ANNUAL REPORT OF THE ROYAL HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Session 2019 - 2020
REPORT OF COUNCIL, 2019 – 20

Officers and Council

- At the Anniversary Meeting on 6 December 2019 the Officers of the Society were re-elected.

- Under By-law XVI, Professor M Finn retiring as President after the Anniversary Meeting on 6 December 2020, Council under By-law XVI elected as President-elect Professor E Griffin, BA, MA, PhD.

- Under By-law XXII, Professor S H Hamilton (Honorary Treasurer) retired in November 2019 and Professor J Stobart, BA, DPhil was elected in her place.

- Under By-law XV Professor O Otele, BA, MA, PhD was elected as Vice-President.

- The Members of Council retiring under By-law XX were Professor K Friedrich, Professor H Pryce and Dr S Sivasundaram. Professor B Bombi, BA, PhD, Mr P D’Sena, BA, MPhil, PGCE and Professor T G Otte, MA, PhD were elected in their place.

- The Society’s administrative staff consists of Dr Sue Carr (Executive Secretary), Dr Katherine Foxhall (Research and Communications Officer), and Ms Imogen Evans (Administrative Secretary).

- The Society appointed a Past and Present Research Fellow (race, Ethnicity and Equality), Dr Shahmima Akhtar.

- Professor VA Harding, MA, PhD was elected as Honorary Vice-President.

- Moore Kingston Smith were re-appointed auditors for the year 2019-2020 under By-law XXXIX.

- Brewin Dolphin Securities were re-appointed to manage the Society’s investment funds.

Overview of Activities of the Society during the financial year (1 July 2019 - 30 June 2020):

During 2019-20 the Society continued to support excellence in History teaching in schools and universities and to foster historical research within and beyond the UK, with especial attention to the needs of early career researchers (ECRs). Our programme of public lectures and symposia in and outside London brought new historical research findings to a broad audience of both professional and non-professional historians. Due to the pandemic, from April 2020, all workshops and public lectures were conducted via either the Society’s Historical Transactions blog or the online platform, Zoom. The Society’s engagement with publishing included continued support for our Camden series and the annual Transactions of the Royal Historical Society. The longstanding Studies in History monograph series, which has seen over 100 titles by ECRs published since 1975 was wound up, having benefitted from the sustained leadership of Professor VA Harding and an excellent editorial board. The open access New Historical Perspectives series (a collaboration with the Institute of Historical Research) that has replaced it brought out its first title in November 2019, and published two further titles during this financial year. The Royal Historical Society’s ambitious programme of work to promote equality, diversity and inclusion in historical study and research has informed discussions and
strategic thinking in many university History departments and cultural organizations in the UK and attracted the attention of learned societies in other Humanities and Social Science disciplines. December 2019 saw publication of the Society’s Roadmap for Change Update: The RHS Race, Ethnicity and Equality Report One Year On, a publication much assisted by the appointment of Dr Shahmima Akhtar to a two-year postdoctoral position in the RHS, funded by a generous grant from the Past & Present Society.

Both in our own right and collaboratively with organisations such as the Economic History Society, the Historical Association, History UK and the Institute of Historical Research (IHR), the Royal Historical Society has worked actively to promote History in schools, to foster improvements in UK History students’ experiences of the transition from school to university and to support high-calibre university-level History teaching. The report of the Education Policy Committee (below) draws attention to several aspects of this programme of activities, which included a very successful online conference on History curriculums—the first of the Society’s forays into pandemic online workshops.

The Royal Historical Society fosters excellent research at multiple levels, most notably by sponsoring public lectures and events, by funding ECR historians, by responding to UK and international policy consultations and as a publisher. The programme of public lectures held during financial year 2019-2020 featured six London-based lectures, including the annual Colin Matthew Memorial Lecture, which is organised, in conjunction with Gresham College and this year featured RHS Fellow Professor David Olusoga speaking on ‘Human Traffic: Race and Post-war Migration Policy’. The annual programme also saw the Society sponsor a symposium at Nottingham Trent University in September 2019 on ‘Charity, Welfare and Emotions in Early Modern Britain and Ireland’, followed by an instructive day-long discussion of teaching and research hosted by the NTU History department.

The Transactions of the Royal Historical Society brought hard-copy versions of many of the public lectures read at the Society’s regional and London events to the membership as well as to a wider national and international audience. Institutional subscriptions to Transactions also include access to our Camden volumes—two of which were published in this session. In July 2019, H. Kumarasingham (ed.), The Rise of Labour and the Fall of Empire: The Memoirs of William Hare, Fifth Earl of Listowel appeared in Camden, and December 2019 saw publication of David Potter (ed.), The Letters of Paul du Foix, French Ambassador at the Court of Elizabeth I, 1562-1566. 2019-20 witnessed the publication of the following titles in the New Historical Perspectives book series (University of London Press): Edward Owens, The Family Firm: Monarchy, Mass Media and the British Public, 1932-53. (October 2019); Sam Manning, Cinemas and Cinema-Going in the United Kingdom: Decades of Decline, 1945–65 (March 2020); and Christopher Phillips, Civilian Specialists at War: Britain’s Transport Experts and the First World War (May 2020).  Also undertaken in collaboration with the IHR, the Society’s online Bibliography of British and Irish History moved to a new bibliographic platform (BBIn).  Professor Roey Sweet, together with the IHR’s excellent BBIH team, have taken steps further to enhance the operation of this resource for students and researchers—increasingly vital in the online environment of pandemic pedagogy during the COVID-19 crisis. Substantial attention has continued to be devoted by the Society to assessing the potential impact of new open access mandates being formulated by key UK and European funders for researchers who receive financial support for their research. In October 2019, the Society published ‘Plan S and the History Journal Landscape (https://royalhистsoc.org/policy/publication-open-access/plan-s-and-history-journals/), a guidance paper based on a survey on open access policies to which over 100 national and international History journal editors responded.  The expertise of our
new Digital Committee continues to enhance the Society’s ability to engage with these new developments in research and publication.

Support for early career historians lies at the heart of the Society’s activities each year, and 2019-20 was no exception to this long-established rule. The Research Support Committee’s peer-review of applications submitted by PhD students and ECRs resulted in disbursement of £47,471. As detailed in the committee report below, the Society responded rapidly to the impact of COVID-19 on applications to our standard grant schemes. We funded both a Hardship Grant scheme for PhD students and ECRs in acute financial distress and, in collaboration with the publisher Adam Matthew Digital were able to offer free year-long subscriptions to a wide range of digitised collections to researchers unable to access archival and library collections. The continued generosity of the Society’s former President, Professor Peter Marshall, allowed us again to augment the Society’s annual award of the Centenary postdoctoral fellowship (divided into two 6-month awards for 2020-21) at the IHR with a Marshall Fellowship (likewise divided into two 6-month fellowships to increase the total number of recipients) as well.

Members of the Research Policy Committee actively engaged in the consultation process surrounding and the framing of the REF2021 exercise, and the committee’s chair worked to enhance the dissemination of accurate information about REF2021 to our stakeholders. Important work has also been undertaken by the Society’s Research and Communications officer, in conjunction with the Research Policy Committee, to research and disambiguate the impact of new GDPR requirements for historians. The Society’s open access guidance document on data protection can be found here: https://royalhistsoc.org/policy/data-protection-and-historians/.

The Council members who serve on our Membership Committee have undertaken very substantial duties on behalf of the Society in peer-reviewing applications for the Membership and Fellowship. The addition of 358 new Members and Fellows in the past session saw our total membership rise to 4,373 during the session. In 2020, mindful of the very difficult circumstances in which ECRs are entering the historical profession, the Society introduced a new, free ECR Membership category for PhD students and recent recipients of the PhD. Our working group on Race, Ethnicity & Equality began working on a guidance document focused on equalities issues that affect the pipeline into History, with respect to race and ethnicity, and to engage in activities which will be reported in the 2020 Roadmap for Change II update document. Under the leadership of Vice-President Professor Frances Andrews, the Society’s LGBT+ working group finalised their report and resources on LGBT+ equality, for publication in financial year 2020-21.

Sustaining and expanding the Society’s membership plays a vital role in maintaining our financial base and also enhances our ability to speak effectively for the full range of historical practice and practitioners, and it is pleasing to see the continued growth of our membership. The Finance Committee’s report notes the many demands on our coffers. Our investment income makes a significant contribution to our ability to provide substantial funding for early career historians’ research activities and publications. During this financial year, the Finance Committee resolved to move our portfolio form our previous fund managers (Brewin Dolphin) to a pooled charity account managed by Cazenove, a transition that occurred at the juncture between financial years 2019-20 and 2020-21. The full list of our donors (below) provides a forceful reminder of the many individuals whose generosity further underpins the Society’s activities. These annual gifts, together with the income from bequests made by former Fellows.
and Members, allow the Royal Historical Society to sustain our traditional programme of activities while being innovative in our approach to the development of new initiatives.

