

# CMH NEWS

*The Newsletter of the Centre for Metropolitan History*

This is the second of our newsletters. We hope it will keep you informed of developments at the Centre between our Annual Reports, which appear in February. There are eleven on the staff at present. Fortunately we have just acquired some extra office space (see overleaf) which has relieved congestion in the basement to everyone's benefit.

## NEWS OF PROJECTS

### *Feeding the city*

The second three-year phase of the project is well under way with the collection of accounts. Jim Galloway, Margaret Murphy, Bruce Campbell and Derek Keene are finalising their work on a monograph about grain production and marketing, to be published by the Historical Geography Research Group early next year. Margaret and Jim gave a paper at the International Congress on Medieval Studies in Kalamazoo, Michigan, in May. During the year articles arising from the project have appeared in *The London Journal* (vol. 16, no. 1, 1991) and *The Agricultural History Review* (vol. 40, pt. 1, 1992).

### *Metropolitan London in the 1690s*

Collection of the 4/- in the £ tax assessments has now been completed and the database edited, and the team is now examining other sources for information about occupations. Computerised mapping is going well, and Craig Spence gave a paper on this aspect of the project at the Association for History and Computing Seventh International Congress in Bologna earlier this month.

### *Bibliography of London History*

Work on the bibliography is now well into its editing stage. There are over 24,000 items, which Heather Creaton will be heavily occupied with editing and indexing for months to come. We have signed a contract with Library Association Publishing Ltd. to publish the work as a large single volume (including index) early in 1994. Meanwhile, a copy of the database is available on a public access terminal in the office and visitors are welcome to use it for searches. Please make an appointment before you call.

The period of ESRC funding for Tony Trowles' salary as researcher has just ended. His expertise and sheer hard work on the project will be much missed. Tony's Oxford D.Phil. on *The musical ode in Britain, c.1680-1800* has recently been awarded. We hope that he will be staying on at the Centre to work on the London Exchequer Cases project.

### *Skilled Workforce*

The team of researchers is choosing different sectors of London's industrial economy for more detailed study at present. There have been several Renaissance Trust conferences connected with the project, and more are planned, notably one on the Protestant work ethic (in Oxford in December) and one in Paris next spring looking at London and Paris in the early modern period.

David Ormrod, of the University of Kent, will be a Research Fellow at the Institute of Historical Research for the next academic year, working on Dutch and Flemish craftsmen in London in the 17th century. His telephone extension is 233. He will be associated with the Skilled Workforce project, as is the Centre's first postgraduate research student, Lien Bich Luu, who is preparing an M.Phil thesis on the role of the immigrant community in the growth of the skilled workforce in London, 1500-1750, under the supervision of Derek Keene.

### *Before the Bank*

It has recently become possible to continue this study of the Bank of England district of the City of London in the period up to 1500. Patricia Croot, from the Middlesex Victoria County History, has joined the CMH for a period of months, and is currently writing histories of the properties in the area. The records for the neighbourhood, which was partly industrial in character, throw a good deal of light on the organisation of the city at about the time of Domesday Book.

## NEW PROJECT

The Centre's Bibliographical and Information Services section is undertaking a preliminary investigation this autumn into London cases in the Court of Exchequer in the 18th century. The study will look at a sample from the Exchequer Court (equity side) London, Middlesex and Surrey files, which contain a rich and little-used collection of material relating to London's economic, social and cultural history. We shall compile a database of cases, names and subjects found, and will publish a guide to the content and use of these valuable records. This investigation is being funded with help from the Pilgrim Trust, the Honourable Society of Gray's Inn and the Scriveners' Company. We would very much like to conduct a full-scale three-year project on this important source, but have been unlucky so far with further funding. Ideas for financial assistance would be most welcome.

## FORMER STAFF AND PROJECTS

Bernard Attard's article on the 'Oral History of the Stock Jobbers' project is due to appear soon in *Oral History*. He has returned to Australia and now teaches in the economic history department at the University of New England at Armidale.

