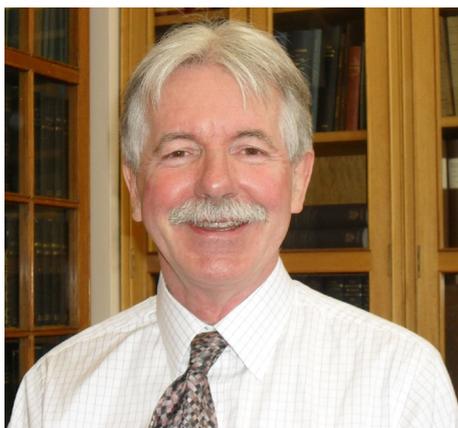


ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

newsletter

new series, 8, November 2011



Presidential Letter

Colin Jones

Queen Mary
University of London

My Presidential Letter this autumn aims to provide colleagues with just a flavour of the range of activities and initiatives in which I am involved on the Society's behalf.

Only last week, for example, the Society made a formal response to Hefce on the Research Excellence Framework consultation. Jo Innes, Vice-President for Research Policy, and I drafted the response following discussion within the Society. Some things we are all probably unhappy about - viz. 'impact' - are non-negotiable by now, but we identified issues where there seemed room for improvement. Most eye-catching of these were anti-diluvian proposals concerning how maternity leave is taken into account in producing research outputs. We feel confident that these will be changed. We were also happy to commend some proposals - such as 'double-weighting' of major monographs - as in the interests of the discipline.

Peter Mandler, my successor as President from late 2012 (see p. 8), is currently our Vice-President and chair of the Education

Policy Committee, and just last week he and I hosted our now annual meeting with History representatives of the main A-Level examining boards. Commercial rivalry between the boards means that they rarely meet together, and we like to think the discussions are as helpful for them as for us, as we take the pulse of our discipline in the schools. We are keeping a weather eye on for the impending announcement of changes to the national curriculum, a subject on which we have lobbied Secretary of State, Michael Gove, and plan to do so again.

Earlier this summer, I was invited to represent the Society at a lunch held in the Houses of Parliament to honour Eric Hobsbawm and Hugh Thomas. The event was organised by the All-Party Group on Archives and History. Following on from this occasion, I have been invited to attend the officers' meetings of the Group. Many parliamentarians are of course historians by training and affection, so there are important links to nurture here.

Also over the summer, our Publications

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Committee has been discussing with Brepols and the Institute of Historical Research, our partners in the Bibliography of British and Irish History, plans to introduce a reduced BBIH subscription for the Society membership from 2012. We anticipate a reduced rate being particularly helpful to our Retired Fellows (a group which now numbers over 600) and to those who are independent scholars.

Much else is in the pipeline. In November, I will be leading a delegation of Council to participate in a research symposium at the University of Glamorgan for one of our two annual visits to institutions outside London. In the same month, we will host the annual Colin Matthew Lecture for the Public Understanding of History, and I will deliver the third of my four Presidential Addresses. In December, I will be present at the East London Mosque, representing the Society at the launch of our latest Camden Series volume, the fascinating *The Making of the East London Mosque* (see p. 7). In addition, we are also currently working with The National Archives on our Gerald Aylmer Seminar in February 2012 devoted to 'Locating the Past'.

In September, our indefatigable administrators, Sue Carr and Melanie Ransom, reported to our Finance Committee that the Society's membership has passed the 3,000 mark for the first time in its history. It is encouraging to see particular growth in the category of Members - usually early career scholars, a group for which the Society has particular concern, and whose activities we nurture through our prizes and awards for research activity.

Growing membership subscriptions allow us to continue and expand the work of the Society - its publications, its events, its awards, and so on - which forms the backdrop to the highlights I have mentioned. In all of this normal and everyday work, I am very lucky to draw on the help of an excellent team. Linchpin of much that we have done in recent years has been the Society's Honorary Secretary, Vanessa Harding. Vanessa is standing down from her post in November. This is an appropriate time to thank her warmly for all that she has achieved for the Society during her tenure.