DIGITAL COMMITTEE, 2019-20: (Chair: Professor Jane Winters)

The Digital Committee has a remit to advise the Society on the maintenance and development of its digital presence; to inform the Society about developments in digital historical research and pedagogy; to consider digital skills training provision for historians; and to foster connections between the Society and other organisations concerned with digital research and the preservation and delivery of digital cultural heritage. In addition to one elected councillor and five officers, the committee draws on the expertise and guidance of four co-opted members: Dr Adam Crymble (Chair, Programming Historian Ltd. and Lecturer in Digital Humanities, University College London), Eirini Goudarouli (Digital and Technology Research Lead, The National Archives of the UK), Tim Hitchcock (Professor of Digital History, University of Sussex) and Pip Willcox (Head of Research, The National Archives of the UK).

In April 2020, the Digital Committee was the first of the Society’s committees to hold its meetings fully online, piloting the processes that have since been used for all other committee meetings in a disrupted year. The previous engagement of members of the Digital Committee with the Society’s digital infrastructure and online services, along with the hard work of the central team, helped to ensure that the Society was exceptionally well placed to move all of its operations online at short notice.

Much of the Committee’s business in 2019-20 has been concerned with the ongoing development and transformation of core activities and services, so that the Society can help to mediate the rapid digital shift that is facing historians. The Historical Transactions blog has been a key medium for communicating current and future planning, and the increasing digital maturity of the Society was evident from the rapidity with which the April 2020 Curriculum Conference was adapted from a face-to-face to fully online event, with new features such as an online forum for delegates.

Members of the Committee also discussed questions of unequal access to digital and digitised primary source materials during periods of library and archive closure, and limitations on researcher access to physical libraries and archives which are likely to be with us for some time. Digital inequality has been thrown into sharp focus by the COVID-19 pandemic, and its impact on historical education and research is a concern for the Society. The Digital Committee provided an important forum for considering the challenges that are currently being faced within schools, higher education and the cultural heritage sector, intersecting with the work of other Society committees.

Standing items of business for the Committee include the forthcoming REF, and the underrepresentation of digital history on REF assessment panels, as well as the continually evolving open access landscape. It continued to keep a watching brief on developments in these areas, in order to help the Society respond to consultations and calls for evidence or nominations.

EDUCATION POLICY COMMITTEE 2019-20 (Chair: Professor Kenneth Fincham)
The Education Policy Committee meets three times a year to consider all matters relating to History Education from secondary schools through to postgraduates. On the Committee are three elected councillors and nine officers, very ably supported by five co-opted members who bring a wealth of different perspectives and experience to our discussions. The quintet are Dr Michael Maddison, in times past Ofsted’s National Adviser for History, now representing the Historical Association; John Blake, policy educator and currently working for the Ark Schools; Askana Khan from Museum Detox, which champions the inclusion of cultural and creative contributions from people of colour in the museum and archives sector; Dr Sarah Holland, Education Officer for History UK; and Dr Andrew Foster, a former Vice-President of the Society and Chair of this Committee 2007-9.

The Committee keeps a careful watch on government policy and responses to official consultations. The Teaching Excellence and Student Outcomes Framework (TEF) is a standing item at meetings of Education Policy as well as Council while we track its ebbs and flows. This year very little has happened: Dame Shirley Pearce’s independent review of TEF, in accordance with the Higher and Research Act of 2017, was submitted to the Secretary of State for Education in July 2019 but its findings have yet to receive parliamentary scrutiny. In January there was the announcement of a forthcoming consultation for a new framework for subject-level TEF, but this has been postponed indefinitely as a result of the pandemic. The DfE’s instruction this September to the Office for Students to conduct a root-and-branch review of the NSS and to report by December may have significant consequences for the TEF, since NSS is amongst its core metrics. We await, with interest, the completion of this review. It is an open question how central TEF will remain to this government’s scrutiny of HE teaching provision.

A great deal of time and energy has been devoted this year to completing the first phase of Society’s new Teaching Portal. This aims to offer stimulating posts or blogs for teachers and students in HEIs on a very wide range of subjects, including innovative modules, progression from BAs to doctorates and beyond, careers within and beyond the discipline, guides to online resources and, in response to COVID-19, ideas and comments on digital education. There will be a ‘soft’ launch of the Teaching Portal in November 2020, which will sit in ‘Historical Transactions’ on the Society’s blog, and this September Council approved of the creation of an Editorial Board to manage the portal and oversee its further development. While the Board may pro-actively commission certain posts, we look to the Fellowship and Membership to submit contributions on any topic within the purview of the portal, and we hope this will encourage debate and reflection, and spread good practice. The advent of the Editorial Board means that the disbandment of the working group which has developed the portal over the past four years, and we are all indebted to the dedication and expertise of its members in turning an exciting idea into something which should prove vital and valuable.

Following the success of our first Curriculum Conference in March 2018, organised by Arthur Burns (Chair of this Committee 2013-17), we held a second conference in April 2020, this time focusing on ‘transitions’. It was to have been held at UCL on 23 April, but the pandemic meant that we had to transform it into a virtual conference, spread over a week. Dr Katherine Foxhall, our Research and Communications Officer, did a magnificent technical job to make all this happen. Two notable features were the doubling of attendance as a result of moving online, and the success of the discussion forum between speakers and their audience. Although the number submitting comments and questions was relatively small, the quality of the submissions and the ensuing dialogue was very high. We have become so accustomed over the past six months to online meetings, seminars and conferences that it is easy to forget what a challenge
it was setting up the conference virtually, at very short notice, and we should regard it as a resounding success. Many of the presenters and some of the audience have used their experience of the conference to launch virtual activity in their own institutions. One topic that we were unable to include in the curriculum programme was teaching climate change, so we invited Amanda Power from the ‘Climate crisis thinking in the Humanities and Social Sciences’ network at Oxford to talk to the Committee in September. We had a useful exchange of views, and we intend to pursue this matter further over the next year.

The Committee continues to take an active interest in history in schools. We work closely with the Historical Association (HA), and the Chair of Education Policy is now a member ex officio of it’s new HE Committee, which aims to co-ordinate the work of the Society, History UK, the IHR and the HA itself in supporting history teaching in secondary schools and the transition to university. In our anniversary year (2018-19) we sponsored seven secondary schools to enter the HA’s Quality Mark scheme, and in September the committee reviewed the HA’s report on its impact. It was evidently a thoroughly positive experience for the seven schools, who stated that it had helped to raise the profile of the discipline, motivated staff, and encouraged reflection, curriculum planning and even space for the student voice. At the time of writing, it is hoped that the Society will be in a position to offer a second tranche of sponsorship. In March 2020, days before the lockdown began, we held our annual meeting of the A level Awarding Bodies. This time we were joined by a representative from CCEA (Northern Ireland), who explained many of the differences in curriculum coverage and examination structure there in contrast to England and Wales. These regular meetings help forge valuable links: two of the speakers at the Curriculum Conference in April were A level subject leads, and over the past year two boards have turned to us for advice on decolonising A Level and GCSE components of their syllabus.

So it has been a busy year for the Committee, which we conclude, at our meeting in November, with our second annual audit of our activities, to ensure that limited time and resources are applied most effectively to our broad range of initiatives and responsibilities.

FINANCE COMMITTEE 2019-20 (Chair: Professor Margot Finn)

The Finance Committee approves the Society’s accounts each financial year and its estimates for the following year. This year, as before, the accounts were professionally audited by Moore Kingston Smith. They are presented on the RHS website together with the Trustees’ Annual Report.

The Society’s annual expenditure of £364K was rather lower than projected spending and contributed to a surplus of £55K instead of the £50K deficit planned for in the original budget.

The reduction in expenditure was a result of changes made in the face of coronavirus, with the impact felt in three main areas. First, there was a reduction in the cost of holding council and committee meetings as a result of moving these online; second, study visits to Edge Hill University and events planned by the Education Committee were postponed, and third, awards of grants were significantly reduced because many recipients were unable to hold the planned events or visit archives. In total, this resulted in expenditure being reduced by c.£25K.
At the same time, there was a rise in income of £82K, the result of a considerable uplift in subscriptions (£38K) and a significant increase in royalties (£44K). The former reflects an increase in membership, but more particularly the introduction of a new system for invoicing and chasing payments, which has resulted in a substantial reduction in subscription arrears. Royalty payments were much higher than expected, and reverses the decline seen in recent years, but these remain volatile and are likely to decline in the coming years.

The value of the Society’s investments rose to £3.52 million in June 2019, an increase from the previous year’s figure of £3.45 million despite very challenging trading conditions in the spring of 2020. As in previous years, the Society drew £78,000 from the portfolio to support its activities. However, two significant changes have been made during the course of 2019-20.

