Welcome to a new issue of Past & Future, to a new IHR, and to a new director of the Institute. By the time you read this the staff will be back in the Institute’s premises after spending three years in the south block of Senate House while the IHR was being refurbished. Our new facilities are truly remarkable: spacious, elegant and thoughtfully designed so that the Institute can be used by everyone – staff, fellows, researchers, readers and students – to the greatest advantage. The list of people and institutions who have played a role in the transformation of our facilities is long and distinguished, a mixture of public and private funding which has drawn on the munificence of many charitable foundations, academic trusts, personal donors, and the support of the IHR Friends in both Britain and the United States. Our architects and interior designers deserve special thanks for the sensitive manner in which they have interpreted their brief. A set of spaces and facilities has been produced which combine fidelity to the traditional needs of scholars with access to the latest technology.

We hope that reading and working in the Institute’s library will be a pleasure for all. We hope also that many different groups and organisations will want to hold meetings and conferences at the new IHR, which now contains a dedicated conference suite that can accommodate up to 140 people, as well as a range of seminar rooms for smaller groups. And then there is the common room, of course, which is changed, but not beyond all recognition. The aim is to make this a meeting place for all historians and those who value history. Our intention is to put these facilities to the best use so that the IHR becomes not just a centre for historical studies and personal research, but one of the centres for the historical profession. The IHR should be an acknowledged national and international centre for all those who care about the past and its place in the future.

I should like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to my predecessor, Professor Miles Taylor, who has overseen the IHR’s transformation and whose term as director has now come to an end. Miles, in fact, stayed on for an extra year to provide continuity during a naturally disrupted period. We are deeply grateful to him for his role in the planning and execution of the redevelopment, and for the vigour, imagination and enthusiasm he has brought to the IHR. We wish him every success in the future.

I look forward to meeting many of the readers of this magazine in the coming years. Do come and take a look, use the library, attend a seminar and relax in the common room. The intention is to build an inclusive historical community centred on the IHR.

Lawrence Goldman
October 2014
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*Cover image: Abbey of St Edmund. Bury St Edmunds is a Magna Carta Charter Town according to Roger of Wendover’s *Flores Historiarum* chronicle. A highlight of its commemorative events will be ‘Our Liberty’, a Magna Carta light and sound trail taking place at the abbey, 19–24 October. Image © St Edmundsbury Cathedral.*
IHR news

Staff changes

Over the past few months there have been a number of changes in IHR staff. We said goodbye to Elaine Walters, who for over 12 years has been the Institute’s manager and linchpin, as she took up her new role as deputy chief executive of the School of Advanced Study and director of operations for Senate House Library. Events officer Manjeet Sambi has also moved into central SAS to become events officer for the Institutes of English Studies and Modern Languages Research. Another long-standing colleague, James Lees, left the IHR fellowships office for a post with the Arts and Humanities Research Council in Swindon; Adam Crymble, British History Online project manager, has taken up a lecturship in digital history at the University of Hertfordshire; and Stephanie de Ryckman de Betz, assistant administrator, is now undertaking charity work in Pakistan. Last, but not least, Professor Miles Taylor stepped down after six years as IHR director. As co-investigator on the St Stephen’s Chapel project, Miles will continue to maintain an office at the IHR but will also take up a Leverhulme research fellowship at the University of York.

Although we are very sad to lose old friends, and we wish them all well, we are delighted to welcome new colleagues. Incoming IHR director, Professor Lawrence Goldman, joins us from St Peter’s College, Oxford, having just completed ten years as editor of the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography. On 1 October, Professor Richard Hoyle, currently professor of rural history at the University of Reading, takes up the position of director and general editor of the Victoria County History and professor of English local and regional history. Alex Bussey, the new Institute manager, comes to us from the University’s project and planning office. Vanessa Rockel, previously a member of the SAS registry team, takes over as fellowships officer. Finally, Sarah Milligan joins us from the University of Victoria, British Columbia, as publishing manager for British History Online.

Among existing members of staff, we congratulate Dr Simon Trafford, IHR training officer, on his appointment as lecturer in medieval history, and Dr Mark Merry, IHR digital projects and training officer, who becomes a lecturer in urban history.

CMH news

The programme for our next major conference, ‘London and the First World War’ (20–21 March 2015), which we are co-organising with Imperial War Museums, is now being finalised. The programme committee experienced great difficulty in whittling down the large number of high-quality papers received in response to the call for papers, but we now have a coherent and exciting conference in prospect. Professor Jerry White will be one of the plenary speakers and there will be panel sessions on ‘Enemy aliens’, ‘Views from outside’ (wartime London as seen through the eyes of Australians, New Zealanders, and African and Caribbean troops), ‘Daily life and institutions’, ‘Communications and transport’, ‘Dissent’, ‘Leisure’ and ‘Air war’. The full programme and booking information will be available at www.history.ac.uk/london-ww1 at the end of October.

The CMH is now a member of a new network on ‘The Global City: Past and Present’. The network promotes interdisciplinary dialogue between scholars working on the history of those cities that anchored Europe’s early modern empire. It brings together scholars investigating the city in an imperial setting between 1500 and 1850 to discuss urban life in a comparative framework and seeks to better understand the relationship of these cities to the modern ‘global city’ and the associated process of globalisation. The network is organising four workshops over the next two years. The CMH will be hosting ‘People’ in spring 2016, and the others are ‘Space’ (St Andrews, May 2015), ‘Political economy’ (Brazil, Autumn 2015) and a concluding discussion (St Andrews, Autumn 2016). See globalcities.wp.st-andrews.ac.uk for further information on the network and workshops.

Since the last issue of Past and Future there has been a further update to the Records of London’s Livery Companies Online (ROLLCO) database. The apprenticeship and freedom records for the Musicians’ and Tallow Chandlers’ Companies have now been added to those of the Clothworkers’, Mercers’, Goldsmiths’, Drapers’, Girdlers’, Bowyers’ and Salters’ Companies. With some additional Goldsmiths’ (for the period 1700–08) and Salters’ (1636–56) records, the number of individuals named in the database now stands at

The CMH is now a member of a new network on ‘The Global City: Past and Present’. The network promotes interdisciplinary dialogue between scholars working on the history of those cities that anchored Europe’s early modern empire. Map over Munich (München), 1740. Image: public domain via Wikimedia Commons.
The next libraries and research open day for history researchers, on 20 January 2015, will provide information on libraries, archives and collections in London through stands, one-on-one research clinics and training sessions. Following its success last year, this event has been funded by the School of Advanced Study. For details see www.history.ac.uk/libraries-research-day.

A new section of the IHR website (www.history.ac.uk/library/bequests) highlights some bequests and donations which have augmented the library's collections over the years. This is the place to look if you have been intrigued by the donor’s bookplate in the books you use. The North American gifts are also featured in Benjamin Bankhurst’s article about his exciting new post research and promoting the North American collections.

The library catalogue system has been updated, and readers are encouraged to try out the new search at find.senatehouselibrary.ac.uk. This will soon become the IHR library’s default catalogue. Please send us your feedback.

We are very grateful for funding from the American Friends which was used to buy a tripod (for photographing library promotional material) and a tablet (for use by members), as well as a range of books. We hope that readers will use the tablet to access electronic journals, catalogues and other online resources; if the trial is successful, we will provide other mobile devices around the library.

A Mercers’ Company grant for book conservation was also most welcome. It was used for books across the collections, but especially local history folios which are housed in the new Foyle Folio and Special Collections reading room. We are always grateful for donations, which help with conservation and collection development, among other things. Crediting is available upon request. To donate, please contact IHR.Development@sas.ac.uk / 0207 862 8764.

Library news

New microform scanners and book support and display equipment are, together with new furnishings, among the many improvements made to library facilities in the refurbished IHR. These have been bought with the help of the two IHR appeals ‘Invest in the IHR’ and ‘Chairs for chairs’.

