administrative support and overheads the IHR contributes to the organisation of the programme. Moreover, as the seminars bring in a wide range of people with interests in a broad range of historical subjects, they help us to reach out to potential new users of the IHR's services and to promote the study of history, one of our core objectives. This, in turn, helps us to leverage funding for other areas of our work.

Thus far, we have secured commitments to fund five seminars over the next five years, and several other seminars are receiving funding on a year-by-year basis. The feedback from both the donors and the seminar recipients has been truly heart-warming and makes us wish the entire programme might receive the same level of support! Increased funding has meant that convenors can plan topical programmes related to new research and featuring relevant specialists from around the world. In some instances, it has meant they can plan extended programmes, for example adding in a special day-long colloquium.

If you participate in a seminar, or have done so in the past, please consider making a contribution so that we can ensure that the IHR remains the home of this magnificent resource for academic historians and all those with an interest in history.

For further information, please contact Heather Dwyer in the development office: heather.dwyer@sas.ac.uk / 020 7862 8791.

Friends' events: Chariots of Fire with Lord Puttnam

The Friends programme of social events is in its third successful year. The events, which are open to all, not only raise funds annually for the Institute, but provide wonderful occasions to meet others within the IHR community.

In May, the Friends hosted a very special film evening in honour of the 2012 Olympics. Chariots of Fire captivated and inspired viewers when it was released in 1981 and did so again this past summer with its re-release.

Taylor Downing, founder of Flashback TV and trustee of the IHR Trust, moderated the evening and provided historical context by showing original newsreels from the 1924 Olympics opening ceremonies and the famous 400-metre race where Eric Liddell breaks the world record to win the gold medal. The clips illustrated not only how historically 'correct' the film is but also showed the stark contrast between today's Olympic Games and the far more innocent Games in which Eric Liddell and Harold Abrahams participated. Everything from the uniforms, to the running techniques, to the hats worn by the spectators in the film is similar to those seen in the clips.

Lord David Puttnam presented a preview of his new, digitally restored version of his Academy Award-winning film to the IHR community and captivated the audience with his candid accounts of making the film. One such story was about the filming of the famous team run across the beach to the accompaniment of the Vangelis score. The first shoot was on a beautiful sunny day at West Sands, St Andrews. Unfortunately, the film was damaged by sand and had to be shot again the next day. The weather, in contrast, was overcast and windy, but in the end proved to be the perfect backdrop for the scene.

We are looking forward to a new season of events that will include the Friends outing to Eltham Palace in October and the Friends film showing of Great Expectations in November.
Cynthia Hawker’s recollections of the IHR, 1945-1990

I joined the staff of the Institute, then housed in a wing of BMA House in Tavistock Square, as the junior clerk in the autumn of 1945. The Institute had moved from its original 'Tudor cottage' in Malet Street to the third floor of the new Senate House in 1938, from which it was exiled in 1942 when it was taken over by the Ministry of Information.

I think it was in 1947 that there was a gas strike in London so that it was necessary, if one wanted to serve tea to the staff and readers, to put the kettle on at lunchtime and hope that it would boil by teatime. However, our greatest excitement about 1947 was the ‘forgers’. We realised that people were living in the basement, which had been used as an air raid shelter during the war. Some mornings we would be greeted by lovely smells of frying bacon, and we knew that they had been up the back stairs and into our offices during the night. The police said that they knew about these goings on, but did not want to do anything until they could catch the whole gang. One day we had a visit from a very angry secretary of the British Medical Association (Dr Charles Hill, the ‘Radio Doctor’). He said that someone had fired a bullet from our window into BMA House. Several weeks later, the news reported that 17 forgers had been caught in our basement and in nearby air raid shelters. We asked the Inspector if we could go down to the basement to see the place, but they refused even to tell us what they had been forging - money, ration books, identity cards, we would never know.

