Representing History and Historians

We consult and represent historians on issues of policy: **Offering** considered professional opinion to government, the funding councils and the British Academy.

**Monitoring** the health of the discipline, communicating the results of our research to policy-makers and the public, and advocating for history in discussions of future policy.

**Collaborating** with the keepers of the nation’s material heritage, such as the National Archives and the British Library, to develop the raw materials and resources available for historical scholarship.

**Working** in partnership with our peer organisations, notably the Institute of Historical Research, the Historical Association and the magazines *History Today* and *History Scotland*, to sponsor and organise diverse initiatives to advance the study of history.

Since it was founded in 1868 the Royal Historical Society has become the foremost society in the UK working with professional historians and advancing the scholarly study of the past.

**WE REPRESENT** History as a discipline and Historians as a group.

**WE PROMOTE** The vitality of historical scholarship through support for research and publication.

**WE INITIATE** and sponsor events for the scholarly study of history.

**WE PROVIDE** A forum at which all historians can meet and disseminate ideas.

**WE SUPPORT** and encourage early career historians.
Events

Our distinguished programme of lectures profiles original research by leading historians and is free to all members of the public. We hold twice yearly symposia at universities across the UK on a wide range of research topics and themes. We also jointly sponsor conferences, workshops and lectures with partner organisations across the country.

Prizes

Every year we award a number of prizes recognising historians whose work shows notable distinction and promise. These include the Whitfield Prize for a first monograph on British history; the Gladstone Prize for a first monograph on non-British history; and the Rees Davies prize for an outstanding Master’s dissertation.

Early Career Historians

We prioritise support for early career historians, working closely with the IHR’s History Lab Plus to provide knowledge and training to develop their skills as professional historians. We also conduct research on behalf of early career historians to understand and draw attention to their specific needs.

JOINING THE RHS

Fellowship and Membership

We currently have a membership of over three thousand from the UK and overseas engaged in researching and presenting history in universities, archives, libraries, museums and related fields. They are entitled to a range of benefits including regular RHS Newsletters, newly published editions of Transactions, and access to the RHS’s collection of national and local history records and publications, located at our offices at University College London. The membership may participate in all RHS public meetings. Fellows are also entitled to vote in RHS elections and to use the letters FRHistS after their name to denote their status. Most importantly, the support of the membership is essential to sustain the work of the RHS in the professional development of early career researchers; to assist its rich programme of conferences, seminars and events; and to provide for the future of the discipline through its publications and policy work.

Election to the Fellowship

Historians who have made an original contribution to historical research through published work or other substantial contributions to the discipline including through education, archives and libraries are eligible for election to the fellowship. Election is conducted by peer review and all applications must be supported by an existing Fellow. Applications are welcome from all historians working within or outside the UK.

Election to the Membership

All those actively engaged in historical scholarship and research may apply for election to the membership. We particularly encourage research postgraduates, postdoctoral researchers and early career historians who have not yet published their work to apply for membership (or for postgraduate membership if applicable). Those working in associated fields such as archives, libraries, local history and the heritage industry are also welcome to apply for membership. The RHS offers access to a major community of working historians and provides support and encouragement to early career scholars. Many Members are later elected to the fellowship.