The first is that it was decided in February 2020 to retender the contract to manage its investment portfolio in order to ensure that the Society continues to receive the best return and service. Four companies were interviewed in April 2020 and the contract was awarded to Cazenove Capital, who will manage the Society’s funds as part of pooled fund, which gives the Society additional security, minimises management fees, and ensures an ethically-informed investment portfolio. The process of transferring the portfolio was largely completed between 22nd and 30th June 2020, but some assets were being sold prior from 1st June, in preparation of the transfer, and some dividend income is still being transferred in September 2020.

Second, and linked to this, the Society is increasing the level of drawdown from its portfolio to £100K per annum. This figure remains in line with our overall investment policy and provides the Society with increased funds to finance its activities. Whilst we project a small surplus in 2020-21, this is largely down to the continued impact of coronavirus – as outlined above. We are therefore acting a prudent manner to ensure that the Society has sufficient funds to maintain and grow its various activities in the coming years.

A key area where costs are likely to increase is in staffing. The Society was fortunate to be able to benefit from the hard work and flexibility of its various office staff over the course of the year, and especially in the face of changed work practices necessitated by coronavirus. To ensure that it remains able to play an active role in shaping and supporting the discipline, it is vital that the Society is in a position to appoint and remunerate staff in an appropriate manner.

Council records with gratitude the benefactions made to the Society by:

- Dr W D Acres
- Dr S T Ambler
- Dr G Bakker
- Ms G Bennett
- Dr C F Briggs
- Dr J Chen
- The Lord Cormack
- Professor L Costabili
- Dr C G V Coutinho
- Professor G De Luca
- Mr S T Dickens
- Dr A Dighton
- Dr D L Drakeman
The remit of this committee ranges across many activities of the Society. It receives suggestions from Fellows and Council for paper-givers and makes recommendations to Council on the Programme of Lectures, taking into account the need for a balanced offering in terms of chronological and geographical spread and reflection of the diversity of the profession. In addition to the regular sessions held at UCL and outside London, it is also responsible for the
Prothero Lecture, the Colin Matthew Lecture and the Gerald Aylmer Seminar.

The programme of lectures and visits for 2020 was confirmed, including regional symposiums to be held at Edge Hill University in April and the University of Warwick which was to be held in May. Unfortunately, both these events were disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic: our Edge Hill University visit has been postponed until 2022 and the University of Warwick symposium had to be cancelled (due to loss of additional supporting funds). The 2020 Gerald Aylmer Seminar, which was held on 11 March 2020 in person before the national COVID-19 lockdown, focused on ‘Co-production and collaboration in the archive’. This event, jointly organised by The National Archives (Kew), the Institute of Historical Research and the Royal Historical Society, provides an excellent annual opportunity for engagement with the archive sector.

Proposals for 2021 and 2022 were discussed and speakers invited, with these now confirmed. The Committee continues to review the purpose and success of both the Society’s lectures and visits, and to consider ways of increasing their reach, for example through podcasting, repeat lectures and holding workshops for postgraduate students and early career researchers alongside visits and symposia. With the invaluable assistance of the Society’s Research and Communication Officer, the Society’s lectures in May, July and September were live-streamed on ZOOM and attracted very large audiences (as well as considerable numbers of subsequent viewings via the recording). Looking ahead, the Committee will explore the possibility of maintaining a ‘blended’ programme of in-person and online lectures, with a view to enabling Fellows and Members beyond London and across the world to participate more regularly as a ‘live’ audience to some of the Society’s lectures.

The Committee is also responsible for the appointment of assessors for the Society’s prizes and receives their reports and recommendations for award winners. This year, assisted by the Society’s Communications team, prize nominees recorded a short video about their books (with the videos archived on the Society’s YouTube channel) and there was a virtual awards ceremony for book and essay prize winners. The General Purposes Committee regularly reviews the terms and conditions of the awards and has begun to analyse these forms of recognition through an intersectional equality, diversity and inclusion lens. The Society is extremely grateful to members of Council for their hard work in reading entries and selecting the prize winners.

As evidenced by these new initiatives, the Society’s online and social media presence continues to grow and develop. The Society’s enhanced IT systems enabled a seamless transition to virtual office working – with the new ERC Hardship initiatives (outlined elsewhere) administered through its membership and grants application system. The establishment of our online payment system has also enabled more efficient processing of Membership fees to support the Society’s initiatives.

Finally, as part of the Committee’s responsibility for administration of some of the Society’s governance structures, the Honorary Secretary enlisted the services of Professor Lionel Bently, the Society’s Honorary Barrister, whose assistance was invaluable in the redrafting by-law VIII which will be presented for ratification at the Annual Meeting in November 2020. It also updated the RHS ‘Statement on Ethics’, last revised in January 2015.

Meeting of the Society
At ordinary meetings of and public lectures sponsored by the Society, the following papers were read:

Prothero Lecture: ‘Waves Across the South: Monarchs, Travellers and Empire in the Pacific’ Dr Sujit Sivasundaram (5 July 2019)

‘Truth and Justice during the French Religious Wars’ Professor Penny Roberts (20 September 2019)

The Colin Matthew Memorial Lecture for the Public Understanding of History: ‘Human Traffic: Race and Post-war Migration Policy’, Professor David Olusoga (1 October 2019). These lectures continue to be given in memory of the late Professor Colin Matthew, a former Literary Director and Vice-President of the Society.

Presidential Address: ‘Material Turns in British History: Part III: Collecting’ Professor Margot Finn (6 December 2019)

‘Arab political thought and the problem of empire, c. 1856-1919’, Dr Andrew Arsan (7 February 2020)

‘Responding to violence: Liturgy, authority and sacred places, c.900 – c.1100’, Professor Sarah Hamilton (11 May 2020)

**Prizes**

The Society’s annual prizes were awarded as follows:


The judges’ citation read:

We felt that Meira’s article told a fascinating story in an engaging manner: one that drew in a number of different fields of enquiry and primary sources to demonstrate of ways in which the study of antiquities and the natural sciences were closely intertwined through the work of key individuals and the analysis of particular places – notably ancient Egypt. The article is both rich in its scholarship and broad in its ambition; importantly, it reached beyond its particular subject to engage with wider debates and about the generation of knowledge and the relationship between Europe and the wider world.

The judges named a proxime accessit:

The David Berry Prize for an article on Scottish history for 2020 attracted eleven entries and was awarded to Scott Dempsey for an article ‘Legitimating Edward I’s Adjudication of the Scottish Succession: Two Notes on the Great Cause’.

The judges’ citation read:

Technically brilliant, this is an introduction to an intellectual history of the Scottish wars of Independence. It describes how Edward’s eventual claim to the Scottish throne was based on a relentless exploration of the idea of lordship in Roman law which he considered integral to kingship. Yet at the same time the article demonstrates the intellectual eclecticism of these islands in the late thirteenth century in that Edward borrowed from the late Roman republic the composition of the prestigious centumviri court to decide the Scottish succession. The piece shows that taking seriously the justifications that Edward offered for his actions during 1291-2 – which is distinct from blindly accepting them as truthful or even sincere accounts- sheds new light on both Scottish and English history at this time.

The judges named a proxime accessit:


The Gladstone Book Prize for a first book on non-British history attracted thirty three entries.

The prize for 2020 was awarded to: Caillan Davenport for a volume A History of the Roman Equestrian Order (Cambridge University Press, 2019).

The judges’ citation read:

This social and institutional history of the ordo equester is a most impressive work of profound scholarship. Combining written sources with archaeological studies, and also drawing on insights derived from cognate disciplines in the sociological sciences, it spans over a thousand years of ancient history, from the 8th century BC to the 5th century AD. The book offers a new way of looking at the rise of the mounted warrior aristocracy and its subsequent transformation into a landed elite. Through this prism it analyses the political and social changes of Rome from the republic to the Principate and the Empire, culminating in the remaking of the Roman state in the 3rd century and some further observations on the continuities between Rome and the Frankish empire that succeeded it in Western Europe. It is a work of great ambition, erudition and sophistication.

The Rees Davies Prize for the best dissertation submitted as part of a one- year full-time (or two-year part-time) postgraduate Master’s degree in any United Kingdom institution of Higher Education, attracted eleven entries.

The prize for 2020 was awarded to: Alexandra Wingate (Institute of Education, School of Advanced Studies, University of London) for a dissertation “‘Prosigue la libreria’: Understanding late seventeenth-century Navarrese Book Culture through Lorenzo Coroneu’s Bookstore’.

The judges’ citation read:
This is excellent work which undertakes a close book history while also making a clear case for its wider significance. With a very strong archival basis, it presents an interesting case study using the inventory of this bookstore around which to build the study. This made for an engaging read and gave the thesis a really strong spine. There is interesting use of visuals throughout which help the reader understand the figures and also visualise information about the context. The examiners were also impressed that it set out meaningful interventions for future studies.