News from TNA

Ruth Roberts, TNA

At The National Archives (TNA) we have dedicated staff who are committed to carrying out historical research enabling us to provide sound advice, improve access to our collection and share knowledge with not just the academic community but the wider general public. Collaborating with academics to undertake such historical research is important and we welcome applications to partner and/or support external research projects. However, due to limited resources, we are unable to support every application we receive. We are therefore in the process of drawing up a set of historical research priorities. These priorities will be available on our website soon but, in the meantime, if you are interested in undertaking historical research in collaboration with The National Archives please email research@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk for further information.

As well as the historical research priorities, we have also identified a set of strategic research

priorities, essentially the big questions facing TNA at the moment. We hope that by answering these key questions we will be able to provide an even more effective service to researchers.

We are keen to increase collaboration with the academic community, so if you think a visit from TNA's Research Team would be beneficial to you and your institution please let us know and we would be happy to arrange a visit. Maybe you'd like to hear more about working with TNA or our new research strategy, or are particularly interested in a specific project or collection, or would like to find out more about TNA's general plans for the future. We could attend a staff development session or speak to students - whatever format works best for you. Please do get in touch if you are interested.

And, lastly, if you haven't already, please sign up for alerts for our online newsletter by emailing: research@nationalarchives.gsi.gov.uk. The newsletter allows you to keep up-to-date with TNA. For previous editions see: <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/about/research/news.htm>.

Making an Impact in the Community

Andrew Davies, University of Liverpool

When I started research on youth gangs and street violence in Victorian Manchester and Salford, I never dreamed I'd find myself playing Angus Reach, author of one of my primary sources, on film.

I published some of my findings in *The Gangs of Manchester* in 2008. Keen to attract local as well as academic readers, I opted for a 'true crime' publisher, Milo Books, rather than a university press. What I didn't fully anticipate was the sheer hunger for history beyond academia and the media. Invitations to read from the book flooded in: from libraries, schools, community centres, youth clubs, probation hostels and a writer-in-residence at HM Prison Manchester (Strangeways).

Many of those who attended the public talks had already read the book and were eager to discuss its implications for our present-day concerns with gangs and knife-crime. Older Mancunians, aware that they had enjoyed opportunities denied to their own grandchildren, lamented the decline of apprenticeships, but they also bemoaned the demise of local lads' clubs - initially formed in response to fears surrounding gangs in the 1880s.

How did the filming come about? I offered the book



to Rob Lees and Jill Hughes, co-founders of MaD, a not-for-profit community theatre company based in Moston in North Manchester. They write and perform topical plays for mainly local, working-class audiences and they seized on one of the book's central episodes: a feud between rival gangs on the city's north side during the 1880s. Knife-crime was all too resonant for some of the group's younger members, and they helped to flesh out Lees and Hughes' script for *Angels with Manky Faces*, a tragi-comedy set in Victorian Manchester.

In this collaboration, my academic expertise became a resource for the group. I was able to advise on language, costumes and sets, and - just as importantly - make calls to journalists and local TV / radio producers, some of whom were initially sceptical of the newsworthiness of 'community arts'. At the first production meeting, Rob Lees pointed out that the main risk we ran was being accused of glamorising gangs. We took the decision that no fight scenes were to be acted out on stage. MaD productions regularly intersperse live scenes and black-and-white film sequences shot by long-term collaborator, Paul Cliff. For *Angels*, Paul filmed two fight sequences featuring members of the cast and junior supporters of the community football club, FC United of Manchester.

Several celebrities did filmed cameos in *Angels*: actors from *Coronation Street* and *Early Doors*, and members of *The Smiths* and *Inspirational Carpets*, whose songs we used as soundtracks to our films. We even had Terry Christian playing a wayward priest.

The first run of *Angels with Manky Faces* - a week at Manchester's Library Theatre in August 2009 - sold-out weeks in advance. Additional performances in Manchester and Liverpool drew just under 4,000 people in total to the production. 'Angus Reach' appeared in the opening film-scene, tapping out a horrified account of the raucous street life of Oldham Street to the beat of New Order's *Blue Monday*.