David Phillips completed his year as library trainee in September 2014, when he began an MSC in Library Science at City University, while also working part-time in Senate House Library. As well as being instrumental in preparations for the move and providing the fetch service, David has improved our catalogue records for the African holdings, maintained the new books display, updated the library’s Facebook page and researched and written some interesting items on the IHR blog. Our new trainee for 2014–15 is Alexandra Zaleski, who recently completed an MA in Medieval and Renaissance Studies at UCL.

Past and Future
Discounted subscriptions for IHR Friends

We would like to remind you that discounted subscriptions to the online Bibliography of British and Irish History are available to Friends of the IHR who may not have access to the Bibliography through a university or other institution. The project, co-administered by the Royal Historical Society (RHS) and Brepols Publishers, is the most extensive guide available to what has been published on British and Irish history. Covering the history of these countries’ relations with the rest of the world, including the British empire and the Commonwealth as well as British and Irish domestic history, it comprises both books and articles from journals and collective volumes. It is updated three times a year and currently includes nearly 550,000 records; subscribers can sign up for email alerts notifying them when new records are added on subjects of interest to them. For more information see www.history.ac.uk/projects/bbih.

Friends of the IHR (including American Friends) can sign up for individual subscriptions for the 2015 subscription year at one-third of the normal cost between 1 October and 15 December 2014; please contact the development office (IHR.Development@sas.ac.uk / 020 7862 8791). For details on the Friends and the other benefits of joining, please visit www.history.ac.uk/support-us/friends. Similar discounts are available to RHS Fellows and Members, who will receive information in their autumn mailing as usual.

Historical Research news

Joanna Warson was the 2014 Pollard Prize winner with her paper, ‘Beyond cooperation and competition: Anglo-French relations, connected histories of decolonisation and Rhodesia’s Unilateral Declaration of Independence, 1965–1980’ (Modern French history seminar). It was selected from a record number of entries, this having been the Prize’s most successful year yet.

Joint runners-up were: Jacqueline Bemmer on ‘The Irish hostage security and inter-territorial alliances’ (Earlier middle ages seminar) and Catherine Chou, ‘The parliamentary mind and the mutable constitution’ (Parliaments, politics and people seminar). Thank you to all who submitted papers. The winners will be published in the journal next year. A list of all winners and runners-up from 1999 onwards is now available on the Historical Research/Wiley web page at http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1111/(ISSN)1468-2281.

Historical Research’s multimedia virtual issue commemorating the First World War’s 100th anniversary will be published this autumn. Look out for it on our Wiley page.

The year’s last issue (vol. 87, no. 238) will include articles on the emotional life of medieval bishops by Katherine Harvey; the medical and divinatory uses of the ‘sphere of life and death’ by Jo Edge; and the ‘other boys of Kilmichael’ by Andrew Nelson (about the British men killed in the 1920 ambush).

IHR events

A valedictory talk: ‘Magnca Carta and the Victorians’
Speaker: Professor Miles Taylor (York)
Title: Magnca Carta and the Victorians
9 October 2014, Wolfson conference centre

Opening of the newly-refurbished Institute of Historical Research building
14 October 2014, Institute of Historical Research

IHR winter conference 2014: ‘The Utopian Universities’
23–24 October 2014, Wolfson conference centre

Friends of the IHR lecture: ‘Trying to tell truth to power: reflections on my adventures in Whitehall’
Speaker: Professor Sir David Cannadine (Princeton University)
27 October 2014, Wolfson conference centre

Transformation of Victorian Basingstoke
Hosted by the Victoria County History (Hampshire)
15 November 2014, Milestones Museum Basingstoke

Oxford Dictionary of National Biography editorship launch
Co-hosted with Oxford University Press
25 November 2014, Wolfson conference centre

Creighton lecture: ‘Was the “Final Solution” unique? Reflections on twentieth-century genocides’
Speaker: Professor Sir Richard Evans (Wolfson College, Cambridge)
2 December 2014, venue TBC

Web archives conference
3 December 2014, IHR

History libraries & research open day
Co-hosted with Senate House Library
20 January 2015, Macmillan Hall

Remapping survival: Jewish refugees in Soviet Central Asia, Iran and India
Co-hosted with the Pears Institute, Birkbeck College
28 January 2015, Great Hall, British Medical Association, Tavistock Square, WC1H 9JP
Speaker: Professor Atina Grossman, The Cooper Union, New York

Gerald Alymer seminar: ‘Secret Histories’ on the history of spying and the use of classified material
Co-hosted with the National Archives and the Royal Historical Society
27 February 2015, Wolfson conference centre

London and the First World War
Hosted by the Centre for Metropolitan History
20–21 March 2015, Senate House & Imperial War Museums

Oral history spring school
Co-hosted with the Oral History Society
1815: The Origins of Modern History?
April 2015, Senate House

1815: The Origins of Modern History?
21–22 May 2015, IHR

84th Anglo-American conference: ‘Fashion in history’
Co-hosted with the Victoria & Albert Museum
2–3 July, Senate House

Local history summer school
TBC, Senate House

For further details on our events, visit www.history.ac.uk/events.
Parliaments, anniversaries and foundation myths: 1215, 1265 and 2015
Paul Seaward, director, History of Parliament

It is remarkable how anniversaries over the last few years have become so large a part of how the general public - as well as historians themselves - consume and learn about the past. Anniversaries are useful reminders to a present-minded age of how the political, cultural and social institutions we take for granted are historically constructed, defined as much by their past as by their intrinsic value. Also, of how their specific shape and appearance is the result of years, if not centuries, of evolutionary adaptation, rather than much in the way of intelligent design. There is, of course, a danger the anniversary could work the other way around by providing an opportunity to impose a narrative motivated by present concerns on a past entirely innocent of any intention to evolve or develop into the present.

Next year’s commemorations of King John’s acceptance of Magna Carta in 1215 and the parliamentary assembly, summoned by Simon de Montfort in January 1265 to bolster his authority and that of his confederates after their victory over Henry III, will mark the origins of English political and legal institutions and traditions. They will naturally be subject to the temptations outlined above. For the 1215 anniversary, an events programme is being coordinated by a national committee, chaired by Sir Bob Worcester: they include a major exhibition at the British Library and many local celebrations, especially in the ‘Magna Carta towns’ to which copies of the charter were sent.

Parliament itself is coordinating the de Montfort anniversary as the starting point for a series of activities on the theme of ‘Parliament in the making’. Its programme will incorporate a year-long display of banners in Westminster Hall depicting ‘the movements and the moments which enabled the rights and representation that we enjoy today’, and exhibitions of key documents from the Parliamentary Archives including the Bill of Rights and the Great Reform Act. A number of public and visual arts projects will be commissioned during the year, and work will be carried out with libraries and archives across the UK. Parliament has been careful not to
make outdated claims about the direct links between these events and the creation of today’s constitution. The 2015 activities, though, extend well beyond the Middle Ages, let alone 1265, and some historians might be tempted to flicker an eyebrow at the incorporation of these events into a rather straightforward and old-fashioned narrative about democracy and the rule of law.

Yet, however wary, historians cannot deny there is something in that narrative: Magna Carta and the 1265 parliament were seen as remarkable at the time, and would be key precedents for people in the Middle Ages, as well as for us today. If Magna Carta was as much a defensive document as a visionary one, if the 1265 Parliament was as much a matter of political tactics as constitutional planning, they could still be banked as statements of principle for use in later arguments about the status of law or the processes of consultation that kings had to undergo. Even if Magna Carta and the 1265 assembly had their own complex contexts and contemporary meanings, they rapidly spawned new and equally important interpretations for successive generations. In fact the development of a narrative about Magna Carta and the de Montfort parliament – of which next year’s events will be simply the most recent stage – is as interesting as the events themselves, showing how the past can be used to build up successive presents through a dynamic process of argument and myth-making: how part of an institution’s method of evolving and creating its own identity is through constructing an idea about its past and how it has already evolved.