When we returned to Senate House, it was a very noisy time for us because, when it came to installing the lights in the basement, the men just drilled up through the ceiling (our floor) and would rush into the office shouting ‘mind your feet, we’re drilling there’. They then started building the fourth floor on top of us and that meant drilling off the layers of concrete, much of which came rattling down the panels behind our windows. We were said to have this fourth floor because up until then we had been able to go out onto the roof and, in fact, we had the Anglo-American conference teas up there. These were not the only times that the building caused us trouble. One year, an Anglo-American conference lecture was being given in the Upper Hall on the third floor of the Institute when water began dripping from the ceiling. Apparently one of the lavatories in the University library was overflowing. The audience just put on macs and put up umbrellas and sat there until the lecture finished and we moved in with our mops and buckets. I think we found another room for the next lecture.

During Professor Edwards’ directorship, the Institute became home to the British National Committee of Historians. We organised conferences with several national committees, the first being with Soviet historians. I think the first group that went to Moscow numbered among their ranks Professor Jacob, Professor Sir Charles Webster, Dr Philip Grierson and Dr George Bolsover. Likewise, a Soviet party came to a conference in London. As happened several times afterwards, some of our officers went to meet them at Heathrow, only to find that they had been met by cars from the Soviet embassy. They drove them back via the run-down docks area instead of bringing them straight to the Russell Hotel. We expected them to come to the Institute the following morning to begin the conference but, without telling us, they went to the Soviet Embassy, where they were obviously briefed. We used to have fun deciding which was the KGB man accompanying them; it was fairly easy to find him as they all deferred to him before answering questions. The BNC organised many other conferences with Polish, French, Spanish, Czech and Bulgarian historians over the years.

Professor Edwards was an active member of the Council of the Honourable Society of Cymmrodorion. In 1951 they were granted their Royal Charter at a ceremony at St James’s Palace, presided over by Queen Mary as the king was ill. The Council first had a meeting and tea at the Institute. As all the conversations were in Welsh, I didn't understand a word; however, this was realised by one gentleman (the king's orthopaedic surgeon, I think) and he said 'You stand by me and I will translate all the jokes’, which he did. Professor Edwards was also appointed Chairman of the Royal Commission on Historical Manuscripts in Wales and it was for this that he was knighted in 1960. Sir Goronwy had also started the Jesus College Association Old Members’ London Branch. When he retired, the Branch organised a dinner in the House of Commons, hosted by Harold Wilson. There were about 40 men, Lady Edwards and I at the dinner. One of the speakers was the Chaplain General to the Forces. When he saw us he was quite upset as he said he would have to modify his speech and not tell some of his best stories.

There have been many policy changes over the years: for instance, for many years no one who was not a graduate was admitted to the Institute, and holders of University of London master’s degrees by examination were not allowed free admission after they had received their degrees, as holders of degrees by thesis were. The Anglo-American conferences were much bigger affairs, on many different themes and further divided into medieval, early modern and modern. In the very early days, each section held its own dinner at different hotels in the area, and the main conference dinner would be held at the Waldorf Hotel or the Connaught. In later years, these dinners were found to be too expensive for all but the very senior members of the conference and a party on the last evening of the conference was substituted.

Cynthia Hawker, who passed away last year, joined the IHR in 1945 and ended her long career as secretary to Patrick K. O'Brien. Reproduced here is an edited selection of Cynthia’s recollections of her time at the Institute, but she wrote much more. If you would like to receive a full, unedited copy of Cynthia’s recollections by email, contact: emma.bohan@sas.ac.uk.
Ancients and Moderns

Manjeet Sambi, events and publicity officer, reports from the 2012 Anglo-American conference

The summer of 2012, crowned by London’s hosting of the Queen’s jubilee celebrations and the 2012 Olympics and Paralympics, will be memorable for many years to come. To mark the momentous occasion of the city’s mounting of the Games, the Anglo-American conference, also traditionally held during the summer, took Ancients and Moderns’ as its theme. The conference, an IHR flagship event, was co-hosted by the Institute of Classical Studies, a partner Institute in the School of Advanced Study. Undeterred by warnings of the ‘chaos’ expected within London’s transport system in the lead-up to the Olympics, the conference took place on 5–6 July in Senate House, the Institutes’ home at the heart of Bloomsbury.

