



UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

SCHOOL OF ADVANCED STUDY  
INSTITUTE OF HISTORICAL RESEARCH

# CMH *news*

The Newsletter of the Centre for Metropolitan History

NUMBER 4



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This is the fourth of our annual newsletters, giving you an update on our Annual Report which comes out each January.

We all feel settled now in our new offices on the third floor of Senate House, and though we still have no direct access to the Institute of Historical Research at least we are under the same roof, which saves us time and inconvenience. Those familiar with the building will be glad to hear that we are on the same floor as the cafeteria, and only one floor down from the University Library! Our telephone number remains the same, at 071 636 0272.

From 1 August the Institute, and thus the Centre, became part of the University of London's School of Advanced Study (SAS), which unites the postgraduate research institutes under one umbrella. During the summer our computers, and those of the Institute, have been connected to the new SAS network, enabling much faster access to Internet and the outside world. The new e-mail addresses for all staff who use it are:

e-mail address

- Heather Creaton    creaton@sas.ac.uk
- Derek Keene        d-keene@sas.ac.uk
- Olwen Myhill       o-myhill@sas.ac.uk
- Margaret Murphy/
- Jim Galloway    ftc@sas.ac.uk
- Robert Iliffe       r-iliffe@sas.ac.uk
- Michael Berlin     m-berlin@sas.ac.uk
- Lien Luu            lb-luu@sas.ac.uk

If you have a JANET link you will soon be able to find up to date information about the Centre through the IHR-Info bulletin board, including forthcoming conferences, meetings and seminars.

## NEWS OF PROJECTS

### *Feeding the City*

This project ended in July. The final year was largely taken up with analysis of data relating to the period after the Black Death, and various papers are in preparation which will link these findings with those for the early fourteenth century. As well as continuing their study of the capital's grain supply, the CMH team is currently engaged in attempting to quantify London's enormous demand for wood fuel of various kinds and exploring how this demand was met by the city's hinterland. Detailed analysis of fourteenth-century London's impact on the regional livestock sector is being undertaken by

Bruce Campbell in Belfast. Jim Galloway and Margaret Murphy will soon start work on their new project, Market Networks, see New Ventures.

### *Skilled Workforce*

The team has entered into the final stage of the project in a high state of excitement (not to say anxiety!) as its deadline looms in December. While continuing to participate in a variety of activities related to the project's wider research network, the Achievement Project, the main concern of the team has been with winding down the research side of the exercise and the serious business of writing up the results. Negotiations with possible publishers for the book have begun. A very successful study day about innovation and skill in the goldsmiths' trade was held in conjunction with the Victoria and Albert Museum and the Royal College of Art, and members of the team have given papers at a wide variety of conferences and meetings. An innovative feature of the project has been the series of "artefact seminars" held in collaboration with the Museum of London and the Science Museum, which brought together curators, historians and others interested in the subject. The CMH will continue to promote the use of material evidence in historical studies, by means of seminars and a proposed multimedia database at the CMH. It will be used to help in the teaching of metropolitan history throughout the University of London.

David Ormrod, from the University of Kent, was closely associated with the project throughout the year, during which he was a visiting fellow at the IHR.

### *Bibliography of London History to 1939*

Heather Creaton's bibliography was published in April by Library Association Publishing, and is available from Bookpoint Ltd, 39 Milton Park, Abingdon, OX14 4TD at £80 (incl. p&p). We celebrated the appearance of the book after eight long years of preparation with a most enjoyable party in the Jerusalem Chamber at Westminster Abbey, where Heather's former assistant, Tony Trowles, is now librarian. The bibliography covers material on London history to 1939 published up to the end of 1990. Heather is gathering material for a supplement and has already collected nearly 1700 references to titles appearing since 1990.



## NEW VENTURES

### *London and the Second World War*

The Bibliographical and Information Services' next main project is to collect references for a bibliography and guide to sources for the history of London, 1939-45. As always, we are working with the full co-operation of libraries and record offices across London and are finding a wide range of material of relevance.

### *Market Networks and the Metropolis: the Trade in Agrarian Produce c. 1400*

Margaret Murphy and Jim Galloway are continuing their work on medieval London and its region in a new project, starting in October 1994. This work is funded by the Leverhulme Trust and aims to reconstruct the operation of the market system of the London region around 1400. The principal output of this 30 month project will be a book on the trade in agrarian produce of the region.

### *Optical Glass and the Scientific Instrument Trade in London before 1750*

Anita McConnell is extending her recent study of scientific instrument makers' workshops in London, 1780-1820, to investigate the business and social relationships between glass-makers and lens-grinders and the scientific instrument makers for whom they worked. The new study is funded by the Renaissance Trust and will last for six months.

## FORMER STAFF AND PROJECTS

Work is still progressing on some former projects at the CMH, notably Epidemics and mortality in the pre-industrial city; The Textile Marketing District 1780-1914; Financial Headquarters in the city, 1850-1914, the Oral history of the Stock Jobbers, and Metropolitan History in the 1690s, and publications are in the pipeline.

Some papers from our conference on Aristocratic Town Houses are to be published in the London Journal, XIX (2).

## VISITORS

Our former colleague Bernard Attard joined us as a Visiting Scholar for two months earlier this year to continue with his work on the Oral History of the Stock Jobbers. Bernard was on leave from his teaching post at the University of New England, Armidale, N.S.W. His article on the project, 'The Jobbers of the London Stock Exchange', was published in *Oral History*, vol.22 (1994).

Among the many other visitors to the Centre recently have been a group of medievalists from Paris and other academics from Hungary, Germany, Japan, the United States and Canada.

## CONFERENCES

The visitors from Paris were participating in a specialist one-day conference on current research on London and Paris in the Middle Ages. This will become an annual event.

Margaret Murphy and Jim Galloway attended the International Congress on Medieval Studies at Kalamazoo, Michigan, where Margaret gave a paper on Convents in Anglo-Norman Ireland.

Two further conferences are being planned, in collaboration with the Centre for English Studies and the Museum of London. Details are enclosed.

## SEMINARS

The theme for last session's autumn and spring seminars was "Interpreting metropolitan space", a topic that yielded some very interesting papers and discussions. A programme for the coming autumn term, with the theme "Metropolitan infrastructures", is enclosed.

## PUBLICATIONS

A list of our publications is also enclosed, with an order form for those available from the office. Fuller details appear in our information leaflet.

## BOOKS RECEIVED

Historical Publications Ltd are publishing a series of useful visual histories of parts of London and have sent us copies of *Bloomsbury Past* by Richard Tames, *Twickenham Past* by Donald Simpson, *Westminster and Pimlico Past* by Isobel Watson, *Greenwich and Blackheath Past* by Felix Barker and *Notting Hill and Holland Park Past* by Barbara Denny. All were published late in 1993, cost £13.95 a volume and are available from Phillimore & Co. They are clearly and accurately written, well-indexed, and present a wealth of unfamiliar illustrated material on their areas. For those of us who work in Senate House and walk to it every day, the Bloomsbury volume has an especial fascination, revealing as it does the havoc wrought on an attractive and atmospheric part of London by wartime damage and, more systematically, by municipal and academic vandalism.

## MAILING LIST

For the last few years we have charged an annual subscription for our mailing list. We have now decided to stop doing so because of the administrative difficulties and expense, but we need to economise on postage as far as possible. If you would like an Annual Report next January, we should be very grateful if you would send us a self-addressed A5 envelope with a 36p stamp on it. The newsletter, information leaflet and seminar list will continue to be despatched annually in September.