That process, indeed, is going to be one of the key themes of the international conference the History of Parliament Trust is holding in collaboration with the International Commission for the History of Parliamentary and Representative Institutions, King’s and Royal Holloway, University of London, and Parliament itself, in early July next year. We are keen to explore ideas about the making of foundation myths in relation to parliaments and constitutions, not just Westminster but also parliaments throughout Europe and the world. In the process, we hope to discover more about the complex meanings of the stories we tell about our central political institutions’ origins and how they affect our ideas about the value and importance of those bodies today.


The foundations of freedom

Nicholas Vincent, professor of medieval history, University of East Anglia

In June 2015 worldwide celebrations will mark the 800th anniversary of Magna Carta. Just about everyone in the English-speaking world has heard of the charter, and of Runnymede where it was issued. Far fewer people have read its 60-plus clauses – of which only those relating to the rights to trial by jury and to defence from arbitrary arrest are still greatly significant today – nor do they have any proper understanding of why it continues to matter. Most certainly, the document did not bring democracy to England. It was targeted at a narrow elite of the King’s barons and at best served the liberties of the class of ‘free’ men and women, perhaps 20 per cent of the population. These were mostly knights and townsmen, well above the peasant class. Intended to curb the worst excesses of one of England’s worst kings, the document in fact did relatively little to prevent future royal tyranny.

England continued to suffer its fair share of tyrants, through to the 16th century and arguably beyond. Issued in the hope that it might bring an end to civil war between king and barons, Magna Carta survived barely 12 weeks before being repudiated by the Pope, following which warfare resumed. After 1215, the next two years saw England riven by civil war, and the barons did their best to depose King John and place a French prince, Louis son of Philip Augustus, on his throne.

Why then does Magna Carta still matter? First and foremost, it represents an endeavour to place the sovereign under the rule of law. The attempt itself may have failed, but the principle lived on. King John’s nine-year-old son revised and reissued the charter in 1216 hoping to buy favour with his rebellious subjects, and further modified versions appeared in 1217 and 1225. By the 1270s, the Church decreed that a copy of Magna Carta be posted on the door of every cathedral and monastery.

By the end of the 13th century, Magna Carta had acquired totemic status as proof that earthly rulers should not act by arbitrary will alone. Even as the significance of its detailed clauses on such issues as inheritance, wardships and marriage had begun to fade into anachronism, its role as guarantor of liberty under the law remained. In particular, even today clauses 39 and 40 of the 1215 Magna Carta (still on the modern Statute Book as clause 29 of Magna Carta 1225) remain essential to our understanding of the relationship between ruler and ruled. In laying down that the law upholds the principle that ‘No free man will be taken or imprisoned or dispossessed or outlawed or exiled or in any way ruined, nor shall we go or send against him, save by the lawful judgement of his peers and by the law of the land. To no one shall we deny or delay right or justice’, Magna Carta contains in embryo the origins of the right to trial by jury and to defence from arbitrary arrest.
Not surprisingly, when the Stuart kings attempted to revive various techniques of arbitrary royal rule in the 17th century, Magna Carta was championed against them as a defence of English liberties. As such, it was exported, together with the rest of English ‘Common’ Law, to the newly established colonies in North America. There, it played a part in the American Revolution of the 1770s, not least to protect the principle that subjects should not be taxed save by their own assent: ‘No taxation without representation’. As the fires of revolution passed from America to France, so the French constitutionalists of the 1780s included echoes of Magna Carta clauses 39–40, guaranteeing ‘due process’ under the law, in the Declaration of the Rights of Man.

In the 19th century, it was Magna Carta that ultimately lay behind the petitioning by ‘Chartists’ for an extension of the parliamentary franchise. Adopted within the individual constitutions of 17 of the United States of America, most recently by North Dakota in 1943, Magna Carta is so deeply embedded within the English-speaking world’s legal conscience that it can rightfully claim to serve as the foundational statute for liberty under the law. As such, it was appealed to by Winston Churchill, Mahatma Gandhi, Nelson Mandela, and indeed by virtually anyone who has been anybody in democratic politics from the 1770s onwards.

Because its anniversaries in 1815 and 1915 clashed with rather more significant events, next year’s 800th anniversary will be the first time Magna Carta has been granted a full centennial celebration. There are to be royal and parliamentary events, and commemorations across the English-speaking world. Here in England, thanks to an AHRC grant, a team of scholars has been assembled to investigate Magna Carta’s meaning and context. My own role has been to scour the archives of England and France in pursuit of new materials relating to King John and the events of 1215. In the process, I and my colleagues at the University of East Anglia, Hugh Doherty and Sophie Ambler, have brought to light more than 300 previously unknown letters of King John, ranging from the routine to the entirely remarkable.

Another project strand has Paul Brand, David Carpenter, Henry Summerson and Louise Wilkinson working on the first proper commentary to the 1215 Magna Carta text to be attempted since before the First World War. The driving force here has been Summerson, whose individual commentaries, both scholarly and in a revised form intended for schools and the public, are beginning to appear on our project website.

The website also includes further schools materials, a ‘feature of the month’ and a regularly updated project ‘Blog’ to be joined shortly by a ‘Diary’. This will set out the most detailed narrative ever attempted of the movements, actions and preoccupations of King John in the year leading up to Magna Carta. By June 2015, we hope to have answered the question ‘Who (exactly) wrote Magna Carta?’ on pages devoted to establishing which precisely of the King’s scribes wrote each particular section of the new charter materials.

Our findings and research will be broadcast from March to August 2015 through a major international exhibition staged at the British Library under the stewardship of another colleague, Claire Breay. This will bring together materials from across the world intended to illustrate both the making and the continued meaning of Magna Carta. Also being held, on 17–19 June 2015, is an international conference at King’s London and the British Library. At a time of constitutional and political uncertainties, in Europe and within the UK, the celebrations of 2015 should serve as a reminder of the storms and stresses already weathered by English law. As the greatest of constitutional totems, and the oldest statute with clauses still in force, Magna Carta richly deserves its year in the anniversary limelight.

Some preliminary findings, and a lavishly illustrated history of Magna Carta, are available in Magna Carta: The Foundations of Freedom, ed. Nicholas Vincent, with chapters from scholars including Miles Taylor, the outgoing IHR director. Miles’s valedictory lecture, ‘Magna Carta and the Victorians’ will be held at the IHR on 9 October. All are welcome.

The UEA project website is at: http://magnacarta.cmp.uea.ac.uk/.

See http://magnacarta800th.com/events/ for hundreds of national and international events from specially commissioned BBC documentaries and books to academic conferences, public exhibitions and a Magna Carta tourism trail.

The Battle of Bouvines, fought on 27 July 1214, was one of the most influential battles in European history, directing the fate of the kingdom of France, the Holy Roman Empire and the Angevin dominions. In England, it was to lead to Magna Carta. Image: The Battle of Bouvines, in BL Royal MS. 16 G VII.379 - public domain.
Web archives as a source for historical research

Jane Winters, reader in digital humanities and head of publications & IHR digital

The web is an integral part of our daily lives, whether we are shopping online, booking cinema tickets, registering to vote or checking whether or not it is going to rain today. It is also of enormous importance to arts and humanities researchers: as the site of digitised historical material, as a primary source in its own right, and as a means of promoting and communicating research to the widest possible audience. It is hard to imagine how you would write the history of the late 20th and early 21st centuries without access to all of this data. Where once we had handwritten diaries, we now have blogs; letters are superseded by Facebook status updates; and carefully curated Flickr collections have taken the place of photo albums.