More information about the opportunities and challenges involved in working with artists and performers, and reaching readers and audiences outside the university sector, may be found in Andrew Davies' discussion with Julie-Marie Strange in 'Where Angels Fear to Tread: Academics, Public Engagement and Popular History', *Journal of Victorian Culture*, 15, 2 (2010), pp. 268-79 as well as on his blog at: <http://gangsofmanchester.com>.

The IHR at 90

Jane Winters, IHR

The Institute of Historical Research opened its doors 90 years ago on 8 July 1921. It had been almost two decades in gestation. The man who would become the first Director of the Institute, A. F. Pollard, first broached the idea of ‘a post-graduate school of Historical Research in London’ in 1903 in his inaugural lecture as Professor of Constitutional History at University College London. Pollard considered it ‘obvious’ that the new institution should focus primarily on English history, and within this particularly on naval history, the history of war, the history of London and 19th-century history. Also crucial would be ‘competent instruction in the meaning and use of original sources’. This concern with the training of early career researchers has remained central to the IHR’s strategic development, albeit extended from palaeography and diplomatic to include dealing with visual images, oral history, and born digital and digitised materials. In the next few weeks the IHR will be launching a dedicated online research training platform, the History SPOT (www.historyspot.org.uk), applying new technology to old concerns.

Pollard concluded that it was not the role of the new institution simply to train historians, rather it had ‘an external duty to the nation’. It should ‘discover and spread historical truth’, thereby ‘expand[ing] the national mind’. Consequently, ‘the nation ... should provide it with funds’. Sixteen years later, in 1919, there was the first suggestion of state involvement, as the Minister of Education recommended that the University of London should consider ‘further provision for historical studies’ in the capital. A joint committee was appointed by UCL, King’s College London and the LSE to consider the way forward, and on 12 February 1920 it proposed establishing ‘a centre for Advanced Historical Studies’. This new institution would be paid for by launching an appeal for £20,000. Many of the methods used to raise the required funding would be familiar to a modern-day university development office. An appeal committee, composed of the great and the good, was set up; the appeal was launched with a series of letters from its chair, the Lord Mayor of London, and the Vice-Chancellor of the University; and a donors’ dinner was held at the Athenaeum to drum up support. The required funding was soon raised, with a single donor, Cecil Power, supplying the lion’s share, apparently enthused by the words of the Minister of Education, Herbert Fisher, at that original Athenaeum gathering.



THE TEMPORARY BUILDING IN MALET STREET, W.C., OCCUPIED BY THE INSTITUTE
(This building stands just within the Western boundary of the University site)

The opening of the new Institute of Historical Research on Malet Street, in temporary ‘Tudor-style’ huts, was greeted with a fanfare of publicity. It would not be long, however, before its future was threatened. In 1926 the government proposed to sell back to the original vendors, the Bedford trustees, the entire Bloomsbury site which had been set aside for a range of new University buildings. The IHR was given notice to quit and a vigorous press campaign followed. The IHR was ultimately reprieved when the University took the decision to purchase the entire Bloomsbury site. The acquisition paved the way for the building of the University Senate House, and in the summer of 1938 the Institute moved into temporary accommodation on the third floor, awaiting completion of its ultimate home in the north block. In its 90th year, the IHR once again finds itself on the third floor of the south block of Senate House, this time awaiting the much needed refurbishment of its library, seminar rooms and office space.

Many of those activities with which the IHR is most closely associated date from the early years of its life. Perhaps most notably, the first Anglo-American Conference was held on 11-16 July 1921, just three days after the Institute itself came into existence. ‘Plenary’ conferences were held every five years, with four smaller, ‘interim’ meetings between each. The IHR’s renowned seminar series also began early. In 1924, Pollard described the ‘seventeen seminars on different aspects of medieval and modern, political and constitutional, social and economic, diplomatic, colonial, and American history’ already up and running. A glance at the list of convenors reveals such names as Eileen Power, R. H. Tawney and R. W. Seton-Watson.