The judges named a proxime accessit:

Robert Thompson (University of Southampton) for a dissertation “The true physicians here are the padres”: British Christian Army Chaplains and the Liberation of Bergen-Belsen.

The judges' citation read:

This piece sketches the ways in which the horror of the concentration camps shattered the illusion of a clean peace, and sets out to revisit a neglected perspective on this well-studied and significant event. The examiners thought the subject of the piece was nuanced, with chaplains crossing a number of categories, as the author made clear, and that this lent an interesting hook to the piece. The study was sensitively conducted and skillfully realised, recognising different categories of agency and offering a humane assessment of the experience of these horrific events and their aftermath. The thesis has a good archival base of unpublished contemporary reflection contextualised with published memoirs and scholarly work.

The Whitfield Prize for a first book on a subject within a field of British or Irish history attracted forty two entries.

The Prize for 2020 was awarded to Niamh Gallagher, Ireland and the Great War: A Social and Political History (Bloomsbury, 2020).

The judges’ citation read:

The jury agreed that this is a bold and engaging intervention in the historiography of Irish Catholic involvement in British and Allied action during the Great War. Niamh Gallager’s sophisticated interpretation of the Home Front in towns across the island of Ireland enables us to appreciate the ways in which individuals, families, businesses, civic and political leaders, and their supporters, understood Allied war aims and the reasons for contributing and remembering. We were particularly impressed by the author’s inclusion of sources from diasporic communities, and by the book’s relevance for current efforts to reconsider Irish national identity during the years before and after 1916. Richly detailed and illustrated throughout, this is an unusually substantial contribution to the social and political history of Ireland and Irish communities abroad.

The Royal Historical Society Jinty Nelson Award for Inspirational Teaching and Supervision in History for 2020 was awarded to: Marjory Harper, (University of Aberdeen).
The judges’ citation read:

Marjory’s work spans over two decades and was praise because of her commitment to supporting others’ learning and progression. However, the adjudicators are particularly keen to recognise her work in setting up an online MLitt course in Scottish history and heritage which has very successfully opened Scottish history up to a wide audience, including mature students from overseas. Building a complex, on-line learning experience that creates a sense of collegiality and belonging is a daunting task, but, Marjory’s hybrid of pedagogic strategies for developing a community of practice were trumpeted by both colleagues and students alike, with one even stating that the learning experience was life changing. She is a very worthy winner of the annual Jinty Nelson award.

The judges named a proxime accessit:

John Cooper (University of York)

The judges’ citation read:

John has a long track record of providing intellectual and pastoral support to PhD students and early career academics; indeed, those nominating him wrote warmly about the very serious time and energy he commits in going above and beyond the normal call of supervisory duties. His support has sometimes made the crucial, positive difference for students and staff at what are amongst the most precarious of times in an academic career. He is a worthy runner up for this year’s Jinty Nelson award.

The Royal Historical Society Innovation in Teaching Award for 2020 was awarded to Tim Peacock (University of Glasgow).

The judges’ citation read:

Tim has complemented his expertise in history by very successfully deploying a variety of technological applications. The adjudicators were particularly impressed by the ways in which his innovative work promoted academic inclusion. His innovative audio-visual support mechanisms are useful for all students, but particularly those with a variety of complex learning needs; and his use of gaming, social media and simulations give greater accessibility when exploring complex historical content and concepts. Importantly, Tim willingly shares his innovative ideas not only across his department, but also with others across his University and he has already received two teaching awards from his own institution. We are also very pleased to recognise the importance of his work which uses innovative tools and approaches to make history more freely accessible to learners and colleagues.

The judges named a proxime accessit:

Jessica Van Horssen (Leeds Beckett University)

The judges’ citation read:

Jessica has inspired students in her teaching of American history by using approaches ranging from the use of music to explore controversial and societal issues, to the use of pedagogies
which develop digital literacy through the study of history. Her digital history module, which teaches students an array of important new skills, such as data mining and how to produce video games and 3D models for reconstructing historical sites has already been recognised by her University with institution-wide awards. As a result, Jessica’s influence now extends beyond History, with her part-time secondment to her University’s Centre for Learning and Teaching.

The winner of the History Today 2020 Prize was not notified at the time of publication of this annual report:

The winner of the History Scotland 2020 Prize was not notified at the time of publication of this annual report.

The Frampton and Beazley Prizes for A-level performances in 2019 were awarded to the following on the basis of nominations from the examining bodies:

Beazley Prize

SQA: Trudy Ross (George Watson’s College, Edinburgh)

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE 2019-20: (Chairs: Professors Huw Pryce and Helen Nicholson)

The Membership Committee assesses all applications for the Fellowship, Membership, Postgraduate Membership and Early Career Research Membership, and recommends to Council the applicants who in its view meet the criteria for election. It also reviews procedures relating to applications.

In February 2020, the Society formally retired its Postgraduate Membership Category and introduced a new membership category for Early Career Researchers. This category was developed to further the Society’s commitments to the next generation of scholars and provide practical assistance to historians early in their careers. Existing Postgraduate Members were offered the option to continue their existing member or to cancel and re-apply as an Early Career Membership. The new category is free of charge and is open to those registered for a doctoral degree in a historical subject or those who have submitted a corrected doctoral degree in a historical subject.

Over the year ending on 30 June 2020, 190 Fellows, 164 Members and 68 Early Career Members were elected, and the total membership of the Society on that date was 4,373 (including 2,428 Fellows, 662 Retired Fellows, 191 Emeritus Fellows, 78 Corresponding and Honorary Fellows, 13 Honorary Vice Presidents, 23 Associates, 757 Members and 153 Postgraduate Members and 68 Early Career Research Members).

Since February 2017 the Membership Committee has received breakdowns by gender of applications for the Membership categories. The breakdown for applications in the year ending 30 June 2020 was as follows: Fellowship – 116 male, 74 female; Membership – 94 male, 70
female; Postgraduate Membership – 9 male, 8 female; Early Career Membership – 38 male, 29 female, 1 non-binary.

In the Queen’s Birthday Honours 2019 the following honours were given:

Professor Richard Carwardine (Fellow) was made a Companion of the Order of St Michael and St George for services to the Study of American History in the UK and in the USA

Professor Rana Mitter (Fellow) was appointed OBE for Services to Education.

In the New Year’s Honours List 2020, the following honour was given:

Sir Keith Thomas, FBA (Honorary Vice-President) was made a Member of the Order of Companions of Honour for services to the study of history

Council was advised of and recorded with regret the deaths of nine Fellows, four Emeritus Fellows, eleven Retired Fellows, two Life Fellows and one Corresponding Fellow.

Professor Frank Barlow, CBE Life Fellow
Reverend Dr John Brencher Emeritus Fellow
Professor Denis Brogan Fellow
Professor Claire Donovan Retired Fellow
Dr Ian Duffield Retired Fellow
Dr Antonia Gransden Retired Fellow
Professor Bernard Hamilton Emeritus Fellow
Professor Alan Harding Fellow
Professor Christopher Harper-Bill Fellow
Professor Sir Michael Howard, OM, CH Life Fellow
Professor Alun Howkins Fellow
Professor R Ian Jack Retired Fellow
Professor Brian Kemp Emeritus Fellow
Dr Donald Leinster-Mackay Retired Fellow
Mr William Liddell Retired Fellow
Dr Antti Matikkala Fellow
Professor W Philip McCann Retired Fellow
Professor Bruce Murray Retired Fellow
Dr David Renn Retired Fellow
Professor Keith Robbins Retired Fellow
Mr William R Serjeant Retired Fellow
Professor Richard Sharpe Fellow
Dr Grant Simpson Emeritus Fellow
Mr Jeremy J Sims Fellow
Dr David Steele Fellow
Dr John Swift Fellow
Professor Kaoru Ugawa Corresponding Fellow