But the web is inherently impermanent. Whole sites may disappear, and even those which remain are subject - to varying degrees - to change over time. A fast-moving news site, for example, might refresh its content several times a day, while a small unmonitored site might simply become less functional as the technology develops around it. Important parts of web history have already been lost. On 12 March 2014 the web turned 25, but the Internet Archive (IA) only began to collect snapshots of significant websites in 1996. What disappeared in those seven years? Taking just one example, the IHR launched its first website (then described as a hypertext internet server) in August 1993, but it was not captured by the IA’s Wayback Machine until December 1996.

The archiving of this vast range of material is increasingly occupying national memory institutions such as the British Library (BL) and The National Archives (TNA) in the UK. The BL has been selectively archiving websites falling within the .uk domain since 2004, but within strict guidelines requiring permission from site owners to include their material. The result is a relatively small, but fascinating, archive, featuring special collections relating to important national events, for example the Credit Crunch, London Olympic and Paralympic Games and Diamond Jubilee. Websites produced for specific occasions are notably ephemeral and this proactive collections policy has ensured the preservation of much important data. Perhaps the most striking example of this responsiveness, and its importance, is the collection developed around the London bombings of 7 July 2005. Other organisations also undertake selective archiving, including the UK Government Web Archive at TNA and the Parliament Web Archive, although with slightly different parameters - the archives are comprehensive within a particular sub-section of UK web space.

Important though these initiatives are, they do not begin to represent the entirety of the UK web domain. However, the extension of legal deposit to non-print materials in April 2013 has transformed the way in which websites are archived. For the first time, the BL can collect everything with a .uk suffix, without first having to seek permission. It is a huge undertaking. The first UK domain crawl took almost 11 weeks to complete, resulted in the harvesting of 1.9 billion URLs (a web page, image or similar) and totalled 31 terabytes of data. The crawl will be undertaken at least once a year, generating the big data that humanities researchers cannot afford to ignore.

Dealing even with structured data on this scale is not easy, but web archives offer unique challenges for researchers. Bluntly, the data is messy, collected irregularly and as it grows will contain multiple duplicates of some pages.

The IHR’s website ten years ago, viewed using the Internet Archive’s Wayback Machine. Image courtesy of the Internet Archive.
The depth of collection is uneven: some important sites are crawled in their entirety, others only shallowly. Different media within a page may not be acquired successfully, preserving only partial content (the scale of the data collection precludes manual checking). Web pages contain many types of information beyond the main text – including links to other sites, advertisements, contact information – making analysis problematic. As things stand, we have neither the expertise nor the tools to exploit this invaluable resource reflectively.

A new AHRC-funded project, led by the IHR, aims to address these challenges, helping researchers to work with this new type of source, and archiving institutions to understand how they can best support historians’ needs. In collaboration with the BL, the Oxford Internet Institute (OII) and Aarhus University, we are working with a dataset derived from the IA which predates non-print legal deposit in the UK. It covers the whole of UK web space from 1996 to 2013, comprising approximately 65 terabytes of data, many billions of words. The project has four main aims: to highlight the value of web archives as a source for arts and humanities researchers, transforming the way in which those researchers interact with the data; to establish a theoretical and methodological framework for the analysis of web archives; to explore the ethical implications of big data research, particularly as they relate to the web; and to inform collection development and access arrangements for the larger web archive being developed by the BL.

Over 15 months, the project team will produce a full-text index of the data and develop a search interface with associated analytical tools, all informed by the requirements of 11 researchers from different disciplines, who are considering what questions web archives can help answer. These small projects range from analysing Euro-scepticism on the web to studying the Ministry of Defence’s recruitment and charities online to looking at of disability campaigning groups and reciprocity in the linkages between them. This type of link analysis is enormously promising, not least for the insight shed on the web’s own development. Similarly, a visualisation produced by the BL reveals the waning importance of universities in the UK domain. In 1996, the ac.uk domain accounted for 39 per cent of all links captured in the dataset, but by 2008, only 1 per cent. Neither example allows us to understand why something is happening, but they do reveal information only detectable at this scale and from this source.

It being vitally important that researchers and archivists cooperate to collect and preserve the web, other countries, for example France, Denmark and the Netherlands, are doing similar work (although nobody is as yet responsible for archiving the .eu domain). The process has only just begun and further challenges will arise as our information-seeking behaviour evolves and technology develops. We may be working out how to archive the web, but how are we going to deal with the apps through which people increasingly access digital content? How does one archive the experience of playing a computer game? With increasing personalisation, even of our web browsing experience, will we end up archiving something that almost nobody would have viewed in real life? For the benefit of future historians, these are the questions that we need to be thinking about.

Notes
2 The UK Web Archive (UKWA), www.webarchive.org.uk/ukwa/. The collections devoted to the Credit Crunch (www.webarchive.org.uk/ukwa/collection/22839323/page/1), London Olympic and Paralympic Games (www.webarchive.org.uk/ukwa/collection/4325386/page/1) and Diamond Jubilee (www.webarchive.org.uk/ukwa/collection/62521384/page/1) are among 40 publicly available in the UKWA [all accessed 13 Aug. 2014].
6 Big UK Domain Data for the Arts and Humanities, http://buddah.projects.history.ac.uk/ [accessed 14 Aug. 2014].
7 For the full list see http://buddah.projects.history.ac.uk/2014/05/27/welcome-to-our-11-bursary-holders/ [accessed 14 Aug. 2014].

The team behind the ‘Big UK Domain Data for the Arts and Humanities’ project will be taking part in the launch event for the ‘Being Human’ festival of humanities on 15 November 2014 – Too much information: being human in a digital age. See http://beinghumanfestival.org/event/much-information/ for details.

Past and Future
An unsung strength of the IHR library’s North American and Colonial collections is its outstanding selection of materials relating to Canada’s early history. Chief among these are the collections of French-language material about the settlement and government of New France, and of early provincial archival publications. These are unrivalled among reference libraries in the UK.

As part of the ongoing North American History Project, the library has published a new Canadian collection guide and posted a series of blogs celebrating its American resources. This article will give a brief overview of the history of Canadian studies at the Institute before highlighting a few rare and interesting objects from the library’s Québecois resources.

The Canadian collections exist thanks to several large bequests and donations from private individuals and public bodies during the 1920s and 30s. Donors included several prominent early 20th-century Canadian historians, including John Clarence Webster (1863–1950), a scholar of 18th-century Canadian military history who played a leading role in the campaign to preserve historic sites across the Maritime Provinces. The Canadian High Commission and various regional archives and historical societies (including the Ottawa, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia historical societies) also donated books to the library in its infancy.

Henry Perceval Biggar (1872–1938) was primarily responsible for the establishment and expansion of the Canadian collection in the Institute’s first decades. Biggar was born and educated in Ontario, where he attended the University of Toronto before becoming an archivist at the Public Archives of Canada in Ottawa. He regularly visited Europe as a young man, expanding his personal library with purchases made from Parisian market stalls and bookshops. Eventually settling in England, he received a doctorate in history from Oxford University and published several titles on European exploration in North America including *The Voyages of the Cabots* (Paris, 1903), *The Voyages of Jacques Cartier* (Ottawa, 1924) and *The Works of Samuel de Champlain* (Toronto, 1922–36).

Biggar was central to the acquisition campaign for the Canadian Public Archives and later participated in the organisation of historical manuscripts in the national collection, a project he described extensively in *The Bulletin of the Institute of Historical Research* (1930–1), vols. 1 and 2. From 1905 until his death in 1938 he was the Department of Canadian Archives’ European representative. Biggar was instrumental in founding the Canadian Historical Society in 1922 and was its first secretary, overseeing the transcription of important manuscripts relevant to Canada’s early history, held in Paris and London archives for deposition in the Public Archives of Canada.