The IHR’s house journal, *Historical Research* (then the *Bulletin of the IHR*), was launched similarly early, in 1923. And at the end of the 1920s, the IHR began the mammoth task of recording the development of the history profession. Lists of historical theses were printed in the Bulletin from 1930 onwards, before appearing as a separate publication in 1967. Information about university lecturers, ‘Teachers of History’, followed soon afterwards. In the last few months, all of this information has been brought together, alongside details of digital research projects, new and forthcoming history books and journal articles,

and sources of funding for historians, in a relaunched History Online (<http://www.history.ac.uk/history-online>).

In keeping with Pollard’s original aims, as it moves towards its centenary the IHR facilitates and promotes historical research nationally and, increasingly in the digital age, internationally. The seminar programme has expanded to 60, covering everything from Latin American History to Modern French History, from Crusades and the Latin East to Parliaments, Politics and People. Its reach has also been increased with the introduction in the last year of podcasting and live-streaming. The IHR remains committed to the promotion of early career researchers, whether through the range of fellowships that it offers (several in association with the Royal Historical Society), the opportunity to publish first articles in *Historical Research*, or the large number of training courses that it provides. The IHR’s Library, which now contains approximately 167,000 volumes, offers one of the most significant collections of printed primary sources in the country. Its particular strength is material in languages other than English, which account for more than half of the total holdings. Through its wide range of digital projects, notably British History Online, Connected Histories and the Bibliography of British and Irish History (another collaboration with the Royal Historical Society), the IHR has adapted to facilitate new forms of research, responding to the requirements of the history community. Throughout its history the IHR has worked to support researchers and to provide the resources that they need. It will continue to do so in the coming months and years - from 2013, in its refurbished and modernised home in the north block of the University of London Senate House.



Small reading room in the refurbished IHR

The Society for the Study of French History

Malcolm Crook, Keele University

The Society for the Study of French History (SSFH) is currently celebrating its twenty-fifth anniversary. This community of scholars was founded by a group of senior academics in the field, led by Professor Richard Bonney, following a meeting of French historians at the Institute of Historical Research in January 1986. The somewhat unwieldy title was adopted in order to establish a separate identity from a sister society across the Atlantic, French Historical Studies. The SSFH aims to promote interest in the history of France among academics, students and members of the public, in both the United Kingdom and Ireland. Thanks to a regular income stream from the associated journal, *French History*, which first appeared in 1987, and supported by a hard-working committee, the Society's activities have expanded significantly over the years. The SSFH presidency to which I have just been appointed, for a three-year term, is far from constituting a purely honorific post.

The journal, which includes the current RHS president on its editorial board, is a flagship for the Society's academic endeavours. It publishes refereed work from French colleagues (in translation), as well as established authors in English, while making a particular effort to encourage younger scholars. Indeed, there is an annual prize for the best of the year's entries from writers aged less than forty, and the winner in 2010 was Mark Curran, 'Mettons toujours Londres': Enlightened Christianity and the Public in Pre-Revolutionary Francophone Europe (vol 24, no 1). *French History* contains book reviews and news of the Society, as well as a handful of substantial articles in each of its four issues a year.

The first annual conference was held in Liverpool and the Society has been moving around the country ever since, with York the chosen destination for 2012. The French cultural service has kindly provided financial assistance from the outset and a notable feature of recent years has been the attendance of numerous French colleagues. Though interest in British history on the other side of the Channel remains relatively restricted, the

number of scholars from France who are willing to share the fruits of their research at the SSFH conference, like those who submit articles to the journal, is growing fast. This is a most welcome development.

Fascination with French history remains strong in Britain and Ireland, but our own 'cosmopolitan islanders' (to borrow the phrase from Richard Evans), especially among the younger generation, are in need of support. The SSFH supplies funding via a number of postgraduate awards, first and foremost to subsidise trips to France for research, but also smaller amounts to attend conferences; a total of sixteen students were assisted in such ways over the past year. There is also the Ralph Gibson award (to commemorate a former secretary of the Society), which provides a larger annual grant to enable a postgraduate to complete writing up. An undergraduate dissertation prize should also be mentioned, as well as an important project for outreach into schools, by means of material posted on the SSFH website.