The following were elected to the Fellowship of the Society:
Gemma Allen, BA, MSt, DPhil
John Allison, PhD
Seth Anziska, NA, PhD
Dayna Barnes, PhD
Aurelie Basha I Novosejt, BSc, PhD
Karen Bauer, MA, PhD
Chiara Beccalosi, PhD
Tobias Becker, MA, PhD
Lorenzo Benadusi, ASN
Ann Benson, BSc, Med, MA, PhD
Michael Berdine, BA, MA, PhD
Sara Bernard, MA, PhD
Nandini Bhattacharya, PhD
Matthew Bingham, BA, MDiv
Elleke Boehmer, BA, MPhil, PhD
Sean Bottomley, BA, PhD
Petros Bouras-Vallianatos, MPharm, BA, MSt, PhD, AFHEA
Keagan Brewer, PhD
Stefan Brink, PhD
Matthew Broad, BA, MA, PhD
Adam Bronson, BA, MA, MPhil, PhD
Luc-André Brunet, BHum, MA, PhD, PGCE
Barbara Burman, BA, MA
Valerie Burton, BA, MA, PhD
Hilary Carey, BA, DPhil
Michael Carr, BA, MA, PhD
Alison Carroll, BA, MA, PhD
Michael Carter, BA, MA, PhD
Vinayak Chaturvedi, BA, MA, PhD
Jeng-Guo Chen, PhD
Sabine Clarke, BSc, MSc, PhD, PGCE
Rebekah Clements, BA, LLB, MA, PhD
Pamela Clemit, BA, MPhil, DPhil
Joanna Cohen, PhD
Christopher Colvin, BSc, MSc, PhD
Matthew Cook, BA, MA, PhD
Kate Cooper, BA, MA, PhD
Guillemette Crouzet, BA, MJA, PhD
Adam Crymble, PhD
Judith Curthoys, MST, PGCHA, DAA
Johanna Dale, MA, MPhil, PhD
Selena Daly, BA, MA, PhD
Ane Mari D’Arcy, BA, MS, PhD
Rebecca Darley, BA, MA, PhD
Shijini Das, PhD
Santanu Das, BA, PhD
Jennifer Davey, BA, MA, PhD
Coleman Dennehy, BA, MLitt, LLM, PhD
Arthur der Weduwen, BA, MLitt, PhD
Filippo De Vivo, PhD
Hilary Sapire, BA, PhD
Joshua Searle, BA, MA, PhD
William Selinger, BA, PhD
Samantha Shave, BA, MSc, PhD
Sally Sheard, BA, PhD
Juliet Simpson, MA, DPhil
John Slight, BA, MA, MPhil, PhD
Kathryn Smith, BA, MA, PhD
Michael Smith, PhD
Diana Spencer, BA, MA, PhD
Ian Stewart, BA, MA, PhD
Bruce Strang, PhD
Marcella Sutcliffe, PhD
Michael Talbot, BA, MA, PhD, PGCE
Clare Taylor, BA, PhD, PGCE
Ajayan Thankappannajr, PhD
Seth Thevoz, MA, PhD
Laura Tisdall, PhD
David Tomkins, BA, MA
Noémi Tousignant
Claire Trener, BA, MA, PhD
John Tweeddale, PhD
Angus Vine, BA, MPhil, PhD
Boris Volodarsky, PhD
Steven Wagner, DPhil
Ashley Walsh, MA, PhD
Stephanie Ward, BA, MA, PhD
Rob Waters, MA, MSc, PhD
Alexander Watson, MA, DPhil
Carsten Weerth, BA, MLaw, MA
William Westerman, BA, PhD
Mark White, BA, MA, PhD
Stefan White
Elizabeth Williams, BA, MA, PhD, PGCE, ILM
Keira Williams, PhD
Emily Winkler, BA, MSt, DPhil
Man Kong Wong, PhD
Ian Worthington, BA, MA, PhD
Gillian Wright, BA, PhD
Karin Wulf, BA, MA, PhD

The following were elected to the Membership of the Society:

Damon Adams, BA, PhD
Rosamaria Alibrandi, MA, PhD
Stefan Aloszko
Stefanie Bellach, MA
Julie Beniams, BA, MA
Marina Bezzi, BA, MPhil, PhD
Morwenna Blewett, BA, LLB
Matteo Bonifacio, PhD
David Brazendale, BA, PGCE
James Buckman, BA, MA
Nicholas Cambridge, MD, MRCS, LRCP, FSA, FLS, FRSA
Jane Card, BA, MA, MSc, PGCE
Timothy Causer, MA, MLitt, PhD
Martyn Cornell, BA, MBA
Luke Daly-Groves
Bettina de Cosnac, PhD
Amelia Dowler, BA, MSt, DPhil
Elizabeth Doyle, BA, MA
Steven Driver, BA, PGCE, MSt
Elizabeth Eger, PhD
Ken Farnhill, BA, PhD
Esther Freeman, BA
Allegra Fyyxell, BA, MPhil, PhD
Darragh Gannon, DPhil
Timothy Gasby, MA, MSc, PGCE
Marion Gibson, BA, MA, PhD
Andrew Godefroy, PhD
Laura Hampden, BSc
Katarzyna Hollis
Sharon Howard, BA, MA, PhD
Robert Hughes-Mullock
Ian Hunter, BA
Alexander Hutton, BA, MPhil, PhD
Mojlum Khan, BA, PGCE
Lucy Kilfoyle, BA, MA, PhD, PGCE
Cora Knowles, BA, MLitt, Med, MA, PhD
Maria Kostaridou, PhD
Caroline Laske, MA, LLM, PhD
Marek Laskiewicz, PhD
Jack Lennon, BA, MA, PhD, FHEA
Teng Li, PhD
David Liebler, PhD
Richard Light, BA
Rose Luminiello, PhD
Robert MacKinnon, BA, MSc, PGCE
Anna Maguire, PhD
Hilary McLaughlin-Stonham, MA, PhD
Mary-Ann Middelkoop, BA, MSc, PhD
Eoghan Moloney, BA, MA, PhD
Jo Ann Moran Cruz, BA, MA, PhD
Neil Murphy, PhD
Rachel Murphy, PhD
Sherra Murphy, BA, MA, PhD
Arthur Needham
J C Niala, BSc, MSt, MSc
Rebecca Olds, BA
Mara Oliva, PhD
The following were elected to the Postgraduate Membership of the Society:

Jordan Beavis, BA
Hillary Burlock, BA, MST
Jane Campbell, MA
Rodney Curtis, BA, MRes
Helen Esfandiary, MJA
Catherine Freeman, BA, MA
Meira Gold, BA, MA
Nathan Hazlehurst, BSc, MA
Tyler Herber, MA
Otis Illert, BA, MA
Kate Lawton, BA, MA
Peter Morgan-Barnes, BA
Mary Ononkpono, MPhil
Oliver Parken, BA., MA
Beatrice Pestarino, MA
Edwin Rose, BA, MPhil
Dilara Scholz, BA, MA
Fabio Simonetti, MA

The following were elected to the Early Career Research (ECR) Membership of the Society:

Shahmima Akhtar, PhD
Aaron Andrews, BA, MA, PhD
Safya Anisimova, BA, MA
Frank Blair, BSc, BA, MA, MBA
Jacob Bloomfield, PhD
Stephanie Brown, BA, MPhil
Jan Burzlaff, MA, MPhil
Rachel Calder, BA, MA
Emily Chambers, MA
Joe Chick, MRes
Will Clement, BA, MSt, DPhil
Adam Cook, BA, MRes
Marco Cristini, BA, MA
Charlton Cussans, BA, MA
Steven Daniels, BA, MA
Gisele de Almeida, PHD
James Downs, BA, PHD
Lucie Dutton, BA, MA, PhD
Callum Easton, MA, MPhil
Joshua Ehrlich, PhD
Louise Falcini, MA, PHD
Georgina Fitzgibbon, PHD
Laura Flannigan, BA, MA
Lachlan Fleetwood, PhD
Jeremiah Garsha
Robert Granger, BA, MA
Katie Hawks, MA, MPhil, PGCE
Lotte Houwink ten Cate, BA, MA, MSc, MPhil
Samuel Hume, BA, MLitt
Jemima Jarman, BA, MA
Natalie Johanson, BA, MA
Amy King, BA, MA, PhD
Lubomir Krastev, PhD
Alba Lopez, MD
Helene Maloigne, MA
Rebecca Mason, PhD
Andrew McTominey, BA, MA, PhD
Aydin Mucek, BA
Supriyo Mukherjee, DPhil
Russell Newton, MA, MTh, PhD
Juan Neves-Sarriegui, MA
Laura Noakes, LLB, MA
Madeleine Pelling, BA, MA, PhD
Sophie Pitman, BA, MA, PhD
David Prasanna, MPhil
Aditya Ramesh, BA, MA, PhD
Matthew Raven, BA, PhD
Johanna Rustler, BA, MSc
Louise Ryland-Epton, MA
Harry Sanderson, BA, MA
Andrew Seaton, BA, MA, MPhil
Alireza Shams Lahijani, BA, MSc
Mark Shearwood, BA, MA
Ellen Smith, BA, MA
Leanne Smith, BA, MA
Baiyu Song, MPhil
Donna Taylor, BA, MRes, PhD
Louise Tingle, BA, MA, PhD
Mikko Toivanen, BA, MA, PhD
Chika Tonooka, MA, PHD
Emiliano Travieso, BA, MA, PhD
Margot Tudor, BA, MRes
Elizabeth van Wessem, BA, MA, PhD
Alexander Wakelam, BA, PhD
Emma Watkins, BSc, MSc, MA, DPhil
Benjamin Whitlock, BSc, MA
Matthew Winfield, BA, MA, PhD
Anna Wright, BA, MA

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE 2019-1920: (Chair, Mr Richard Fisher)

The Publications Committee remains responsible for the ongoing programme. Professor Richard Toye represents the Society’s interests on New Historical Perspectives, while Professor Andrew Spicer edits Transactions, and they share responsibility for Camden volumes. Professor Roey Sweet is Academic Editor of the Bibliography of British and Irish History (BBIH), and Professor Jane Winters and Professor Heather Shore are co-editors of the New Historical Perspectives Series.