From 1921 onwards Biggar donated books and pamphlets from his personal library to the IHR, with the largest donations arriving during summer 1926 and winter 1927. Amounting to over 540 items, they were purchased from Biggar’s collection by his colleagues and other notable Canadians living in London including Sir Alexander Whitehead. In 1938, the IHR library committee valued the Biggar Library, then comprising 562 volumes and 256 pamphlets, at £950. This total did not take into account the 50 unnamed books on ‘North American Indian’ culture and Canadian geology or the hundreds of pamphlets which had been transferred to the University of London library in 1936.

Over the course of his career in London, Biggar tirelessly promoted the professionalisation and study of Canadian history in the UK. In 1926 he organised a fund to endow a lectureship in Canadian History at the University of London. Six years later he stipulated that the interest from this fund, then standing at £600, be used by the IHR Library Committee to ‘buy books to be presented to the Canadian section of
the Institute library. Many acquisitions in the area of European exploration in North America were purchased through the Fund including, for example, Paul Gaffarel’s, *Histoire de la découverte de l’Amérique*, 2 vols. (Paris, 1892) and Henry Murphy’s The Voyage of Verrazano (New York, 1870). Perhaps the most substantial additions acquired were the initial two dozen volumes of the *Rapport des Archives du Québec* series.

Among the many rare items in the Canadian collection are four which predate the 1759 conquest of Québec and the establishment of British rule in Canada. The first book is a 1681 Parisian edition of the *Lettres de la Venerable Mère Marie de L’Incarnation*, written by Marie Guyart (1599–1672). Guyart, later Mother Marie of the Incarnation, founded the Ursuline Convent of Québec in 1639 in order to provide religious instruction and education to young Huron women from the Québec and Montréal vicinities.1 In the century following Guyart’s death, however, the convent expanded to include girls from the New France settler community. Many of its graduates established religious orders and institutions throughout the Québec province, including the convents of Trois Rivières and Roberval. The letters are addressed to prominent French Ursulines, Jesuit mission leaders in North America (including Guyart’s mentor Father Poncet de la Rivièere) and former students. Although focusing on devotional and religious topics, the letters also shed light on the hardships experienced by the sisters in establishing the convent and on day-to-day life in early Québec.

Jeanne-Françoise Juchereau’s four-volume *Histoire de l’Hôtel-Dieu de Québec* (Montauban, France, 1751) is the only available library copy in the UK. Dealing primarily with early New France’s religious and charitable life, it focuses on the struggle to found and maintain a hospital in the colony. Jeanne Françoise Juchereau. Image: public domain via Wikimedia Commons.

for her commitment to her patients during the influenza and measles epidemics of 1688, 1703 and 1711, all of which are well documented in the *Histoire de l’Hôtel-Dieu*.

The third work, *Histoire de l’Amérique Septentrionale* (Paris, 1722) by Claude-Charles Bacqueville de la Potherie, examines the history and culture of the Iroquois nations and their relationship with French settlements along the St Lawrence River. Finally, Pierre-François-Xavier de Charlevoix’s *Histoire et description générale de la Nouvelle France* (Paris, 1744) puts more emphasis on the environmental factors that shaped colonial development. Charlevoix highlights Canada’s and Louisiana’s natural resources, often with an eye to their usefulness for European colonists. He was a Jesuit priest who travelled extensively throughout North America on an unsuccessful mission to reach the Pacific Ocean via intercontinental waterways. Charlevoix was moved to write a biography of Marie Guyart as an act of thanksgiving following his shipwreck off the Florida coast in 1722.2 Based upon notes from his travels and 20 years of research in Paris, the *Histoire et description générale* represents an early attempt to synthesise descriptions of the North American interior’s natural resources and ecology with a history of New France.

For more information see:

- IHR Canadian collections guide: www.history.ac.uk/library/collections/canadian-history.
- IHR library bequests page (especially for details of the Biggar Bequests and the Canadian Lectureship Fund): www.history.ac.uk/library/bequests.

The ‘Latest from the library’ section of the IHR library webpage contains links to the latest blog posts on the North American project.

Notes

1 Webster edited several collections of primary sources related to the 1755 siege of Fort Beauséjour, including the *Journals of Beauséjour: Diary of John Thomas* (Apr. 1755 to Dec. 1755) and *Journal of Louis de Courville* (1755) (Halifax: Public Archives of Nova Scotia, 1937). Webster purchased the land upon which the fort was built and donated the site to the nation in 1920. See the New Brunswick Literary Encyclopedia for more on his life and publications: http://w3.stu.ca/stu/sites/nble/w/webster_john_clarence.html.

2 ‘IHR Library Committee Minutes, 1933’, p. 70.

3 For more on Guyart’s life and the founding of the Ursuline Convent of Québec see: www.biographi.ca/en/bio/guyart_marie_1E.html.

4 For more on the Hôtel-Dieu and Juchereau’s life see: www.biographi.ca/en/bio/juchereau_de_la_ferte_jeanne_francoise_2E.html.

5 The biography (Vie de la Mère Marie de l’Incarnation, Institutrice et première supérieure de Ursulines de la Nouvelle-France) was published in 1724. Charlevoix had met Marie Guyart in Florida following his failed expedition to the Pacific.
The 83rd Anglo-American conference of historians took place 3–4 July 2014 at Senate House, London. This year, the theme of the Institute’s flagship conference was on ‘The Great War at Home’. We had numerous collaborators helping with the content and organisation of the event: our own research centre, the Victoria County History, the British Association for Local History and the American Association for State and Local History.

This year, we hoped to attract speakers and delegates from local history and academic audiences. Our collaborators helped enormously with this and, after some clever strategic marketing, we were flooded with panel proposals from local historians and academics.

Diane Lees, director of Imperial War Museums, opened the conference on Thursday morning to an audience of around 300 delegates in Senate House’s Beveridge Hall. The conference also featured internationally-acclaimed war historians as plenary speakers: Jay Winter (Yale) spoke on the language and cultural memory of the Great War, whilst Bill Nasson (Stellenbosch University) talked about the Great War in Africa in his paper entitled: Sometimes somnolent, sometimes seething: British imperial Africa and its home fronts. Christine Hallett (Manchester) gave an illuminating presentation from a medical history angle on the role of nurses – ‘veiled warriors’ - in the war on the first day of the conference. Finally, John Horne (University College Dublin) discussed the legacies of the home fronts in inter-war Europe.

Over the past few years, the Anglo-American conference has begun to host a film presentation and a public policy forum alongside the conference. Taylor Downing, managing director of Flashback TV and long-time friend and supporter of the Institute, presented this year’s film screening. He based this on The Battle of the Somme (August 1916), showing clips about the making of the film and the incredible impact the film had on the home front as the ‘most effective piece of propaganda ever made’.

The programme committee had put together an exciting line-up for the policy forum, which is open to the public. The forum encourages debate and aims to relate the theme of the conference to contemporary issues. This year’s forum, BBC at war: the view from 2014, was chaired by Helen Weinstein (York) and featured speakers Adrian van Klaveren (BBC), Martin Davidson (British Council), Rob Ketteridge (BBC), Katherine Campbell (LEGACY project) and Mark Connelly (Kent). The speakers discussed the challenges of commemoration, the use of anniversaries in broadcasting and the First World War coverage on the BBC.

A conference reception, co-hosted with Adam Matthew Digital, was held at the end of the first day of the conference. Adam Matthew Digital presented their digital First World War portal at the reception, which readers are encouraged to explore: www.firstworldwar.amdigital.co.uk/. This year’s conference was the first to invite audiences and publishers from beyond the academic sphere and was hugely successful in doing so, paving the way for future IHR conferences.