Justin Champion (formerly of the Epidemics and Mortality project) has recently been appointed to a lectureship in Early Modern History at Royal Holloway and Bedford New College. His book *The Pillars of Priestcraft Shaken* was published earlier this year by Cambridge University Press.

Iain Black, who worked on the 'Textile Marketing District' and 'Financial Headquarters' projects, is writing the projects up in his spare time at his new job as lecturer in the Geography Department at Cheltenham and Gloucester College of Higher Education. We congratulate him on his recent marriage.

## LISTS OF LONDONERS

The Centre, in collaboration with the Federation of Family History Societies, has just produced a guide to unpublished lists and indexes containing information about London inhabitants of the past. The indexes cited were compiled by library and record office staff and by individual researchers in the course of their own work. They range widely in size and scope, including for example, an index of 13th-15th century common lawyers practising in London; another of debtor prisoners in several City gaols, 1755-1820, and one of Second World War Civil Defence staff in St Marylebone. There are also many indexes to parish registers, poll books and the census for various parts of London, as well as to tradesmen, professional groups and livery company members. *Lists of Londoners* by Heather Creaton and Jeremy Gibson is available from the Centre priced £3.00 including postage and packing (£3.50 if ordering from overseas).

## CONFERENCES

In March we held a very successful day conference on 'Epidemic Disease in London: from the Black Death to Cholera' at which we were delighted to welcome one of our patrons, Sir Brian Jenkins, this year's Lord Mayor of London. A selection of the day's papers are being prepared for publication under the editorship of Justin Champion. Financial difficulties unfortunately led to the cancellation of the 'Pop Art: a metropolitan phenomenon' conference planned for last November at the Royal Academy. However, we hope that further collaboration with the Academy will be possible in the near future. Two longer conferences are being planned for next year: 'The Aristocratic Town House in London, 1400-1930' (15-17 July 1993), part of which will be held in the newly restored Spencer House; and 'London and the Regions' (jointly with the Conference of Regional and Local Historians) 18-19 September 1993. Further information is enclosed.

## VISITORS

As usual we have had a stream of individual visitors from the UK and overseas who call while in London to talk about their research and hear about our own work. Members of the Greater London Archives Network paid a group visit recently, and staff also talked to a party of London Labour mayors about the Centre's work.

## SEMINARS

Themes for the autumn and winter seminar programmes are 'Social policy' and 'The art market' in the metropolis. The first meeting is on October 14 - please see the enclosed list for further details.

## DIRECTOR'S TRAVELS

Derek Keene went to the medieval conference at Kalamazoo, and visited Chicago and Detroit on the same trip. He made some useful contacts among urban historians there. At present he is in Amsterdam at a meeting of the International Commission for the History of Towns.

## MORE SPACE FOR CMH

Our former neighbours at no. 34, the History of Parliament Trust, moved out in July. Reallocation of the resulting office space means that staff at the Centre have been able to spread further up the building, at least for the time being. This has involved some changes to telephone extensions. The Director's number is now 230; 'Feeding the City' is on 232; 'Metropolitan London' on 239. The others are unchanged ('Bibliography'/'Exchequer' on 238; Olwen Myhill on 240 and 'Skilled Workforce' on 231).

We have also acquired the use of a pleasant meeting room overlooking Tavistock Square. It will seat up to forty people, and is available for hire if required. Please contact Olwen Myhill for more details.

## PUBLICATIONS

We are planning to launch a series of working papers during this academic year. The first will be a collection of papers from our recent conference on Epidemics and Disease which should be published by the end of the autumn term. The period covered is from the late Middle Ages to the end of the 19th century, and among the themes are burial practices in London, epidemics and the built environment, and the archaeological evidence for disease.

## MAILING LIST

Subscription renewals are due this autumn. A form is enclosed, and we hope that you will wish to remain in touch with the Centre through our twice yearly mailings.