The Publications Committee has been much occupied with Open Access publishing protocols throughout 2019-2020, and the Society’s considerable activities in this sphere are noted elsewhere in the Annual Report. The launch in the coming year of the first volumes in the Society’s major Open Access initiative New Historical Perspectives will be an important moment in the Society’s long publishing history.

Transactions, Sixth Series, Volume 29 was published during the session, and Transactions, Sixth Series, Volume 30 went to press.

In the Camden Fifth Series British Envoys to the Kaiserreich, 1871-1897. Volume II: 1884-1897, ed Markus Mösslang (vol. 56), The Rise of Labour and the Fall of Empire. The Memoirs of William Hare, Fifth Earl of Listowel, ed Harshan Kumarasingham (vol. 57), and The Letters of Paul de Foix, French Ambassador at the Court of Elizabeth I, 1562-1566 (vol. 58) ed. David Potter (vol.58) were published during the session.

The Papers of John Hatsell, Clerk of the House of Commons, eds Peter J Aschenbrenner and Colin Lee (vol. 59) and Sara ElGaddari ed, The Letters and Reports of British Consular and Diplomatic Agents in Tripoli, 1792-1832 went to press during the session.

The past twelve months have seen a fairly steady flow of good quality proposals, some in an advanced state of preparation. The calendar is currently filled, though the Literary Directors continue to welcome new proposals for texts which relate to any area of British history.
As in previous years, volumes in the *Camden* Series were offered to the membership at a favourably discounted price. Many Fellows and Members accepted the offer for volumes published during the year.

As with every other sector, the work of BBIH has been affected by COVID-19, not least as the editorial staff have had to work from home with inferior IT equipment and without library access to check records. However, editorial work has remained on course and, due to a slowdown in imports from BNB and Etoc during lockdown, most of the backlog that was created during the transition to BBIn has been cleared. Simon Baker and Sara Charles are therefore relatively well-placed to cope with an expected surge in data once lockdown has been fully lifted and the BL returns to full capacity. Since last September there have been three updates which have added over 14,000 records of recent publications (monographs, journal articles, book chapters and edited collections). 5000 of these relate to titles published in 2019-20. There is therefore no problem in terms of meeting the contractual requirement to create 10,000 new records a year. The new interface introduced in February 2020 has been positively received. Work is also progressing well on incorporating around 30,000 theses on British and Irish history from eThOS into the Bibliography and we are trialling development of a new contributor interface with a selection of local history journals, which we hope will, longer term, relieve some of the editorial work from the IHR team.

The financial impact of COVID-19 on universities is sure to affect library budgets where BBIH as a stand-alone resource with annual subscription is particularly vulnerable. Given that Librarians’ decision-making is generally driven by usage data and given the challenges facing university students and teachers from September 2020 in managing the new blended learning environment we have developed a set of short video guides to BBIH which can be uploaded to VLEs. We hope that the guides will assist hard-pressed lecturers, but also encourage continued or increased usage. They introduce users to BBIH and show them how to:

- perform simple and advanced searches
- how to make best use of information provided in an individual BBIH record
- the academic input that makes BBIH a distinctive resource

More videos will be added during the autumn, aimed at third year students researching dissertations and MA and PhD students preparing literature reviews. This initiative complements existing resources for using BBIH in teaching: an article published on RHS blog, June 2020 [https://blog.royalhistsoc.org/2020/06/29/bbih-guide-for-teachers-and-students/](https://blog.royalhistsoc.org/2020/06/29/bbih-guide-for-teachers-and-students/) on using BBIH will also be available through the RHS teaching portal (launching November 2020). Other resources, including Powerpoints on using BBIH have been added to the Librarians area of the website [https://www.history.ac.uk/publications/bibliography-british-and-irish-history/bbih-librarians](https://www.history.ac.uk/publications/bibliography-british-and-irish-history/bbih-librarians).

This year has been a busy one for New Historical Perspectives (NHP), with the publication of the first volumes in the series. The launch title for NHP was Edward Owens’s *The Family Firm: Monarchy, Mass Media and the British Public, 1832-53*, published in October 2019. It was followed by Sam Manning, *Cinemas and Cinema-going in the United Kingdom: Decades of Decline, 1945-65* (March 2020) and Christopher Phillips, *Civilian Specialists at War: Britain’s Transport Experts and the First World War* (April 2020). All three books have been published open access via the University of London Press’s digital platform, with high quality print and ebook versions also available for purchase. Since November 2019, readers have been
able to download individual book chapters through JSTOR, and since March 2020, all titles have been included in the Directory of Open Access Books. The Family Firm has already been downloaded more than 1,000 times, and download statistics for the more recent publications show similar levels of interest. Five further volumes are already in press and it has been possible to accommodate all authors with a requirement to publish their book before the REF deadline of December 2020.

During the past year the long-standing monograph series of Studies in History finally came to an end. The series was originally launched with support from a generous bequest from Sir Geoffrey Elton (Past President), and for many years has been published in association with Boydell and Brewer, who continue to publish the extensive series backlist. The Society would like to thank warmly the numerous historians who have worked on Studies in History in a series editorial capacity, most recently Professor Vanessa Harding, and also to thank Christine Linehan for her significant and long-standing publishing editorial support.

RESEARCH POLICY COMMITTEE, 2019-20: (Chair: Professor Jonathan Morris)

The Research Policy Committee advises the Society on all aspects of the research environment. It coordinates its relations with all the main bodies related to research funding and policy, manages its responses to government initiatives, and maintains relationships with other History and Humanities associations to lobby in the interests of the discipline. Over the past year, the committee met in November 2019, February 2020 and June 2020 (via Zoom).

The main activities and concerns of the committee have been as follows:

REF 2021 – Research Excellence Framework:

The Society has continued to engage actively with the REF2021 exercise. The Society submitted 6 nominations for the additional output assessor positions advertised on the Sub-Panel. Nominations were invited from the Fellowship and considered by a working group consisting of the President, the Vice President (Research Policy), Vice President (Equalities) and Councillor Prof Chris Marsh. Particular attention was paid to issues of representativeness within the nominations, notably in relation to the gender and race of the nominees, and the region and type of institution at which they were employed. 2 further nominations for impact assessors were also submitted.

GDPR – General Data Protection Regulation

The Committee monitored the development of the RHS Guidance Document on Data Protection and Historians in the UK, authored by Dr Katherine Foxhall, RHS Research and Communications Officer. Versions of the report were discussed in committee, and the Chair and Dr Foxhall liaised with other stakeholders, including committee representatives from the National Archives. The Guidance document was launched in July 2020 and is now available on the Society’s website.

Research Funders

The Committee monitors the activities of research funders. The Chair, the President and the President Elect attended the annual liaison meeting of key funders (AHRC, ESRC, Wellcome)
and historians’ associations convened by the Economic History Society, held at the IHR in January 2020. Concerns about a lack of institutional diversity within the AHRC Peer Review Council, and a lack of economic and social historians on ESRC review panels were raised, as well as ways funders could help address issues of precarity within the profession.

Open Access

The Publications Committee has taken the lead on Open Access for the RHS, but the Research Policy Committee continues to discuss this issue and provide input into RHS positions.

Pandemic

The Research Policy Committee has monitored the impact of the pandemic upon the conduct of research and, in particular, with relation to access to key sites such as the National Archives and British Library. The Chair has written to various institutions requesting clarification and updates on their operating procedures during the COVID-19 crisis, and the National Archives have also attended Committee meetings at which they have explained the policies thus far adopted.

RESEARCH SUPPORT COMMITTEE 2019-20 (Chair: Professor Clare Griffiths)

The Committee met four times in the course of the year to distribute research funds to early career historians (primarily PhD students but also those within two years of submitting a thesis and not yet in full-time employment), as well as holding a meeting to review the Committee’s various funding schemes.

The Committee considers all the applications received and this year made 138 awards to researchers from 33 different institutions across the UK and five institutions outside the UK. 11 of these grants were to support research trips within the UK, 51 to support research outside the UK, and 40 to allow advanced doctoral students and early career researchers to attend conferences in order to deliver papers. The Martin Lynn Scholarship was awarded this year to a research student to support research being conducted in Nigeria. In addition, the Committee made 30 awards to conference and seminar organisers, to support the participation and attendance of early career researchers in their events and to fund sessions designed to develop students’ skills for academic employment.