The 84th Anglo-American conference of historians will be on the subject of Fashion in History, in collaboration with the Victoria & Albert Museum. Visit anglo-american.history.ac.uk over the coming months for more information.
Call for papers - ‘Fashion’: the 84th Anglo-American Conference of Historians, 2-3 July 2015

Miles Taylor, outgoing IHR director

Fashion in history is a topic which has become popular in recent years, as scholars have turned to addressing what is chic and what is style over the ages and across different cultures. The history of fashion, and the role of fashion in history, is not just confined to the study of dress and costume, but encompasses design and innovation, taste and zeitgeist.

In a major collaboration with the Victoria and Albert Museum, the IHR is taking ‘Fashion’ as the theme for its annual conference in summer 2015. Focusing on both people and objects, this field crosses over into related disciplines such as the history of art and architecture, consumption, retailing and technology. Across the world, fashion brings together museums, graduate teaching programmes, learned societies and the fashion profession around a common set of interests and concerns. We hope that the conference will be a perfect showcase and meeting-point for the wide spectrum of specialists in this exciting field. Our plenary speakers include: Christopher Breward (Edinburgh), Beverly Lemire (Alberta), Ulinka Rublack (Cambridge) and Valerie Steele (Fashion Institute of Technology, New York). The call for papers is now live, and proposals will be accepted until mid-December for panels on the themes of dress, imitation and emulation; taste and style; body-art; the fashion industry and its media; fashionability and trend-setting; catwalks, fairs and exhibitions; innovation in interior design; architecture and public space; fashion education and technology.

We are delighted to be joining in this event with the Victoria and Albert Museum. For several years the two organisations have jointly hosted a research seminar on early modern material cultures. And as the V&A prepares for an exciting year of its new Clothworkers’ Centre for the Study and Conservation of Textiles and Fashion, and launches a new V&A Research Institute (VARi), it seems a fitting moment to take our academic collaboration a step further. As V&A head of research, Professor Bill Sherman notes, ‘We are pleased to be building on our relationship with the IHR, and look forward to an exciting conference, weaving together the many strands that make the history, theory and practice of fashion such a vital area of interdisciplinary research.’

In recent years, the IHR has been proud to carry its public engagement mission into new territory – the Imperial War Museum, the Science Museum, and the National Archives, to name just a few – and it is now very gratifying to deepen our links with the V&A to make the 2015 Anglo-American one of the best yet in the long history of IHR conferences.

James Gillray, Following the Fashion, a December 1794 caricature, which satirises incipient neo-Classical trends in women’s clothing styles, particularly the ‘short-bodied gowns’ as they were then known (i.e. short-bodiced or high-waisted dresses). This caricature satirises the figure-type which is most flattered by high-waisted dresses, contrasting it with one not flattered by the style – as well as playing on the perennial struggle between attempts of the ‘Cits’ (families of rich merchants in the City of London area) to imitate the stylish aristocrats of west London versus the aristocrats’ determination to socially repulse the Cits, who to them remained unstylish.

For further details, see the IHR events webpages at: http://events.history.ac.uk/conferences.
The Deana and Jack Eisenberg Lecture on Public History

Miles Taylor, outgoing IHR director

Thanks to a very generous donation from one of the Trustees of the IHR, we are delighted to add a new annual lecture on Public History to our events programme from this autumn. Conceived as filling a more specialist niche than the Creighton Lecture in history, which the IHR hosts for the University, the new series will nonetheless encourage esteemed speakers to tackle grand subjects.

‘Public history’ means different things to different people and, according to the national context, creates a variety of agendas and followers. As the President of the Historical Association, Professor Justin Champion, has acutely observed, public history is something of a chameleon, constantly changing and being reshaped. It can cover how the public (itself hard to define) understands history and historical events; it can relate to all those branches of history which are practiced and enjoyed outside of the academy; and it can also mean how past, present and future can often become entangled as the media, politicians and civic society lay claim to different versions of the past – national and international, in film, print and the blogosphere. In the UK, the subject has come of age in recent years. Public history was pioneered overseas, notably in the USA, where the National Council on Public History has been an elemental part of the profession for many years, and MA courses have run for several decades, notably at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst but also at the American University in Washington DC. And in Australia and New Zealand too, where the colonial past looms large in the present-day politics of land settlement, mineral extraction, title claims and race relations, the subject has gained a currency and footing in the academic establishment, long predating the wave of interest here. However, the UK is catching up quickly now, with new or newish MA programmes and pathways available at Royal Holloway, York, Kingston and Central Lancashire.

And inevitably, the IHR is now running a fortnightly seminar on the theme!

The IHR’s new lecture series defines the subject broadly – as embracing the application of history to contemporary issues, local and community engagement with history, and the portrayal of history in the media and in public policy. We hope that there will also be scope within the series to consider the challenges facing the historical profession in the public realm.

Opening the series in September 2014 was a lecture by Professor Robert Darnton, entitled ‘Literary demand and the book trade in France, 1769-1789’. It is hard to think of a more distinguished and appropriate scholar to inaugurate this series, marking as it did the Institute’s return to its modernised premises, including its famous open access research library. Professor Darnton is currently Carl H. Pforzheimer university professor and director of the University Library at Harvard, having taught at Princeton University from 1968 to 2007. He is known best for his outstanding work on this history of the book and of reading in 18th-century France, and in recent years he has been a passionate advocate for freeing up digital access to library books and other resources. His most recent books include: The Case for Books (2009), The Devil in the Holy Water, or the Art of Slander in France from Louis XIV to Napoleon (2011) and Poetry and the Police: Communication Networks in 18th-century Paris (2010).

In front of a large audience drawn from the colleges of the University of London, our seminars and the history of the book fraternity, Professor Darnton lit up the new Wolfson conference suite with a masterly lecture reflecting on and developing further one of his lifetime projects: the 18th-century archives of the Société Typographique de Neuchâtel from which it is possible to recreate accurately and to an amazing level of detail how books were printed, published and circulated on the eve of the French revolution. It was a memorable beginning to what we hope will become an important addition to the IHR’s programme of events.

For further coverage of the event, and the lecture in full, see the podcast on www.history.ac.uk.
The history of the body in 19th-century rural France

William Pooley, Scouloudi fellow

Roy Porter called the history of the body ‘the historiographical dish of the day’ in a survey published in 2001. Historians of medicine, death, food, clothing, sexuality, gender and religion, influenced by post-structuralism, anthropology, sociology and psychoanalysis, had come to recognise that flesh itself is historical. Our recent ancestors treated their faces and hair differently and thought about their innards in alien ways. In fact, not only did they use and clothe their limbs in fashions we might find odd today, they inhabited bodies that felt different and diverged in shape from ours, dictated by disparate nutritional, health and labour regimes. From skin to bone, they were nothing like us.

Yet there are many gaps in what historians know about this profoundly unfamiliar flesh. It has proved much easier to talk about the bodies of social elites and urban populations than it has to explore the experiences of the rural people who were still numerically dominant in a country like France in 1900. It has been simpler to explore what doctors, reformers and famous writers thought about other people’s bodies than how plough boys, farmers, seamstresses, or shepherds used and manipulated their flesh. When examining these rural bodies, historians have argued that this culture was destined to be swept away during this period, ‘modernised’, ‘civilised’ or ‘disciplined’.

My doctorate, generously supported in its final stages by the IHR and the Scouloudi Foundation, sought to explore the bodies of these often neglected parts of the population by consulting a slightly unusual set of sources: a large folklore collection compiled by Félix Arnaudin in the Landes de Gascogne region of southwestern France. Arnaudin collected a range of traditional culture, such as legends of local criminals and fairies, tales of plucky younger sons and songs about unlucky lovers.