The programme was headlined by five plenary speakers including Professor Paul Cartledge (Cambridge), who opened the first day with an intriguing paper on ‘Olympic renascences: how democratic were the ancient Olympics?’ and Professor Mark Lewis (Stanford), who explored classics from an eastern, economic perspective in ‘Nationalising antiquity in China’. Sixteen panel sessions were held on subjects ranging from ‘Reformation and early Christianity’ to empirical classics, the latter chaired by Dr Vivian Bickford-Smith, an IHR visiting academic. Professor Sanjay Subrahmanyan travelled from the University of Los Angeles to speak on ‘Ancients, moderns and Muslims: reflections on Europe and India’, emphasising again the international compass of the classics arena. Professor David Womersley from the University of Oxford presented a paper entitled ‘Antiquity and modernity: Gibbon’s changing thoughts’, while Professor Constanze Guthenke (Princeton) closed the conference with ‘Classical scholarship and the transatlantic’, perfectly summing up the wide-ranging nature of this year’s event.

The well-attended policy forum – now a regular fixture designed to relate the conference theme’s current relevance to contemporary issues – focused on the role of classics in contemporary British culture; whether the study of Latin and Greek still has relevance over 2,000 years later; and whether the arts community is doing enough to support classics now. Speakers – from a mixture of professional and academic backgrounds – included Jeannie Cohen from Classics For All and Tanya Moodie from the Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts. Opened up to all comers, discussion at the forum was quick to intensify and, as usual, an hour proved too short.

A film presentation was the highlight of the ‘media’ element, another regular feature. Dr Kim Shahabudin from the University of Reading introduced Muscles, Marathons and Mario Bava: the Giant of Marathon (1959) and, in between extended clips, commented on the film’s content and contexts.

The main aims were to bring the subject of classics to a historical audience to aid further understanding of its important role in our contemporary society, and to discuss jointly the interdisciplinary fields of interest. Yet again, feedback proves that in order to understand the role of classics, and academia as a whole, it is vital to look at the lessons learned from the past.
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.

Seminars at the IHR

American history
Thursday, 5.30pm

Archives and society
Tuesday, 5.30pm

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 and display
Friday, 5.15pm

Comparative histories of Asia
Thursday, 5.30pm

Conversations and disquisitions
Friday, 4.30pm

Crusades and the Latin East
Monday, 5.15pm

Digital history
Monday, 5.15pm

Disability history
Monday, 5.15pm

Earlier middle ages
Wednesday, 5.30pm

Early modern material cultures
Wednesday, 5.15pm

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, 5.15pm

Film history
Thursday, 5.30pm

Histories of home
Wednesday, 5.30pm

History Lab seminar
Thursday, 5.15pm

History of education
Thursday, 5.30pm

History of gardens and landscapes
Friday, 5.30pm

History of libraries
Tuesday, 5.30pm

History of political ideas/early career seminar
Wednesday, 5.15pm

Imperial and world history
Monday, 5.15pm

International history
Tuesday, 6.00pm

Jewish history
Tuesday, 5.15pm

Late medieval and early modern Italy
Thursday, 5.15pm

Late medieval seminar
Friday, 5.30pm

Latin American history
Thursday, 5.30pm

Life-cycles
Tuesday, 5.15pm

Locality and region
Tuesday, 5.15pm

London group of historical geographers
Tuesday, 5.15pm

Low Countries history
Friday, 5.15pm

Marxism in culture
Friday, 5.30pm

Medieval and Tudor London
Thursday, 5.15pm

Metropolitan history
Wednesday, 5.30pm

Military history
Tuesday, 5.15pm

Modern British history
Thursday, 5.15pm

Modern French history
Monday, 5.30pm

Modern German history
Thursday, 5.30pm

Modern Italian history
Wednesday, 5.30pm

Modern religious history
Wednesday, 5.15pm

Oral history
Thursday, 6.00pm

Parliaments, politics and people
Tuesday, 5.15pm

Philosophy of history
Thursday, 5.30pm

Postgraduate and early career seminar
Thursday, 5.30pm

Psychoanalysis and history
Wednesday, 5.30pm

Public history
Day and time to be announced

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

Religious history of Britain 1500–1800
Tuesday, 5.15pm

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 & Stuart history
Monday, 5.15pm

Voluntary action history
Monday, 5.15pm

War, society and culture
Wednesday, 5.15pm

Women’s history
Friday, 5.15pm

Sponsor a seminar

The IHR is well known for hosting some 60 seminars covering a wide variety of historical periods, places and topics, a number that is consistently growing. However, over the past 10 years the amount of funding available for the IHR to disburse to seminars has reduced by 50 per cent.