The research topics funded by the Committee reflect the Society’s contribution to a wide range of topics within the historical discipline, as well as to interdisciplinary research with a substantial historical component. The high quality of applications means not all applications can be funded. Research support funds have however been enhanced by a generous grant of £5000 from Past & Present, part of which was used this year to provide support for five researchers registered at institutions outside the UK. We also benefit from a generous bequest from the late Professor Christopher Holdsworth, and from the opportunity to award the Martin Lynn scholarship annually to students working on the history of Africa. The Society expresses its deep gratitude for this generosity in assisting our initiatives.

During the period from March 2020 onwards, the Committee received far fewer applications than usual due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Many planned research trips and academic conferences had to be abandoned, postponed, or re-imagined in different formats. For the year covered in this report, the Committee funded 61 fewer awards than in the previous
year, reflecting this reduction in numbers of applications following the implementation of lockdowns and travel restrictions. In this context, from May 2020 the Royal Historical Society re-directed funds to offer two new schemes to support UK-based early career researchers in History.

The first of these schemes involves a partnership with Adam Matthew Digital which will allow the RHS to offer 12-month subscriptions to the publisher’s digital collections of primary sources for 200 early career historians. This scheme will enable researchers to continue their research whilst the possibility of international and national travel is severely reduced and whilst so many libraries and archives remain closed, or open at limited capacity.

The second of these schemes is an emergency COVID-19 Hardship grant fund to offer individual grants of up to £500 to provide some short-term material assistance in the COVID-19 context. The purpose of these awards is to support early career historians whose finances (and thus well-being) have suffered significant detriment due to the impact of COVID-19. Eligible applicants will be registered for a doctoral degree in a historical subject at a UK institution or within two years (at the time of the application) of submitting a corrected doctoral thesis from a UK institution, and not yet in full-time employment. These schemes will run throughout the summer of 2020 and the awards and expenditure will be reported in the 2020-2021 Annual Report.

Research Expenses within the UK

- Nicholas Badcott (SOAS, University of London), Archive visits in Scotland, October 2019
- Paige Emerick (University of Leicester), Archive visits in Scotland, February 2020
- Yuhei Hasegawa (University of Exeter), Archive visits in Cambridge, Oxford and London, January, March and April 2020***
- Robert Johnston (University of Edinburgh), Archive visits in Cambridge and London, January 2020
- Natasia Kalajdziovskji (Middlesex University), Archive visits in Belfast and Londonderry, January – February 2020
- Emmeline Ledgerwood (University of Leicester), Archive visits in Haddenham, Southampton and Farnham, August – September 2019
- Jennifer McHugh (Lancaster University), Archive visits in London, February 2020
- Yoko Onodera (University College London), Archive visits in Bristol, Bath and Leeds, December 2019
- Harry Sanderson (University of Leeds), Archive visit in London, March 2020
- Jacquelyn Simard (University of Edinburgh), Archive visits in London (National Archives at Kew), April 2020
- Daniel Talbot (University of East Anglia), Archive visits in York, January 2020

Research Expenses Outside the UK

- Marilena Anastasopoulou (University of Oxford), Archive visits and oral history interviews in Greece, November 2019 – April 2020
- Claire Aubin (University of Edinburgh), Archive visits in Israel, 18-27 January 2020
- Molly Avery (London School of Economics), Archive visits in Chile, Argentina, USA,
UK, Guatemala, El Salvador, Paraguay, Brazil

- Elizabeth Barnes (University of Reading), Archive visits in USA, July 2019
- Martina Bernardini (King’s College London), Archive visits in College Station, Texas and Palo Alto, California
- Morwenna Blewett (Birkbeck), Archive visits in Philadelphia, April 2020
- Audrey Borowski (University of Oxford), Archival visits in Paris, April 2020
- Thomas Burnham (University of Oxford), Archive visits in Maryland, United States, February-March 2020
- Pin-Yu Chen (University College London), Archive visits in Copenhagen, February 2020
- Ho Hee Cho (University of Oxford), Archive visits in Australia, New Zealand, Fiji, July-October 2019
- Jennifer Chochinov (King’s College London), Archive visits in USA, September 2019
- Humaira Chowdhury (University of Cambridge), Archive visits in Wisconsin, March 2020
- Natalie Cobo (University of Oxford), Archive visits in the Philippines, January 2020
- Mila Daskalova (University of Strathclyde), Archive visits in New York, Massachusetts, Connecticut, August – Sept 2020
- Thomas Davies (University of Kent), Archive visits in Canberra, Australia, May 2020
- Ignacio De Solminihac (University of Cambridge) Archive visits in Chile and Colombia, January-February 2020
- Danielle Del Vicario (University of Oxford), Archive visits in Kenya and South Africa, March-May 2020*
- Danielle Fleming (University of Glasgow), Archive visits in USA, September – October 2019
- Mercedes Galíndez (University of Cambridge), Oral history interviews in Germany
- Aleema Gray (University of Warwick), Archive visits and oral history interviews in Kingston, Jamaica
- Mohammad Eyad Hamid (SOAS, University of London), Archive visits in USA, September 2019
- Abigail Hartman (University of St Andrews), Archive visits in Germany, March 2020
- Mihai Hotea (University of Nottingham), Archive Visits in Washington DC, Maryland and Michigan, May – July 2020
- Otis Illert (University of Cambridge), Archive in Tanzania, March-April 2020
- Sandip Kana (King’s College London), Archive visits in India, May 2020
- Aron Kecskes (University of St Andrews), Archive visits in Campania and Rome, Italy, March-April 2020
- Donghyuk Kim (University of Edinburgh), Archive visits in India, February-April 2020
- Nora Lessersohn (University College London), Archive visits in Wyoming and Washington, United States, May 2020
- Joe Lewis (University of Oxford), Archive visits in France, July – September 2019
- James Mackay (University of Edinburgh), Archival visits in Charleston, South Carolina
- James Mackay (University of Edinburgh), Archive visits in Michigan, United States
- Charlotte McCallum (Queen Mary, University of London), Archive visits in Florence, May 2020
- Meena Menon (University of Leeds), Archival visits in Orissa, India
- Michael Nixon (University of Oxford), Archival visits in Brandenburg, Bavaria, Stirlingshire
- Mary Ononokpono (University of Cambridge), Archives in Nigeria, July-August 2019, December 2019, July-August 2020**
o Giuseppe Paparella (King’s College London), Archive visits in Palo Alto, California, April – May 2020
o Remigio Petrocelli (University of Dundee), Archival visits in Rome, Italy
o Emma Prevignano (University of Cambridge), Archive visits in Nice, April – May 2020
o Peter Rees (University of Cambridge), Archive visits in Stanford, California, March-April 2020
o Elena Romero-Passerin (University of St Andrews), Archive visits in Tuscany, January 2020
o Isabel Sawkins (University of Exeter), Archival visits, oral interviews, site visits in Israel
o Anne Stokes (University of Manchester), Archive visits in USA, September 2019
o Samuel Taylor (University of Manchester), Archive visits in Massachusetts and Texas, March 2020
o Jared Thomley (University of Aberdeen), Archive visits in Rotterdam, March 2020
o Sarah Thomson (University of Edinburgh), Archive visits in College Station, Texas, May 2020
o Georgia Vesma (The University of Manchester), Archive visits in Wisconsin, July 2020
o Hillary Vipond (London School of Economics), Archival visits in Madison, Wisconsin
o Abdulhafiz Wando (King’s College London), Archives in Nigeria, October 2019
o Elisabeth Watson (University of St Andrews), Archive visits in Haarlem, Utrecht, March 2020
o Travis Weinger (King’s College London), Archive visits in India, September 2019
o Amanda Williams (University of Leeds), Archive visits in Lithuania, April 2020
o Thomas Wright (University of York), Archive visits in Nairobi, Kenya, February 2020

Research Expenses for students at institutions outside of UK

o Handy Acosta-Cuellar (Tulane University), Archive visits in Kew, United Kingdom*
o Jordan Beavis (University of Newcastle, Australia), Archive visits in the United Kingdom, March 2020*
o Tyler Herber (Purdue University), Archive visits in London, Cambridge and Oxford, March – April 2020*
o Julie Hufstetler (Oklahoma State University), Archival visits in London*
o Patrick Whang (University of Cape Town). Archive visits in Lesotho*