Rather than Arnaudin himself, what interested me were the uses which the men, women and children from whom he collected folklore made of these traditional materials. Such stories and songs have an air of timelessness, harking back to a feudal world of lords and kings or drawing on ancient characters and motifs, such as the cunning fox, yet they were meaningful to men and women who travelled by train around the local region. My archival research into the lives of some 759 singers and storytellers that Arnaudin consulted revealed that some of them read newspapers, and many worked for the state, railway companies or other modern industries. Timeless as it might appear, I argued that their traditional culture reflected changing attitudes to and uses of the body.

This suggests a considerably different account of the history of the body accompanied by the unstoppable march of modernisation, civilisation or discipline. A man named Henri Vidal, for instance, who was fond of telling Arnaudin tales about foxes, used these traditional stories to explore the situation of deteriorating working conditions that existed in the region at the time. His accounts of not-so-cunning foxes present a vivid picture of bodily and emotional exploitation and suggest that men like Henri could use traditional culture to talk about novel opportunities. Rather than stick with the hard labour his family had to do to survive, Henri chose to become a clerk.

The project presents many other examples of bodily sensibilities very different to ours today, a body focused more on the strength of legs and buttocks, and more concerned about the boundaries of skin, family and household. But rather than a throwback, destroyed by the reforms imposed on them, the culture and lives of these ordinary people demonstrate they were engaged in dialogues with the forces for change and were not simply victims of the new order. They adapted their cultural choices and in so doing their very bones.

Notes
Development news

A fresh beginning for the IHR

We have said goodbye to our temporary south block home and have finally settled back into the north block’s refurbished IHR. We are enormously grateful to all of our donors for their generosity.

The Institute of Historical Research wishes to thank the following donors who gave to the Redevelopment (completed in 2014):

**Benefactors**
British Friends of the Institute of Historical Research
The Chadwyck-Healey Charitable Trust
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The Professor Olga Crisp Bequest
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Dr Christopher Kitching
C P Lewis
Reverend Professor Diarmaid MacCulloch

In Memory of Marjorie Macy
Emma Mason
Barbara Megson
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Isabel Paintin
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Martin Sheppard
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Lord Thomas of Swynnerton
E J Thompson
Professor FML Thompson, Director of the IHR, 1977–90
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Professor Sir Rick Trainor, Rector, Exeter College, Oxford
Romilly Turton
Professor Nicholas Tyacke
Livia Visser-Fuchs
Alexandra Walsham
Martin Williams
Professor Sir Tony Wrigley
Gary Young

And we would like to acknowledge all those who wish to remain anonymous.
Annual Fund 2015

We will soon be launching the 2015 Annual Fund, which will support some of the exciting new projects and events that the IHR piloted last year. One example is the new postgraduate exchange programme called Breaking Boundaries, between Northwestern University, Chicago and the IHR’s early career researcher’s network, HistoryLab. Students and academics travelled to London and Chicago to take part in conferences, research sharing events and training, archive visits and social events. This was an amazing opportunity to network with an international assembly of delegates and become familiar with the resources offered by the IHR and Northwestern University.

If you can imagine how significant this experience was for the fortunate people who attended, then you can understand how important supporting the Annual Fund is. Please consider supporting the IHR through its Annual Fund.

Friends events

This year’s annual IHR Friends summer outing took us to Kenwood House, which recently reopened in 2013 after refurbishment. We were given an informative private tour followed by a charming lunch in the garden. Our tour included the house’s colourful history, furnishings and art.

One of the house’s more prominent owners was William Murray, 1st Earl of Mansfield, who bought it in 1754. As Lord Chief Justice, Murray is famous for ruling that slavery was illegal in Britain. His half-African great-niece, Dido Elizabeth Belle, was recently made cinematically famous with the 2014 release of the film Belle which explores her life at Kenwood.

Another important resident was Edward Guinness, 1st Earl of Iveagh, whose collection of paintings adorns the walls of Kenwood House. Some of the most well-known paintings include: a self-portrait of Rembrandt (c. 1665), ‘The Guitar Player’ by Vermeer (c. 1672), and ‘Old London Bridge’ by de Jongh (c. 1630). Our guide also highlighted the newly installed portraits by William Larkin on the first floor depicting members of James I’s court. Intended to last an hour, the tour stretched to 90 minutes so that we could take in this special collection of portraits.

Annual General Meeting

Please join us on Monday 27 October for this year’s Annual General Meeting, which will feature a talk by Professor Sir David Cannadine, ‘Trying to tell truth to power: Reflections on my adventures in Whitehall’.

Looking ahead - fundraising for the Americas collection

Although the refurbishment is complete, while the work was progressing the IHR was able to secure a new space, still to be developed, which will host the American collections. For the first time in the Institute’s history the entire collection will be located in one place with its own reading room. Earlier this year, a postdoctoral fellow in North American history, Dr Benjamin Bankhurst, was appointed to lead on developing the academic profile of these holdings.

This new second-floor room will house the Institute’s unique holdings of printed primary material relating to Canada, colonial America and the Caribbean. These are generally regarded to be one of the finest and most comprehensive runs of new world official records, assembly debates, diaries and journals, travelogues and 17th- to 19th-century correspondence available outside of Canadian and American libraries. Anyone with a research interest in the transatlantic world, pre-1776 America, the age of exploration and the culture of the plantation colonies will find a treasure trove of sources here. Taken together with the colonial sections of the Library’s European collections (Spain & Portugal, the Low Countries and France) this open access resource is a wonderful but lesser-known asset within the library.

To support this new area, we are seeking to raise £150,000 to establish a special fund which will enable us to complete the development of the space and, as we continue to raise funds for it in future, grow and sustain the collection. If you are interested in learning more about the collection and our plans, please contact the Development Office.
### Seminars at the IHR

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

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<td>European history 1150–1550</td>
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<td>European history 1500–1800</td>
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<td>Film history</td>
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<td>Gender and history in the Americas</td>
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<td>Global history</td>
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<td>History Lab seminar</td>
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<td>History of libraries</td>
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<td>History of political ideas</td>
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<td>Imperial and world history</td>
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<td>International history</td>
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<td>Jewish history</td>
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<td>Late medieval and early modern Italy</td>
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<td>Late medieval seminar</td>
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<td>Latin American history</td>
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<td>Life-cycles</td>
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<td>Locality &amp; region</td>
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<td>London group of historical geographers</td>
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<td>Low Countries history</td>
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<td>Oral history</td>
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<td>Parliaments, politics and people</td>
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<td>Philosophy of history</td>
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<td>Psychoanalysis and history</td>
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<td>Reconfiguring the British: nation, empire, world 1600–1900</td>
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<td>Religious history of Britain 1500–1800</td>
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<td>Rethinking modern Europe</td>
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<td>Society, culture and belief 1500–1800</td>
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<td>Studies of home</td>
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<td>War, society and culture</td>
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<td>Women's history</td>
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One-year seminar sponsorship costs £1,000 which can be covered by one individual, one institution or by a group of supporters:

- Three people paying £28 per month for a year
- Eight people paying £11 per month for a year

Similar arrangements can be made for a five-year sponsorship. For more information, please contact Michelle Waterman in the development office (IHR.Development@sas.ac.uk / 0207 862 8764/8791).
Seminar in focus:
the crusades and the Latin East
William Purkis, senior lecturer in medieval history, University of Birmingham

The crusades and the Latin East seminar, a well-established feature of the IHR programme, is regarded as a national and international focal point for research in crusading studies. Established in its present form by Professor Jonathan Riley-Smith in the 1980s, it is now convened by academics from across the UK: Dr Susan Edgington (Queen Mary University of London), Professor Jonathan Phillips (Royal Holloway, University of London), Dr William Purkis (University of Birmingham) and Dr Jochen Schenk (University of Glasgow). Normally held 12 times per academic year, the seminar is regularly attended by UK and visiting academics, graduate students and a wider public.