SSFH Workshop at Oxford, January 2011

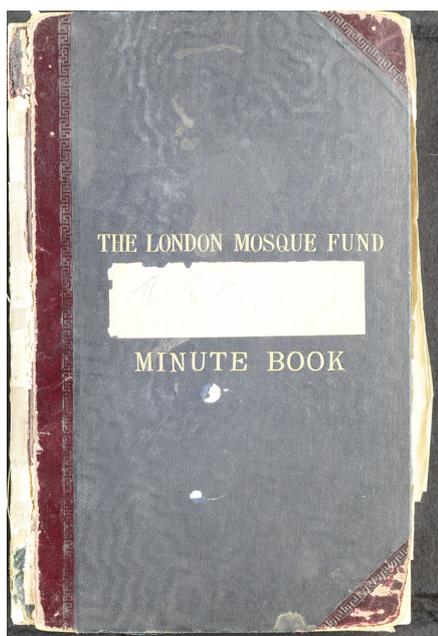
In addition, the Society subsidises other conferences and workshops devoted to French history, helps finance visiting lecturers and is sponsoring the publication of a series of scholarly monographs, entitled *Studies in Modern French History*, to be launched in partnership with Manchester University Press. Finally, there is an annual lecture in memory of Professor Douglas Johnson, who held the chair of French History at University College London and was an influential standard bearer for the subject at the end of the last century. The 2012 lecture will be held in Senate House, London, on 18 January 2012.

For further information on this event, and other aspects of the SSFH, see: www.frenchhistorysociety.ac.uk

The Making of the East London Mosque

Humayun Ansari, Royal Holloway, University of London

In 2011, the Society published *The Making of the East London Mosque, 1910-1951: Minutes of the London Mosque Fund and East London Mosque Trust Ltd.* in the Camden Series. The catalyst for this volume was the discovery in the East London Mosque archives of the Minute Books of the London Mosque Fund with records going back to 1910. Through the lens of the original Minutes and related documents, we travelled through the twentieth century looking at the emergence of the Muslim community in London as its more well-connected members strove to establish distinctive cultural spaces in an increasingly multicultural society.



The Minute Books in many ways constitute a cultural memory of the variegated British Muslim experience. By recording the debates and dilemmas of meetings of the Trustees of the LMF and the East London Mosque Trust they present a detailed, intimate account of the process of mosque-making, the financial and organisational management of the LMF/ELMT, and its role in constructing London's Muslim community and its institutions. Through this particular story of mosque-building, we trace the contours of the process through which the Muslim community in London's East End became established over the course of the twentieth century.

The history of the East London Mosque is particularly worth telling not just because it records the early presence of the Muslim faith and Muslim communities in Britain, but because its establishment and use has often been marked by conflict around sets of issues that continue to exist and exercise differences of opinion to this day. Debates concerning the 'Islamisation of space' and the reactions against such incursions into autochthonous space are crucial in understanding the contested history of many mosques established in Britain in the recent past.

It is noteworthy that, given the sensitive and contentious themes and questions that this volume explored, its writing proved a challenging undertaking. Firstly, given that the more recent Minutes of the Mosque contain material deemed too controversial to be published, how to narrate a credible century long story of the Mosque that would overcome the legal and practical concerns about sensitive material regarding individuals who are still alive. This was done by closing the edition with the Minutes of December 1951, hence allowing the exclusion of material that might still be regarded as confidential. The story was brought up to date through a very substantial contextualising introduction to the edition.

A second challenge was, how to write an account that took full note of the Mosque's concerns regarding wider potentially contentious issues without eviscerating the content as to make it unviable as an edition. Where differences emerged they were resolved through vigorous debates with the Mosque's trustees on the draft of the volume; where possible their suggestions were accommodated provided they did not compromise the historical rigour and intellectual integrity of the edition, or detract from its scholarly value and interest.

That it reached a successful conclusion in the charged context of contemporary Britain was in no small measure due to the close collaboration of the East London Mosque. Given the dearth of primary historical sources on British Islam, to find this rare systematically-written record was indeed fortunate! It is interesting in that, of the 325 volumes published in the Camden Series stretching back to 1838, this is perhaps the only one on Islam and Muslims in Britain. The publication of this volume means that historians interested in a growing research area are now able to access a unique collection of new information.

