



SCHOOL OF ADVANCED STUDY
INSTITUTE OF HISTORICAL RESEARCH

CMH *news*

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Our 1995–6 Annual Report covered our activities until late last year; this brief Newsletter is intended as an update on our work for the first half of 1997. It has been a busy and successful few months. At present we have eight members of staff and two Visiting Fellows as well as several frequent visitors finishing off earlier project work, and two research students.

NEWS OF PROJECTS

Market Networks and the Metropolis

Work is drawing to an end, with Jim Galloway and Margaret Murphy currently drafting a book on *The market networks of the metropolitan region c. 1400*. The ideas and methodology underpinning the research were endorsed in April, when the ESRC agreed to fund a new three-year investigation to be entitled *Metropolitan market networks, 1300–1600* which will study London's role in promoting changes within the English economy. Jim and Margaret will be looking at market integration, price regions and the extent to which early modern London's economic expansion rested upon medieval foundations.

The team was delighted to notice that 'Ptolemy', writing in the Newsletter of the Association of American Geographers earlier this year commended their article on 'Fuelling the city' (*Economic History Review* August 1996) not only for its intrinsic merit and the great clarity of its writing, but as 'useful when introducing students to the greater complexity of contemporary problems'. This application of research findings to a wider context is exactly what the Centre hopes to promote.

Mortality in the Metropolis, 1860–1914

The team (Bill Luckin, Andrea Tanner and Graham Mooney) has been concentrating on several specific areas of research, the most absorbing being the redistribution of patient deaths in institutions, "sending back" those dying within the walls of hospital and workhouse infirmaries to their normal registration district. The end result is a major reassessment of the constituencies of the voluntary hospitals of London. In addition, they have expanded the districts being studied to include St George in the East, Marylebone, St Pancras and Greenwich, as well as the original districts of Kensington and Hackney. These will be crucial in considering the eight specific causes of death (typhus, typhoid, smallpox, scarlet fever, whooping cough, infantile diarrhoea, tuberculosis, diphtheria and heart disease) selected for

detailed examination. Several articles relating to the work have been published or are in press and the team has been busy giving papers at conferences and workshops both here and abroad.

London and the Second World War

Heather Creaton's guide to primary and secondary sources for London history, 1939–45 is almost complete and is due to appear in the British Record Association's *Archives and the User* series next year. Heather is still adding new titles to the supplement to her published *Bibliography of Printed Works on the History of London to 1939*, and is planning her next guide to London sources which will probably look at extant London diaries from all periods.

English Merchant Culture, 1660–1720

Perry Gauci's recent work has centred on the impact of the merchant in the political world, especially through commercial petitioning and the role of the chartered overseas trading companies. He is finding that the merchant was a very active political animal, making great use of association networks to achieve his ends. Most interestingly, the research is revealing the ways in which provincial trading interests used their London connections to influence economic policy. Perry will visit York and Liverpool soon, cities that enjoyed very different commercial fortunes at this period, to look at their mercantile structures. He has begun to write up his findings this summer, making extensive use of the Centre's database of 1690s tax records.

Image Database of Early Modern London

Michael Berlin has now finished work on this experimental database which contains over 800 images of objects made in London, and provides linked information about them. Many of the images come from the Museum of London's extensive collections. The database has been widely used by visitors to the Centre who have been impressed by its potential as a teaching aid.

TRAINING DAY

In June the Centre held the latest of its training days for postgraduate students. This time the theme was 'Business Space in the City of London, 1680–1870', with talks from our Director, Derek Keene, Perry Gauci (of the Centre's staff), Iain Black (formerly of the Centre) and Daniel Abramson from Connecticut College. It

proved a fruitful and enjoyable day for all involved, with some stimulating discussion and interesting comparisons made.

VISITORS

Two Visiting Fellows joined us in 1997, Dr Angel Alloza Aparicio from the Autonomous University of Madrid and Dr Michael Davis from the University of Queensland who is working on the history of the London Corresponding Society in the 1790s. Michael is returning to Australia now, but Angel is with us for a few more months, researching a comparative study of crime in eighteenth and nineteenth century London and Madrid. He is giving a seminar paper in our series in January.

CONFERENCES

Study Day on Medieval London and Paris

Another successful Medieval London/Paris study day was held in June, this time at Guildhall Library where the staff of the Manuscripts Department and of the Corporation Record Office had arranged to have key documents available to illustrate speakers' talks on the theme 'City records and city history'. The French visitors were particularly interested to contrast London's sources for the period with those for Paris. Postgraduate students, both French and English, were invited this time and found the meeting very helpful. Next year the group will meet in Paris, to focus in a similar fashion on documents concerning Paris. In 1999 the group will make an explicit comparison between the two cities on the theme of 'Structures and modalities of power'

Metropolitan River Crossings: bridges and tunnels

Eighty-five people signed on for the Centre's two-day conference on bridges and tunnels in July. They heard sixteen papers (most with slides) about tunnels and bridges in London and the North, including one still unbuilt, and some as far afield as Venice and Rome. The variety of geography, period and disciplinary approach made for an interesting day and some thought-provoking questions and discussion.

SEMINARS

The theme of the Metropolitan history seminar programme in the autumn and winter terms was 'Metropolitan attractions' when we heard some interesting papers on topics as varied as race and class in London music halls and London as it was marketed as a place to visit in the 1930s. The next seminar programme is now available (distributed with this newsletter); the theme is 'Merchants, markets and city spaces'. There were two meetings of the 'Artefacts and history' seminar last year; one looked at the architecture of the Bank of England, the other at the idea of a city museum for London in the twentieth century.

PUBLICATIONS

Papers from last year's 'Archives and the Metropolis' conference have now been edited and are soon to be published. The Atlas of 1690s London goes to press this autumn.

Martha Carlin's list of *Extents for Debt in London and Southwark, 1316-1615* is to be published this autumn.

DIRECTOR'S VISIT TO CHINA

Derek Keene is just back from a visit to Tsinghua University, Beijing, where he and three other European historians attended a colloquium organised by Hong Kong Baptist University on the subject of 'Guilds in Europe and China'. It proved a profitable interchange of ideas with Chinese scholars, who were eager to engage in debate. All were impressed that there appeared to be far more similarities than differences in the guild phenomenon and the meeting opened up real possibilities of further comparative work on aspects of urban history in the future.

FUTURE PLANS

We have just heard that our application to the ESRC for a two-year project on *Markets and Fairs in England and Wales to 1540* has been successful, and we hope that a researcher will be appointed to begin work on it early in 1998. It will dovetail usefully with *Metropolitan Market Networks*.

Planning still continues for our 'London and its American hinterland' programme. Initially we hope to concentrate on the period 1575 to 1775, and on the relationship between London and North America and the Caribbean. We hope that in time this will develop into a flexible programme of research and conferences, looking at any aspect of this enormous subject, such as trade and finance, colonial settlement, or culture and politics.

10TH BIRTHDAY

1998 sees the Centre's tenth birthday, when staff past and present will celebrate a productive and action-packed decade. We are planning a conference with a metropolitan theme, details to be decided during the winter.

RESEARCH STUDENTS

Two research students are currently working for research degrees through the Centre: Paula Marber, whose thesis is on office work and its setting in the late Victorian city; and Stephen Priestley who is working on piety and charity in twelfth century London. Congratulations to Lien Bich Luu, whose doctorate on skill and innovation in London, 1550-1600 was awarded in March.