Although many speakers focus on the history of crusading and Latin settlement in the eastern Mediterranean in the central middle ages, the remit also extends significantly in terms of geography and chronology. New research on crusading and cross-cultural interactions elsewhere in the Mediterranean world and in northern Europe is welcome, as are studies that consider the legacy of crusading ideas and institutions into the modern period. Interdisciplinary exchange is also central to the seminar’s activities: this year, for example, we are looking forward to papers from historians, archaeologists and literary specialists, among others. Philip Booth (Lancaster University) will present his doctoral research on Jerusalem pilgrimage in the 13th century; Dr Carol Sweetenham (University of Reading) will discuss her work on foundation myths in the principality of Antioch; and Dr Aleks Pluskowski (University of Reading) will review the findings of a substantial multi-researcher project that he has led on the environmental impact of crusading in the Baltic.

As well as UK-based academics, the conveners invite visiting scholars of international excellence to present their latest research. In 2013–14, for example, we were privileged to hear papers from Professor Jay Rubenstein (University of Tennessee, Knoxville) on prophecy and the crusader states, and from Dr Rabei Khamisy (University of Haifa) on treaty negotiations in late 13th-century Acre. For 2014–15 we will welcome on 13 October Dr Nicholas Paul (Fordham University, New York), who works on the place of crusading in the commemorative traditions of the medieval European nobility, and on 10 November Dr Iben Fonesnes-Schmidt (Aalborg University, Denmark), who will speak about rhetoric and emotion in 12th- and 13th-century papal crusading letters.

Contributions are also welcomed from younger scholars, who gain experience in presenting and receiving feedback on their work. A recent development is to invite a doctoral student to submit their paper in advance, for circulation to the mailing list ahead of the seminar. The event itself is then spent discussing and dissecting the paper’s ideas and arguments, with preliminary comments and questions from both established scholars and graduate students preacing the substantial time allotted for wider discussion. Students who have participated have commented on how valuable the experience was, especially in terms of preparation for their PhD viva. Last year’s speaker, James Doherty (Lancaster University), whose work on crusading networks in the county of Champagne was discussed by Professor Marcus Bull (University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill) and Simon Parsons (Royal Holloway, University of London), writes: ‘Receiving feedback from an audience of experts is always beneficial to a work in progress, but, due to the format of this presentation, I was able to profit from a depth of analysis which is simply impossible in the more traditional, unseen style of paper. In particular, the attention offered to my work by the two respondents has been exceeded only by my PhD supervisor. Furthermore, I have continued to receive feedback from colleagues. It is inevitable that the criticisms levelled against a paper presented in this format will be sharper and more carefully considered, but the negative feedback was also invaluable and fed into my thesis as a whole.’

The seminar meets on Mondays at 5.15pm, normally four times a term, and new attendees are always welcome to join in. Details of the programme and related news are circulated via a mailing list (ihrcrusadeseminar@lists.bham.ac.uk). To join this list, and for more information, please contact Dr William Purkis (w.j.purkis@bham.ac.uk) or visit www.history.ac.uk/events/seminars/111.
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 £250.

Historic gardens: research in action
Wednesdays, 11 March–6 May 2015
This course provides an introduction to how archival research findings on historic gardens can contribute to garden restoration, conservation and management. Taught on Wednesday mornings, the course adopts a case-study approach to the exploration of these relationships through a combination of lectures, seminar-based discussions and site visits. Fee £180.

Visual sources for historians
Tuesdays (last two sessions, Mondays), 3–30 March 2015
An introduction to the use of art, photography, film and other visual sources by historians (post-1500). Through lectures, discussion and visits the course will explore films, paintings, photographs, architecture and design as historical sources, as well as provide an introduction to particular items both in situ and held in archives and libraries. Fee £180.

General historical skills
An introduction to oral history
Tuesdays, 20 January–31 March 2015
This 11-week course on Tuesday afternoons introduces all the practical and technical skills necessary to conduct interviews for historical research, showing how to get the most out of participants while also providing a complete grounding in theoretical and ethical questions. Fee £225.

Citation for historians
10 November 2014
This half-day workshop explains the theory and practice of correct referencing by historians. It explores the different citation systems historians use and explains when, where and how to cite sources and authorities both manually and using citation management software. Fee £25.

Media training for historians
4 November 2014
Are you looking to increase your media profile? Do you stumble and fumble when in front of a camera? This one-day media training course, run by the IHR in association with GradTrain, is especially designed for academics and PGRs who are interested in engaging with the media at all levels. Fee £180

Public speaking for historians
9 January 2015
This one-day workshop, specifically designed for early career historians, is an interactive session, which fuses academic practice with acting techniques and is designed to enhance your confidence and understanding of oral communication. Fee £60.

Information technology courses
Databases for historians I
11–14 November 2014, 14–17 April 2015
This four-day course is an introduction to the theory and practice of constructing and using databases. Through a mixture of formal lectures and ‘hands-on’ practical classes, students will be taught both how to use and adapt existing databases, and how to design and build their own. No previous specialist knowledge is needed apart from an understanding of historical analysis. Fee £225.

Historical mapping and Geographical Information Systems
25 November 2014
This one-day workshop seeks to introduce the basic concepts behind the practicalities of implementing mapping historical information using GIS software. It will include hands-on practical sessions using GIS software to view and manipulate historical data, and will provide the opportunity for generating (and analysing) the kinds of thematic mapping that is the product of this research tool. No previous experience of using GIS software is necessary. Fee £75.

Internet sources for historical research
2 December 2014, 4 March 2015
This intensive one-day workshop will equip students with the knowledge and skills to use the internet with confidence as a tool for historical research. It introduces the principal online resources available to historical researchers, and shows how to make best use of them in pursuit of primary sources and secondary literature. Suitable for those at any stage of an academic career who wish to build or refresh their skills. Fee £100.

Language and palaeography
An introduction to medieval and Renaissance Latin
Wednesdays, 8 October–10 December 2014
This ten-week course will provide an introduction to Latin grammar and vocabulary, together with practical experience in translating typical post-classical Latin documents. It is intended for absolute beginners, or for those with a smattering of the language but who wish to acquire more confidence. Fee £250.

Intermediate medieval and Renaissance Latin
Wednesdays, 14 January–18 March 2015
This course builds upon the basis of the Introduction to Medieval and Renaissance Latin, deepening and extending understanding of the language. By the end, students should feel confident about tackling most basic Latin historical sources. Fee £250.

Palaeography and diplomatic
Tuesdays, 7 October 2014–12 May 2015
This course provides an introduction to the history of script from the Roman Empire to the early modern period, together with practical instruction in reading manuscripts and understanding the context in which they were written. Please note that this is not an IHR course, but is run by QMUL and taught by Dr Jenny Stratford: please email jenny.stratford@rhul.ac.uk for further information and to apply for a place.
CALL FOR PAPERS

Fashion in history

84th Anglo-American conference of historians

2-3 July 2015, Senate House, London WC1

In a major collaboration with the Victoria and Albert Museum, the IHR is taking Fashion as the theme for its annual summer conference in 2015. Plenary speakers include: Christopher Breward, Beverly Lemire, Ulinka Rublack and Valerie Steele.

Panel sessions and individual paper proposals are now invited on themes of dress, imitation and emulation, taste and style, body-art, the fashion-industry, innovation in interior design, architecture and public space, fashion education and technology. Proposals should be sent by 15 December 2014 to IHR.Events@sas.ac.uk

For details, see: http://anglo-american.history.ac.uk/

The Utopian Universities: a fifty-year retrospective

Speakers include: Laurie Taylor, Hanna Gray, Geoffrey Crossick, Lisa Jardine and Krishan Kumar

See winterconference.history.ac.uk or email IHR.Events@sas.ac.uk
Examine the Past

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