Despite this, we have managed to maintain the level of funding awarded to each seminar, although of course these funds are worth less today than they were 10 years ago. This funding is not nearly enough to cover travel costs for guest speakers and other incidental expenses, so we are seeking additional support to ensure that convenors are able to deliver the best possible programmes in the future.

To fully sponsor a seminar costs £1,000 per annum, although donations of any size are welcome. For more information, please contact Heather Dwyer: 020 7862 8791 heather.dwyer@sas.ac.uk.
Seminar in focus: British history in the long 18th century
Arthur Burns, professor of modern British history, KCL

‘British history in the long 18th century’, one of the largest, liveliest and longest-established seminars in the IHR programme, covers British history in all its forms between the Restoration and the mid-19th century. If its core strength lies in covering the period’s social and cultural history, it equally welcomes papers on politics, economics, religion and more methodological reflections, not least reflecting convenors’ involvement in important digital and online history initiatives. Tim Hitchcock, a director of the Old Bailey Online and Connected Histories projects, is one example.

This has been one of the liveliest fields in British historical research over the past 30 years, from which widely discussed work has been produced – influential far beyond its core constituency – helping the seminar to attract consistently large audiences from within and outside London. The most significant papers attract 50 or more listeners, and numbers rarely dip below 25. It has strong links, particularly with the American and Canadian scholarly communities, attracts a regular influx of transatlantic visitors and graduate students and has also, through Penelope Corfield, maintained a long-standing connection with scholars working on Hanoverian Britain in Japan. The audience’s diverse character – not just geographically, but in terms of its mix of ages, specialisms and of established academics, early career and postgraduate researchers, and independent scholars – has sustained a reputation for lively discussion and friendly, but forensic, questioning. This makes it an important forum for scholars seeking critical feedback on work in progress, and perhaps the most important single venue for regular discussion of 18th-century British history in the country.

The enduring success can also be attributed to some of the seminar’s more distinctive features. Compared to many others, its relatively small team of convenors has maintained a tradition of full attendance at all meetings rather than picking and choosing those reflecting their particular interests. This has helped build its sense of being a community of friends and colleagues rather than an occasion, and this is further sustained by the well-established après-seminar traditions, which include drinks in the pub and a communal meal, regularly attended by more than 20 seminar-goers including postgraduates, at a concessionary tariff. These meals, and the famous annual party, are often more valuable than the papers themselves as a forum for the interchange of ideas, sources, speculations and high-quality academic gossip, and the sociability certainly encourages a decent attendance at papers that might otherwise struggle.

Always eager to extend its outreach, the seminar has always collaborated happily in the IHR’s efforts to allow the widest possible audience to benefit from its programme. It was one of the first to experiment with a live link-up with another seminar at a distant university, and more recently one meeting was presented live via video-stream. Regular podcasts have been made of its papers for IHR Digital and it has also experimented with the seminar format itself. Although traditional papers remain at the heart of meetings, for the last two years it has hosted extremely successful PechaKucha events at which postgraduates still in their first months ‘pitch’ their research in a series of three-minute papers to an audience whose questions are limited to 30 seconds. Linked to a ‘speed-dating’ session among the participants, the event not only provides the first experience of the seminar to 15 postgraduates from across the country and beyond, but also an opportunity to forge connections with scholars working on apparently unconnected themes who suddenly identify points of contact and developing trends in scholarship.

Two early-career researchers, Leonie Hannon and Sally Holloway, have now been added to the team of convenors (alongside Corfield and Hitchcock, Arthur Burns, Amanda Goodrich and Sarah Lloyd) to help build, reinforce and develop its links with its postgraduate community.

Looking ahead, thanks to a generous anonymous donation, we plan to invite more scholars, working on Hanoverian Britain overseas, to deliver papers. All are welcome to the seminar, which meets fortnightly on Wednesdays during the University of London terms at 5.15pm.