Society News: A new President - Elect for for the RHS

The By-Laws of the Society require Council to name a President-elect in the third year of the President's four-year term, and accordingly Council has elected Peter Mandler to succeed Colin Jones at the end of his term in November 2012.

Peter Mandler is Professor of Modern Cultural History at the University of Cambridge and Bailey College Lecturer in History at Gonville and Caius College. Born in Boston, Massachusetts and raised mostly in Southern California, he came to the UK to live in 1975, initially as an undergraduate at Oxford, then after an extended period of transatlantic indecision, permanently in 1991, when he accepted a post at what was then City of London Polytechnic to set up a new History degree programme there as part of the university expansion of the 1990s. After a decade at City Poly - renamed London Guildhall University and since absorbed into London Metropolitan University - he moved to Cambridge in 2001. He is primarily a historian of modern Britain, author or editor of seven books on topics ranging from *The Uses of Charity: The Poor on Relief in the Nineteenth-Century Metropolis* to *The Fall and Rise of the Stately Home*. But his recent work has turned to the twentieth-century histories of the humanities and social sciences on both sides of the Atlantic, and he is currently completing a book about the anthropologist Margaret Mead and her 'return from the natives' to seek to influence the international relations of the great powers during the Second World War and the Cold War.



Peter has a long history of connection to the Society - a Fellow since 1992, he joined the editorial board of the Society's monograph series *Studies in History* when it was revived in 1995, served as Honorary Secretary (under Presidents Peter Marshall and Jinty Nelson) from 1998 to 2002, and since 2009 has been Vice President with particular responsibility for education policy, a post in which he will continue for a final year as President-Elect. "The next few years are going to be treacherous for historians, and for the humanities in general, under the twin pressures of government spending cuts and the utilitarian turn that so often comes with hard economic times", he says. "Some of our traditional defenders - universities and funding bodies - are otherwise occupied just keeping their heads above water. A greater burden will fall on learned societies such as ours to keep the flag flying for scholarship and learning. So it's a daunting time to be taking on such a responsibility. But I have always felt that my association with the Society has been one of the real unmitigated blessings of my career - a dedicated staff and wonderfully public-spirited colleagues, working on behalf of values and enterprises that we all truly believe in."

Other changes in the Society:

Three new Officers joined the Society in 2011. Michael Hughes (Liverpool) replaced Jon Parry as Honorary Treasurer; Emma Griffin (UEA) replaced Matthew Cragoe as Honorary Director of Communications; and Stephen Taylor (Reading) took up a new post as Honorary Academic Editor of the *Bibliography of British and Irish History*.

Two new Vice Presidents also joined the society in 2011: Robert Baldock (Yale University Press) replaced Richard Fisher and Colin Kidd (Queen's, Belfast) replaced David Palliser. David Feldman (Birkbeck), Alan Thacker (IHR) and Anthony Musson (Exeter) joined the Society as Councillors.

In 2012, Adam Smith (UCL) will replace Vanessa Harding as the Honorary Secretary. Andrew Pettegree (St Andrews) and Nicola Miller (UCL) will take up their positions as Vice Presidents. Lars Fischer (Wolf Institute, Cambridge); Philip Williamson (Durham) and David Wootton (York) will join the Society as Councillors.

Society News: RHS Fellowships

For more than twenty years, the RHS has offered at least one Fellowship each year to fund a PhD student for a period of between six and twelve months in the final year of their postgraduate studies. In 2010, the Society offered three fellowships: a Marshall Fellowship, funded by the generosity of past President Peter Marshall; and two Centenary Fellowships, funded from the Society's normal income (subscriptions and investment income). The Fellowships are held at the Institute of Historical Research and so offer not simply vital funding but also a lively research community to help students bring their PhD to a successful completion.

Here Catriona Pennell, an RHS Centenary Fellow in 2006-7 describes her time as a Fellow and the role it played in launching her subsequent career.