Conference Travel

o Aaron Ackerley (University of Sheffield), Liberalism Inc. – 200 Years of the Guardian, Goldsmiths, University of London, 9 May 2020
o Ellie Armon Azoulay (University of Kent), The Black Radical Tradition, Austin, Texas, 6-7 March 2020
o Giampiero Bagni (Nottingham Trent University), 58th Annual Midwest Medieval History Conference, South Bend, Indiana, USA, 20-22 September 2019
o Marina Bezzi (University College London), The Renaissance Society of America
o Joshua Bilton (King’s College London), The Cultural Veteran – Returning Soldiers in Art, Literature and Media, Manchester, 29-30 Jun 2020
o Amelie Bonney (University of Oxford), North American Conference on British Studies (NACBS), Vancouver, Canada, 14-17 November 2019
o Pawel Borowski (St Andrews University), The Australasian Society for Classical Studies Conferences and Proceedings, Dunedin, 28-31 January 2020
o James Brookes (University of Nottingham), American Historical Association 2020 Annual Meeting, New York City, 3-6 January 2020
o Philippa Carter (University of Cambridge), The Renaissance Society of America Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, 2-4 April 2020
o Emily Chambers (University of Nottingham), Gender and the Book Trades, University of St Andrews, 2-4 Jul 2020
o Cassidy Croci (University of Nottingham), 5th International St Magnus Conference Lerwick, Shetland, 15-17 April 2020
o Bart Danon (University of St Andrews), European Social Science History Conference, Leiden, 18-21 March 2020
o Helen Esfandiary (King’s College London), ISECS International Congress on the Enlightenment at the University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, 14-19 July 2019
o Lachlan Fleetwood (University of Cambridge), History of Science Society Annual Meeting 2019, Utrecht, 23-27 July 2019
o Sage Goodwin (University of Oxford), The Joint Journalism and Communication History Conference 2020, New York, 14 March 2020
o Mairi Hamilton (University of Glasgow), 2020 Big Berks Gendered Environment, Baltimore, Maryland, 28-31 May 2020
o Sunny Harrison, Medicine in the Medieval North Atlantic World, Maynooth University, Ireland, 19-21 March 2020
o Adrian Horsewood (Royal Birmingham Conservatoire & Birmingham City University), Early Modern Rome 4, Rome, 14-18 Oct 2020
o Stephanie Howard-Smith (Queen Mary University of London), North American Conference on British Studies Annual Meeting, Vancouver, 14-17 November 2019
o Marina Ini (University of Cambridge), The European Association for the History of Medicine and Health Biennial Conference – ‘Sense and Nonsense’, Birmingham, 27-30 August 2019
o Loek Luiten (University of Oxford), New College Conference on Medieval & Renaissance Studies, Sarasota, Florida, USA, 12-14 March 2020
o Catherine Maguire (Queen Mary University of London), Annual Meeting of the Renaissance Society of America, Philadelphia, 2-4 April 2020
o Helene Maloigne (University College London), North American Conference of British Studies Annual Meeting, Vancouver, 14-17 November 2019
o Joseph Massey (Manchester Metropolitan University), The Renaissance Society of America Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, 2-4 April 2020
o Stephen McBurney (University of Glasgow), Global Colour and the Moving Image, Bristol, 10-12 July 2019
o Christoph Nitschke, (University of Oxford), Gulfs, Seas, Oceans, Empires: 2020 Meeting of the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations, New Orleans, Louisiana, 18-20 June 2020
o Hannah Parker (University of Sheffield), Society for the History of Emotions Second Biennial Conference: Emotions in Conflict, Ottawa, Canada, 2-4 October 2019
o Ashley Paton (The Open University), Data and its Discontents (Annual Social Science
History Association Conference), Chicago, 21-24 November 2019
  o Michael Reeve (Leeds Beckett University), European Association for Urban History Conference 2020, Antwerp, Belgium, September 2020
  o Edwin Rose (University of Cambridge), Encounters and Exchanges: Exploring the History of Science, Technology and Mātauranga (Indigenous Knowledge), Blenheim, New Zealand, 1-4 December 2019
  o Lewis Ryder (University of Manchester), Nostalgia from the West: China in Western Collections, Guangzhou, China, 22-25 May 2020
  o Yu Sakai (University of Oxford), The American Comparative Literature Association 2020 Conference, Chicago, USA, 19-22 March 2020
  o Alexander Shaw (University of Leeds), Great Powers and Grand Strategies in the Asia Pacific, 1900-1954, National University of Singapore, 6-7 December 2019
  o Elizabeth Spencer (University of York), Numbers and the Self, University of Adelaide, 1 May 2020
  o Therese Marie Sunga (University of Manchester), Association for Asian Studies 2020 Annual Conference, Boston, 19-22 March 2020
  o Lauren Walden, Surrealisms 2019 – 2nd Conference of the International Society for the Study of Surrealism, Exeter, 29 August – 1 of September 2019
  o Abdul Wando (King’s College London), Past, Present, and Future in the Middle East and Africa – Hosted by ASMEA, Washington DC, 31st October – 2nd November 2019
  o Shamara Wettimuny (University of Oxford), Writing the Region: Knowledge, Practice, and Power in South Asia, Princeton, South Asia Conference 2020, Princeton University, 17-18 April 2020
  o Paul Wheeler (University of Chichester), British Society of Sport History Annual Conference 2019, Liverpool, 6-7 September 2019
  o Jessica White (University of Manchester), North American Conference on British Studies, Vancouver, 14-17 November 2019

Conference Organisation
  o Agnes Arnold-Forster, Emotions and Work, London, 1 November 2019
  o Kirsty Bennett, Tremblings and Inundations: Natural Disasters in the History and Culture of West Asia and North Africa, Edge Hill University, 8 September 2020
  o James Boyd, Maritime Technologies, Human Worlds, Brunel Institute, 11-12 September 2020
  o Jennifer Caddick, Generosity and Avarice in Medieval Europe, University of Nottingham, 23-24 April 2020
  o Sophie Campbell, After ‘Emancipation’: The Legacies, Afterlives and Continuation of Slavery, Nottingham, 21-23 June 2020
  o Giulia Champion, “Blood on the Leaves/And Blood at The Roots”: Reconsidering Forms of Enslavement and Subjection across Disciplines Warwick, 19-20 June 2020
  o Charlotte Coull, Colonial Knowledges: Environment and Logistics in the Creation of Knowledge in British Colonies from 1750 to 1950, Manchester, 27-28 February 2020
  o Rhiannon Cox, Follow the Leader: Medieval Leaders and Leadership, Bristol, 31 January – 1 February 2020
  o David Grealy, Human Rights and British Foreign Policy: Past, Present and Future, Liverpool, 18 September 2019
  o Sophie Greenway, ‘Er Indoors’: Domesticity and Nature in Home and Garden, Warwick, 23 November 2019
- Bridget Heal, Churches and Warfare in Central Europe, c.17th – c.21st University of St Andrews, 29-30 June 2020
- Tomás Irish, Contested Histories: Creating and Critiquing Public Monuments and Memorials in the Wake of Rhodes Must Fall, Swansea University, 29-30 June 2020
- Callum Jamieson, The Papacy and the Periphery, c.1050-c.1215, University of St Andrews, 22-24 Oct 2020
- Rebecca Jennings, Stonewall 50 Years On: Gay Liberation and Lesbian Feminism in its European Context, 6 December 2019
- Erin Maglaque, Decolonising the Premodern World, University of Sheffield, 15-17 October 2019
- Thomas McGrath, Hidden Spaces and Forgotten Places in the British Home, c.1750-1950, Manchester, 16 March 2020
- Daniel McKay, Greater Britain? Writing the Settler Colonies back into the History of British Imperialism, Cambridge, 12 March 2020
- Cheryl Midson, Medieval Cultures: Conversations and Confrontations, University of Reading, 27 March 2020
- Jeppe Mulich, Law and Maritime Cultures, Cambridge, 29-30 June 2019
- Anthony Mullen, Thatcherism 2020: The Annual Conference of the Thatcher Network, Newcastle University, 16-17 April 2020
- Mara Oliva, The History of US Foreign Policy: Where are the women and BAME women?, University of Reading, 3-4 Sept 2020
- Juliet Simpson, Emotional Objects - Northern Renaissance Afterlives in Object, Image and Text, 1890s-1920s, SAS, University of London, 12-13 June 2020
- Stephen Spencer, Feeling Medieval: The Inaugural Conference of the Society for the Study of Medieval Emotions, St Andrews, 28-29 May 2020
- Alexander Tertzakian, Centuries of Cloth: Historical Approaches to the Study of Textiles, University of Cambridge, 14 Sept 2020
- Rachel Willie, Soundsapes in the Early Modern World, Liverpool, 14-16 July 2020
- Olivia Wyatt, From Margins to Centre?: An Undergraduate Conference on Marginalised Histories, Berrick Saul Building, Bowland Auditorium, Leeds, 28th February
- Lidia Zanetti Domingues, Women and Violence in the Late Medieval Mediterranean, c.1100-1500, Oxford, 27-28 September 2019

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