James Gillray, The Plumb-pudding in danger or State epicures taking un petit souper, 1805. Library of Congress via Wikimedia Commons
Postgraduate research training courses at the IHR

Each year the IHR runs a wide-ranging and extensive training programme in skills for historical researchers from UK universities. Using a range of teaching approaches (workshops, seminars, lectures, hands-on practicals and visits), important and specialised skills are explained and explored by expert practitioners. Courses are short (from one day to one term), cover the whole range of necessary skills – from archival use and languages to databases and the internet – and are priced to be within the means of students.

Archival research skills

Methods and sources for historical research
Introduction to finding and using primary sources for research in archives, museums and online through an intensive programme of lectures and archival visits. Several repositories will be visited including the British Library, National Archives, Parliamentary Archives and Wellcome Library. Fee £225.

How to get the history right in your historical fiction: a workshop for authors
Spring 2013
One-day workshop, open to all authors or budding authors, which explains how to research the history behind historical fiction, with detailed guidance on using published works of history, finding and employing primary source materials and getting the most from libraries, archives, museums and art galleries. Fee £100.

Explanatory paradigms: an introduction to historical theory
Wednesday evenings, 1 May – 10 July 2013
Critical introduction to current approaches to historical explanation. Each session examines a different explanatory approach, such as Marxism, gender analysis or postmodernism, equipping students to form their own judgements on the schools of thought most influential in the modern discipline. Fee £225.

Languages and palaeography

Introduction to medieval and Renaissance Latin
Tuesdays, 9 October – 11 December 2012
Ten-week course providing an introduction to Latin grammar and vocabulary, together with practical experience in translating, typical post-classical Latin documents. It is intended for absolute beginners, or for those with a smattering of the language but who wish to acquire more confidence. Students will emerge at the end with not just a strong grounding in the mechanics of Latin, but also an understanding of the changes that it underwent and the new ways in which it was used in medieval and early modern Europe. Open to all who are interested in using Latin for their research. Fee £225.

Further medieval and Renaissance Latin
Tuesdays, 23 April – 25 June 2013
A third course, carrying on from the first two IHR medieval and Renaissance Latin courses, deepening and extending understanding of the language. By the end, students should feel confident about tackling most basic Latin historical sources. Fee £225.

Palaeography and diplomatic

Dates TBC
Introduction to the history of script from the Roman Empire to the early modern period, with practical instruction in reading manuscripts and understanding the context in which they emerged. The course concentrates on Latin and English palaeography in the British Isles, but scripts of other national traditions may be included if there is demand. Please note that this is not an IHR course, but is run by Queen Mary University of London and taught by Dr Jenny Stratford: please email jenny.stratford@qmul.ac.uk for further information and to apply for a place.

Information technology courses

Databases for historians
13–15 November 2012/2–5 April 2013
Four-day course introducing 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 techniques can be adapted to any package. Open to postgraduate students, lecturers and all who are interested in using databases in their historical research. Fee £225.

Internet sources for historical research
4 December 2012/5 March 2013
Intensive introduction to using the internet as a tool for serious historical research. It includes sessions on academic mailing lists, gateways, search engines and other finding aids, and on effective searching using Boolean operators and compound search techniques. Advice will be given on winnowing the useful matter from the vast mass of unsorted data available, and on the proper caution to be applied in making use of online information. Fee £100.

Qualitative data analysis workshop
Two-day course: 10 December 2012 and 11 January 2013 (TBC)
Workshop introducing historians to this rapidly growing field and furnishing participants with a good working grasp of the NVivo B software package and its uses for all historical research projects. Note that the course consists of two sessions, a month apart. Fee £120.

For further information, the full programme and application forms, see www.history.ac.uk/research-training or contact Simon Trafford, Institute of Historical Research, University of London, Senate House, Malet Street, London, WC1E 7HU (ihr.training@sas.ac.uk).
Some Tales of One City
Charles Dickens and London

A conference exploring Dickens’ relationship with London and the ways in which the capital influenced and shaped his life, his work and his social conscience.

 Speakers include: Ruth Richardson, Alex Werner, Tony Williams, Jenny Hartley, Nicholas Waloff, Michael Allen

For details visit: www.history.ac.uk/dickens-london
or contact: Olwen Myhill, tel: 020 7862 8790

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