"In 2006, I was awarded the RHS Centenary Fellowship which provided financial support whilst I wrote-up my thesis on British and Irish popular responses at the outbreak of the First World War, July to December 1914. After three very happy years at Trinity College Dublin, where I was studying for my doctorate, I had hit somewhat of a 'writer's block' and desperately needed a change in direction.

"The RHS Centenary Fellowship was, literally, what saved my thesis! Not only did it give me the financial security to completely dedicate my time to finishing the thesis, but it also encouraged me to move from Dublin to London in order to make use of the IHR seminars and community that had now opened up to me.

"This gave me the change of scene that I needed and enabled me to complete some work at London and Oxford-based archives whilst enjoying the community atmosphere offered by the IHR. Here I not only received some extremely valuable critique and feedback from my peers and colleagues at the seminars I spoke at and attended, but I also made some wonderful friends. My PhD, which had, to some extent, gone a little stagnant after three years, was reinvigorated and refreshed by the opportunity

offered by the IHR to relocate and access a 'hub' of like-minded history scholars who could shed new light on my work.

"Since completing my PhD in January 2008, I have been lucky enough to have two academic positions. This is in no small part down to the fact that I have 'IHR' credibility and backing on my CV. In these difficult times in Higher Education it is vital that candidates can prove that they have got a precedent of obtaining external funding for their research; the RHS Centenary Fellowship formed a vital part of my narrative in this sense.

"After a one-year lectureship in Modern History at Cardiff University, I secured a permanent position at the University of Exeter, Cornwall Campus in September 2009. My first monograph, based on my PhD thesis, is due out with Oxford University Press in late 2011/early 2012 and I am now moving into new research on Ireland and the First World War."

The Fellowships are open to candidates without regard to nationality or academic affiliation. Candidates must have completed at least two years of their PhD. Applications must be received by March 2012. For more information about the Society's Fellowships, please visit our website: <http://www.royalhistoricalsociety.org/postgraduates.php>



Society News: Prizes & Awards

On Wednesday 29 June 2011 a large audience gathered at UCL to hear Professor Paul Kennedy's lecture on 'History from the top, from below - AND from the Middle'. Following a lively debate, the audience moved on to the reception where the President announced the winners of the Society's prizes, and the winners of the Marshall and Centenary Fellowships.

The Alexander Prize, for the best published scholarly journal article or essay in a collective volume was awarded to Richard Huzzey (University of Plymouth) for his article, 'Free trade, free labour, and slave sugar in Victorian Britain', *Historical Journal*, 53/2 (2010). Described by the judges as 'a sophisticated and impressively researched essay', the essay draws on a wide range of sources to re-examine the controversy over the sugar duties in the early Victorian period. Huzzey concludes that the sugar duties debate needs to be understood as 'a reckoning between two contradictory traditions within the movement for abolition and emancipation'.

The David Berry Prize for the best scholarly journal article or essay on Scottish history was awarded to Alasdair Raffe (Durham University) for his article 'Presbyterians and Episcopalians: The Formation of Confessional Cultures in Scotland, c. 1660 - 1715', *English Historical Review*, 125 (2010), pp. 570-98. Raffe argues that the late seventeenth and early eighteenth centuries saw Scottish religious life coalesce around two increasingly divergent (and oppositional) confessional cultures and deploys a wealth of material to identify widening disagreements over a range of religious issues. 'Clearly written and abundantly supported with evidence', the article makes a substantial and welcome addition to recent literature on religious adherence in a crucial period of Scottish history.

The Gladstone Prize 2010 for a first solely written book on a historical subject not primarily related to British history, and published in the UK, was awarded to Natalie A Zacek (University of Manchester) for *Settler Society in the English Leeward Islands, c.1670-1776* (Cambridge

University Press, 2010). Described by the judges as a 'sparkling study', Zacek re-examines the negative interpretations of Caribbean plantation societies that dominate the historiography. In her book of the Leeward Islands (Antigua, Montserrat, Nevis and St. Kitts) from their independence from Barbados in 1670 to the outbreak of the American Revolution, Zacek challenges the notion that the English colonies in the West Indies were in any way failed societies. The judges conclude: 'Subtle, reflective and elegantly written, this enlightening analysis not only rescues the Leewards from the margins of colonial studies, but is an important contribution to the wider discussion about the character of British colonial settlement in America'.

The Whitfield Prize for a first solely written book, on a subject within a field of British history, and published in the UK, was awarded to Arnold Hunt (British Library) for *The Art of Hearing: English Preachers and their Audiences, 1590-1640* (Cambridge University Press, 2010). This book addresses a well-worn subject - the impact of protestant preaching in the latter stages of the Reformation - but does so with entirely new perspectives and intriguing findings. Looking at the sermon as performance, Hunt demonstrates that printed texts are only an approximate and polished version of what would have been heard from the pulpit. He also explores the reception of sermons among the congregation, a crucial component of the dissemination of the new faith which hitherto has been largely ignored by historians, which he analyses through a careful study of sermon notes taken by hearers. It transpires that what preachers laboured to emphasise was not always that on which parishioners fastened. A number of case-studies expose the crudity of our current understanding of the expectations of protestant congregations, and here he sets a new post-Haighian agenda. The book offers a series of sophisticated, linked arguments which will have a real impact on the field.

The Rees Davies Prize, a new graduate essay prize in memory of former President and distinguished medieval scholar, Professor Sir Rees Davies (1938-2005), was awarded to Elizabeth Hunter (University of Oxford) for her essay "'The Black Lines of Damnation": Melancholia and Reprobation in Reformation England'. The judges write: 'This elegant paper deftly negotiates the literature



The President with prize-winners at the Society's annual reception in June

From left to right: Chris Wilson (RHS Centenary Fellow), Miles Taylor (Director, IHR), Graham Barratt (RHS Centenary Fellow), Siobhan Talbott (IHR Pollard Prize), Elizabeth Hunter (Rees Davies Prize), Richard Huzzey (Alexander Prize), Professor Colin Jones, President, Erika Hanna (Alexander Prize proxime), Arnold Hunt (Whitfield Prize)

of Calvinist counsel and treatises on melancholy to tease out the varying positions on the relationship between despair, predestination and melancholia. In doing so it contributes powerfully to our understanding both of godly pastoral counsel and of the confessional conflicts of the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries'.

The Royal Historical Society / History Today Prize, intended to reward high-quality undergraduate dissertation, was awarded to Alexander Baggallay (University of Edinburgh) for his dissertation 'Myths of Mau Mau Expanded: The role of rehabilitation in detention camps during the state of emergency in Kenya, 1954-1960'.

This year, the Society also awarded the German History Prize to Natalie Kwan (St Antonys, Oxford)

for her essay 'Woodcuts and witches: Ulrich Molitor's "De lamiis et pythonicis mulieribus, 1489-1669"'.

At this occasion, the Society also announced the winners of its annual Fellowships competition. The RHS Marshall Fellowship 2010 was awarded to Jack Lord (SOAS) for research on 'The History of Childhood in Colonial Ghana, c.1900-57'.

The RHS Centenary Fellowship 2010 was awarded jointly to Chris Wilson (University of Exeter) for research on 'The Dissemination of Visions of the Otherworld in Thirteenth Century England and Northern France' and Graham Barrett (University of Oxford) for research on 'The Function and Conception of the Written Word in Early Medieval Spain, 711-1031'.

Forthcoming Events

Thursday 3 - Friday 4 November 2011

Regional Visit and Research Symposium

Venue: University of Glamorgan

‘Visualising the Past: History, Heritage and Technology’

Wednesday 16 November 2011

Venue: Museum of London at 6.00pm

The Colin Matthew Memorial Lecture for the Public

Understanding of History

Professor Alun Howkins (Sussex)

‘A Lark Arising: the rural past and urban histories, 1881-2011’

Friday 25 November 2011 at 5.30pm

Anniversary Meeting

Venue: Gustave Tuck Lecture Theatre

followed at 5.45pm by

Presidential Address

Venue: Gustave Tuck Lecture Theatre, UCL

Professor Colin Jones

‘French Crossings. III: The Smile of the Tiger’

